

Section I. Project Information	
Project Title: Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation	
Grantee Organisation: Fauna & Flora	
Location of project: Kerinci Seblat National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia	
<p>Size of project area (if appropriate):</p> <p>1,386m ha (KSNP) excluding buffer-zone forests, some of which include important tiger habitat. Field activities are primarily focused to the central section of the national park and buffer-zone forests in an area of approximately 350,000ha however investigations and other activities extend impacts more widely across the Kerinci Seblat landscape.</p>	<p>No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source:</p> <p>Based on park-wide Occupancy Surveys by the FFI Kerinci Seblat Tiger Monitoring team (2019-2020) and analysis of camera trapping in the KSNP Core Area (2020), Kerinci Seblat NP and adjoining forests protects 128 Sumatran tigers with 119 tigers resident in the national park, of which 29 are recorded in the KSNP Tiger Core Area, and the remainder in forests bordering, or adjacent to, the protected area.</p> <p><i>Note:</i> The above figure <i>excludes</i> tigers in the wider (18,000Km²) Kerinci Tiger Conservation Landscape, in particular the 300,000ha Batang Hari watershed forests, and is the single-largest tiger population in Sumatra.</p>
<p>Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i></p> <p>Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection and Conservation has operated under a partnership between Fauna & Flora Indonesia Programme (FFIP) and KSNP since 2000 under multi-year national level MoUs and local agreements which underwrite all aspects of the programme’s activities and provide a clear legal framework. A national MoU, signed-off in early 2020, concluded in March 2023. A new, multi-year agreement between Fauna & Flora Indonesia and the Ministry of Forestry (MoF) has been finalised and is expected to receive formal approval at the highest level of government very shortly.</p> <p>Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP): The programme operates under a long-standing partnership between FF-IP, KSNP and National Park (NP) officers lead or supervise field operations and report to the Director of KSNP through a field manager, also a National Park secondee. This provides a clear legal framework and remit for activities. All project personnel, both KSNP and FF-IP-contracted, are formally tasked by the NP with conservation and protection actions for Sumatran tiger in and adjoining KSNP, which are conducted under monthly letters of legal authority (SPT) issued by the</p>	

Director of the NP. Under this system, community rangers are recognised as auxiliary NP officers during the 20 days per month that warrants are active and so have legal authority to conduct a range of activities in and around the national park in four provinces of Sumatra island.

Provincial agencies for Conservation of Natural Resources (BKSDA): Primarily in Jambi, West Sumatra and Bengkulu provinces. BKSDA are operating units of the MoF responsible for nature and wildlife conservation outside the NP. They lead multi-stakeholder Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) mitigation task force groups, or *Satgas*, established in three park-edge provinces since 2014. Carefully selected KSDA officers may also be facilitated (*See Partner Management*) to act as Expert Witnesses to assist wildlife law enforcement case development and court hearings.

Indonesia National Police and MoF Law Enforcement directorate: Traditionally, park-edge police divisions are the programme's main partner for tiger law enforcement actions, so sending a clear message to offenders and the wider community that poaching or trading Sumatran tiger is a serious offence under Indonesian law and not just an offence against forestry regulations. The MoF, of which KSNP is an operating unit, has extensive national-level agreements with the Indonesia National Police. This gives the project team access to a wide range of specialist support by police forensic specialists where required. However, in particular sites far from NP-edge districts, the project also provides credible data to officers of the MoEF Law Enforcement directorate where Gakkum officers are best placed to respond. All communications, planning and decision-making relating to wildlife law enforcement is at the discretion of, and under the command of, NP members of the project team and the Director of KSNP.

The Kerinci Seblat Village Forest Programme (VFP) is strongly focused on building sustainable community-led management of park-edge forests, with more than 148,000 ha now recognised under licences issued by MoF. Working with park-edge district forestry management units (KPH) and villagers, the VFP supports SMART community patrols in village forests, where key villages have received training in human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation. During this project period, selected Tiger Protection & Conservation Unit (TPCU) personnel provided informal guidance to the VFP team coordinators in recognising and responding to suspected illegal wildlife trade (IWT) threats to tigers and other wildlife. Information exchange between TPCUs and Village Forest coordinators will be strengthened, over the next two years, to broaden and extend the capacity to identify and reduce threats to tiger and their prey with ratification of Indonesia's new wildlife and nature conservation Act 32/2024 which likely to strengthen capacity to address and reduce threat.

