



**Pelestarian Harimau  
Sumatera  
Kerinci Seblat**

**Kerinci Seblat Sumatran  
Tiger Protection &  
Conservation**

**Activities January-June  
2006**

**Balai Taman Nasional Kerinci Seblat  
Fauna & Flora International – Indonesia Programme**

## Summary

The primary purpose of the program is the implementation of an effective and sustainable species protection and conservation programme focused on Sumatran tigers in a World Heritage Site National Park that is acknowledged as one of the most important in the world for conservation of wild tigers.

Five Tiger Protection and Conservation Units were active, conducting patrols, conflict resolution activities and investigations into suspected wildlife crime incidents in three provinces around Kerinci-Seblat National park throughout the reporting period. At the end of June, final candidate selection, through in-the-field testing, was in its final stages for two remaining posts on the sixth TPCU, full establishment of which has been delayed due to managerial capacity. TPCU VI members who have already passed the selection process worked mainly with existing TPCU teams, a similar on-the-job training strategy was successfully implemented when the program expanded to Bengkulu province in 2004. TPCU teams walked just under 1300 kms in the course of a total of 45 field patrols in and bordering Kerinci-Seblat National Park forests and made a total of 39 separate tiger records: these are likely to relate to 28 or more individual Sumatran tiger.

PHS rangers conducted investigations into suspected tiger poaching and trafficking incidents in three provinces around KSNP: these resulted in the arrests of three Tiger poachers and/or traffickers and seizure of the skins of two Sumatran tigers and bones of four individual tigers. Two of the men arrested were subsequently sentenced to 10 months in prison, the case against a third man, arrested while transporting the skin of one Sumatran tiger and bones of three different remains to be heard.

Although the program's attention is primarily focused to protection of Sumatran tiger, the program collected documentation regarding proposed road building through TNKS forests and other threats to the national park, in particular illegal land clearance in and bordering the Sipurak area of the national park. The program continued to work closely with the FFI/DICE Tiger Monitoring Team which monitored the situation in an area of forest in Muara Bungo district, Jambi in which the team relocated a Sumatran tiger in December 2005.

On behalf of all my colleagues, I extend our grateful thanks to our kind donors and supporters: United States Fish & Wildlife Service, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation "Save the Tiger Fund", 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, Dreamworld and the Australia Zoo in Australia and the other Australian and New Zealand zoos who were so generous and welcoming when I visited in April 2006 and Bosak & Kruger Foundation. In particular, our thanks to Giles Clarke and Bruce Murdoch of Australia Zoo who visited TNKS in February and organised my visit to Australia..

In Indonesia we particularly thank the director of the national park, Ir Soewartono for his continued enthusiasm and support, Dr Sugardjito, who heads the Indonesia country program and Lilis, the FFI Indonesia Administrator. We thank, too, staff at FFI in Cambridge for assistance and administrative support. Finally we thank Rudijanta Tjahja Nugraha for his magnificent support and encouragement: Rudi returned to Sumatra in November 2005 to resume his role as PHS Field Manager but who was suddenly promoted to an important position at the department of Forestry in Jakarta in April.

**DJM**  
**June 2006**

## Activities

## Patrols

A total of 45 field patrols and surveys were conducted between January and June 2006 with the primary intention of protecting and conserving key tiger populations, prey species and tiger habitat.

TPCU rangers walked a total patrol distance of 1299 kms by GPS waypoint during this six-month period making a total of 39 separate Sumatran tiger presence records which are likely to relate to a minimum of 27 individual tigers.

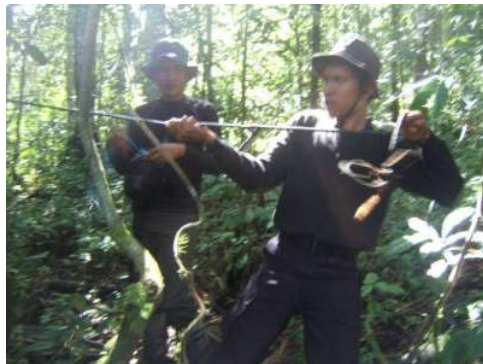
This total does not include tiger records made during conflict interventions in Jambi and Bengkulu provinces.

This patrol encounter rate equates to 1 tiger per 33.3 Kms walked across the national park as a whole.

