

ANNUAL REPORT



2017-2018 FINANCIAL YEAR



ABN 32143935769

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Images courtesy of Paul Hilton, Adam Oswell and Tony Lynam
JGC, HURO and HAKA

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”
—Margaret Mead

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT



The growth and evolution of an NGO can of course be measured by an increase in monetary support to field programs, something Wildlife Asia has certainly achieved over the last few years. More importantly though, it should be measured on impact towards it's vision and demonstrated results according to planned activities.

During 2017, the re-creation of our website and review of our messaging on social media in some sense forced an introspective reassessment of who we are, what we do and the story we tell. It became very clear that we are not a 'super-brand' nor is that our objective. What was evident was our commitment to building capacity of local communities and NGO's as we progress towards a time when long-term, community-based sustainable conservation practices mean that we, as an International NGO become redundant.

That is our end goal of course, and aligning with our vision of a world where sustainable, functioning ecosystems are preserved.

In order to achieve that though, we require considerably greater investment. Investment in people, and investment in strategies that actually step towards this goal. Conservation should not just be a box ticking exercise, it simply must effect change. And to see real change we must adjust our messaging to incite a rapid shift in human values.

As Director of a small NGO, it remains enormously difficult to raise money but incredibly easy to spend it. Spending it wisely, and genuinely ensuring progress towards a brighter future is ever more challenging in the competitive scramble to secure the donor dollar. But we demand this of ourselves and ensure that both passion and integrity drive us forward.

I would like to thank all of our donors and supporters for placing their trust in Wildlife Asia to develop effective long-term solutions and respond appropriately to emerging issues impacting wildlife and habitat throughout Southeast Asia. We also thank all of the field teams, communities and partner organisations, whom are at the very core of this approach to conservation.

To many more victories in 2019!

Clare Campbell
Executive Director

WILDLIFE ASIA BELIEVES THAT LOCAL COMMUNITIES ARE AT THE CORE OF OUR MISSION. AS AN INTERNATIONAL NGO OUR ROLE IS TO SUPPORT THE VISION OF LOCAL PEOPLE; TO EMPOWER AND ASSIST WITH RESOURCES TO ENABLE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN HARMONY WITH NATURE PRESERVATION

MAKING A GENUINE DIFFERENCE

VISION AND MISSION

Wildlife Asia's **VISION** is to ensure the preservation of sustainable, functioning ecosystems across Asia for the benefit of biodiversity and society.

Our **MISSION** is to protect Asia's tropical forests and key landscapes which host the highest levels of biodiversity and iconic mega fauna habitat.

We **VALUE** respect, integrity and universal responsibility.



YOUR DONATION

Your donation is fully tax-deductible in Australia and the US and 100% of donations go directly to field programs



WILDLIFE ASIA

Wildlife Asia provides resources and funding to field projects and directly assists with conservation programs throughout Asia



INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

Wildlife Asia collaborates with international partners to maximise the efficiency of every dollar we spend.

LOCAL PARTNERS

Local organisations, communities and authorities are the key to effective wildlife conservation. Our implementing partners are on the frontline protecting wildlife and habitat and we strive to build their capacity to enable long-term self-sufficient biodiversity conservation.

WILDLIFE CARE

In collaboration with partners we support the rescue, rehabilitation and reintroduction of wildlife, with genuine conservation outcomes for endangered species.

RANGERS

We train, equip and deploy Wildlife Protection Units across Asia directly protecting Critically Endangered species under threat.

PROTECTED AREAS

Wildlife Asia provides funds for the purchase of critical rainforest habitat as well as supporting the designation of new Protected Areas.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We empower communities to find solutions to living sustainably with wildlife and protecting their natural heritage.

HIGHLIGHTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS



Training and deployment of 9 Wildlife Protection Units in Karen State, Myanmar. With almost 100 rangers patrolling 5 protected areas, this strong deterrent to poachers ensures the immediate safety of Critically Endangered wildlife populations

Demarcation and designation of the Kaydoh Mae Nyaw Wildlife Sanctuary in Karen State, Myanmar

The operation of Rhino Protection Units in the Leuser Ecosystem has ensured the protection of the largest remaining population of Sumatran rhino

Camera trap surveys and publication of the first data from Karen State has highlighted the importance of protecting this pristine region rich in biodiversity and culture

Reintroduction of 19 Javan gibbons back to the forests of Java, creating a new population monitored by the first ever Gibbon Protection Unit

Operation of the first Elephant Patrol Teams in Leuser to monitor and protect one of the last Sumatran elephant populations

SAVING BURMA'S LAST EDEN

KAREN WILDLIFE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE, MYANMAR



Karen State, Myanmar, is a world-renown biodiversity hotspot and home to endemic and critically endangered wildlife species of global conservation priority. Large expanses of forest and wildlife populations including tigers, leopards and Asian elephants have essentially been preserved by over 60 years of civil war. The forested landscapes are not void of human activity; they are inhabited by Karen indigenous communities who have collectively and sustainably managed their resources until today, despite the decades-long armed conflict. These communities have played a crucial role in conserving these resource-rich landscapes. It is essential that these communities are both equal players in and benefactors from any future conservation efforts.

Community-led, ground-based conservation planning, management and practice have gained international recognition as more effective, durable and responsible conservation strategies. The work of this project recognizes that successfully achieving locally appropriate biodiversity and wildlife conservation management requires that:

- indigenous people are at the frontline of conservation planning, management and implementing activities,
- indigenous peoples socio-cultural understanding of nature and traditional ecological knowledge must be integrated with scientific knowledge systems.

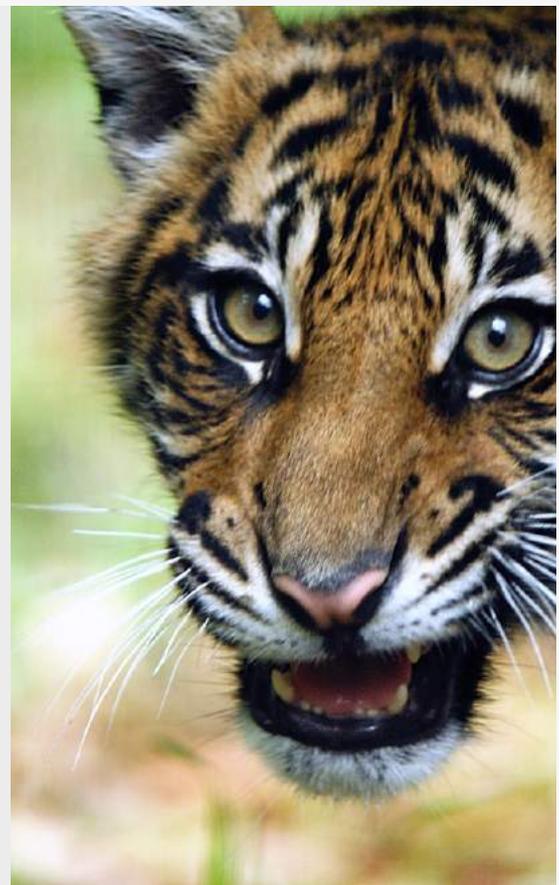
Although Karen State has largely been protected from foreign invested development and industrial schemes, or large-scale local exploitation, these threats are rapidly accelerating, with hydropower schemes, mining, agriculture, plantation expansion and the development of infrastructure already making ground in critical areas. Now is an absolutely critical time for the Karen to implement strategic protected area management and implement direct and effective biodiversity protection mechanisms before high profile species are lost.

Geographically, Karen State sits within a major international wildlife trade hub. The extraction, trade and consumption of wildlife for the expanding black markets in East Asia presents the most immediate and extreme threat to wildlife species in this area. Hunting and trade threaten a large number of mammal species, as either direct targets or incidental by-catch. Big cats, particularly tigers, are targeted for their coats, bones, teeth and claws, which are used in traditional medicine and as trophies. Demand in China and Vietnam remains particularly high for these species. Pangolins, primates, reptiles, otters and raptors are also in high demand. Poaching and trade threaten both species of bears present in Karen State. The Asiatic black bear and Malayan sun bear are targeted for body parts and bile, which is used in traditional medicine. Bear meat is served at wildlife restaurants.