FF-IP Kerinci Seblat Tiger Monitoring (MHS KS): The TPCU team will continue to work closely with partners from the MHS team, routinely sharing patrol and monitoring transect results and concerns identified. During this project period, the MHS team provided practical 'on the job' training to TPCU rangers in the basic principles of camera trapping and this will continue in the future so allowing TPCUs to conduct occasional camera trapping exercises in areas of KSNP where the MHS does not conduct tiger monitoring.

Others:

Local civil society and academia: Primarily Yayasan Lingkar Inisiatif (conducting tiger and other wildlife conservation actions in the south of KSNP where TPCUs do not have the capacity to maintain a routine presence). Stakeholders include the Institute Conservation Society (Solok Selatan, West Sumatra province), Flight, Biology Faculty of the University of Andalas, and Padang.

National: Forum Harimaukita, representing tiger conservation practitioners in Indonesia.

International TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, EIA, ENV (Vietnam), Panthera Malaysia.

The project team may share information through appropriate government channels with INTERPOL while the team Emeritus advisor may brief the Tiger Conservation Coalition on wider tiger conservation issues identified during the project period.

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Reporting period: February 2024 – January 2025

Please ensure that your report relates to the objectives and activities detailed in your proposal and logframe. Please include results data in Section II and Section III.

Section II. Project Results

Long Term Impact: *(How has this work contributed to the vision and long-term impact that your project aims to achieve?)*

The project's long-term goal is to underwrite a sustained, natural increase in Sumatran tiger populations in Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) through detecting and reducing threat to tigers, their prey and habitat, with activities strengthened by collaborations between national and local government, local civil society and forest-edge communities.

Threat to Sumatran tiger and its prey, recorded on SMART forest patrols conducted by the Tiger Protection & Conservation Unit (TPCU) and the tiger monitoring team across the landscape, remained far below the long-term programme average. No active snares, both for tiger or tiger prey were recorded on a total of 70 SMART forest patrols conducted in the first year of the project period. Thus, poaching threat to tiger and main tiger prey such as a rusa sambar deer and muntjac continued to show a long-standing multi-year decline.

The SMART forest patrols recorded a tiger presence on more than 60% of all patrols, which was higher compared with the previous project period (February 2023 – January 2024). The Frequency of Encounters (FoE) with tigers park-wide and the patrol Effort to detect tigers was also better compared to the previous project period. Moreover, two individual Sumatran tigers were identified from camera traps placed by the teams during ‘on the job’ camera trap training patrols conducted in this project period. Two of the individuals are known as adult male tigers with individual ID CA44M and adult female tiger ID CA52F. This gives a piece of good news for the team and tiger conservation in the national park more widely, since those male and female tigers were also recorded in the same camera, which the team assumed would mate in the future and produce a new litter.

Conservation Outcome: *(What are the actual changes that this project has achieved?)*

SMART forest patrols monitored poaching threats to tiger and main tiger prey such as a rusa sambar deer and muntjac, and continued to show a long-standing multi-year decline with no active snares recorded during this reporting period.

No evidence of any significant resurgence in illegal wildlife trade demand for tiger was secured in the course of monitoring the wildlife black market. Three different interviewees cited the risk of detection and law enforcement for their withdrawing from poaching tigers, citing ‘low’ prices paid for tiger body parts, compared with the cost and high risk of engaging in tiger poaching or trade. This suggests that law enforcement and protection efforts are effective as an active deterrent.

Summary of first year activities and achievements: *(Please provide a narrative summary for use in our communication materials Max 300 words)*

The project conducted activities in national park forests and park-edge districts of the four provinces which overlay Sumatra’s largest protected area, to consolidate gains made, with WCCA support, in reducing threat to wild Sumatran tiger and their prey and so support a natural recovery in tiger numbers.

TPCUs and the Tiger monitoring team conducted a total of 70 SMART forest foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests in three provinces across a walking distance of more than 1,167 by GPS Waypoint (1,469km by a Tracklog), with 409 days spent in the forest on patrols.

Frequency of Encounter with tiger sign on patrols increased compared to the previous project period with at least one tiger per 18.5 Kms patrol walked (compared to 21.7 Km patrol in Feb 2023-Jan 2024 and 21.4 Km in 2022). Moreover, in collaboration with the tiger monitoring team, the TPCUs have placed a total of five camera traps in two different SMART forest patrol areas in the south-west of the national park, resulting in two individual Sumatran tigers being identified.

