

Auckland Zoo Conservation Fund

Section 1 – Contact Details

1.1	Principal Recipient and Title	Debbie Martyr , Programme Advisor
1.2	Institution or Organisation	Fauna & Flora International
1.5	Website address	www fauna-flora.org
1.6	Project partners or other participants	Lingkar Institut Majelis Ulama Indonesia, Lebong district, Bengkulu Kerinci Seblat National Park authority Provincial Units for Conservation of Natural Resources (KSDA) in Bengkulu, West Sumatra and Jambi provinces Lebong district and Bengkulu province forestry services. Indonesia National Police Key village and traditional community leaders in Lebong district

Section 2 – General Project Details

2.1	Project Title	Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation – Extending Tiger Conservation to Lebong district,Bengkulu
2.4	Project start date	December 2016 (Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation field activities); 01 February 2017 - Activities in Lebong district by Lingkar Institut
2.5	Project completion date	31.11.17
3.1	Amount of money received from Auckland Zoo (in NZ\$)	NZ\$20,000
3.2	Total project budget (in NZ\$)	\$41,000 for field activities in the Lebong area by Lingkar Institut excluding activities by the Kerinci Seblat Tiger Protection & Conservation programme team through other donors Funds were disbursed in Sterling through 21st Century Tiger and a significant strengthening in Sterling against the Indonesia rupiah was recorded while a law enforcement contingency was not called upon. As a consequence, there appears to be a small underspend of the funds generously granted by Auckland Zoo Conservation. A detailed financial report is in preparation and we hope that funds not expended may be held in trust pending a proposal for further activities in an area which protects a greater than expected tiger population

Section 3 – Executive Summary

Please give a 500-1000 word executive summary of how the project progressed and what was achieved. Where originally specified objectives weren't met or activities carried out, then please summarise in this section.

Activities in the project focus area commenced in February upon receipt of funds with activity planning meetings with the Lebong chapter of the Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) or Islamic Scholars Council of Indonesia,

These meetings were followed by intensive training by Lingkar and national park and forestry partners for 12 key MUI religious leaders regarding key wildlife conservation challenges in Lebong, in particular addressing and reducing illegal wildlife trade-driven poaching threat to Sumatran tiger.

These meetings were followed by a formal agreement between the local project team and MUI Lebong regarding subsequent actions to be taken and by whom.

With local and provincial leaders of the MUI now fully aware of the scale and scope of wildlife crime in their area, the project team – now including the MUI chapter for Lebong district - then moved to support wider socialisation of the national *Fatwa* No. 04/ 2014 which prohibits poaching or trade in endangered wildlife.

This activity commenced with a training workshop for preachers and leaders of 40 mosques in Lebong district in the district capital of Muara Aman. MUI leaders provided training in socialisation of the *fatwa* while officers of the national park, local forestry agencies and district police socialised key points in national wildlife and forest conservation laws.

Village mosque leaders then commenced socialising the *fatwa* to mosque congregations at Friday prayers and, subsequently, as it became clear that some poachers do not routinely attend their village mosque, at small, focused village meetings.

Local religious leaders and preachers frequently communicated progress and problems encountered to MUI Lebong leaders for discussion and brainstorming with the Lingkar team.

These discussions, allied with wildlife crime investigations, identified hunters in five key villages as a source of threat to tigers, not only in the project focus area but in national park forests in adjoining districts of two provinces.

With local mosque leaders aware of the rationale for the religious prohibition on hunting and trade in rare species and level of wildlife crime and actively socialising the *fatwa* to their congregations, the Lebong team moved to commence collaborative patrols in national park and park-edge forests.

To achieve this project goal, an MoU between the national park and Lingkar Institut was signed off in late April under which the national park recognised Lingkar as a partner supporting field actions to conserve tigers and biodiversity more widely.

Training to six community and national park rangers in the SMART patrol method and data collection was then provided by members of the Bengkulu Tiger Protection & Conservation Unit team and Lingkar Institut members.

Between May and October, a total of six SMART patrols were conducted in national park and park-edge forests in the focus area with support from Auckland Zoo Conservation and counterpart funding from 21st Century Tiger.

These patrols were conducted using advice of supportive forest-edge community informants and village religious leaders but also drew on the team's local knowledge and past TPCU experience in the area.

