

Pelestarian Harimau Sumatera Kerinci-Seblat

Kerinci Seblat Sumatran Tiger Protection & Conservation

**Report on activities conducted with the
support of 21st Century Tiger and
Dreamworld Conservation
2014**

by

Fauna & Flora International



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Summary

The programme's six Tiger Protection & Conservation Units conducted 111 SMART-based forest patrols in and adjoining Kerinci Seblat National Park in 2014 covering a total walking distance of more than 1670Km (1038 miles)

Not fewer than 100 Sumatran tiger presence records were made during the project period with tigers recorded present on just under 60% of all TPCU patrols conducted.

However, while the percentage of forest patrols recording tiger presence was stable, direct poaching detected remained at unprecedented high levels over the project period with 61 active tiger snares detected and destroyed by TPCUs, the majority on information-driven patrols.

Active tiger snares were also recorded and destroyed on two law enforcement monitoring patrols by our partners from the Kerinci Seblat Tiger Monitoring team (MHS) and, in a rarely-patrolled area of forest to the east of the national park, by researchers studying Sumatran clouded leopard.

In spite of a strong focus to information collection for a rapid patrol response, numerous recently deactivated snare placements believed to have been set specifically for tiger were also recorded and patrol records advise not fewer than six tigers were lost to snare poaching over the course of 2014.

In all but one of these cases the poachers believed responsible have been identified but, in spite of strenuous efforts, legally-sound evidence was not secured to advance these incidents to law enforcement and so these cases remain Open at date of this report.

Investigations were conducted in nine park-edge districts and municipalities of the four provinces adjoining the national park and in two provincial capitals to secure information for patrol planning and protection strategies, to identify sources of threat and changes in the illegal wildlife blackmarket and to secure evidence for law enforcement actions where crime was confirmed.

Two tiger law enforcement actions were launched and resulted in the successful arrest and prosecution of two tiger traders, one of whom was commissioning the poaching of Sumatran tiger in two or more national parks in Sumatra. A third tiger law enforcement action conducted at the end of 2013 also advanced to a custodial sentence, albeit very light.

The nature and structure of serious wildlife crime in central Sumatra has changed dramatically since 2011 and is poaching is now primarily driven by organised criminal syndicates operating across provincial borders and institutional jurisdictions.

In response to this, the programme worked closely with the director of Kerinci Seblat National Park to secure formal agreement with four provincial police authorities for formation of a Serious Wildlife Crime Law Enforcement Network spanning four provinces of central Sumatra.

Additionally the program provided technical support and guidance to a local NGO partner which resulted in formal agreement for establishment of a multi-stakeholder human wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce in Bengkulu province to the south-west of the national park which will be funded through central government.

The project period marked the 10th year of consistent support for the conservation and protection of wild tigers in Kerinci Seblat National Park by Dreamworld Conservation Funding and the 12th year of support for this programme by 21st Century Tiger.

During this time, the number of Tiger Protection & Conservation Units active in and around Kerinci Seblat National Park has risen from three (in 2003) to six with units operational from base camps to the east and the west of the national park.

TPCU rangers walked almost 17,000km on forest patrols, made more than 750 Sumatran tiger presence records and destroyed 245 active tiger snares and just under 4000 deer snares while conducting investigations that resulted in the successful arrest and prosecution of 32 tiger poachers and traders.

On behalf of the team and Kerinci Seblat National Park, we thank you for your support and commitment to Sumatran tiger conservation.

DJM

Sungaipenuh, February 2014.

Activities and Results

▪ Investigations and information collection - *identify individuals who threaten Sumatran tiger and other protected species at poacher and trader level, monitor trend and changing demand in the illegal wildlife blackmarket and, where crime is suspected to have occurred, secure evidence for a law enforcement response. Manage and strengthen community information networks to secure information on active threats for a patrol response,*

More than 80 investigations into suspected poaching and trade in Sumatran tiger and other protected wildlife in nine park-edge districts of the four provinces adjoining Kerinci Seblat National Park and in two provincial capitals over the project period.

However the now highly-organised and secretive nature of the illegal wildlife trade in central Sumatra – in part a consequence of past tiger law enforcement success - made securing valid data on suspected poaching and trade incidents and fully appraising the scale of threat to tigers difficult.

Investigations were also hampered by the fact that, due to past law enforcement actions, key team investigators cannot operate in certain areas due to the risk that their identities have become known.

First-hand evidence of tiger crime was secured in the course of four investigations by team investigators and supported two subsequent tiger law enforcement actions resulting in the arrest and prosecution of two men on tiger trade charges.

One of these individuals had long been 'known' to the programme as a suspected local-level trader and poacher in the West Sumatra-Bengkulu borders area and his name was first recorded in 2005 as a deer hunter associated with a notorious sport hunting club and subsequently, as a suspected trader.

The final investigation resulting in this man's arrest was launched in the fourth quarter of 2013 and concluded in late January 2014 when a TPCU investigator secured first-hand evidence of crime to support law enforcement action.

The second investigation which resulted in tiger law enforcement commenced in mid 2014 following a suspected tiger poaching incident in the south of the Kerinci valley.

The individual suspected to have brokered the sale of this tiger to a tiger trader in Jambi City was identified and a former TPCU member facilitated to meet both the broker and the alleged trader in Jambi at a shop specialising in antiques and curios.

The skins of two adult Sumatran tiger were seen and covertly photographed and extensive and valuable information secured which correlated with other TPCU investigation results regarding tiger body parts in demand and prices in the organised illegal wildlife black market for tigers.

The suspect advised he was commissioning tiger poaching in at least two protected areas in central Sumatra in partnership with a second man, an Indonesian man of Chinese descent with family links to a tiger and gaharu (*Aquilaria* spp) trade syndicate operating out of Pekanbaru city in Riau province which lies to the immediate north of Jambi.

The skeletons of both tigers were missing and the suspect reported the tigers' bones had already been sold, through his partner, to an as yet unidentified exporter-level dealer on the Indonesian island of Batam island, a free port off the coast of Singapore.

Both tigers' canines were also missing and the trader confirmed that these had also already been sold to supply domestic demand from Java island, quoting very high prices which correlated with information secured in other investigations conducted in 2014.

A month later – to ensure the previous investigator did not subsequently fall under suspicion - the investigation was resumed, this time by a TPCU ranger, with a long record of successful final stage pre-law enforcement investigations, working under the immediate direction of the team's field manager.

The suspect was subsequently arrested and prosecuted (See *Law Enforcement and Supporting the Legal Process*) for possession with intent to sell, with the skin of an adult tiger, believed poached from Berbak National Park in eastern Jambi, seized as evidence. This final stage investigation strongly advised that more tiger pelts were in the suspect's partner's *gudang* or warehouse but these were not seen or seized (see *Law Enforcement*)

Critically, the results of covert interviews with this individual strengthened the findings of other investigations so that we conclude that demand for tiger *bone* may be the major driver of organised tiger crime in central Sumatra and not tiger skins.