Patrols recorded and monitored poaching threats to tiger and main tiger prey such as rusa sambar deer and muntjac, which continued to show a long-standing multi-year decline with no active snares recorded during this reporting period.

But the SMART forest patrols continued to encounter threats to tiger habitat, through encroachment and clearance of forests and illegal logging both in the national park buffer zone and within the park itself, for small-holder agriculture. Therefore, in the first year of the project period, seven formal written cautions were issued by TPCU patrols to 13 men clearing national park and park-edge forests.

Details of activities and results in first year: *(Please give detailed narrative of the results of each objective & output. Please include measures for example patrol numbers and distances covered, #people trained or #people attending meetings/workshops or refer to figures in your tables below)*

Objective 1 SMART forest patrols detect, address and contain threat to Sumatran tigers, their prey and habitat

In the first year of the project period from February 2024 to January 2025, 70 SMART forest patrols were conducted in Kerinci Seblat National Park and park-edge forests, of which 23 were conducted in the Tiger Core Area of the national park. The number of patrols was lower than planned, as since May 2024 only four TPCUs were fully staffed and operational, following four long-serving TPCU community personnel resigning, after being formally contracted as government officers in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's Manggala Agni wildfire prevention brigade. Subsequently, members of the tiger monitoring team, who also have extensive experience in SMART forest patrols have joined to conduct patrols to maintain SMART forest patrol capacity. The teams have conducted SMART forest patrols across a walking distance of 1,167 km by GPS Waypoint (1,469km by a Tracklog) with 409 days spent in the forest on patrols.

More than 60% of patrols conducted by the teams have recorded the presence of at least one tiger, with an estimated minimum total of 63 tigers (compared to 51% of patrols (44 out of 87) in the same period last year that estimated 52 tigers) calculated based on mapping of 131 secondary tiger presence indicators including pugmarks, scrapes, faeces, and fresh territorial scratches.

In the Tiger Core Area, tiger presence is also higher this year compared to last, with more than 85% of patrols (20 out of 23 patrols) in this area were recording Tiger presence. The Tiger Core Area, located in the centre of the national park, has already been identified as one of the areas with a good population of Sumatran tigers across the landscape.

Overall, this meant the patrol FoE with tigers, park-wide, was better compared to the previous year, with at least one tiger per 18.5 Kms patrol walked (compared to 21.7 Km patrol in Feb 2023-Jan 2024 and 21.4Km in 2022). Moreover, the patrol efforts to detect tiger presence were increased to 1 tiger per 6.5 patrol days, again it was better compared to the previous project period of 1-8.5 days.

In the Tiger Core Area, the FoE with tigers was reduced to 1-16.4 patrol Km walked (1-19.5Km in 23-24), and patrol Effort to detect tiger is almost identical to the previous period, with 1 tiger per 4.6 patrol days.

No active tiger snares were recorded by the teams during this first year of the project period. There were only six 'recently-active' tiger snares recorded in the first semester of this reporting period, on

two different patrols, and a further four, older snares on a third patrol, all in the south-west of the national park. Five of these snare placements were recorded on one information-led patrol in Bengkulu forests with the individual, suspected responsible for these snares, identified. In all these cases, rangers conducted broad 'snare sweeps' in the surrounding forest area but found no more snares, active or inactive, and examination of the sites advised that no tiger or other wildlife had been caught. Sumatran tigers were present on all three of these patrol routes.

A low level of poaching threat was also recorded for tiger prey species, with no active prey snares recorded during these twelve months of the project period. There were only two patrols that recorded a 'recently active' (less than three months since disassembled) prey snare. One of them was recorded in a forest patrol conducted jointly by the TPCU and the tiger monitoring team in November 2024 in the western part of the national park, in an area where there had been less intensity of forest patrols conducted before. The team recorded one location of a 'recently active' prey snare and seven more robes that were previously believed to have been used for a snare, including a bone of a tiger prey animal in the ex-camp near the location. Meanwhile, on one patrol in October 2024, the teams recorded and destroyed five small nylon snares that were set near the encroacher camp, which probably targeted ground birds or small mammals such as mouse deer.