Five of the six patrols conducted reported Sumatran tiger present on the routes taken with two patrols reporting two individual tigers present (See *patrol maps* pages 14-17 below).

Tiger presence was higher than had been predicted given the serious levels of poaching threat to tiger recorded, park-wide, between 2012-2015 and the fact that during this period there was no routine patrol presence in national park forests in the Lebong focus area.

Since early 2016 TPCU patrols have recorded very significant falls in active poaching threat to Sumatran tiger due to the deterrent effects of tiger law enforcement actions in park-edge districts of three provinces.

Patrols results in the Lebong focus area strongly suggest that threat to tiger in and adjoining Kerinci Seblat National Park has reduced, not only in areas of the national park where tiger law enforcement has been conducted but at a wider landscape level..

Only one Rapid Response Unit patrol reported 'active' tiger snares with three tiger snares and a further 13 active deer snares documented and destroyed. These snares had likely been set in early 2017 but abandoned by the hunter(s) for unknown reasons.

A second RRU patrol, also using information from park-edge communities, confiscated 13 cable snares of a type used for poaching tigers from a forest-edge farmhouse used by hunters while two further patrols reported evidence of tiger poaching active in mid or late 2016, on the basis of old snare placements. Investigations by the Lingkar team were conducted primarily in and adjoining Lebong district but extended, in one case, to the Seluma area of south Bengkulu province as the team mapped a tiger poaching and trade syndicate operating in national park and protected forests of three districts of two provinces including in the project focus area.

Results of investigations by the Lingkar team were analysed collaboratively with the Bengkulu TPCUs to assess follow-up actions required and to identify illegal wildlife trade links to other areas of the national park with one trader identified as having links to a town in West Sumatra more than 400Km to the north of the focus area.

Although no tiger law enforcement actions were conducted in Lebong during the project period, the Lebong project supervisor, a senior member of the Bengkulu TPCUs, conducted undercover investigations which supported successful tiger law enforcement actions in Mukomuko district of Bengkulu and in Merangin district of Jambi to the north-east of the national park.

These actions, conducted in partnership with local police, resulted in the arrest and prosecution of five tiger poachers or traders and seizure of the skins of three tigers .

At a wider park level, Tiger Protection & Conservation Units conducted a total of 115 SMART patrols in national park and park-edge forests of three districts across a distance of just over 2000Km.

A total of not fewer than 98 tiger presence records were made with patrol 'effort' to report tiger presence reducing from 1 tiger per 6.6 patrol days in 2016 to 1-6.03 days.

These patrols reported a very substantial reduction in active poaching threat with 'only' 13 active tiger snares recorded in the period December-November 2017 compared with 51 in the same period of 2015-2016 and 68 in the same months of 2014-2015.

Investigations by TPCU personnel supported a total of seven wildlife law enforcement actions in park-edge districts of three provinces.

These resulted in the arrest and prosecution of 13 tiger poachers or traders and two pangolin traders, one known, on the basis of preceding investigations, to also be implicated in trading Sumatran tigers.

The programme also supported a comprehensive revision of an MoU first ratified between the national park and provincial police commanders in 2014 with the purpose of strengthening forest and wildlife crime law enforcement across four provinces of central Sumatra .

Following ratification of a new MoU, active for three years, the programme team then facilitated three workshops with district police and national park officers to collaboratively develop a workplan, goals and identify training needs for both police and park officers to address and reduce wildlife crime in park-edge districts around Kerinci Seblat National Park.

Section 5 – Project Activities and Achievements

Please add more rows and/or expand boxes as required.