Investigations advised that major illegal wildlife traders are now generally unwilling to buy tiger skins alone and it is likely the bones of a tiger may now account for 40% or more of the total price paid by black market traders for a complete "set" (tiger skeleton, skin and intact dentition).

In Indonesia, unlike in China and Vietnam, there is no strong traditional demand for tiger bone with the exception of the hyoid process or '*tulang berani*' and this strengthens the conclusion that it is international demand for Sumatran tiger bone that has fueled the grave and escalating levels of threat recorded since 2012.

However investigations confirm that there is continuing domestic illegal trade to tigers, in particular for larger skins for taxidermy purposes and tiger canines and tiger claws and the city of Ponogoro in eastern Java was also again identified as a source of domestic illegal tiger trade threat due to demand for tiger heads for *Reog* traditional dance ceremonies.

Evidence of tiger crime was seen in two further investigations, in one case the mutilated remaining portions of the skin of a juvenile tiger poached from forests to the east of the national park; in this case, law enforcement could not be safely launched without compromising an ongoing investigation, however the suspect continued to be monitored by a TPCU investigator.

In the second case, 'off-cuts' of a likely old tiger skin were seen by a team investigator. The would-be vendor was neither a poacher or focused illegal wildlife trader and pursuing this case through to law enforcement action would have 'blown' the investigator's cover in this park-edge area and not contributed greatly to reducing threat to wild tigers.

The programme is cautious about reaching conclusions on suspected tiger crime without strong evidence. As a result, one investigation conducted in 2014 remains stalled as the team was unable to secure confirmation, through scientific analysis, that a thick oily substance, allegedly derived from boiled-down Sumatran tiger bone, did indeed contain tiger DNA..

This substance was produced, using a method reportedly commonly used in Vietnam, and distributed by two individuals in the western area of one park-edge district to farmers to deter crop predation by wild boar and deer at a price of \$9 per 75g at current US dollar-Indonesia rupiah exchange rates.

Although fragments of tiger skin or flesh are known to have been used, in the past, by forest-edge communities in the belief this will deter crop predation by deer and wild boar, this was the first such report in project history where boiled-down tiger bone was used for this purpose.

It is possible this case may be linked to reports in two other park-edge districts in the east of the national park regarding use of tiger bone to produce a glue-like substance. A Vietnamese national – unidentified to date - was cited in one case as purchasing and then processing tiger bones into a glue-like paste and advising that it was a safer to transport tiger bone in this processed form.

In addition to highly focused investigations into suspected tiger crime, team members also collected data on sub-national trade illegal wildlife trade routes, blackmarket prices and changes in demand for tiger body parts and on threat to other endangered species, in particular Malay pangolin and Helmeted Hornbill.

Between 2011 and mid 2014 investigations advised of strong links between organised poaching and trade in Sumatran tiger and trade in gaharu or agarwood (*Aquilaria sp*) for onward sale to cities in Riau province in eastern Sumatra

Investigations in the final six months of 2014 suggest that the domestic source of threat may now have changed and the strong correlation between tiger crime and Gaharu trade became less evident with reason to suspect that illegal wildlife trade syndicates operating out of the city of Medan in North Sumatra province may now be a direct source of threat to tigers in central and western Sumatra.

Meanwhile other investigations in addition to those conducted in Jambi City also indicated that the free port of Batam may now be developing as a major export hub for the illegal wildlife trade, not least due to improving access from Sumatra with daily flights from all the capitals of provinces adjoining this national park.

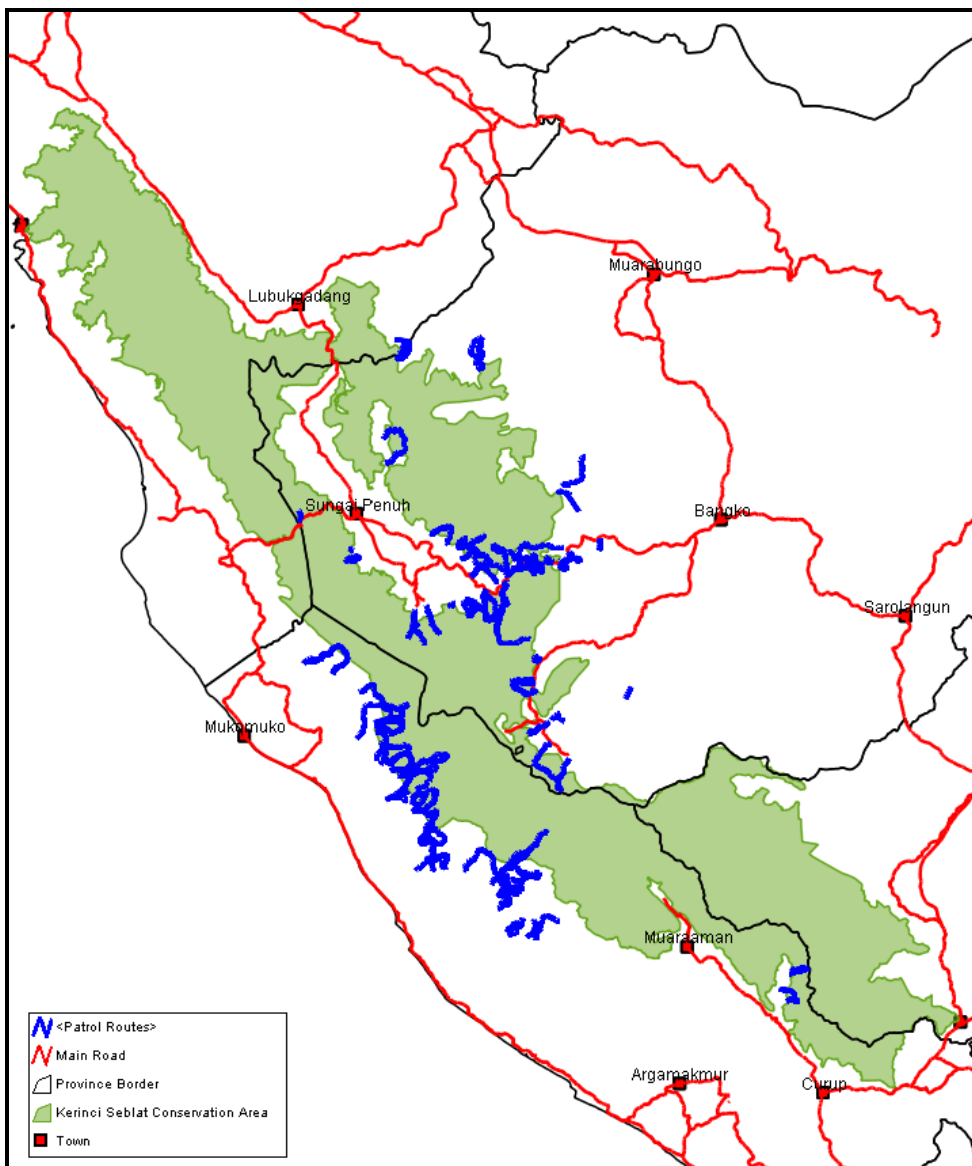
Use of new methods to secure information on illegal trade threat to tiger were explored, with the potential of 'beacons' to track tiger body parts through to the Kingpin or exporter level dealer of particular interest . This particular plan has been shelved, temporarily, due to changes in demand for tiger body parts and pending resolution of certain legal issues inherent in the use of beacon tracking.