As the Karen emerge from political turmoil they stand firm on their commitment to preserve biodiversity and to manage development opportunities in a way that ensures long-term sustainability and the preservation of peace and culture.

BRINGING BACK TIGERS

ONCE WIDESPREAD IN MYANMAR, THE TIGER POPULATION HAS DECLINED DRASTICALLY OVER THE LAST DECADE. OUR SURVEYS PROVIDE THE ONLY CURRENT INFORMATION ON THE NUMBER OF TIGERS REMAINING IN THE DAWNA-KAREN HILLS, HOWEVER, NON-TARGETED RAPID CAMERA TRAPPING SURVEYS CONDUCTED BY WILDLIFE ASIA OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS HAS CONFIRMED THE PRESENCE OF SEVERAL ADULT MALE AND FEMALE TIGERS ALONG WITH A HEALTHY PREY BASE AND WOULD INDICATE THAT THIS REGION WILL LIKELY BE CONSIDERED A "GLOBAL PRIORITY" TIGER CONSERVATION LANDSCAPE, DESIGNATED AS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY FOR WILD TIGER CONSERVATION.



Implemented by:



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?



To counter these threats and effectively secure protected areas in Karen State, Wildlife Asia has funded nine highly trained Wildlife Protection Units (WPU), operating under the Karen Forestry Department (KFD). These teams conduct SMART monitoring and surveillance operations to ensure local and National Conservation Laws are effectively enforced. Trained by the African Field Ranger Training College, these elite teams of skilled and dedicated rangers represent their local communities in their battle to protect their natural resources and biodiversity from the rapidly increasing external threats.

Concurrently KWCI conducts research, establishes new protected areas (PA), demarcate existing PA's and educates local communities ensuring buy-in and compliance with PA management. Ultimately the project aims to support large-scale conservation through the establishment of the Salween Peace Park to foster peace, cooperation, cultural preservation and environmental conservation. Through a bottom-up, people-centred planning approach, that integrates community economic development within a conservation framework, the project ensures that indigenous people are at the frontline of conservation planning, management and implementation and that their traditional ecological knowledge is integrated with scientific knowledge systems.

Building local capacity for long-term and sustainable management of biodiversity conservation in Karen State is at the core of this project.

WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?



Some key outcomes during this year included;

- Official designation of the Kaydoh Mae Nyaw Wildlife Sanctuary, with support from Rainforest Trust
- Identification of team leaders in all WPU and attendance at leadership training
- Refresher patrol and SMART training for WPU and team leaders, delivered by Dr Tony Lynam
- Initial training of a new WPU for the Mae Ka Tha Wildlife Sanctuary
- Finalisation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for SMART and a Code of Conduct
- Construction completed on two additional ranger stations and the KFD headquarters
- Completion of a socio economic survey (total of 647 household surveys and 36 Focus Group Discussions) across 36 villages living in three tiger occupied areas of Karen state, providing detailed information on living conditions, income, education and livelihoods practices of communities. A set of recommendations for conservation and livelihood support was generated
- Increased organisational capacity with the recruitment of KWCI Project Co-ordinator, WPU Manager, Smart Data Manager and Research intern.

KWCI also progressed some livelihood activities, including buffalo purchase and management as part of the IUCN Integrated Tiger Habitat Conservation Program (ITHCP) as well as participated in Tiger Action Planning and conducted several wildlife surveys targeting tiger habitat. We also participated in the Myanmar Elephant Action plan and the IUCN KfW Grantees workshop in Maharashtra, India.



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?



We have also progressed a series of workshops to undertake Landscape Conservation Action Planning with the Karen Forestry Department (KFD) and this process will help to clearly document the current threats and strategies to mitigate them as well as to provide sound processes for evaluation and adaptation.

Using the Healthy Country Planning adaptation of Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, this process, inclusive of social and cultural targets aligns well with existing plans for the Salween Peace Park and we aim wildlife conservation activities to continue to merge more closely with these broader plans for peace and sustainability in Karen State.