Project Aim/Objective (as stated in original funding application)	Project Activity or Method	Summary of Result/Achievement	How was Success Demonstrated?
Through local religious leaders and mosque imams socialise the <i>fatwa</i> of the national Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI) which forbids hunting and trade in endangered species to members of the Muslim faith and, through mobilising core religious values, strengthen support for tiger conservation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focal group discussion and training meeting for leaders of the MUI Lebong on wildlife conservation and poaching threats to tiger and other rare wildlife; subsequently, ratification of an MoU between Lingkar Institut and MUI. 2. Training for preachers (<i>ulama</i>) and mosque leaders regarding wildlife conservation and the MUI <i>Fatwa</i>. 3. Socialisation of the MUI <i>Fatwa</i> to forest edge communities at village and mosque meetings, Friday prayers 4. Routine informal meetings with leaders of MUI in Lebong and key community leaders. 5. Briefings to local and national media 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 key members of the MUI in Lebong fully briefed and aware of the threat to tigers and other rare wildlife in their district posed by wildlife crime • An MoU signed off between Lingkar Institut and MUI Lebong agreeing steps to be taken and actions required and by whom • A training workshop for preachers or leaders of 40 village mosques in wildlife conservation, wildlife crime in Lebong district and the MUI <i>Fatwa</i> on poaching and trade in endangered species opened by the district head or Bupati: training by MUI leaders, national park and district forestry officers. • Socialisation to 40 village communities in Lebong of the MUI <i>Fatwa</i> by mosque leaders and the MUI at Friday prayers but also at village meetings, so addressing the fact that certain hunters do not routinely attend Friday prayers • Routine informal evaluation and discussion meetings between Lingkar and MUI Lebong identified challenges –including known hunters not always attending Friday prayers - and solutions and forward planning • The project team provided briefings 	<p>Mosque leaders or preachers from 40 mosques in Lebong district trained in socialising the <i>Fatwa</i> of the MUI and the rationale for the <i>Fatwa</i> and routinely promoting conservation of rare wildlife such as Sumatran tiger as the duty of the faithful.</p> <p>Forest-edge communities where preachers had been trained demonstrated understanding of the <i>fatwa</i> and willingly provided information on the activities of suspected hunters</p> <p>Preachers receiving training in wildlife conservation and rationale for the <i>Fatwa</i> provided information to MUI leaders on members of their communities they believed to be still posing threat to tiger and other rare wildlife for a follow up by the project team</p> <p>Five villages identified as requiring focused interventions by the MUI and project team</p> <p>Leaders of the MUI Chapter of</p>

		to local and national media and attracted considerable favourable media coverage including online.	neighbouring North Bengkulu district (which adjoins the Lebong focus area) advised they wish to replicate activities in their area in 2018 and so extend building religious support for wildlife conservation more widely in the south-west of Kerinci Seblat National Park.
Establish a collaborative multi-stakeholder wildlife crime Rapid Reaction patrol Unit to address threat to tigers and build practical trans-agency support for tiger and wildlife conservation in and adjoining national park forests in Lebong district of Bengkulu. Conduct wildlife crime investigations and build forest-edge information networks to advise patrol strategies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collaborative Rapid Response patrol unit composing community, national park and other forestry agency rangers formed, conducting SMART patrols to address and reduce threat to tiger in national park and park edge forests in Lebong district • Wildlife crime investigations and development of forest-edge community information network in Lebong by Lingkar Institut members. • Routine liaison, patrol planning and evaluation with TPCU Bengkulu coordinator and institutional partners and briefings on patrol results to MUI partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An outline workplan developed in collaboration with local national park managers, officers of Bengkulu Unit for Nature Conservation (KSDA), Bengkulu forestry service, Lebong district police division and TPCUs • SMART patrol training to RRU members by Bengkulu TPCUs. • Six SMART patrols conducted in national park and an adjoining watershed protection forest across a walking distance of 98Km with 36 days spent on forest patrols in hill and sub-montane forests. • Tigers (six) recorded on five out of six SMART RRU patrols conducted • Three active tiger snares- apparently abandoned by the poacher(s) and 13 active deer snares destroyed on one (information-led) patrol; 13 tiger cable snares confiscated from a forest edge poachers' camp. Remains of one tiger snare which 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer working links between national park section leader and other local forestry agencies through collaborative patrol planning and analysis of RRU patrol results • Patrol reports and documentation supplied real time data on tiger presence and forest condition to the national park and other forestry agencies • Investigations collected on illegal wildlife trade routes from Lebong supported park-wide strategies to address the illegal wildlife trade, provided valuable input to ongoing TPCU investigations.