Forest Patrols - Address and reduce active threats to Sumatran tiger, tiger prey and habitat through routine SMART-supported patrols and information-led patrols to areas where tigers and prey are suspected at poaching risk

A total of 110 routine and intelligence-driven patrols were conducted by Tiger Protection & Conservation Units over the course of the project period with a primary focus – not least due to threat – to national park and adjoining forests in four districts of Jambi and Bengkulu provinces.

Patrols covered a total walking distance of 1670Km in forests in and adjoining the national park and made a total of not fewer than 100 Sumatran tiger records. Park-wide, 59% of all forest patrols conducted over the project period recorded Sumatran tigers present and so unchanged from the level recorded in 2013.

Map 1: SMART Map of the central area of Kerinci Seblat National Park showing TPCU patrols over the year 2014

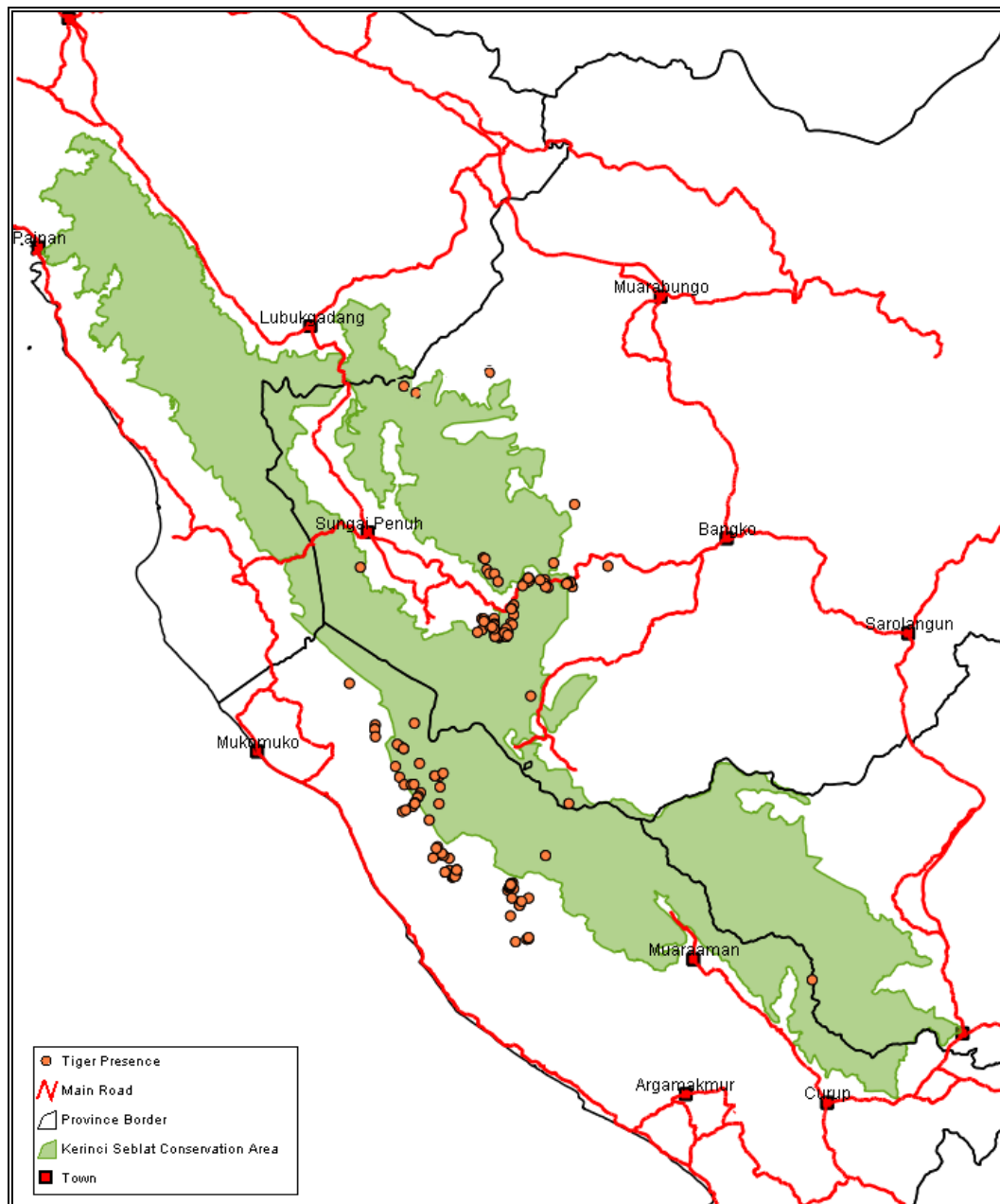


Patrol records show that Frequency of Encounter with tiger reduced, fractionally from 1 tiger per 15.94 patrol kilometres walked in 2013 to one tiger per 16.7Km patrol kilometres, park-wide, in the course of a total of 110 patrols.

This reduced frequency of encounter is primarily a consequence of very substantial falls in both tiger encounter records and the percentage of patrols recording tigers present in the second six months of the year.

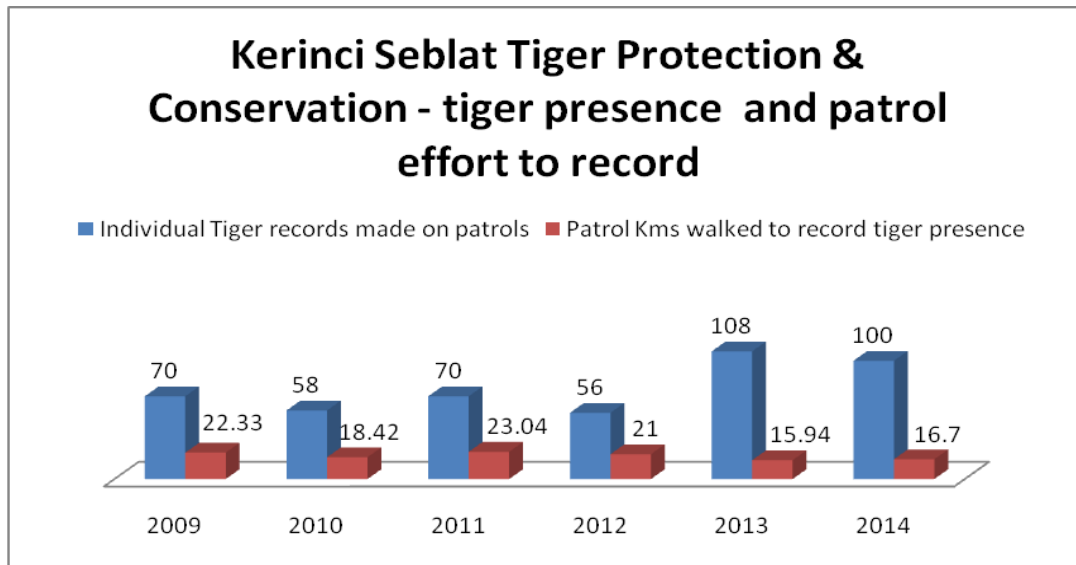
Similar sharp variations in tiger presence records have been recorded in previous years' field patrols and this is primarily a consequence of the Dry Season which, in this area of Sumatra falls between July-October when patrol units may find tiger sign more difficult to record.