This figure is much lower than the 27.85km average walked to record tiger sign for the year 2005 at present it appears to mainly relate to operational focus during the first six months of 2006 rather than a substantial fall in tiger populations but is clearly a matter for concern:

Patrol district(s)	Tiger present by sign	Individual Tiger believed present	Distance walked to meet Tiger sign	Active Tiger snare	Active Deer snares	Distance walked
<b>Bengkulu Utara district</b>	2	2	17.5	0	0	35
<b>Kerinci including borders with Solok Selatan districts</b>	7	6	42.14	2	4	295
<b>Kerinci &amp; Muko-Muko</b>	1	1	44	0	0	44
<b>Lebong</b>	2	2	59	0	0	118
<b>Merangin</b>	15	7	28.7	9	89	431
<b>Merangin -Kerinci</b>	4	2	30	0	0	120
<b>Muara Bungo</b>	5	5	17	3	15	85
<b>Rejang Lebong</b>	3	2	57	1	1	171
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>33.3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1299</b>

During this period TPCU rangers found and destroyed a total of 15 active tiger snares and 109 deer snares.



Active Tiger snares or snares set as dual purpose traps (tiger or deer) were found on seven patrols – five of which were conducted in response to informant reports that poachers had entered the forest.

The number of deer snares found and destroyed was also higher than in the same period of 2005 but deer poaching pressure was very localized with almost half the deer snares found were destroyed on one single patrol in an area teams had

not entered for some months due to other operational pressures.

Unfortunately, information from community informants is sometimes slow to reach TPCU teams and in forests near Birun in Sungai Manau sub-district of

Merangin, Jambi, the remains of one snare in which a tiger had been caught and killed and a second from which a tiger had managed to release itself were found.

TPCU rangers conducted comprehensive 'snare sweeps' in this area and monitored the movements of this tiger for more than a month until satisfied she was again hunting normally, would survive and did not pose a threat to forest edge communities in the area.

The individuals who set these snares and deer snares in the same area have been identified, one is a man known to the team as a semi-professional Tiger poacher who shot and killed a tiger in the same area in 2002. The tiger killed is strongly suspected to have been sold to an individual in the South Sumatra town of Lubuklinggau.

Unfortunately, to date, PHS team members have been unable to secure enough evidence to launch a legal case against either the poacher or the buyer, both of whom have long been known to this program.

TPCU teams reported that the reduction in illegal logging first reported in 2005 continues in most areas around the national park however TPCU rangers arrested two men on illegal logging charges in Rejang Lebong district, Bengkulu in February; this case is now going through the judicial process.

In the early part of this year, illegal logging continued to be a major problem in the area bordering Dharmas Raya district of West Sumatra and Muara Bungo district of Jambi.



However, while illegal logging now poses a less serious threat to the national park and buffer zone state forests than in recent years, illegal land clearance poses an increasingly serious threat to national park and species conservation.

Areas where very serious problems now exist include Merangin and Muara Bungo districts of Jambi, Muko-Muko and Bengkulu Utara districts in Bengkulu province and Pesisir Selatan and Dharmas Raya districts of West Sumatra province.

There are strong indications that, in some of these locations, land clearance is being conducted in response to rumours of road building or, conversely, that road building pressure is being mounted by individuals linked to illegal forest clearance.

Land clearance is being conducted both by local communities and by immigrants but also, in some areas, plantation companies.

The situation is particularly serious in Merangin district where illegal clearance of protected state forests by farmers from South Sumatra, Lampung and southern Bengkulu provinces now extends to within forests bordering the Sipurak area which were repatriated to Kerinci-Seblat National Park areas in October 2004.

The rate of new clearance has however slowed in Lembah Masurai and Muara Siau sub-districts of Merangin since the launch of collaborative forest protection patrols between local communities and rangers from TNKS and Dinas Kehutanan, Merangin in a program run by young activists from WALHI Jambi, facilitated through FFI and supported by IUCN Holland.

## **Law Enforcement**

Three men were arrested in two separate Tiger protection law enforcement operations conducted with support from local police districts in January and April

2006 and the skins of two Sumatran tigers and the bones of a total of four individual Sumatran tiger seized and held as evidence.



*Pelt of a sub-adult tiger seized in Arga Makmur, North Bengkulu in January 2006*

Careful examination of the evidence revealed that the tiger pelt and bones seized in the Arga Makmur operation, in early January 2006 came from two different individual Sumatran tigers.

In a law enforcement operation conducted in April, forensic examination confirmed that a collection of just over 5kg of Tiger bone seized, along with the pelt of a juvenile Sumatran tiger, came from three different individual Sumatran tigers of different ages and killed at different times.

TPCU rangers in Bengkulu also conducted the arrest of two men logging, illegally, in the national park.

These men have subsequently been committed for trial at Rejang Lebong district court. Arifliani, a wealthy coffee wholesaler based in Arga Makmur and arrested in a joint operation between PHS and North Bengkulu district police on tiger trafficking charges in Arga Makmur, the capital of North Bengkulu district in early January and poacher Amris subsequently received custodial sentences of only 10 months.

