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Two Elephants Dead in Balai Raja Elephant Pouch

Two adult sumatran elephants were dead in Balai Raja elephant pouch within a week during the end of March 2011. The first female elephant died after weeks of wandering

around housing complex of Chevron, Bengkalis District. A week later, a carcass of a female adult elephant was found in a palm oil plantation.



Community helped the ele and her calf from dehydration by throwing water into the eles. They also collected donation among them to provide food for the eles. Photo: Samsuardi/WWF-ID



The mom after reviving from her faint and her calf attract the community's attention. Photo: Samsuardi/WWF-ID

The first female elephant and her calf were seen around the settlement for more than two weeks as both eles seemed to have been abandoned by their group. The mom was in weak condition and had fallen to asphalt road for some times. Community took part to give help by throwing water into the two else and providing food.

WWF team who came into the site was able to manually escort the mom and calf to forested area around the settlement. However, the mom's condition was still unstable as she always threw up the food she consumed. She finally collapsed; medical treatment provided by the paramedic team from the



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authority could not give much help. Her calf then was translocated into government-run elephant training center.

A week later, community found a carcass of female adult elephant in a palm oil plantation which is about 20 km from the site of previous incidence. Both the first and second ele are assumed from the same group as they are within the same homerange of Balai Raja elephant pouch. A lab test on the sample organs of the carcass is provent to contain poison material.

Balai Raja elephant pouch is one of the remaining habitat in Riau with the third big population number of 35 individuals, however most of the area has been converted into oil palm plantation, settlement and etc. The elephant range comprises of production forest, palm oil plantation and Wildlife Reserve of Balai Raja. The critical condition of this elephant pouch has become the concern of conservation authority and local government. WWF and the conservation authority has made survey on this area for the preparation of establishment of a Flying Squad team to help mitigate human-elephant conflict around this area. The operation of the Flying Squad will be under the Natural Resources Conservation Agency of Riau in which WWF provides technical assistance.

A Party Thrown for Imbo, the Third Flying Squad's Calf

Imbo, the third flying squad calf who was born in January 31 has now officially bear his name. Before some 50 guests, a naming ceremony was held in Tesso Nilo National Park in April 14, 2011. The wife of Pelalawan District Head, Ratna Mainar Harris marked the occasion by cutting the elephant brownies and feeding it to Lisa, Imbo's mother.

Guests then took turns feeding all three adult Flying Squad elephants and two elephant calves, junior members the flying squad. Imbo plays happily around his mom which gave some joy for the guests seeing his act. Similar party had been given to the two junior Flying squad members namely Nela and Tesso back in March 2008. Indro, a male adult Flying Squad could not join the crowd as he was in a musth period.



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The cone shaped brownies is prepared especially for the Imbo's naming ceremony. It is a tradition in Indonesia to have a cone shaped food for a certain ceremony. Photo: WWF-ID



The head of conservation authority is feeding Lisa, Imbo's mother witnessed by the wife of Pelalawan District Head.



The Wife of Pelalawan District Head and her companion accompanied WWF-Id honorary supporter after the feeding Lisa. Photo: WWF-ID

The elephant brownies was especially baked by the honorary supporter of WWF-



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Indonesia, Nadine Chandrawinata, and participants of Tesso Nilo ecotourism trip who arrived a day before for this naming ceremony. The brownies are made of corn, palm sugar, minerals and oats which then was formed into a cone shape following tradition in Indonesia in some ceremonies.

Kurnia Rauf, the Head of Nature Conservation Agency of Riau noted in his welcoming speech the success of the Flying Squad in minimizing human-elephant conflict around the park. He added the conservation agency is planning to build two Elephant Flying Squads soon in Riau to help mitigate human-elephant conflict in the province.

The District's First Lady is very impressed with the potential of ecotourism activities in Tesso Nilo and promised to help promote the park.

Pelalawan District Supports Ecotourism in Tesso Nilo National Park

The Head of Pelalawan District, Muhammad Harris is committed to help developed ecotourism in Tesso Nilo National Park as the park has been designated by the district government as a prominent tourism site in the region.



The Head of Pelalawan District received a souvenir from WWF-Indonesia honorary member after a session to promote ecotourism in Tesso Nilo NP. Photo: Wishnu Sukmantoro/ WWF-ID

A try out of Tesso Nilo ecotourism was conducted adjoining with the elephant naming ceremony. Some ten participants who arrived in the park a day before the naming party were welcome by Nela and Tesso, the two Flying Squad elephants calves. Nela came forward bearing a string of flower that she placed around the guests' necks in turn. Nela and his team mate, Tesso now have got some skills to be shown to the park visitors.