		<p>had caught a tiger which had released itself, recorded on a third information-led patrol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An MoU signed between Lingkar Institut and Kerinci Seblat National Park director so providing a formal legal status for patrols and related activities supporting the park by Lingkar. • Patrol planning and post-patrol evaluations conducted collaboratively with national park partners, other local forestry agencies, Bengkulu TPCU. • 13 illegal wildlife trade and poaching investigations by Lingkar members conducted in addition to information collection to identify hunters, traders. • Investigations identified individuals from five villages in Lebong as a direct source of threat to tiger and other protected species in national park forests of two provinces. • Information sharing with local police detectives established 	
<p>Activities by Tiger Protection & Conservation Units and the wider project team to address and reduce threat to wild tigers, prey species and habitat more widely.</p>		<p>(i) SMART patrols by TPCUs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 115 SMART forest patrols, routine and information-driven, on foot across 2000Km in national park and park-edge forests in seven districts of three provinces, only including L • 591 Unit days spent on forest patrols • 98 Sumatran tiger presence records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency of encounter with tiger by TPCU patrols increased to 1 tiger per 20.4Km from 1.22.2km in the same months of 2015-2016 • Patrol Effort to report tiger presence reduced from 1-6.6 patrol days in 2015-2016 to 1-

	<p>(i) SMART patrols by six Tiger Protection & Conservation Units (see <i>patrol maps, attached</i>)</p>	<p>(94 in the same months of 2015-6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 active tiger snares detected and destroyed on seven TPCU patrols; (2015-2016: 51 active tiger snares on 16 TPCU patrols) • 96 active deer snares detected and destroyed on 11 TPCU patrols so demonstrating a continuing ongoing reduction in threat to tiger prey species in areas routinely patrolled by TPCUs. • Active tiger snares reported on 'only' 7% of TPCU patrols compared with 14% in 2016; 20% in 2015 	<p>6.04 days during this period 2016 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active threat to tiger reduced to its lowest level in six years with patrol Effort to record threat increasing to 1 tiger snare per 45 patrol days from 1- 12 days in 2015-2016 and 1- 8.1 days in 2015 (when illegal wildlife trade-driven poaching threat peaked) • Early analysis of camera trapping in the project Core area of the national park advises tiger densities increased fractionally compared with 2016
	<p>(ii) Wildlife crime and illegal wildlife trade investigations</p>	<p>(ii) TPCU investigations including advancing information secured by Lingkar team in Lebong</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 166 investigation or 'for information' reports logged • Poaching and illegal wildlife trade investigation conducted in four park-edge provinces but extended to Batam Island of the Riau archipelago and to Jakarta • Investigations resulted in the arrest and prosecution of 15 poachers or illegal wildlife traders operating in five or more provinces of Sumatra island (two of these law enforcement actions a result of investigations led by the Lebong project supervisor who is also a senior member of the Bengkulu 	<p>(ii) Investigations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigations directly supported seven successful poaching and illegal wildlife trade law enforcement actions . • Two national/exporter level traders driving threat to tiger, pangolin, helmeted hornbill identified • Key Illegal wildlife trade routes from the national park and smuggling methods identified • Individuals facilitating illegal shipments of wildlife from an international airport identified • Covert interviews with suspected poachers, traders advised that law enforcement

		<p>TPCU team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigations advised that blackmarket prices for tiger body parts with the exception of tiger canines have fallen substantially since 2015 likely as a result of disruption to illegal wildlife trade syndicates in the project area and more widely in Sumatra due to law enforcement actions by this programme and others 	<p>since early 2016 has caused very significant disruption to poaching and illegal wildlife trade syndicates operating around Kerinci Seblat National Park and contributed significantly to reduced threat recorded in the field on patrols by both TPCUs and the collaborative rapid response patrol unit in Lebong.</p>
	<p>(iii) Wildlife and forest crime law enforcement directly or with government agency partners</p>	<p>(iii) Law enforcement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seven intelligence-led species law enforcement actions (six Sumatran tiger, one Sunda pangolin) conducted in park-edge districts of three provinces. Eight illegal wildlife traders, seven poachers arrested, prosecuted (one case, two Suspects, awaiting judgment) and sentenced to custodial terms. Body parts (skins, skeletons) of seven tigers (one taxidermised), not all from Kerinci Seblat National Park, seized as evidence for prosecution; Six live Sunda pangolins seized as evidence and subsequently released (two traders, one known to also facilitate trade in Sumatran tiger) sentenced to eight months gaol terms, . One illegal logging law enforcement action resulting in arrest of an illegal 	<p>(iii)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All wildlife law enforcement actions proceeded from arrest through to court hearings and custodial sentences (one case still before the courts) Sentences made ranged from six months (to a taxidermist transporting a stuffed tiger) to three years six months – a trader and two poachers arrested in July 2017 and a tiger poacher arrested in an intelligence-led action in May 2017 Sentencing was significantly higher than in previous years and likely demonstrates increasing understanding by judiciary regarding the Organised Crime nature of serious wildlife crime and the