These sentences were remarkably light given that the same court in late 2005 sentenced two tiger poachers arrested in a joint PHS and Police operation in August 2005 to prison terms of three years and a third man to a two-year gaol term.

During the course of the investigation, Arifliani claimed to have been the supplier of the tiger skin seized during the joint PHS-Police operation which resulted in the arrest of North Bengkulu district parliamentarian Rabiheh Kana in December 2003.

In April a third significant arrest was made in an investigation that was initially launched in mid-2005 to investigate suspected tiger and elephant poaching in Jambi and Bengkulu provinces and which was later found to be related to a syndicate also operating in Riau province.

In this operation, a Bengkulu man, Khoiri who had previously claimed to have access to poached elephant ivory from Riau province but hidden in southern Bengkulu province, was arrested while transporting the skin of a Tiger cub and partial skeletons of three Sumatran tigers to sell to a dealer in South Sumatra province.



Khoiri (*right*), who was the front man for the elephant poaching syndicate, has now (June 2006) been committed for trial at Rejang Lebong district court.

Investigations continue into the source of the tiger bones seized, some of which are believed to relate to tiger poaching in or around Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park in southern Bengkulu province.

Numerous formal legal warning letters were issued for a variety of more minor offences and TPCU ranger teams also collected legally sound data regarding organized illegal land clearance in TNKS and buffer zone forests for use in subsequent legal action

### **Human-Wildlife Conflict**

Unless a swift and effective field intervention to human-wildlife conflict is made, the problem may escalate, will often result in revenge killings or other inappropriate responses and lead to hostility towards the protected authority.

In November 2005, Rudijanta Tjaha Nugraha the program's field manager since 2003 returned to TNKS after taking a Masters degree in Holland focused on research into human-wildlife conflict.

It had been planned that upon his return to the national park that *pak* Rudi would be able to start developing a locally relevant framework and protocols for implementing a practical park-wide response to human-tiger conflict.

Unfortunately, in April, *pak* Rudi was promoted to Forestry department headquarters in Jakarta and, in the immediate short term at least, the program is not in a position to develop this badly needed component of tiger conservation strategy

Although the program is clearly focused on protection and conservation of Sumatran tiger, it is unthinkable that team members would ignore wildlife conflict problems involving other species.



During the six months through to the end of June, TPCU rangers investigated and provided counseling and advice in almost 20 incidents of human-wildlife conflict regarding incidents involving Sumatran tigers, elephant, Malay sunbear and Asian Golden cat.

Because villagers may make an inappropriate response to tigers moving in farmland even though the animal has not predated livestock or actively threatened people, PHS rangers will

always monitor conflict to prevent it escalating.

Conflict reports were most regularly received in Bengkulu province and between March and May 2006 TPCU rangers conducted regular monitoring of Sumatran tigress and her two sub-adult cubs who were regularly moving into farmland in the SP8 and Talang Arah village areas on the North Bengkulu-Muko-Muko district borders..

This tigress was last seen in early June moving towards the national park and is believed to be safe and well: she and her cubs would, certainly, by now be dead were it not for the arrest in August 2005 of the Tiger poacher Belani, a resident of SP8 village.

Experience of human-tiger conflict since 2000 confirms that human activities are a major factor in most incidents of human-wildlife conflict and in both Jambi and

Bengkulu provinces, many of the incidents responded to appear to be a result of illegal or other forest clearance .

In June PHS rangers worked with villagers in Bangko sub-district of Merangin district after cattle and goats were killed by an adult and a sub-adult tiger: analysis of the tigers' movements strongly indicate these animals had been displaced by on-going illegal land clearance in the former Injapsin logging concession bordering the national park.

There is strong reason to suspect that a Sumatran tiger was shot and killed in Muara Siau sub-district of Merangin in January 2006 after chasing a man up a tree in forests now being illegally cleared close to TNKS borders.

If this is true, and eye witnesses were interviewed, then the illegal forest clearances ongoing around in the area bordering Kerinci-Seblat National Park in this area of Merangin district have led to not less than two instances of serious human-tiger conflict in the past six months

In south Kerinci and in the Ketaun area of North Bengkulu, TPCU rangers investigated cases of goats being allegedly killed by Sumatran tiger: in both cases, the culprit was found to be Asian Golden cat. In the incident in Kerinci, a total of five goats were killed over a three months period, in a second case in North Bengkulu district, 14 goats in total had been killed by one or more Asian golden cat over a one year period.