As a critical component of the HCP process, we plan to implement monitoring plans and undertake formal evaluation or project activities to measure effectiveness in protecting wildlife and habitat and to determine any changes in community attitudes towards biodiversity conservation. Particular attention will be given to reviewing WPU operations, with plans underway for exposure trips for WPU team members to similar teams operating in other regions

With ongoing progression of HCP, we also hope to implement a more strategic approach to biodiversity conservation, aligning closer with the broader plans for the Salween Peace Park.



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?



Presence-absence surveys aimed at establishing tiger occupancy across a wide range in Karen state were deployed during November 2017, and January/February 2018. Although tiger capture was less than expected, evidence of big and smaller cats, other predators, and also key tiger prey species such as sambar deer, muntjac and wild pig were abundant. These results bode well for potential rebound of tigers in those areas.

With a Science and Research Co-ordinator recruitment currently underway, we also hope to expand this aspect of the project and acquire adequate baseline data upon which we can effectively measure trends moving forward. The need for dedicated protection of elephants in Karen State is emerging as a critical priority as the skin trade sweeps Myanmar.

Although there have been no reported incidents in Karen State yet, pressure is likely to rise as demand for skin increases and the remaining population in Myanmar is decimated.

Ideally we would like to collar 1- 2 herds in order to obtain further information on their movements and also ensure that WPU are deployed in high-risk areas but also there will be an increasing requirement for conflict mitigation.

Although we have not yet encountered skinning incidents, during the year one elephant was also shot and another poisoned, after raiding crops in a village in Hpa An District. A new salt lick has just been constructed to try and redirect the elephants away from the village.





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Wildlife Asia stands beside the Karen people, providing support and guidance to help them implement their bold and exciting plans for the future. Further expansion and ongoing support of our Wildlife Protection Units is essential to ensure maximum coverage of rangers within these high-value forests. The teams also require ongoing training and the supply of equipment and tools to enable them to operate under difficult conditions. We need your donations to train and equip rangers and ensure the direct and immediate protection of wildlife populations.

MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT

HELP WILDLIFE ASIA TO ENSURE THE ONGOING PROTECTION OF PRISTINE HIGH BIODIVERSITY FORESTS AND CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WILDLIFE POPULATIONS BY MAKING A MONTHLY DONATION TO WILDLIFE ASIA

DONATE @ www.wildlifeasia.org.au or contact us today

THE FUTURE OF SUMATRAN ORANGUTANS, TIGERS, RHINOS AND ELEPHANTS

THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM, ACEH, INDONESIA



The Leuser Ecosystem in Aceh, Sumatra is the last place on earth where orangutans, rhinos, tigers and elephants co-exist. All four key species are now classified as Critically Endangered, primarily due to the rapid conversion of their forests into palm oil plantations but also under increasing threat from wildlife poaching and in the case of elephants and tigers, human/wildlife conflict. The Leuser Ecosystem is also the largest contiguous forest area on the island of Sumatra. Indonesia now has the highest rate of forest destruction in the world and the ongoing devastation of Sumatra's forests can be seen in the maps below. In addition to its significance for biodiversity conservation, the Leuser Ecosystem is a vital life-support system for four million people. It provides ecosystem services with an estimated value of over USD 350 million per year, including clean water supply, flood and landslide mitigation, freshwater fisheries, local climate regulation and global carbon sequestration. For these reasons the Leuser Ecosystem was established as a National Strategic Area (for protection of water catchments and biodiversity) in the national spatial plans. Sadly, the Leuser Ecosystem is under significant threat from a proposed Aceh spatial plan which fails to acknowledge the very existence of these vast and ancient protected forests and threatens to open up areas for extractive industries, plantation and roads.

HUMAN-ELEPHANT CONFLICT IN THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM HAS REDUCED THE POPULATION BY MORE THAN 60 PER CENT IN THE LAST 20 YEARS ALONE. THE SMALL REMAINING POPULATION OF ELEPHANTS IS IN IMMINENT DANGER DUE TO CONTINUAL SETTING OF POISONED BAITS BY PLANTATION OWNERS AND SNARE SETTING BY POACHERS. WITH AN AVERAGE LOSS OF ONE ELEPHANT PER WEEK IT IS LIKELY THAT IN 10 YEARS, UNLESS THERE IS RAPID AND DRASTIC INTERVENTION AT GOVERNMENT AND GROUND LEVEL, ELEPHANTS IN THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM WILL BE EXTINCT.



