

PROJECT SUMMARY

to the Agreement between Minnesota Zoo
and the Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo.

PROJECT TITLE: Sumatran Tiger Conservation

PURPOSE: To protect the small remaining population of Sumatran tigers in the wild.

PROJECT OUTLINE:

BACKGROUND:

In the tropical forests of Sumatra, the smallest subspecies of tiger is losing ground to habitat loss and poaching. Considered “critically endangered”, Sumatran tigers may number only 300 in the wild. But it’s difficult to monitor these secretive animals and their prey in the dense forest. And when Sumatran tigers leave the forest to hunt wild pigs near villages, they often come into conflict with people, get caught in snares, and are more susceptible to poaching.

In Sumatra, our campaign is supporting the Wildlife Conservation Society’s efforts to reduce tiger-human conflict by constructing tiger-proof livestock pens in villages, increasing outreach and awareness, and responding with veterinary assistance to tigers caught in snares. Also, tiger and prey research will monitor population trends, evaluate the effectiveness of conservation strategies, and identify threats.

There are currently approximately 300 wild tigers in Indonesia that persist in four main landscapes on the island of Sumatra; the Leuser landscape in the north, the Kerinci-Seblat landscape in the center-west, the Bukit Tigah Pulu landscape in the center-east, and the Bukit Barisan Selatan landscape in the south (Figures 1 and 2). The greater Leuser landscape currently has about 70 tigers and can potentially hold about 250, Kerinci-Seblat currently has about 140 tigers and can potentially hold about 240, Bukit Tigah Pulu has approximately 40 and can potentially hold about 65, and greater Bukit Barisan Selatan currently has about 50 tigers and can potentially hold about 75 tigers.

GOALS & METHODS:

To address the threats to tigers in both Leuser and BBS, WCS-Indonesia works closely with the provincial and federal governments of Indonesia and local NGOs to undertake the following interventions: a robust, continuous, on-the-ground anti-poaching effort across the whole BBS landscape and the southern half of the Leuser landscape; teaching and installing human-tiger conflict mitigation techniques in local communities living in and adjacent to both Leuser and BBS; outreach and education in local communities living in and adjacent to Leuser and BBS in support of the anti-poaching and human-tiger conflict mitigation efforts, and regular monitoring of tiger and tiger prey population numbers to determine if the conservation efforts are successful. In both landscapes WCS-Indonesia has not yet determined the set of conservation interventions that will fully stop the threat of habitat loss. However in the Leuser landscape the collaborative efforts of WCS-Indonesia and the Government of Indonesia on the anti-poaching patrols are beginning to have some success stopping new illegal encroachments, and in the BBS landscape WCS-Indonesia is several years into a program to build a carbon-financed forest conservation program. All of these interventions are ongoing and will require steady funding over the long-term to ensure the recovery and then maintenance of the tiger populations of both Leuser and BBS.

Anticipated date of completion: January 1, 2015; however, the program is ongoing

The total budget for this donation to a larger project is \$2,000 US.

FUNDING:

Endangered Species Reserve Fund Grant

\$2,000 US

The Grant will be paid upon execution of this Agreement.