In all cases the TPCU rangers provided advice on animal husbandry to villagers to try to reduce risk of predation so that carnivores were not tempted to remain in farmland because of easy access to food.

One man is known to have died during the past six months, an illegal logger working in TNKS forests or the park's immediate buffer zone on the West Sumatra-Bengkulu provincial borders who was injured by a tiger. The man was evacuated by his friends and subsequently died.

A tiger which repeatedly moved in and around forest-edge farmland in the north of the Kerinci valley on the foothills of Mt Kerinci in 2005 continued to cause intermittent anxiety among local farmers. It is believed that this young tiger is, like other large mammals in this area of Kerinci district, being badly affected by ongoing illegal land clearance in the national park on the western slopes of Mt Kerinci.

Local NGOs in Kerinci have now become much more aware of the implications of human-wildlife conflict and the need to respond effectively if tigers and park forests are to be conserved and so regularly provide support to the program by collecting information on conflict and by giving advice to local villagers.

### **Base line biological and habitat threat data**

During patrols and surveys, PHS team rangers routinely recorded tiger encounters on patrol routes, including enumerating the probable number of individuals encountered. Presence/absence data for other important species was also collected and simple assessments of forest condition and quality and observations of any possible threat

Research and camera-trapping by the DICE Tiger Monitoring Team (MHS) which is facilitated through FFI indicates that, on occasion, the TPCU teams are overly-conservative on their assessment of the number of tigers present in an area.

In a study area in TNKS and TNKS buffer zone forests bordering the PT SMA oil palm plantation in Muara Bungo district, Jambi camera trapping by the MHS team has so far secured images of four Sumatran tigers in an area where TPCUs were willing to only estimate one or more tigers present.

Previous data collected by the PHS team regarding the presence of one or more Sumatran rhinoceros in forest between Kerinci and Muko-Muko district of

Bengkulu was of great importance to the park in combating plans to build a major road through the national park .

Survey findings were reported to the national park on a monthly basis and made available as a matter of routine to our colleagues from the Tiger Monitoring Team (Durrell Institute of Conservation Ecology, University of Kent).

In June, MHS researchers obtained camera trap images of a Sumatran ground cuckoo in the former Tiga Harapan Putra logging concession in Muara Bungo. This is only the second record of this bird in the last 100 years and indicative of the importance of lowland hill forests in this area of Sumatra for biodiversity conservation even after logging.

Unfortunately logging is soon to resume in this forest which has been proven to be a tiger habitat of major importance as well as the habitat of one of the rarest birds in Asia.

### **Community Awareness**

In addition to routine outreach and counseling by PHS ranger units during patrols and other field activities, including conflict mitigation, the program facilitated the activities of three local NGOs during the reporting period.

However species awareness and conservation education activities planned by Kerinci-based NGOs Perak and Lembaga Tumbuh Alami (LTA) were virtually abandoned between January-May 2006 in favour of campaigning against plans to build a series of roads through the national park.

Between February and April 2006, these two small NGOs, facilitated through FFI, worked with other local NGOs around the national park and with the Bengkulu provincial branch of WALHI Bengkulu to investigate and campaign against the roads building proposals.

The key success scored occurred in late February 2006 when after lobbying of Kerinci politicians and Customary Law leaders by Perak and LTA, the *bupati* of Kerinci ordered that road building should be stopped.

A second, more formal order was issued in early March after the road builders resumed their illegal activities

Perak and LTA also worked with other local NGOs, including WALHI Bengkulu and Genesis in Muko-Muko districts to investigate and identify the Kerinci and Bengkulu businessmen and others behind the roads building plan.

The need for emergency campaigning action against roads building meant that PHS NGO partners were not able to fully focus on their planned schedule of activities. However LTA, continued to work to build an alliance of *adat* leaders and tiger shaman supporting tiger and prey species conservation in the Siulak area of northern Kerinci, and held meetings with local NGOs in three areas around the national park to start building networking for tiger conservation.

LTA also succeeded in mobilizing farmers in Renah Pemetik enclave area of Kerinci to oppose a proposal by a Jambi-based local government officer for this remote enclave to be designated as a transmigration site and also collected data on deer hunting syndicates in the Kerinci area.

Meanwhile LSM Perak developed close relationships with farmers groups in southern Kerinci to develop better management of human-wild pig conflict and supervision of wild pig snares which frequently, in the past, have led to snaring of protected species including tiger

### **Capacity Raising**

Five Kerinci-Seblat National Park rangers worked full-time as Tiger Protection and Conservation Unit team leaders during the project period with a sixth



KSNP ranger, Jufri, joining the team, full-time, in March 2006, following a lengthy selection process.