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?

Wildlife Asia supports local NGOs to provide frontline and immediate protection to Critically Endangered wildlife populations and to maintain pressure on the decision-makers to uphold legal-protection of the Leuser Ecosystem.

We have provided ongoing support to field partner Forum Konservasi Leuser (FKL) for protection of wildlife, with a particular focus on Sumatran rhinos and elephants. Some of the achievements supported by WA in the previous year include;

- FKL trained and deployed more Wildlife Protection Teams (WPT) and as of 2018 now have 26 teams patrolling every month in the most threatened and biodiversity rich areas of the Leuser Ecosystem from poaching, animal capture, illegal fishing, logging and forest encroachment.
- With support from Paul Hilton we continued intervention in human-elephant conflict with our Elephant Protection Units (EPU) and preparations to scale up this work. With WA support, FKL have leveraged support for several more GPS collars to monitor herds in the north-east and south-west with a view to being a preventative measure for human-elephant conflict.

In addition to this, FKL have also managed to;

- Leverage more support for the Lokop and Bengkung-Trumon Mega-Fauna Sanctuaries. 21km of barriers between plantations and forest have now been built in Lokop to protect elephants.
- Re-activated the Soraya Research Station which had been shut down for 16 years after being burnt down during the conflict.
- Achieved significant progress in restoration, FKL have restored hundreds of hectares of illegal plantations and continue to expand this work.

- Leveraged new funding to drive a herd of 9 female elephants from where they are isolated in Leuser subdistrict and under great threat due to being stuck in an island among plantations to the safer national park.

Our support to FKL for rhino protection is of particular significance. Protecting the largest remaining population of Sumatran rhinos in the wild is paramount to their survival as a species.

The WPT have been successful in reducing poaching activities in the area. While crime continues and law enforcement measures are still inadequate, the teams are crucial deterrent forces against crime and also reported encouraging signs of thriving wildlife species in all the areas covered, including rhino.

The rangers were originally recruited from local communities - some of the team members were even former loggers, poachers or ex-GAM (Free Aceh Movement) combatants. This turnaround approach to conservation supports local communities through offering employment opportunities where economic alternatives to exploiting forest resources are rare. These rangers then in turn help to build awareness, spreading the message of the value of forest conservation and wildlife protection throughout their communities.



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?

Wildlife Asia has supported partners Forest, Nature and Environment Aceh (HakA) and Yayasan Ecosystem Leuser (YEL) to mobilise support for sophisticated legal campaigns to prevent the controversial illegal provincial spatial plan from being approved and ratified at the national level, and hence rescinded.

Our focus has been on the continuation of three major campaigns: 1) aligning Aceh spatial planning with national law; 2) overturning energy and road infrastructure plans inside the Leuser Ecosystem; and 3) ensuring PT Kallista Alam pay their fines and that restoration in Tripa is driven forward.

Some key legal outcomes include:

- A lawsuit was registered by GeRAM (Aceh Citizen Lawsuit Movement) against the Minister of Home Affairs, Governor of Aceh and the Aceh Parliament on 21 January 2016 in Jakarta State Court.

The main reason of the lawsuit was the exclusion of the Leuser Ecosystem from Qanun Aceh (Provincial Regulation) No. 19/2013 on Aceh Spatial Plan.



After ruling against GeRAM, a subsequent appeal was also unfortunately rejected. A decision was made not to appeal to the Supreme Court as it would be more tactical to pursue an alternative strategy of advocacy with the new and more promising Aceh government.

Due to the GeRAM lawsuit, the 80,000+ signatures on the Change.Org petition and continual advocacy, the issue has become a hot one among local politicians. A Qanun regarding this issue is now on the priority agenda list.

