



Conservation Project Objectives

Sumatra, Indonesia has a network of protected areas important to wild cats. However, their presence is not confined to only these protected areas. Many populations exist outside the protected areas. This project aims to determine baseline population parameters of Sumatra's wild cats in human-dominated landscapes and identify and mitigate critical threats to their survival, including deforestation for palm oil plantations and development. Despite a logging moratorium running for 13 years in Aceh, illegal logging and oil palm encroachment persists and will be hard to prevent given the global market demand for palm oil and subsistence. The increasingly shrinking and isolated wild habitats make species coexistence and survival very challenging, which can lead to an increase in human-wildlife conflicts.

Conservation Partner:



Status of Sumatran tiger in Indonesia

The project target species are threatened by poaching (domestic and international markets), prey depletion from human hunting, and habitat loss from illegal and commercial logging, oil palm production, pioneer farming, mining operations and forest fires. Wild cats are generally unpopular with the local people that share their range and are retaliated against for the loss of life and livestock. Furthermore, the body parts of the wild cats can provide considerable financial gains. These factors have led to the death of many wild cats, further reducing their population densities and increasing their dependency on protected areas for survival.

With few tigers left in mainland Southeast Asia there is evidence that foreign poachers are turning to Sumatra as a source of tigers and other wild cats, and hence concern that there could be rapid declines over the next decade.