Jambi and Bengkulu teams were led, during the program period, by 'provincial' co-ordinators, also on full-time secondment from the National Park.

The program field manager, Rudijanta Tjaha Nugraha, returned to lead PHS in November 2005 after a Masters degree program in Holland, the field component of which was facilitated through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger.

In April 2006, *pak* Rudi was promoted, without notice, to a national level position in the Department of Forestry Jakarta. We hope that *pak* Rudi will be permitted to continue to play a major guiding role in this program, both through his involvement in wildlife law enforcement at a national level and through supporting continued development of sound human-tiger conflict management strategies.

However his promotion to Jakarta has disrupted planning in the immediate future to develop park-wide mechanisms for human-wildlife conflict management.

His proposed successor as PHS Field Manager and the FFI team leader's counterpart is Nandang Gumilar. As part of the program's commitment to support professional development of PHKA staff, FFI has facilitated support for the team's senior co-ordinator, Dian Risdianto through the BP Conservation Awards to conduct a Masters degree program in early 2007.

Dian will take academic leave from January 2007 and plans to focus his Masters thesis on issues relating to effective implementation of conservation law in Indonesia, , in particular, conducting a detailed review of the Sumatran Tiger Conservation Action Plan which was developed in the early-mid 1990s and has not been substantially reviewed and amended since that date.

The program continued to invite young and enthusiastic KSNP rangers to join patrols on a regular basis to build their experience of species management and protection and therefore TNKS and so the Department of Forestry now has a core team of young managers and rangers with immense practical experience of proactive species protection and conservation.

### **Stakeholder Co-ordination and Involvement**

Operating as an embedded unit within the National Park - although outside the park's administrative hierarchy - the program continued to work closely with National Park and other Forestry department colleagues.

Through working with local NGOs Perak and Lembaga Tumbuh Alami in Kerinci, Pro-Fauna in Padang, West Sumatra and WALHI Jambi and Bengkulu, we continued to expand our links to local NGO activists around the park.

In Bengkulu and Jambi provinces the PHS team enjoyed a friendly and mutually supportive relationship with provincial departments of Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam (division of Natural Resources Conservation..

In Merangin district, Jambi, our plans to build the PHS main base camp in Bangko, capital of Merangin, has helped support a closer relationship between the national park in this district which was a centre of illegal logging

*Bupati* Rotani of Merangin has recently begun to make strong statements of support for conservation of this national park and in May advised that he required national level support to end illegal forest clearance in the former Sarestra logging concession bordering the national park.

Links developed over the past two years with NGOs around KSNP and their influence with local government proved of immense importance in the campaign against road building through core zones of the national park which occupied so much of the first five months of 2006.

We also received support, in an investigation into a trans-provincial tiger trafficking network which is based in North Sumatra from colleagues in Traffic SE Asia and maintained contact with our colleagues in WWF Riau, Sumatran Tiger Conservation Program, Conservation International and WCS among others.

Initial links have been developed with key individuals at Bukit Barisan Selatan NP and a Wildlife Crime Investigation Training Seminar planned to be held in Curup, Bengkulu in August 2006 will cement the relationship now being developed and allow a more co-ordinated approach to the known overlap in wildlife crime threat in the north of BBS NP and the south of KSNP

In February, during a visit by friends from the Australia Zoo, we met with KSDA Jambi, Zoological Society of London and Frankfurt Zoological Society to discuss the need for a temporary holding centre to support law enforcement responses to trafficking in live protected species and other problems, in particular human-wildlife conflict, where an animal may need to be held pending relocation.

Agreement was reached on a number of points of principle and discussions continue with other colleagues in Sumatra, including STCP: it would appear that the issue now is not of funding but of agreeing protocols and identifying the lead partner willing to undertake this activity

In April, the FFI team leader was invited to tour zoos in Australia and New Zealand with the support of the Australia Zoo which has provided much support for this program, in particular through training rangers in responding to wildlife veterinary emergencies.

The FFI team leader met tiger conservationists and members of the Indonesian Australian community in Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney and Adelaide and Auckland, New Zealand and was proud to advise our colleagues overseas that Indonesia is leading the way in developing innovative and effective responses to in-situ tiger conservation and protection procedures.

Following this tour, conservation colleagues in Australia and in UK have agreed to conduct examinations of tiger bones held in museum and other collections overseas to collect data on bone size with reference to an animal's size, weight and age when alive.

Australian zoos also agreed to assess bone weight loss *post mortem*.