While snares remain the most widely recorded method of poaching Sumatran tiger and deer in Kerinci Seblat, poachers may also use hunting dogs or firearms. These methods are more difficult to detect - unless the individuals are encountered first-hand - as they leave little trace unlike snares. Moreover, investigations reported that many poachers are now aware that TPCU patrols make use of forest-edge information networks to detect active poaching threat and, in one area of the park, motivated tiger poachers now aim to leave their snares active for a maximum of one week to reduce risk of their snares being detected and destroyed.

The very low level of poaching threat recorded has been the subject of much discussion among both the TPCU and tiger Monitoring teams. Rangers conclude it may, in part, be a consequence of currently very high prices for agricultural products, in particular coffee and palm oil. This may also link to TPCU patrols continuing to record illegal forest clearance, primarily for small-holder agriculture, both in the protected buffer zone of the park and inside the national park.

During this reporting period, the teams recorded about 50 findings of a new clearing of forest, both inside the national park and its buffer zone including the production forest. In some locations, the team also found the encroachers. In one of these cases, in March 2024, the TPCU patrol team recorded four local men clearing national park forests. Other patrols in October to December 2024, in the southern part of the national park in Bengkulu province, recorded an encroachment inside the national park - where in total across five different areas more than 20 ha of forest has been cleared for oil palm plantation. Meanwhile in December 2024, in the eastern part of the national park, in Merangin Jambi, the TPCU patrol team recorded about 2 ha of an area in the national park just cleared, while 2 ha more has recently been planted for a coffee plantation; however, the team did not meet any of encroachers in the area.

More detail on the outcomes of these encounters can be found under Objective 3.

Following support from the WCCA, the field teams have been able to increase internal capacity building to TPCU personnel through informal in-house and field practical training, to refresh and strengthen SMART patrol database management as well as basic principles and techniques of camera trapping. In collaboration with the tiger monitoring team, the teams have placed a total of five camera traps in two different SMART forest patrols in the south-west of the national park in Bengkulu province.



The TPCU team member with assistance from the tiger monitoring team placed a camera trap

Two individual Sumatran tigers had been identified from camera traps placed by the teams.

After checking the tiger monitoring database, those two individual tigers have been previously photographed by camera traps in the Tiger Core Area of KSNP set by the Tiger monitoring team. One male tiger with individual ID CA44M was first recorded on a camera trap set for a tiger population monitoring survey in 2020 when he was still a juvenile tiger. The other tiger was a female with an ID CA52F, which was first recorded on a camera trap in early 2024, when the tiger team conducted a hotspot camera trapping in the Tiger Core Area. This finding was a piece of good news for the team and tiger conservation in the national park widely, since those male and female tigers were also recorded in the same camera, which the team assumed would suggest they may mate in the future and produce a new litter.



Two individual Sumatran tigers left (male, CA44M) and right (female, CA52F) identified from the camera trap placed by the TPCU and the Tiger monitoring team

Objective 2: Investigations conducted under government approved PULPAKET procedures identify those poachers and IWT traders who still pose threat to wild tigers, their networks and trade routes and support law enforcement where evidence is available

During this project period of 12 months, more than 50 reports were logged and graded for credibility following information collection and subsequent covert interviews with suspected poachers, illegal wildlife traders and their associates. These reports covered eleven park-edge districts and municipalities of the four provinces of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape.

All active information collection was conducted under warrants of the director of the national park and in line with statutory government guidelines regarding investigations.

No first-hand evidence of poaching or trade in Sumatran tiger was secured during these investigations although one credible report was logged, relating to a suspected poaching incident involving a tiger poacher long known to the project team and who had been fined a couple of years before.

TPCU rangers in the south-west of the national park in Bengkulu also collected information, using trusted informants, on the activities of a local tiger and deer poaching gang who are now adopting a range of tactics (e.g. reducing the time active snares are left in the forest to a maximum of one week, whilst before it was much longer) to avoid detection of their activities. Investigations continued to find little evidence of any significant, organised IWT demand for tiger body parts in areas where the project has a long-time focus and noted that suspected tiger poachers are now almost invariably older individuals.

The team who conducted the collection of information at the end of last year got the information from the forest-edge community network that there was a group of poachers who set the snares in the southern part of the national park, Bengkulu province, where there was no intense forest patrol conducted, snaring two tigers (we expect both died but this was not confirmed). This information will be followed up in the next collection exercise and will be priority consideration of the TPCU team to determine the focus patrol area and investigation.

