



# Sumatran Ranger Project Quarterly Report

June 2024, Leuser Ecosystem, North Sumatra

# Executive Summary

The last quarter has seen the rangers continue their focus on elephant monitoring with significant elephant activity in several communities.

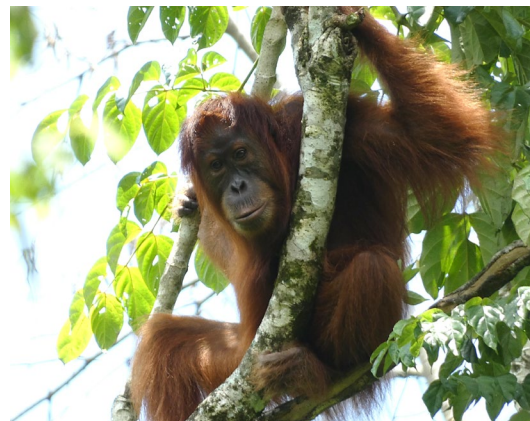
In June we celebrated World Female Ranger Week, highlighting the importance of diversity and gender equity in the conservation space. We are very proud of our courageous women paving the way and setting examples to young women in their communities.

Durian season is underway with plenty of orangutan activity in all three months. Fortunately, there has been minimal impact on communities.

The upcoming months will see us hosting two rangers from the UK, a camera trapping volunteer from New Zealand, and planning for the construction of a second elephant detection field hut. We will also be donating several loudspeakers to landowners to help assist with human-wildlife conflict events.

Look out for World Ranger Day on July 31<sup>st</sup> to further celebrate the work of our incredible team.

Amy Robbins (Program Leader)



## Our Vision

*To ensure long term protection of the forest edge within the Leuser Ecosystem in North Sumatra.*

## Our Mission

*To halt activities that are a threat to the environment and to wildlife, and to support forest edge communities in ways that benefit people and the environment.*

# Patrols

Zero snares were found in April, three in May, and three in June, bringing the total for this quarter to six. This is a 40% reduction since the first quarter of 2024 and is encouraging given the amount of elephant and sun bear activity that is occurring throughout many of the communities.

Community engagement with the small forest-edge village of AFD. IX resulted in SRP donating noise deterrents to assist with human-elephant conflict events to equip landowners with a safe method for removing elephants from their land.

Patrols were largely focussed on elephant monitoring this quarter, with the patrol team splitting into two – one to undertake elephant monitoring and one to patrol.

Higher Malayan sun bear activity was reported this quarter, with 23 GPS points taken and camera trap data recorded.



*One of 6 snares destroyed*



*Malayan sun bear scratch marks*



*Donating noise deterrents to a landowner*



*Sumatran elephant*

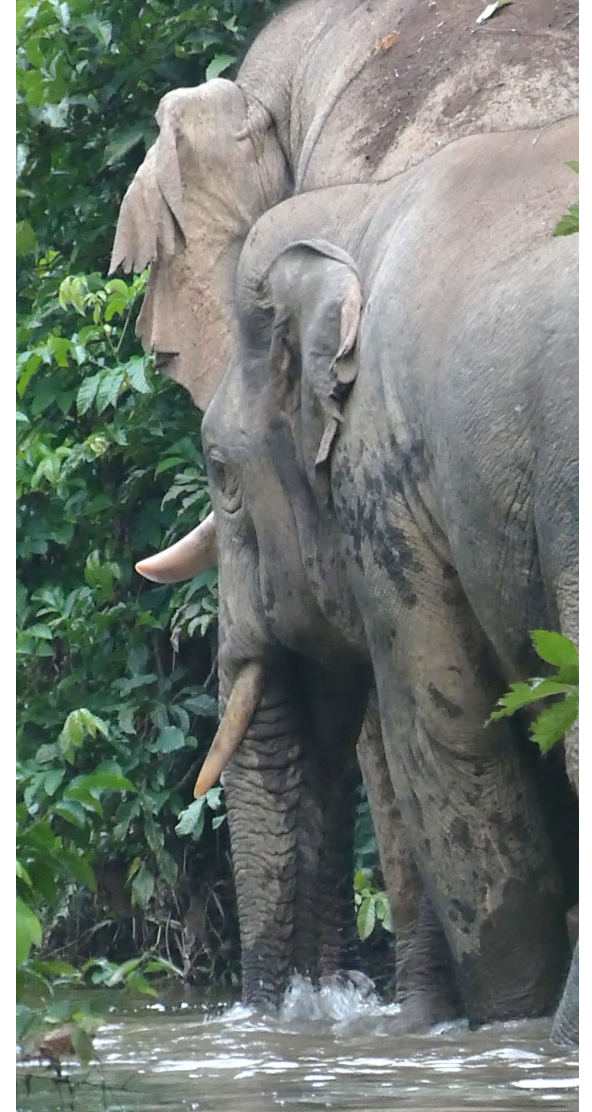
Species	Sighting Events	Tracks	Faeces	Scratches	Nest	Wallow	Damage	Food remains	No.
Malayan sun bear <i>Helarctos malayanus</i>			1	22					23
Leopard cat <i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	1	6	27						34
Sumatran orangutan <i>Pongo abelii</i>	3				17				20
Barred eagle-owl <i>Ketuopa sumatrana</i>	1								1
Wild boar <i>Sus scrofa</i>	2	60	1		1	28			92
Sambar deer <i>Rusa unicolor</i>		8							8
Sumatran tiger <i>Panthera tigris sumatrae</i>		9	1						10
Sumatran porcupine <i>Hystrix sumatrae</i>		1							1
Muntjac <i>Muntiacus montanus</i>		1							1
Palm civet <i>Paradoxus hermaphroditus</i>		1	8						9
White-handed gibbon <i>Hylobates lar</i>	1								1
Brahminy kite <i>Haliastur indus</i>	4				1				5
Sumatran elephant <i>Elephas maximus sumatrensis</i>	11	6	24						41
Pig-tailed macaque <i>Macaca nesmestrina</i>	2								2