With these simple examinations, we very much hope that our colleagues in academia and from zoos around Australia and other areas will be able to provide data of immense value to investigators in the field allowing teams to assess the probable age and size of tiger where bones only are seized and, by comparing bone size to weight, make some judgement regarding when the animal was killed/died.

## **Intelligence**

The collection of accurate information on the identities and activities of suspected Tiger poachers and traffickers is crucial to both protection on the field (anti-poaching) and as the basis for law enforcement where an incident has occurred..

As in previous years, all species-related law enforcement operations conducted to date this year were the result of painstaking intelligence collection and under-cover investigation.

Additionally, the majority of patrols conducted which resulted in destruction of tiger snares were launched as a result of intelligence received from local informants.

Unfortunately investigations are time-consuming and it is very rare that intelligence investigations rapidly result in law enforcement.

The investigation of Tiger dealer Arifliani *aka* Ujang, (arrested in Arga Makmuir in January 2006,) started in May 2005 while another Tiger dealer, Khoiri, arrested in Curup, Bengkulu in April 2006 had been under intermittent surveillance since September 2005

In addition to collecting accurate information on identities of poachers, dealers and brokers, the program also carefully monitors prices and demand for illegal products on the black market and we note that Tiger bone prices have fallen somewhat since their peak in November 2005 but demand remains high and this is of very deep concern .

Illegal trafficking in Asian pangolin (trenggiling) remains at deeply disturbing levels and urgent action requires to be taken against exporters and wholesalers of this protected species.

The team continues to collect intelligence data on the identifies and activities of suspected poachers and dealers in Sumatran elephant: to date however information collection has not been translated into law enforcement due to the extreme caution of the individuals involved ..

## Associated Activities and Issues

### Road Building

In December 2005 the first clear indications were received that a number of plans to construct roads through Kerinci-Seblat National Park were in the process of being prepared.

Roads proposed included

- West, from Lempur village in the south of Kerinci district, through core zones of the national park to Sungai Ipuh in Muko-Muko district of Bengkulu,
- South, from Lempur, through wilderness zone and the isolated traditional village of Renah Kemumu to Jangkat sub-district of Merangin district
- West, from Jangkat sub-district, through core zones of the national park to Lebong district in Bengkulu.

Additionally it was learned that there was strong pressure from key individuals to revive a proposed road running east, from the Renah Pemetik enclave in Kerinci through core zones of the park to Tanah Tumbuh district in Muara Bungo district.

In January 2006 construction of a road in Lebong district began which was proposed to enter the Danau Tes area – a location found by TPCU rangers in 2004-5 to suffer serious problems with illegal land clearance and poaching of both Tigers and prey species. This road had been detailed, on the district spending plan, as for 'upgrades to a footpath.'

Construction of this road did not stop until it had penetrated 3km inside the national park having already bisected a nature reserve which has suffered serious illegal logging and land clearance problems.



In mid February, bull-dozers and heavy equipment moved into the national park in the Lempur with the stated intention of driving a road through to Bengkulu and with community leaders claiming to have permission for this road. This illegal road building activity was

accompanied by intimidation of park rangers and local NGOs .

PHS managers were able to organise for photographs of the road building and heavy plant equipment in the forest to be secured by staff working under cover and provided to the Director of the National Park Authority .

With this evidence, a Stop order was issued by the local government. Two weeks later, the heavy plant again moved into the national park, penetrating a further 5km into the park forests and an area previously identified as critically important for tiger conservation before the illegal activities were again stopped.

In April the Minister of Forestry MS Kaban advised that the Lempur-Sungai Ipuh road would not be permitted and that further work on the road would not be tolerated.

TPCU rangers continue to provide counselling and advice to the 70 families in the Renah Kemumu enclave between Jangkat sub-district of Merangin and Lempur in Kerinci who are being heavily lobbied by individuals backing these destructive and dangerous proposals .

FFI, the PHS team and the Tiger Monitoring team together with local NGOs continue to monitor the situation closely and to collect data both on the individuals behind these dangerous roads building proposals and the impact these roads would have on biodiversity and tiger conservation in a World Heritage Site National Park.

The FFI team leader continues to seek to facilitate support for local NGOs planning to campaign against fragmentation of one of the world's most important national parks for tiger conservation

### **‘Sipurak Hook’ forests – conservation of repatriation area and buffer zone forest protection**

The forests centred on the Sipurak river system on the eastern slopes of Mt Sumbing in Merangin district, Jambi are among the most important tiger habitats in Kerinci Seblat National Park, unfortunately a large part of the Sipurak ecosystem was excised from the national park in 1990 and then logged.

In late 2004 after a long-running campaign, (FFI succeeded in winning repatriation of 14000 ha to the national park.)