		<p>logging gang boss: (Case awaiting judgment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 formal legal warnings and Orders to Quit, five 'informal' warnings issued by TPCU patrols to offenders against forest and wildlife law, • Three chainsaws confiscated by TPCU patrols; • Expert witnesses briefed and facilitated to strengthen and inform prosecution cases through to an appropriate verdict. <p>iv Building key stakeholder support and awareness around the national park</p> <p>In 2014, the Kerinci Tiger Protection & Conservation team facilitated ratification of an MoU between the national park and the chiefs of provincial police in the four provinces which overlay the national park to establish a wildlife crime law enforcement network.</p> <p>In 2017, with support through other programme donors, this MoU was revised and extended for a further three years. Three planning workshops were subsequently held with park-edge police and national park officers to develop a three year workplan to address and reduce threat to both wildlife and habitat with the workplan signed off by the national park and police commanders.</p> <p>A training workshop for park-edge police detectives was subsequently held to build understanding of how IVT networks</p>	<p>benefits of programme facilitation of qualified Expert Witnesses to give input and support to prosecution Case preparation.</p> <p>iv</p> <p>A new three year MoU between the national park and park-edge provincial police chiefs ratified.</p> <p>A three year workplan developed collaboratively between park officers and district police</p> <p>National Police detective chiefs instructed facial recognition software now available to national police should be made available to identify suspected poachers photographed in the course of camera trapping activities in the national park.</p>
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(iv) Other activities to strengthen tiger conservation and protection

		<p>operate around the national park and to develop strategies to address and reduce IWT threat to tiger and other threatened species</p> <p>Indonesia national police environmental crime division chief offered his expert staff services to support investigations to identify and interdict major traders and poachers</p>	
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Section 6 – Future Activities

Please summarise what the next steps for the project/initiative will be. Highlight any potential areas which you feel might be suitable for further Auckland Zoo support

With Auckland Zoo's support, a key step has been taken through leveraging religious and traditional social values to strengthen support for conservation of wild tigers in national park forests in the Lebong area of Bengkulu and, through support for collaborative SMART patrols, building a tiger conservation presence in forests in this district.

The project team has now been approached by the Muslim Scholars Council of North Bengkulu district, to the immediate north of Lebong, who have requested training and technical support to socialise the 2014 MUI *Fatwa* in their district.

This is an area where very high levels of poaching threat to tiger and other endangered wildlife were recorded on patrols in and adjoining the park by TPCUs between 2013-2016 and where the support of local religious leaders, in particular in remote forest-edge villages, will deliver real conservation benefit. While socialisation of the MUI *Fatwa* and awareness-raising by mosque preachers in Lebong has raised understanding of villagers regarding their religious duty to conserve tigers and other rare wildlife, discussions with religious leaders and investigations advise that hunters in some key communities still pose threat to Sumatran tiger.

The team will be looking to address this issue in 2018 through focused counselling of known offenders by religious and community leaders and through meetings in key villages in Lebong and adjoining areas of North Bengkulu identified as poaching hotspots.

The Lebong project team is also preparing to work with Lebong district government, with support WildCats Conservation Alliance, to establish a 'conservation education' syllabus for junior high schools in the district for activation in mid 2019.

Meanwhile, results of SMART patrols to date, clearly show that national park forests in Lebong and immediately adjoining areas continue to protect an important tiger population and a patrol presence in these forests should be maintained to deter any resurgence in threat.

Section 7 – Other Information

Please include here anything else that you feel that it is important for us to know.

Conservation awareness actions are, traditionally conducted by conservationists from a conservation perspective to achieve a conservation goal.