Map II: SMART map showing tiger presence recorded on TPCU patrols: 2014



In spite of the very grave levels of direct threat recorded – in particular in one area in the north-east of the national park in Jambi province (see *Map III, below*) records of tiger presence were stable in areas where team have been able to maintain a strong and consistent law enforcement patrol focus.

Chart 1: Tiger presence records made by TPCU patrols and effort (frequency of encounter) to record 2009-2014



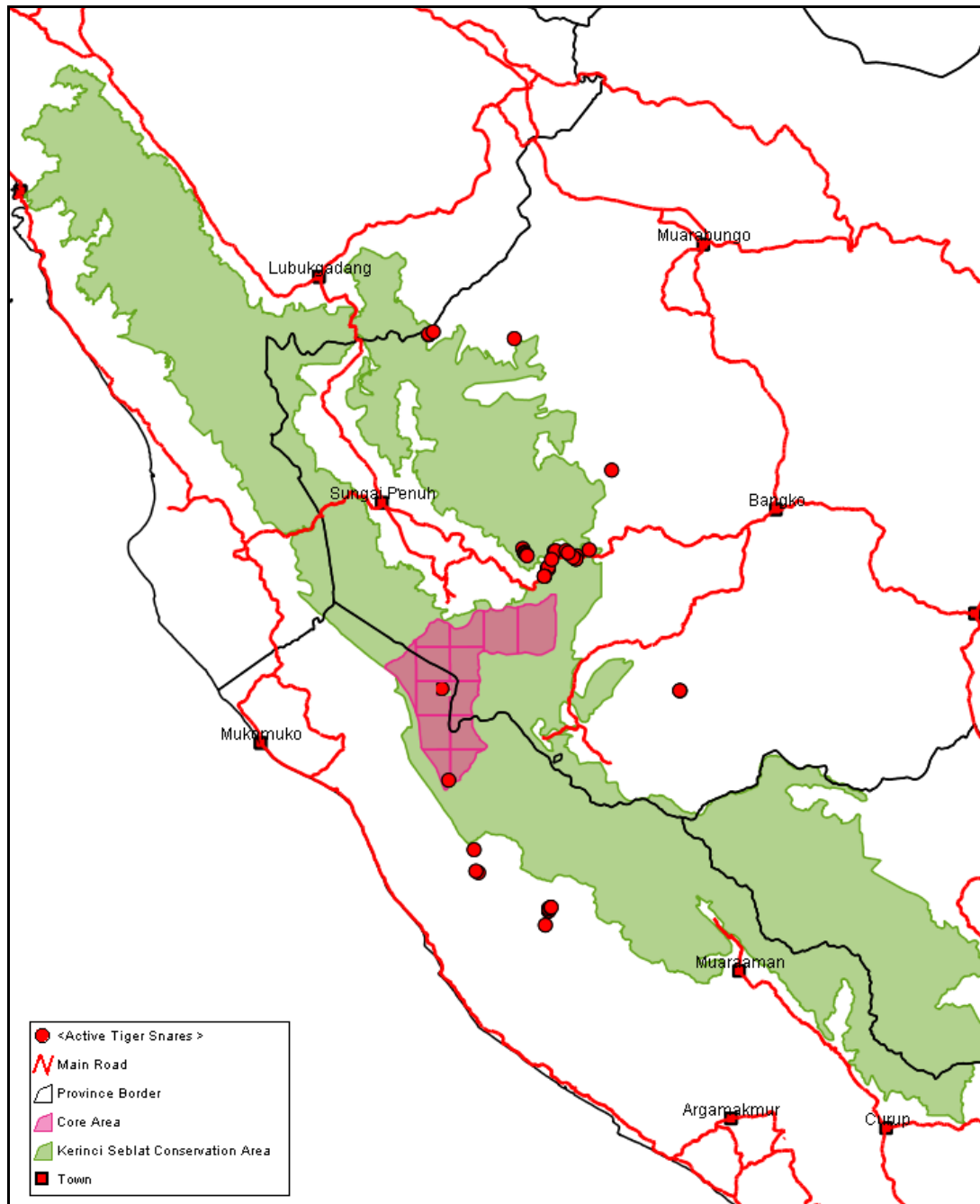
Analysis of camera trap monitoring in early 2014 advised that tiger densities recorded in the core programme area were unchanged from 2011 when intensive camera trap monitoring was last conducted.

However we conclude that tiger populations and densities in areas of the national park and adjoining forests where there is no focused routine patrol presence have now been significantly impacted by increased illegal poaching and trade since 2011.

It is also likely that camera trap monitoring, to be conducted in early 2015 with the support of another programme donor, may record reduced tiger densities as a direct consequence of poaching pressure recorded since 2012.

Active threat to Sumatran tiger recorded by TPCU patrols over 2014 continued at or close to the record highs reported in 2013 with a total of 61 active tiger snares recorded and destroyed in the course of 22 TPCU patrols, the great majority launched on the basis of information secured using community information networks.

Map III: Active Tiger snares recorded on TPCU patrols in 2014



A further 16 active tiger snares were destroyed in the course of two law enforcement monitoring patrols by our partners from the Kerinci Seblat Sumatran Tiger Monitoring team who delivered hugely valuable back-up field presence support to the team deep within the core area of the national park from June 2014.