A number of investigations recorded in the northern part of the landscape, on the border of Jambi and West Sumatra province, that there is ongoing IWT demand for Sunda pangolin, a species frequently traded by the same individuals who pose threat to wild tigers, with investigations indicating a higher level of IWT threat in the far north of the Kerinci Seblat landscape in West Sumatra province.

Objective 3 Support fair and appropriate law enforcement through partnering with the most appropriate government agency and deliver a significant deterrent which contains and further reduces the threat to Sumatran tiger and tiger prey

No formal tiger or other wildlife law enforcement action was supported by the project team during this reporting period. However, TPCU rangers responded to a range of breaches of wildlife and forest law encountered on patrols.

While poaching threat to tiger on TPCU patrols remained low, in late May 2024, officers of the MoF Law enforcement agency (GAKKUM) in Jambi arrested and charged two men with tiger trade offences in Merangin district, seizing the pelt and bones of a tiger as evidence. Discussions between the project team and GAKKUM investigators reported that the tiger was poached in production forests outside

the national park and in an area where there is no strong patrol presence (this could inform new areas for patrol presence if we are able to increase TPCUs capacity to 6 or 7 teams again). One of two men arrested was previously the subject of a TPCU investigation over suspected involvement in trade in Sumatran rhino horns. This investigation was halted when it was found that products being offered through the 'broker' were 'fake.'

The SMART forest patrols continued to encounter threats to tiger habitat through encroachment and clearance of forests and illegal logging, in the national park buffer zone and within the park itself, for small-holder agriculture. Therefore, in the first year of the project period, seven formal written cautions were issued by TPCU patrols to 13 men clearing national park and park-edge forests. One of these cases recorded four local men clearing national park forests where, when interviewed, it was learned that three of these individuals had purchased national park forests from the fourth individual. Formal warnings and orders to quit were issued and this case has been passed to the Directorate of Law Enforcement which is preparing a legal case against the individual seeking to sell national park forest lands.

One forest patrol conducted jointly between TPCU and Tiger monitoring team members in October confiscated two chainsaws used by three of the local community to clear the national park forest in the southern part of KSNP in Bengkulu. The patrol team leader issued a warning letter signed by the encroachers as a warranty for them not to repeat their action and three of them were ordered to quit the national park immediately. The chainsaws were recovered to the national park office.



Two chainsaws were confiscated from encroachers on a trip of SMART forest patrol in the KNSP forest

A further nine verbal warnings and instructions to leave the forest were issued on SMART forest patrols for other offences including traditional gold mining in park-edge forests, wild songbird hunting, collecting non-timber forest products, and fishing within the inviolate inner-zone of the park. One of the cases was earlier this year when the SMART patrol teams met two hunters of wild songbirds in the national park in Kerinci Regency. The team gave a verbal warning and awareness-raising/socialisation to the hunters and ordered them to quit the national park immediately.

Objective 4: Human-Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Taskforce swiftly respond to and mitigate human-tiger conflicts reported with the purpose of protecting both tigers and forest-edge community livelihoods

In this first year of the project period, there were six human-tiger conflict (HTC) location incidents recorded that were managed and mitigated by the local units of BKSDA's leading human-wildlife

conflict (HWC) mitigation task force teams, in which the project team was intensively involved. The total number of HTC incidents reported and managed increased compared to the previous project year, with most of them occurring in the second half of the semester.

One of the cases was in the southwest of the national park, in Bengkulu province, at the end of July 2024. Members of forest edge communities reported the appearance of the tiger in their rubber plantation, which merges with forest-edge scrub, a couple of km away from national park forests. The conflict mitigation task force including BKSDA Bengkulu, TPCU, and colleagues, jointly responded to these incidents. Mitigation took place in the form of counselling and advice to communities and demonstrating a ranger presence. After a couple of months escalation of the HTC increased, after the tiger was reported attacking three livestock. Therefore, the team (led by the BKSDA Bengkulu) decided to set box traps to evacuate the tiger. Finally, in November 2024, the female adult tiger was trapped in a box trap in good condition. The tiger was under the monitoring of the teams including a veterinarian.