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WWF and the park authority are now developing ecotourism activity in Tesso Nilo National Park which involve participation of local people. The activity highlights on



The participants of the ecotourism trip learn about study on tiger population and distribution with camera trapping. Photo: Rudi/ WWF-ID



The participants of the ecotourism trip learn how to make PVC pipe cannon as a tool used to help managed human-elephant conflict (left). Photo: Thresesia Prahesti/ WWF-ID
Bathing the flying Squad elephant is one of the activities in the Tesso Nilo ecotourism (right). Photo: Syamsuardi/WWF-ID

knowledge of Flying Squad as a technique to mitigate human-elephant conflict, study on sumatran elephant and harvesting and processing wild honey and the local tradition. The eco tourism trip is conducted to WWF's supporters and fundraisers aiming at introducing WWF's field work to them in the hope that they can also help promote the potential activities in Tesso Nilo National Park.



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To get support from district government on the development of ecotourism in TNNP, WWF paid a visit to the recently appointed District Head of Pelalawan. Through the honorary supporter of WWF who is a public figure, Nadine Chandrawinata spoke on the promising prospect of ecotourism in Tesso Nilo National Park as it has many attractive activities to be offered. The District Head noted his commitment on development ecotourism in the national park and will provide infrastructure to the park. He welcome WWF to work together in promoting the ecotourism in the district.

MoU to Safeguarding Bukit Tigapuluh Ecosystem

On March, WWF, Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, and the Forestry Service of Indragiri Hulu District signed an MoU on the establishment of task force to safeguarding Bukit Batabuh Protection Forest and Bukit Sosa Protection Forest to help save the ecosystem of Bukit Tigapuluh National Park. The signing of the MoU was conducted in the District's Head office of Indragiri Hulu as the District Head acts as the witness of the written agreement.

The MoU aims to halt the extent of forest degradation in the ecosystem of Bukit Batabuh Protection Forest and Bukit Sosa Protection Forest and the surrounding areas especially

those which is under the Bukit Tigapuluh ecosystem management, to reduce and halt poaching threat and human-wildlife conflict, and to identify biodiversity potential and environment services within the Bukit Batabuh and Bukit Sosa Protection.



Encroachment in the corridor between Rimbang Baling and Bukit Tigapuluh. Photo: Tiger research team/ WWF-ID

Massive forest degradation that is happening in the two protection forests due to encroachment in the area is threatened the tiger habitat. Patrol done by the Tiger Protection Unit will not work much therefore enforcement of the authority is needed to safeguarding the forest. Bukit Batabuh and Bukit



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Sosa Protection Forest are part of the wildlife corridor between Rimbang Baling Wildlife and Bukit Tigapuluh National Park. The joint operation consists of routine patrol involving personnel from the three institutions, socialization to the encroachers on related law and regulation and dissemination of the finding to related authority for follow up action.

The first joint patrol had been done in April for the realization of this MoU. The team recorded data of encroachment and other threat found and will set follow up action. Based on the evaluation, for findings with strong evidences, the team plans to do operation and law enforcement.

WWF's camera obtain many tiger images: one family of triplets is also recorded

Since last February WWF begins sytematic study in the western part of Bukit Tigapuluh forest block. During six year study, this is the first time for the tiger research team to



experience having many cameras with tiger images. From twenty pairs of camera trap deployed, Sumatran tiger images are obtained from 20 units of camera. These cameras resulted 47 tiger images, six unique individuals were identified. One of the individual was recaptured from ad-hoc camera trapping survey in 2009, while the other five were identified as new individuals.

It may the happiest time especially for the tiger research team as that number only came from the first month of sampling. Karmila Parakkasi, the Tiger Research Team Coordinator says, "This is the highest number of tigers and tiger images obtained we've ever experienced.

Tiger triplets were captured by video trap in the western part of Bukit Tigapuluh forest block. Photo: WWF-ID, PHKA



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What's unclear is whether we found so many tigers because we're getting better at locating our cameras or because the tigers' habitat is shrinking so rapidly here that they are being forced into sharing smaller and smaller bits of forests.

The more excitement came from the second month of sampling as it resulted in two tiger families. Couple of still images and bunch of videos show tigress with three healthy cubs enjoying their forest in the western extension of Bukit Tigapuluh forest block, exactly in Bukit Sosa Protection Forest, Indragrari Hulu District, Riau Province. The second family was photographed about 10 km from the video trap of triplet family's location showing a tigress with a cub. This area is part of the wildlife corridor that links Bukit Tigapuluh National Park and Bukit Rimbang –Bukit Baling Game Reserve.

This is the second time we successfully recorded the presence of tigress with cubs in the wild. The first Sumatran tiger family was recorded in 2009 in the corridor, exactly in the area close to Rimbang Baling Wildlife Reserve. At least 36 individuals of Sumatran tiger were identified throughout the Tessonilo-Bukit Tigapuluh Landscape from 2005-2011 (March) period .