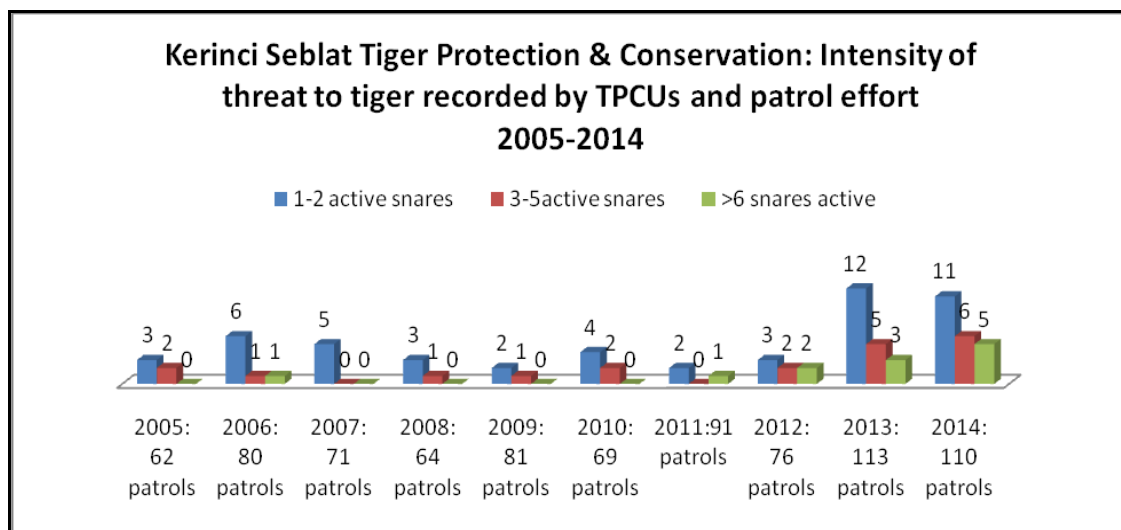
The truly historic scale of threat recorded may be further judged by TPCU patrol records which report a further 49 recently (<1 month) active snare placements, believed to have been set for tiger, were also encountered.

These were reported both on patrols where active tiger snares were also found and destroyed (9) and on patrols (12) where no active snares were recorded. Patrols recorded evidence that six tigers died in these snares with other species recorded as by-take of tiger poaching including Malay tapir, Malay sunbear and Sumatran clouded leopard.

Intensity of poaching effort in terms of the number of individual snares placed by hunters in one poaching foray also demonstrated new highs with five TPCU patrols recording six or more tiger snares active on their patrol route.

In all of these high-intensity poaching cases, examination of the snares and subsequent information collection, strongly advised the poachers had been supplied with the expensive snare cables by their 'boss' or trader buyer.

Chart II - Intensity of poaching threat recorded by TPCU patrols in 2014 and changes in intensity over a 10-years period

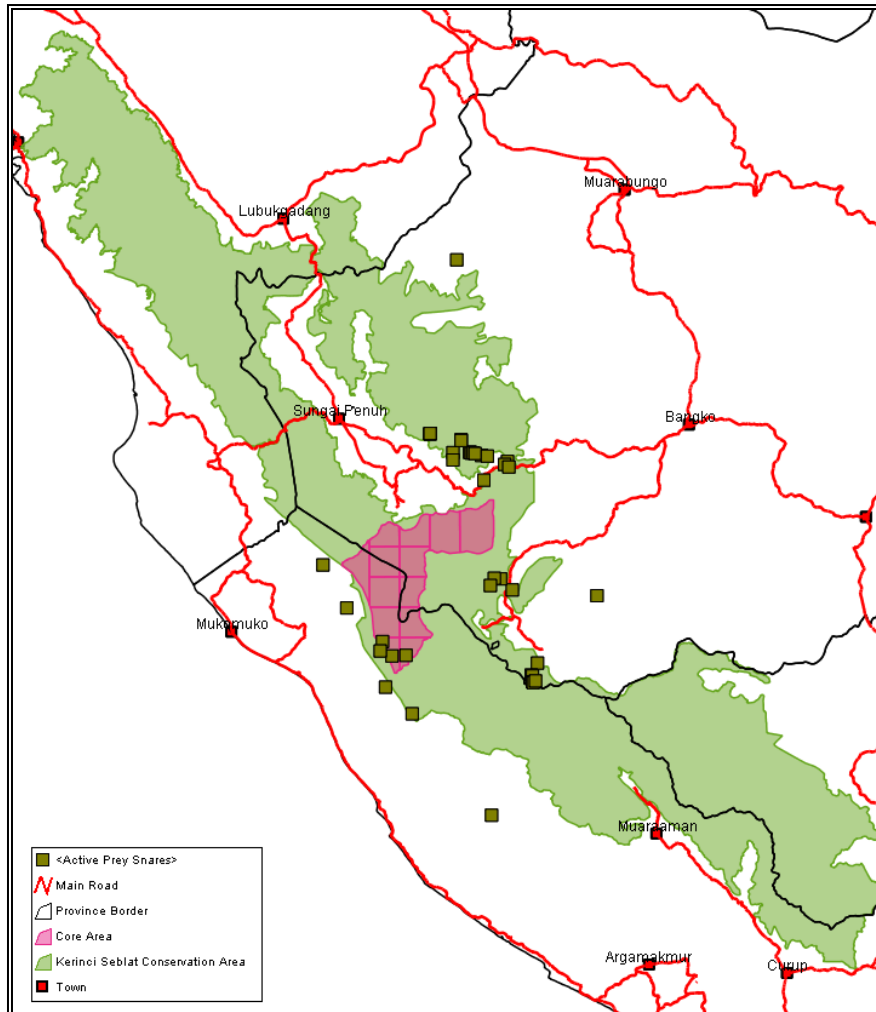


Detailed examination of snares found, the construction method and correlation with investigation results advised that the overwhelming majority of active and recently active tiger snares recorded were set by no more than seven groups of tiger poachers, some operating at a trans-provincial level.

The highest detected concentration of poaching threat was recorded on patrols in national park forests on the borders of Kerinci and Merangin districts in the north-east of the programme focus area which accounted for more than 40% of all active tiger snares recorded but for only 20% of forest patrol effort.

Use of information networks to drive patrols to areas where tiger poaching was suspected active resulted in the destruction of just over 84% of all snares found park-wide and more than 90% of snares found in forests on the Kerinci-Merangin district borders area.

However, while use of information networks was of great importance in supporting actions to *contain* poaching impacts, the volume of information secured meant that deployment of strategically important *routine* patrols deep within the national park frequently suffered. Unlike threat to Sumatran tiger, patrol records advise poaching of key tiger prey reduced



Map IV – Deer poaching detected: 2014

Only seven per cent of patrols recorded active deer poaching over the course of the project period with a total of 138 deer snares destroyed.

Of these, 97 (70%) were recorded in the six weeks before the great Muslim festival of Hari Raya Eid ul Fitri which marks the end of the Holy month of Ramadan.

Discussion with TPCU rangers advised that many deer hunters in areas where TPCUs

routinely patrol are now generally unwilling to risk loss of capital outlay and materials if there is any risk their snares will be destroyed by patrols and so the long snare lines that were a feature of the early years of this programme have become generally uncommon.