Meanwhile, in the central part of the KSNP, the team received a report from the local community that a man had been attacked by a tiger while he and one of his friends rested in their camp during cinnamon harvesting at about 3am. The incident occurred in a mixed plantation a couple of km from the KSNP forest in the Kerinci district. The victim received an injury to their head, and based on the victim's description, it was because they were scratched by a tiger. The victim was then taken to the nearest health centre to receive initial medical treatment; following this, treatment was carried out at the victim's home. On the same day the incident occurred, the human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation task force teams from the National Park officer visited the victim's houses to observe the condition of the victim and conduct a deep observation of the location where the reported incident occurred. After that, the mitigation task force teams including the TPCU and tiger monitoring team visited the incident location several times to make sure the community felt safe. More than a month later, no other incidents had followed.

Other activities - Stakeholder liaison/Co-ordination:

All programme activities and outputs were reported, monthly, to the director of KSNP and then, onward to the Directorate of Conservation of Nature and Ecosystems of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

Activities and results were also reported, monthly, to the Kerinci Seblat Landscape programme manager, so informing wider conservation strategies by Fauna & Flora Indonesia Programme teams at a landscape level, including two districts in the south-west of KSNP in Bengkulu province, where village-managed forests are under development.

Key members of the project team also took part in distance discussions with colleagues in the Sumatran tiger conservation forum 'Harimaukita' on a range of wider national tiger conservation issues and strategies while KSNP members of the TPCU team maintained cordial relations with local police detective divisions.

Planning for informal quarterly meetings between all components of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape team – Village Forest team members, TPCUs and the tiger monitoring team - did not proceed, primarily

due to time pressures on all team members and ongoing funding constraints however routine distance communications were maintained.

Earlier this year, the project team was invited by the Head of KSNP to conduct a formal annual discussion and evaluation in the KSNP headquarters office in Sungaipenuh, Kerinci. During the discussion the head of KSNP has conveyed gratitude to all project stakeholders, who have consistently supported wildlife conservation efforts, especially for the Sumatran tiger in this region. In addition, the national park also hopes that Fauna & Flora will have better capabilities in supporting this programme in the future, which is currently still experiencing financial challenges, so that several routine activities, including forest patrols, which are currently slightly reduced in intensity, can return to normal.

Project team support has been provided to improve the effectiveness of the management of the KSNP area, including:

Operation of the Situation Room (Data Management Unit) which serves as the informational centre for KSNP management. We did this, by supporting the operational management staff with management activities, data analysis, and development of recommendations for adjustments to management strategies and policies every month.

Conducted six (6) capacity building training sessions for KSNP officers (234 participants). Training focused on data management, data analysis, MAXENT, forest land cover analysis

Increased public awareness of conservation and project goals through supporting Cultural Parade and World Tiger Day Commemoration activities (593 total participants).



Kerinci

Seblat National Park as a participant in the i Sungai Penuh City Cultural Parade

Key achievements of this year: *(Please give a bullet point list of key measurable outputs- for example xxx of staff trained in SMART monitoring techniques, xxx camera traps covering xxx km²)*

- The project teams have conducted a total of 70 SMART forest foot patrols in national park and park-edge forests in three provinces across a walking distance of 1,167km by GPS Waypoint (1,469km by a Tracklog).
- No active tiger or prey snares recorded, and snare poaching threat to tiger and prey species also remained low.
- FoE with tiger on patrols increased compared to the previous project period with at least one tiger per 18.5 Kms patrol walked (compared to 21.7 Km patrol in Feb 2023-Jan 2024 and 21.4 Km in 2022).
- The patrol teams have placed a total five camera traps in two different SMART forest patrols in the south-west of the national park, which resulting on two individual Sumatran tigers had been identified.
- More than 50 reports were logged and graded for credibility following information collection and subsequent covert interviews with suspected poachers, illegal wildlife traders and their associates in eleven park-edge districts and municipalities of the four provinces of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape.
- Seven formal written cautions were issued by TPCU patrols to 13 men clearing national park and park-edge forests, furthermore, nine verbal warnings and instructions to leave the forest were also issued on SMART forest patrols for other offences including traditional gold mining

in park-edge forests, wild song bird hunting, non-timber forest products collecting and fishing within the inviolate inner-zone of the park.

- Six human-tiger conflict location incidents recorded that were managed and mitigated by the local units of BKSDA leading human-wildlife conflict (HWC) mitigation task force teams, in which the project team was intensively involved.