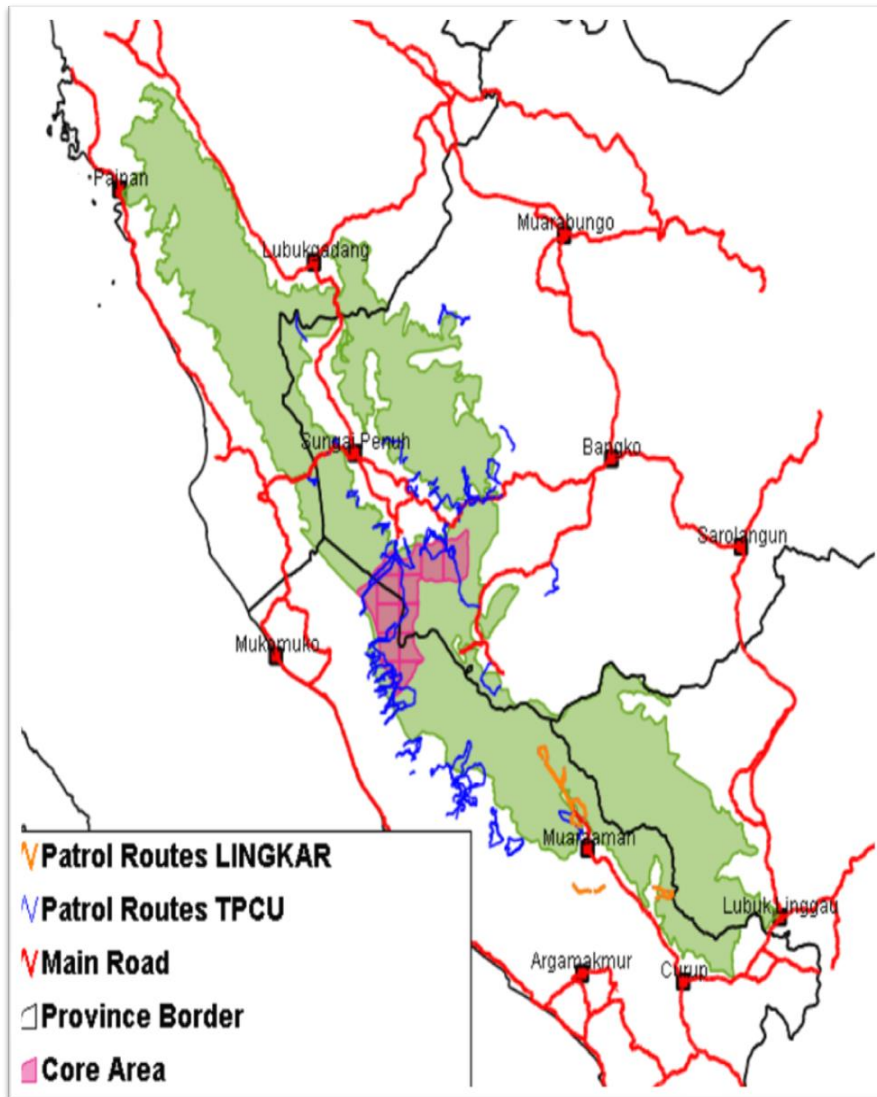
However our methods may not always meld smoothly with local cultures and beliefs .

In Lebong, with Auckland Zoo support, a tiger conservation message was socialised to the community by the community's own respected religious leaders and using the community's core religious values.

The Lingkar team has already been approached by the Muslim Scholars Association of the neighbouring district of North Bengkulu requesting support for similar actions to be conducted in this park-edge district which lies to the immediate north of the 2017 focus area.