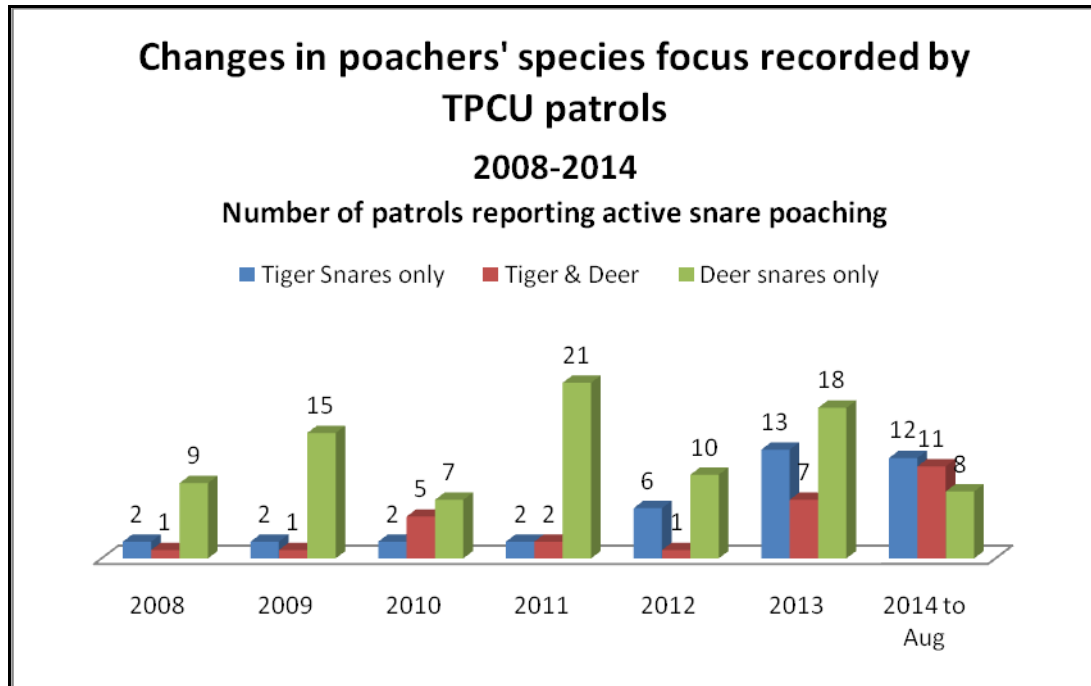
Unfortunately, with illegal wildlife traders now frequently facilitating tiger poachers' activities through provision of snare cables and even guns, loss of capital outlay – which may amount to \$30 or more per tiger snare – detection and destruction of snares is no longer a significant deterrent to some of the most active poaching gangs.

Meanwhile under current Indonesian species conservation law, possession of snares is not a criminal offence and species law enforcement action can only be launched if an animal falls victim to snare poaching and the poacher is arrested in possession of the carcass or specific body parts.

As a consequence, where individuals were encountered in the forest, even where suspected to be connected to active snare poaching detected, TPCUs could only search the suspects and issue a formal legal warning for entering the national park without a permit.

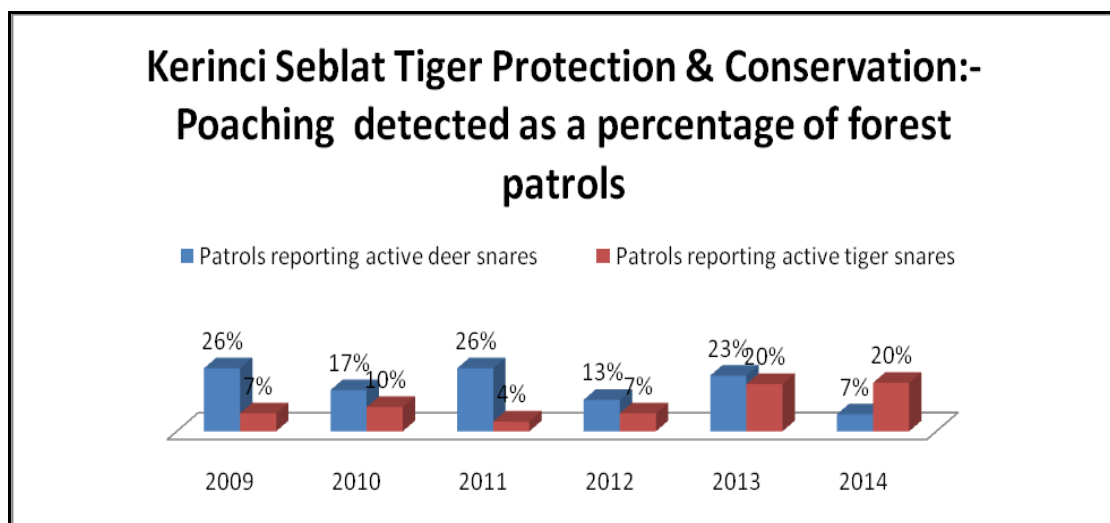
Analysis of patrol results also clearly shows how, since 2013, habitual poachers have shifted their primary focus from deer to Sumatran tiger and, where poachers are placing both deer and tiger snares, the primary target is Sumatran tiger with deer as the 'optional extra' or 'tambahan' and not, as was previously the case, the tiger.

Chart III: Changes in poacher focus recorded



Consequently, the sharp rise in threat to Sumatran tiger recorded since 2012 combined with the deterrent impact to deer poachers as a result of consistent field patrol actions meant that, in 2014, patrols recorded a higher level of threat to tigers than to deer although this figure is clearly influenced by the very focused nature of TPCU patrols during this project period.

Chart IV:- Changes in poaching pressure on Sumatran tiger and Deer recorded by TPCU patrols



Threat to habitat through new encroachment into protected buffer zone forests and in the national park itself or from illegal logging was recorded on 21 patrols with two illegal logging law enforcement actions subsequently launched while three chainsaws were confiscated by TPCU patrols.

The most serious encroachment continued to be recorded in the southern fringes of the Sipurak ecosystem in the north-east of the programme's main focus area where highly organised coffee syndicates from Lampung, southern Bengkulu and South Sumatra provinces continued to clear national park forests for coffee plantations.

Two law enforcement actions were launched in this area by the national park in 2014 in which TPCUs took part. Neither action was wholly successful with park personnel kidnapped and held hostage until encroachers had been released in one case and in the second, rangers were forced to withdraw when the organised encroachment syndicates formed a large and threatening mob.

Extensive and serious encroachment deep into the national park was also recorded in the Renah Pemetik area of Kerinci – again for the purpose of coffee plantations - with encroachers supported by rogue local political elites, one of whom has now been gaoled on unrelated corruption charges and serious threats were made against TPCU personnel and the family of one TPCU community ranger following a law enforcement patrol in this area early in 2014.

It is unlikely that the serious problems in these areas will be resolved without action at a national level against the individuals supporting and steering the encroachment and benefiting from the illegal sale of protected forest lands. It would be also helpful if the extensive loss of Sumatran rainforest to coffee plantations were to receive a higher focus of attention from civil society nationally and internationally as has occurred with the palm oil industry given that Robusta coffee is a major export crop.

Human-tiger conflict mitigation and wildlife emergencies:- *Respond swiftly and effectively to reported human-tiger conflict with the principal of protecting both tiger and forest edge community and so building support for both the national park and tiger conservation*

A lower than the norm number of human-tiger conflicts was recorded by the team over the project period with only five minor and two serious human-tiger conflict incidents reported.