Unfortunately, by this time, the former Sarestra II forests and even the repatriation forests were under major threat of illegal clearance by in-migrant farmers from other areas of Sumatra.

In January a meeting organised by WALHI Bangko in Nilo Dingin village in Lembah Masurai sub district of Merangin agreed to establish community patrol teams who would work with TNKS and rangers of Dinas Kehutanan, Merangin, to launch a collaborative field effort to stop the ongoing clearances which threatened crucial tiger habitat and populations.

The involvement of local community leaders in protection of these forests has reduced the rate of clearance in the two sub-districts most at risk showing how establishing and maintaining a presence in the field has a strong conservation benefit

Unfortunately, while the actions of the collaborative community-forestry patrol teams have reduced new illegal clearances in the area bordering the Sipurak ecosystem of TNKS, in-migrant farmers are now moving their attention to the Jangkat sub-district where there is no community patrol capacity to stop the clearances.

However enforcement action, co-ordinated at provincial and national level to support Merangin district and TNKS is still very urgently required, in particular against individuals selling state and national park forest land.

Unless a strong stand is made, these clearances will resume and it is known that some of the people clearing forest area have a record of similar activities elsewhere in Sumatra

Elsewhere around the national park, in particular in Muara Bungo, Muko-Muko and North Bengkulu districts, similar problems with illegal land clearance conducted by individuals from Lampung and south Bengkulu are also now being encountered by TPCU rangers. In other areas around the park, even where clearances are being conducted by local people, there is evidence of other commercial interests co-ordinating and supporting.

### **Tiger Base Camp and Tiger Conservation Meeting Centre**

Although it had been hoped that construction work could commence on this capital project in late 2005, technical issues, mainly relating to plans for an MoU between the National Park and Merangin district government caused delays.

In April, the national park issued approval for the program to move ahead although the MoU has not yet been signed and planning permission was issued by Merangin district in April 2006.

Happily, the local district's enthusiasm for this project and their generous offer of almost 2 ha of land in the Sungai Misang, Bangko Town Forest, has led to closer and better relations between Merangin district government and the national park

At date of this report, PHS team leaders are discussing costs and a schedule of works with local builders and it is hoped that site work can start in late July although costs have now risen considerably.

This base camp will be mainly constructed with support from the Australia Zoo.

**Appendix 1**  
**Field Patrols conducted January-June 2006**

No	Month	Patrol area/ District	Patrol days	Tiger present by sign	Tiger snares	Deer snares	Distance walked by GPS waypoint	Notes
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	January	PT. Sukses Maju Abadi – Batang Ule – Batang Pemunyan	7	2	0	0	30	Two tiger present, male and female, latter presumed to be One
2	January	Birun Kec. Kec Sungai Manau	3	0	0	7	15	Individual who set these snares identified as 'MR': no valid evidence to arrest
3	January	Gunung Tujuh Kec. Pelompek,	4	0	0	0	10	Sound of 2 chainsaws heard across Lake Gunung Tujuh waterfall
4	January	Bandung Marga – Bangun Jaya. Kecamatan Bermani Hulu	5	1	0	0	46	Resident male tiger. No snares in this former problem area where a tiger was poached in June 2004
5	February	SPN - Cahaya Negeri.	5	1	1	1	35	Forest edge farmers advised hunters from Curup and Lubuk Linggau often enter park forest in this area. Spear confiscated from farmhouse
6	February	Bandung Marga – Kayu Manis.	4	0	0	0	30	3 men arrested on illegal logging charges. Large canine suspected of tiger found in farmhouse

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
7	February	Birun, Sungai Langeh, Rantau Beringin dsk, Kec. Sungai Manau	6	2	2	9	30	Tiger injured in a snare. Released herself. Individual who set these snares identified (see above): no valid evidence to arrest
8	February	Sungai Lalang – Sungai Inai – Sungai Perikan, Kec. Lembah Masurai,	6	1	0	0	40	Illegal Land clearance in national park
9	February	Danau Payo Sepah – Danau Kebut – Sungai Lalang, Kec. Lembah Masurai	6	3	0	0	40	
10	February	Sungai Penetai – Sungai Karang – Sungai Langeh - Birun, Kec. Sungai Manau	4	2	0	0	15	Monitoring injured tiger. Ensure no more snares active
11	February	Birun – Sungai Langeh – Sungai Celau Kec. Sungai Manau	3	1	0	0	15	Monitoring injured tiger. 4 gold mining sites observed: Miners from Birun and not using mercury
12	February	Muara Penetai Dsk, Kec. Sungai Manau	1	0	0	0	6	Secure area: check no further snares active
13	February	Muara Penetai – Muara Sipurak, Kec. Sungai Manau	1	0	0	0	7	Secure area: check no further snares active. Two known poachers encountered but no evidence to act against them