**Summary of species recorded in Q2**

# Human-Wildlife Conflict

Due to the high level of elephant activity this quarter the rangers dedicated a patrol team to elephant monitoring each month, recording over 50 GPS points that were either direct sightings, dung, footprints, or evidence of crop destruction. There are two bull elephants that are consistently seen together which is common for Asian elephants. Around maturity they leave their maternal herds and can form loose bachelor herds which typically are led by a more mature bull that can help guide the younger animals. These two animals our team affectionately call 'Punting' and 'Ogut', which are Karonese words.

Human-elephant conflict activities recorded included crop damage to community owned oil palm trees and the elephants were sighted knocking down the trees and consuming them. Noise deterrents were utilized to help move them away.



# Human-Wildlife Conflict

Four orangutans were sighted on patrols this quarter but there were no calls for assistance from communities which is the first durian season this has occurred for Sumatran Ranger Project. Crop raiding by a female with an infant was directly sighted, and 17 orangutan nests were sighted in durian trees. Orangutans are wasteful in their consumption of durian, often only consuming a small part of the fruit before dropping it on the ground. At this time of year durian is plentiful so it is easy for them to consume several in quick succession, often using leaves as protection from the thorny skin. Durian are a calorific food source and other species benefit from orangutans dropping durian to the forest floor.



*Female orangutan with (infant) eating durian*



*Sub-adult male orangutan*

# Camera Traps

After two quarters with significant Muntjac activity we haven't recorded any this quarter! We recorded plenty of Leopard cat, wild boar, Pig-tailed and Long-tailed macaques as well as a high capture rate of Greater mouse-deer (chevrotain). Malayan sun bear footage was captured in April and June.

In June we captured footage of the strikingly coloured Malay weasel (*Mustela nudipes*).



Malay weasel



Malayan sun bear



Mouse-deer



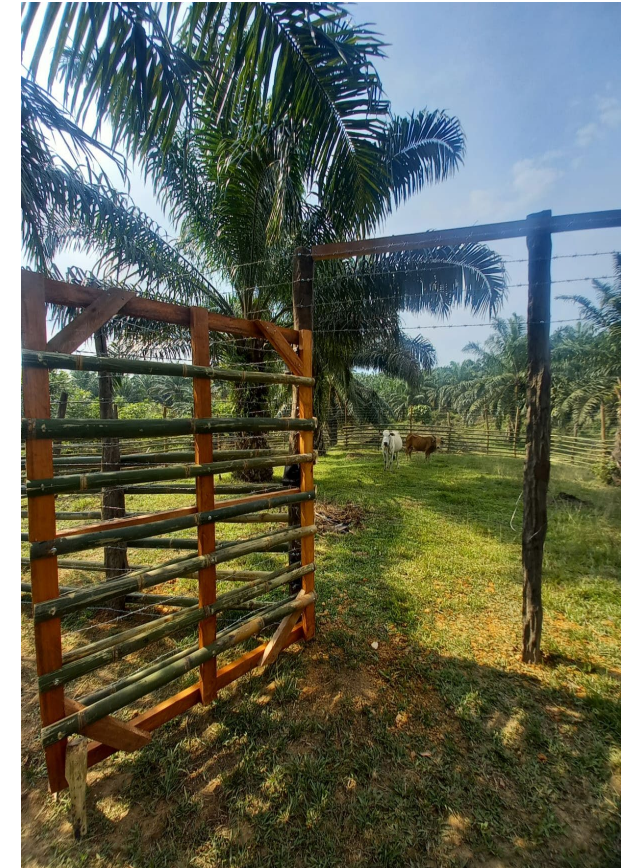
Silvery langur (lutung)



Leopard cat

# Communities

In April we hosted a team of six zookeepers from Toronto Zoo, Canada to help construct our 14<sup>th</sup> predator-proof livestock corral in partnership with Raw Conservation Adventures. Over a week this incredibly hard-working team built a livestock corral in a forest edge community in extreme heat and humidity and did a fantastic job. The project included extracting the bamboo culms and rafting them down the river, carrying all the materials to the site, digging holes with minimal tools and the construction itself from reclaimed wood, barbed wire, and bamboo. We are grateful to Toronto Zoo for their ongoing support of these corrals that are a proven method of protecting livestock from big cat predation, which in turn prevents reprisal attacks on tigers. In a population of 400 individual tigers, every individual matters. The Gunung Leuser National Park is home to one of the last two viable populations of Sumatran tigers and our corrals are in demand by forest-edge communities.





# Thank you to our partners



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT



Massive thanks to **The Elephant Sanctuary** in Tennessee who recently enabled the purchase of loudspeakers for landowners that experience human-elephant conflict along the edge of the Gunung Leuser National Park. We have been trialling loudspeakers in combination with traditional noise deterrents (fireworks) to assist with the prevention of the elephants habituating to the same noise. So far these have been successful. We appreciate your support for these communities and for the elephants! Information to come in the next report.



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