One of these minor incidents was subsequently found, upon field investigation, to relate to a Golden cat and not a Sumatran tiger as initially proposed by the villagers reporting 'a tiger' in forest-edge farmland.

The number of human-tiger conflicts reported and responded to annually has, since the programme was established in mid-2000, been very variable. However the number of human-tiger conflicts recorded over the course of 2014 is low enough to give rise for concern that there may be a link to the level of threat recorded to Sumatran tiger on forest patrols since 2013.

Through discussion with other Sumatran tiger conservation programmes, we are aware that reported human-tiger conflicts may also have reduced in a number of other tiger conservation landscapes.

Forest patrols in areas adjoining farmland where there is a long history of minor 'stray' tiger conflicts continued to record Sumatran tiger presence during this project period. However it is possible that a lower density of tigers in areas where capacity means that TPCUs cannot provide a routine protection patrol focus has meant that young adult

dispersing tigers are finding it easier to establish territories and so are less likely to stray into forest edge farmland.

The two most serious human-tiger conflicts recorded both occurred in the north-east of the programme's primary focus area in the first trimester of 2014 and it is highly probable were linked.

In the first incident, a man, illegally logging in a community protected Village Forest in Merangin district approximately 10km to the south of the national park was taken to the district's general hospital suffering from lower leg injuries he claimed had been inflicted by a tiger as he climbed a tree to escape attack.

Site investigation advised a tiger had indeed almost certainly been present in the area at the time of the incident however medical examination advised that the injury had been caused by collisions with forest undergrowth and not a tiger.

A capture box was placed in the area by officers of Jambi unit for nature conservation (KSDA) to reduce villagers' fears while a long-serving TPCU ranger was assigned to covertly monitor the aftermath of this incident and reported that two unknown individuals, may have entered the area shortly after this incident. This could not however be confirmed and all TPCUs were in the field on patrol and could not be recalled to conduct a search of the village forest area.

Just under two weeks later, reports of a tiger seen in village farmland were received from a community approximately 10km to the north-west of the site of the previous incident with the village headman reporting a tiger had tried to break into a farmhouse. The farmer had responded by hitting the tiger over the head with a *parang* (machete) before barricading himself into his farmhouse with his family until the following day when he felt it was safe to evacuate to the main village and report to his village headman.

A search party was launched which found the body of a young tiger, estimated as a maximum of six months old, an age when the animal should have been moving with its mother, found dead in undergrowth in village rubber plantations close to where the incident occurred the previous day.

The cub's body was evacuated by programme personnel and passed to KSDA Jambi for a formal post mortem however initial examination advised it had died from a very deep cut to the head which had penetrated the eye and into the brain.

No action was taken against the farmer who advised he had not intended to seriously injure let alone kill this young tiger and who comes from a village that has been strongly supportive of species conservation.

Only one major wildlife emergency was managed by the programme team during this project period and followed the discovery of a tiger newly caught, alive in a purpose-built tiger in forests adjoining an oil palm plantation bordering the national park on the Jambi-West Sumatra provincial borders .

The patrol was launched after the team was advised by a local NGO partner that it was possible tiger snares were active in the area and four active snares were found and disarmed by the TPCU before encountering the snared tiger, a young adult female.

A rescue team was organised with veterinary back up and the tigress was darted, released from the snare and stretchered, under anaesthesia, to a holding cage on a nearby old logging road. Because the tigress had been very newly trapped, no serious damage had been done to blood circulation in the snared forelimb and following veterinary treatment, including intravenous antibiotics and anti-inflammatory drugs, she was released on site.

The individual who placed this snare and others in the area has been identified as a man from a neighbouring province who is now believed to have been responsible for the deaths of not fewer than four Sumatran tigers since 2012. TPCU investigators continue to work to

secure evidence for his arrest and prosecution and to identify and secure evidence for actions against his 'facilitator' and trader 'boss.'

Law enforcement and supporting the legal process : - *Build respect for Indonesian species conservation law through effective law enforcement, as appropriate, both inside and outside the protected area.*

Two tiger law enforcement actions were conducted during the project period resulting in the successful arrest and prosecution of two tiger traders operating in provinces to the east and west of Kerinci Seblat National Park.

The first tiger law enforcement action was conducted in partnership with Mukomuko district police service in late January 2014 following an investigation by a TPCU ranger into suspected tiger poaching and trade in an area on the borders of Bengkulu and West Sumatra province.

This resulted in the arrest of a man with links to the notorious sport hunting club PERBAKIN who, it subsequently transpired, was also under investigation by Mukomuko district police for trading in ammunition and illegal firearms.

Evidence secured composed the pelt of a juvenile Sumatran tiger, believed to have shot by poachers in park-edge forests in an area to the north of the suspect's home town, a live pangolin which the suspect had bought and was proposing to sell and deer antlers and heads.

This case finally went before magistrates in Arga Makmuir in North Bengkulu district in May 2014 who subsequently imposed a very light custodial sentence of only five months and an accompanying fine.

In late September 2014, a second tiger law enforcement action was conducted in the provincial capital of Jambi province following an investigation launched in Kerinci district in July in response to a suspected poaching incident.

Law enforcement was conducted in partnership with the Jambi SPORC rapid forest crime response unit and resulted in the arrest of an individual commissioning the poaching of tigers in at least two national parks in central Sumatra as the 'front man' for a major illegal wildlife trader active in two or more provinces of central Sumatra and with family links to an illegal wildlife and gaharu trade syndicate in Riau province.

The skin of an adult Sumatran tiger was seized as evidence for prosecution however unusual difficulties with inter-institutional co-ordination were encountered in the immediate aftermath of this law enforcement action so that a warehouse believed to contain up to seven Sumatran tiger pelts was not urgently raided as the PHS team strongly recommended.

Additional serious issues were encountered which illustrated the reach and power of individuals involved in high-level illegal wildlife trade, these were however swiftly resolved by Indonesia National Police environmental crimes division which includes combatting serious illegal wildlife trade among its duties.

The leader of this tiger trade syndicate was subsequently summonsed, three times, to clarify his role in this Case but failed to attend for questioning and was subsequently placed on the Indonesia national police 'Wanted' List. His whereabouts are presently unknown.

The frontman trader was subsequently prosecuted at Jambi City court and sentenced to a seven months custodial sentence with the judges advising the sentence reflected that he was not the leader of this tiger trade syndicate.

Two men arrested in a law enforcement action led by the PHS team in late November 2013 in Kerinci district finally appeared in court in Jambi City in March 2014 charged with

possession and intent to sell the pelt of a tiger, poached in forests to the west of the national park on the Bengkulu-West Sumatra provincial borders.

Management of the subsequent legal case was passed to the Jambi division of SPORC in Jambi City as it was considered likely that one of the suspects' brothers, might seek to influence the legal process if the case proceeded in Kerinci. In the event, the two suspects were sentenced by Jambi City magistrates to custodial terms of just three months and nominal fines and, since they had been held in custody since arrest, were immediately released.