Obstacles to success: Give details of any obstacles/challenges to success that the project has encountered. *(Any changes to the project that have affected the budget and timetable of project activities should have been discussed prior to the end of the project)*

- In January 2024 it was confirmed that four long-serving Jambi-based TPCU personnel – three rangers and the team driver - were to be appointed as formal, rather than honorary, government officers. Sadly, they were not posted to KSNP. Consequently, for much of this reporting period, TPCUs operating in the east of the national park were not fully staffed and this impacted on both SMART patrol and Investigation capacity. The team is now trialling experienced members of the tiger Monitoring team to join some TPCU patrols with the purpose of restoring TPCU patrol capacity pending a longer-term solution.

Monitoring and Evaluation: *(Describe the methods used to monitor and evaluate the progress of the project)*

TPCU forest patrols: Results are evaluated twice-monthly, by ranger teams and team leaders and also draw on the programme's SMART database and SMART patrol maps to analyse and compare patrol results over time. Over a longer period, Tiger presence and change in encounter rates are also evaluated using both Effort to detect tiger sign @ patrol days per tiger, and Frequency of Encounter (Km walked to record tiger) and % of patrols reporting tiger presence. Active or recently-active poaching threat to tiger is recorded quantitatively (number of snares, number/% of patrols recording) and Effort (days) to detect. Threat to tiger prey species is primarily recorded through # of active snares reported and % of patrols recording over the year as a whole and during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Patrol 'coverage' of an area is not a key evaluation tool as a consistent, but unpredictable, patrol presence in the forest is found to have greater conservation impact than 'coverage'.

Investigations: Number of investigation reports logged, and graded for credibility) and geographic spread of investigation effort. Investigations securing credible data on black market prices or reported changes in IWT demand for tiger or other species, new trade routes or identification of previously unknown individuals (poachers, traders, couriers). Investigations or information collection supporting patrols which record active threat. Number of investigations progressing to A1 (observed first-hand) or A2 (credible but unproven. Number of investigations supporting subsequent wildlife law enforcement or patrol deployment where threat is confirmed. Willingness of forest-edge informants to provide information on suspected threat to tiger or tiger prey or an emerging conflict for a TPCU response.

Law enforcement: Number of pre-planned/information-led tiger law enforcement actions conducted in support of the relevant government law enforcement agency and outcomes; number

of suspects, evidence and, if Sumatran tiger, condition of evidence (complete or partial body parts, missing body parts). Law enforcement proceeding from arrest through Case Development to a court hearing and to sentencing. Judgments made (sentences, fines etc). Availability of suitable Expert Witnesses. Number of habitat and other law enforcement actions on patrols where offenders are present, type of offence, number of offenders, actions taken. Post-law enforcement patrol records and investigations in areas where law enforcement has been conducted and evidence of law enforcement impact (where relevant).

Human-tiger conflict mitigation: Number of human-tiger conflict incidents reported, grade (severity) of conflict. Conflicts reported before livestock (excluding farmland guard dogs) predation has occurred, and conflicts involving livestock predation or posing direct threat to people. Conflicts mitigated in partnership with other government agencies under multi-stakeholder conflict mitigation taskforce groups (satgas) or directly by TPCU personnel. Post-conflict mitigation outcomes, including use of community informants to monitor any recurrence of conflict or reports of poachers entering the area.

Shared learning: *(How will you share the outputs and learning from your project, in what format and with whom?)*

The programme operates under a partnership between Fauna & Flora Indonesia Programme and KSNP management authority (BBTNKS) and all TPCU activities and outputs were reported, monthly, to the national park director and subsequently, to forestry headquarters in Jakarta. This reporting system delivered real-time information to the national park leadership and national MoF decision-makers in evaluating progress towards Sumatran tiger goals, challenges recorded in the field and actions required.

Activities were also reported monthly to the FFI Kerinci Seblat Landscape project team so informing wider conservation strategies in the Kerinci Seblat Landscape.

Key members of the project team also took part in distance discussions with colleagues in the Sumatran tiger conservation forum 'Harimaukita' on a range of wider national tiger conservation issues and strategies while KSNP members of the TPCU team maintained cordial relations with local police detective divisions.

Planning for informal quarterly meetings between all components of the Kerinci Seblat Landscape team – Village Forest team members, TPCUs and the tiger monitoring team - did not proceed, primarily due to time pressures on all team members and ongoing funding constraints however routine distance communications were maintained.

Media: *(Please provide a list of publications and media both local and national which mentions the work funded by this project and/or mentions WildCats Conservation Alliance)*

Have you provided at least 2 blogs? No

Have you provided at least 10 high quality images with details of the relevant credit? No