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	March	Renah Kayu Embun – Sungai Lebo Kanan – Bukit Pandan – Sungai Lebo Kiri	4	0	0	0	30	Numerous old, inactive snare placements
15	March	Muara Sipurak – Teluk Kemang Kec. Sungai Manau	5	0	0	0	35	Reports tiger snares may be active
16	March	Masgo - Sipurak- Sei. Tebal	7	2	0	0	40	Illegal land clearance threatens key area of National Park
17	March	Sungai Tebal – Sipurak	7	2	0	11	40	Illegal land clearance threatens key area of National Park
18	March	Sungai Tebal – Sipurak	7	2	0	6	40	Skull of a poached Sumatran elephant found, animal believed poached in 2003 (see previous reports)
19	March	Ladang Palembang-Ketenong	6	2	0	0	45	Illegal gold mining active
20	March	Pal VII - Siguring	3	0	0	0	30	Song bird poaching recently active (lime)
21	April	Desa Birun – Kelok Gedang – S. Birun Besar – S. Birun Kecil – Air Batu – Renah Durian Gedang Kec. Sungai Manau	6	0	2	3	28	Investigate reports of tiger snares active: two found.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
22	April	Check borders of repatriated forest in Sipurak area – Nilo Dingin – Desa Tuo Kec. Lembah Masurai	6	0	0	0	25	Collect data on illegal land clearance in National Park repatriation forest bordering Sipurak:
23	April	PT. Sukses Maju Abadi (SMA) – Bukit Ule – Bukit Pemunyian (ex logging Harapan Tiga Putra)	7	2	3	4	35	Monitoring area where a tiger released in December: 2 tigers present, neither One
24	April	Renah Alai – Tanjung Kasri Kec. Lembah Masurai	5	1	0	0	40	
25	April	PT Tidar Kerinci Agung (TKA) – Camp Jambi Tengah – Sungai Napal – Sungai Kanau	5	1	0	11	20	
26	April	PT. ALNO – Seblat Merah.	7	2	0	0	35	Illegal land clearance in Elephant reserve (PLG) forest
27	May	Bandar Agung – Talang Macang	5	1	0	0	30	Check former problem poaching area
28	May	Bukit Tapan-Sungai Sirih	5	0	0	0	25	
29	May	Renah Kayu Embun – Gunung Raya – Bukit Bemban – Koto Tuo Pulau Tengah.	5	1	0	0	30	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
30	May	Rantau Kermas – Renah Kemumu, – Tebat Jambi Lempur,	7	1	0	0	40	Enclave community being pressurised to support road building proposals
31	May	Sungai Tebal – Sungai Ladi - Sipurak – Bedeng VII	8	1	0	0	40	Many observations of sambar deer in salt lick area: 3 animals filmed
32	May	Renah Kayu Embun – Koto Tuo Pulau tengah Kec. Keliling Danau	5	1	0	0	20	
33	May	Pungut Hilir – Ambai Kec. Sitinjau Laut	5	0	0	0	20	Indications of recent song bird poaching
34	May	Pekonina–Kebun Baru	5	2	0	4	25	Poachers believed to be from Siulak, Kerinci
35	June	Lake Depati Empat area, Jangkat	5	0	3	53	30	100 ground bird (pheasant & partridge) snares also removed
36	June	Bukit Pandan area Renah Kayu Embun	5	1	2	0	25	Identity of poachers suspected but evidence to proceed
37	June	Sungai Jering-Guguk area, Kec.Bangko	3	1	2	0	25	Human-tiger conflict - tiger retreating from illegal land clearance in PT Injapsin/Sar estra II
38	June	Tebat Jambi, Lempur - Renah Kemumu	5	1	0	0	60	Villagers being lobbied to support road building through the National Park

<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
39	June	Koto Ipuh - Kali Anggang	4	0	0	0	25	
40	June	Koto Ipuh - Kali Anggang	4	1	0	0	25	
41	June	Rimbo Pengadang - Bangun Jaya	6	0	0	0	30	
42	June	Ketenong I - Air Batu Asah - Air kelumbu - Tebing Seratus Kec. Lebong Utara	4	0	0	0	20	
43	June	Lempur- Sungai Ipuh	5	1	0	0	45	Follow route of proposed road through national park
44	June	Ketenong I - Air Batu Asah - Air kelumbu - Tebing Seratus Kec. Lebong Utara	4	0	0	0	23	
			<b>215</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>1255</b>	