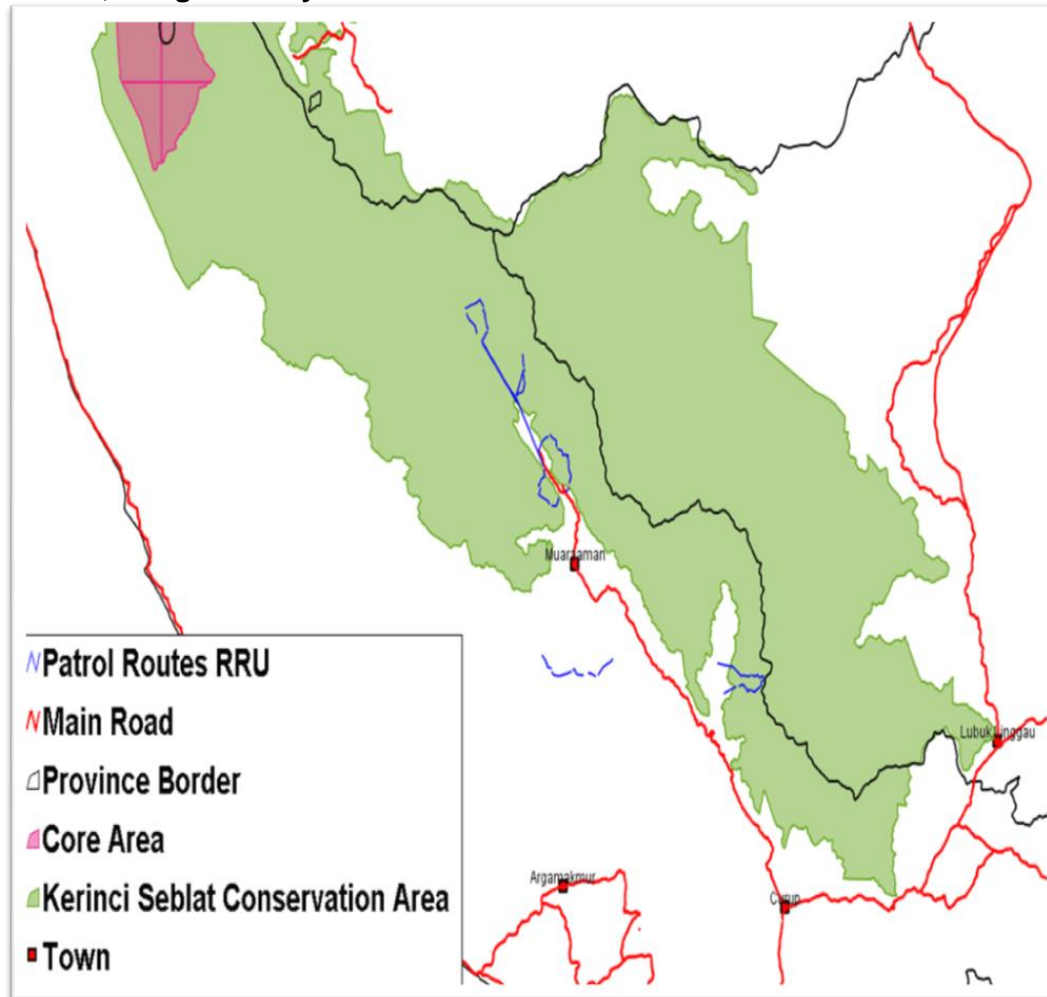
'Traditional' wildlife conservation and protection methods will always be important , especially in the case of species threatened by organised criminal syndicates as is the case with Sumatran tiger. But through this pilot project, we have been able to pilot a new approach to an old problem and the results appear to be very promising.