While the programme concludes that it is detection of crime and a law enforcement response rather than heavy sentences that offer the greatest deterrent to wildlife criminals, the sentences awarded in these cases were surprising given that poaching and trade in Sumatran tiger is now formally recognised in Indonesian law, as a 'serious' criminal offence.

Conversely, three men arrested in forests adjoining the national park in Bungo district of Jambi on Helmeted hornbill poaching charges by a former TCU national park ranger leader received stiff 15 months custodial sentences.

In this case, unlike the two prosecutions in Jambi city, the programme was able to provide very detailed briefings to national park and KSDA 'Expert Witnesses' in the case regarding the scope and scale of illegal poaching and trade in Helmeted hornbills in Sumatra and monitored the case through the legal process and it is likely this directly supported the judgment subsequently delivered.

Two law enforcement actions for illegal logging were conducted by patrol units in Bengkulu and proceeded through to custodial sentences against the arrested individuals. Additionally more than 20 formal legal warnings were issued by TPCU personnel for lesser offences recorded in the course of patrols.

TPCUs also commenced to place warning signs on trees where poaching was detected within the national park with the purpose, not only of ensuring poachers knew their activities had been detected but also to support future law enforcement actions where a judge might ask if poachers were aware their activities were illegal

Capacity raising

- SMART patrol reporting using an integrated database was finally fully activated in January 2014 when working software was finally secured. The program has employing a patrol reporting method very similar to the SMART method for many years and so the move to the 'SMART' system caused no problems at a field level however the database entry component is time-consuming however the mapping function has proved valuable in briefing national park and other institutional partners regarding both biodiversity and threat recorded on patrols.
- It had been anticipated that nine long-serving community members of the team would be formally absorbed into the national park service in early 2014 as full rather than honorary national park personnel so restoring full law enforcement capacity to TPCUs, two of which are presently without a national park ranger leader.

Unfortunately this did not occur, primarily due to the nature of the computer-assisting tests which were heavily focused to candidates with office rather than field skills. The national park subsequently requested that TPCU personnel should be absorbed into the national park on the basis of their records of practical achievement in Sumatran tiger conservation however no final judgment has been made by the Ministry of Civil Service Reform which holds the final approval on civil service staffing.

- Although no formal training workshops were conducted during the project period, not least due to an intense workload on programme personnel as a consequence of levels of poaching threat detected, on-the-job training was provided to a community ranger team from the Birdlife International Harapan Ecosystem Restoration programme in Jambi to build forest patrol and investigation capacity.

Community/Government/Stakeholder Engagement

The programme has always aimed to work with and to build strong partnerships with other stakeholders, whether from government agencies or park-edge communities and local and national civil society, to secure effective conservation of Sumatran tiger and habitat.

In the course of the project period two major activities, primarily supported by other programme donors, were conducted to support this longstanding programme goal.

In the first, the programme secured support for another programme donor for a local conservation NGO partner, one of whose members is also a TPCU ranger, to conduct a range of activities in Bengkulu province in the south-west quadrant of the national park to secure practical activation of a key clause in the Ministry of Forestry's 2008 human-wildlife conflict mitigation protocol.

The field technical actions in the 2008 Protocol are widely adhered to by both forestry agencies and species conservation NGOs however a key clause, regarding establishment of a multi-stakeholder human-wildlife conflict mitigation taskforce so involving local and provincial government in human wildlife conflict mitigation actions at a field level had never been formally activated.

Over the course of 2014, our local NGO partner worked closely with the director of KSDA Bengkulu and senior provincial government officers and, with technical support from the programme, secured formal agreement for activation of a multi-agency human-wildlife conflict mitigation Task Force in Bengkulu province in 2015 to be funded through central government.

The Taskforce will also take responsibility for compensation payments to victims of serious human-wildlife conflicts in Bengkulu province after Forestry Ministry auditors vetoed compensation payments as outside the Ministry's remit.

Investigations into the organised illegal wildlife trade in central Sumatra have advised that tiger poaching and trade syndicates threatening tigers in this national park are frequently operating across three or more provinces of Sumatra. This means that a poaching incident in national park forests in one province may have been committed by poachers from a second province while the poached tiger may subsequently be traded to a dealer in a third province of Sumatra.

This means that effective investigations and law enforcement actions against the illegal wildlife trade must be able to move across provincial borders and institutional jurisdictions swiftly and effectively supported by closer working links between forestry agencies and police.

The program facilitated meetings between the National Park director with the commanders of the four provincial police authorities bordering the national park area, with national police and the Ministry of Forestry and secured broad-ranging agreement regarding the need for a more integrated and collaborative approach to addressing serious organised wildlife crime.

Subsequently a pre-meeting to establish a legal framework for the planned law enforcement network was held in Batam island in September and, following the

inauguration of President Jokowi Widodo, in October, Sumatra's first Wildlife Crime Law Enforcement Network was signed off in the presence of the Director General of the then Ministry of Forestry and the director of Indonesia's national detective agency, BARESKRIM.

The programme is now seeking to secure funds to leverage full activation of the network while continuing to brief easily accessible park-edge district police agencies to strengthen collaborations between police and the national park authority and tiger protection team at a local level.

The programme continued to work closely, albeit informally, with colleagues of the Sumatran Tiger Conservation Forum (Harimaukita) regarding actions required under both the Indonesia National Tiger Recovery Plan and Sumatran Tiger Conservation Strategy and to share information on the current situation regarding poaching and illegal tiger trade.

The programme's long-standing relationship with local NGOs and in particular members of the AKAR Network which FFI Kerinci helped establish in 2006 was of particular value in the weeks before national and local legislative elections when two separate proposals for construction of inter-district and inter-provincial roads through core zones of Kerinci Seblat National Park were made.

The first proposal, for a trans-provincial highway through the heart of the national park from Lebong district of Bengkulu to Merangin district in Jambi was lodged by the Governor of Bengkulu province. A second multi-road proposal was made by a candidate standing (unsuccessfully) for the Jambi provincial assembly which revived proposals, previously rejected, for three 'disaster evacuation' highways through core areas of the national park.

These proposals received apparently strong support from the Governor of Jambi province and national level politicians including the then Speaker of the national House of Representatives who subsequently lost his seat in the April elections

In the heated pre-election political climate, it would not have been helpful for an international NGO to be seen campaigning against these infrastructure proposals and so the programme focused to providing technical support and advice to local NGO partners and to the Jambi provincial chapter of national NGO WALHI in campaigning against these plans.

The team leader also worked closely with a local NGO partner in Merangin district who secured letters from more than 30 village leaders in western Merangin district rejecting any new roads through the national park whether from Bengkulu province to the west, or Kerinci to the north .

This large-scale rejection of the 'disaster evacuation' roads proposal by local communities supported the leader of Merangin district in vetoing the disaster evacuation routes citing existing serious problems with illegal forest conversion by settlers from other provinces of Sumatra and opposition from local communities and the proposals were dropped.

DJM

Sungaipenuh, February 2015