Appendix 1: SMART patrol maps

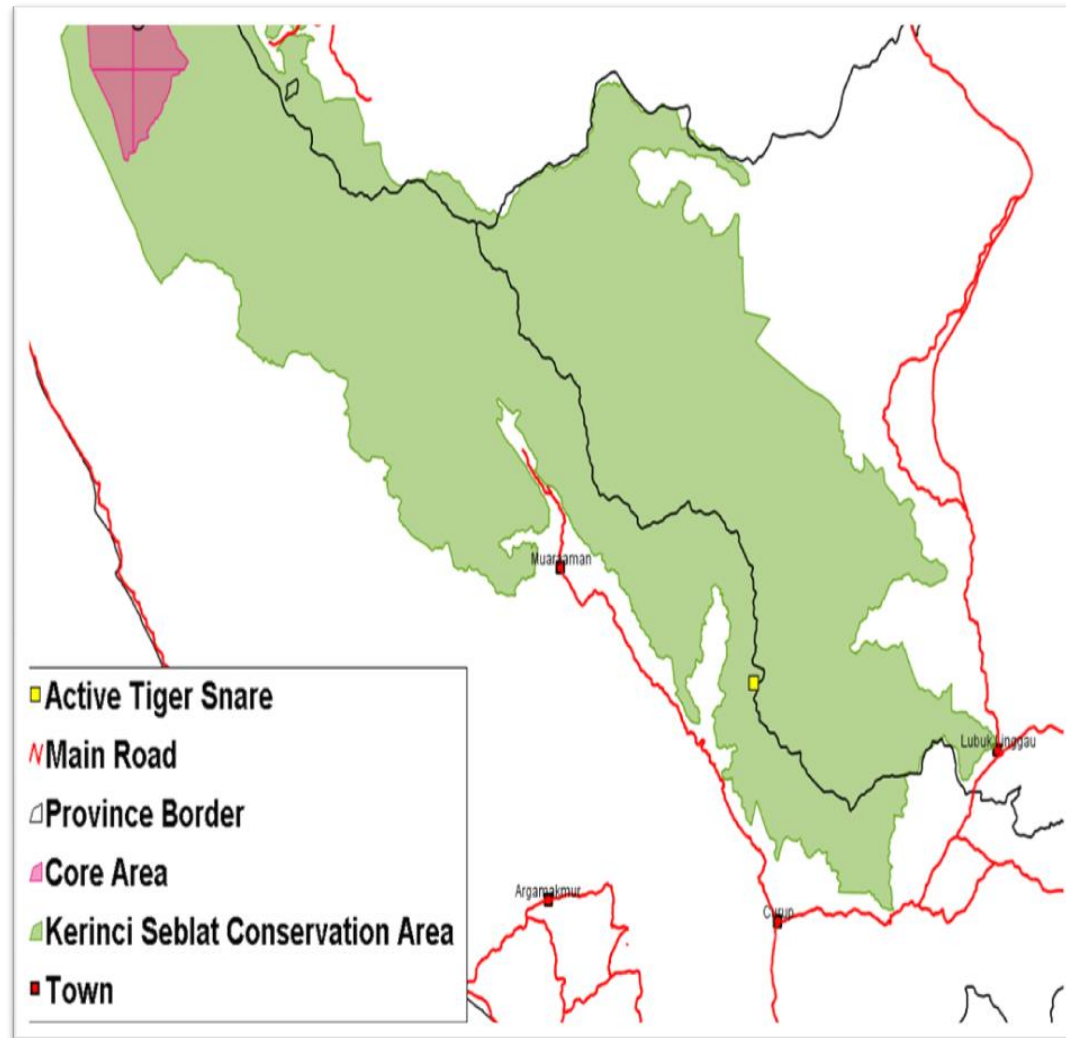


SMART patrol map (left) showing Kerinci Seblat National Park (green) and patrol routes taken by TPCUs (blue) and Rapid Response patrol Unit (orange)

2: SMART map showing patrol routes by Rapid Response patrol unit in Lebong District, Bengkulu May-October 2017



4: SMART patrol map showing active threat to tiger recorded on RRU patrols in national park forests in Lebong district, Bengkulu May-October 2017



Picture 1



Above: A Rapid Response Patrol Unit map-reading on a patrol in sub-montane forests in Lebong district

Picture 2



Above:- Lebong Rapid Response Unit rangers with an abandoned deer snare in which a sambar deer died a slow and lingering death, a total of 13 active but abandoned deer snares were recorded on this patrol launched on a community tip off.

Picture 3:



Left: A Lebong RRU patrol with evidence of illegal logging-recorded on a patrol in the national park. Although poaching threat to tiger has reduced substantially since early 2016, threat to tiger habitat remains a serious concern both in the Lebong area and more widely around the national park with rangers constrained from responding to illegal forest clearance due to lack of political will at the highest levels of government

Picture 4



(Left) An illegal wildlife trader and one of the two tiger poachers arrested in a law enforcement action conducted in partnership between Bengkulu TPCUs and Mukomuko district police in July 2017. The skins and skeletons of two sub-adult tigers, poached in early 2017 from park-edge forests on the Bengkulu-West Sumatra provincial borders, were seized as evidence in an investigation led by the Lebong project supervisor who is a senior member of the Bengkulu TPCU team. All three men were subsequently sentenced to three-year prison sentences with a further six-month gaol term if NZD3,000 fines are not paid.

Picture 5



Above – North Bengkulu district police detectives, Bengkulu TPCU leaders and TPCU Bengkulu Coordinator Seven X (right) with the skin of an adult male tiger seized as evidence in a TPCU intelligence-led law enforcement action in May. The two poachers were subsequently sentenced to custodial sentences of three years and three years six months.