- In 2014, palm oil company PT Kallista Alam (PT KA) was found guilty of illegally burning Tripa peat swamp forests and was ordered to pay a total of USD 26.5 million in fines, comprising of USD 8.5 million in material compensation to the state treasury and USD 18 million to restore 1,000 hectares of burned and deforested peatland.

Four years later, PT KA has still not paid their fines, and instead asked for 'legal protection' from the State Court in Meulaboh. The company has even sued Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF), under the pretext of an error in objecto over coordinates presented by the Ministry.



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?

In April 2018, the same State Court in Meulaboh that originally found the company guilty announced a shock ruling, now in favor of PT KA. The chief of Meulaboh State Court bizarrely granted 'legal protection' to PT KA and accepted their lawsuit against MoEF, declaring that the earlier ruling cannot be executed against PT Kallista Alam. This decision raised serious alarm bells around Indonesia with Chief Judge Said Hasan's integrity and accountability called into question.

The judge was subsequently demoted from his position and transferred out of the Meulaboh court. HAKA maintained attention on the case and delivered over 200,000 signatures on their change.org petition to the Banda Aceh High Court where the Ministry of Environment and Forestry appealed the lower court's decision to undermine the ruling against palm oil company PT Kallista Alam.

Thankfully justice for the Leuser Ecosystem is now back on track with the Ministry winning that appeal and the Banda Aceh High Court rejecting the PN Meulaboh verdict. The historic legal precedent is upheld and HAKA is now working hard to see the verdict finally carried out and Tripa restored

Haka have also continued to build capacity in government and police officials around Leuser in evidence gathering and filing environmental legal cases.

FKL is now carrying out monthly collaborative law enforcement operations with authorities to pursue forest crime perpetrators and seize illegal timber/equipment as well as shut down illegal plantations and developments.

Continued advocacy against infrastructure threats has also resulted in the cancellation of a Geothermal project inside the Gunung Leuser National Park. An ongoing campaign is currently targeting the proposed Tampur hydrodam development in Banda Aceh. The construction behind this mega dam will threaten biodiversity and hundreds of thousands of people who live downstream in Aceh Tamiang.

HAKA have also conducted training within the community including Paralegal training for women and AMDAL training. Numerous press conferences led by HAKA have significantly raised awareness both within Indonesia and internationally around deforestation and the illegal exploitation of the immensely valuable Leuser ecosystem.

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT

THE VISION OF LOCAL GROUPS AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS HAS BEEN TO CREATE GLOBAL AWARENESS AND RECOGNITION OF THE IRREPLACEABLE VALUE OF THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM.

WITH SUPPORT FROM CELEBRITIES AND CAMPAIGNS LIKE #LOVETHELEUSER THAT GOAL IS CLOSER TO REALITY. HOPEFULLY ENABLING EVEN MORE SUPPORT FOR THE PROTECTION OF THIS LANDSCAPE.





HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We are seeking funding in order to continue to intensively safeguard this vital habitat for wildlife such as the Sumatran rhino and elephant. We require support for the ongoing operation of the WPT and EPU as well as unrestricted funding for legal action and capacity development. With increasing pressure on Leuser's forests and wildlife, their survival is dependant on strong policy and environmental management, dedicated protection units and the prevention of human/wildlife conflict. Together we can save the Leuser Ecosystem #StartWith1Thing

MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT

HELP WILDLIFE ASIA TO ENSURE THE ONGOING PROTECTION OF PRISTINE HIGH BIODIVERSITY FORESTS AND CRITICALLY ENDANGERED WILDLIFE POPULATIONS BY MAKING A MONTHLY DONATION

Donate @ www.wildlifeasia.org.au or contact us today!

SAVING THE FORGOTTEN APES

JAVAN GIBBON CONSERVATION PROGRAM, JAVA, INDONESIA



Gibbons are recognised as the most threatened primate family globally. With 20 described taxa, four are listed on the IUCN Red List as Critically Endangered and 13 as Endangered, including the Javan gibbon (*Hylobates moloch*), which occupies the most densely populated island on Earth. Gibbons are threatened by a number of processes including habitat loss and fragmentation. Of considerable concern is the threat posed by poaching, usually for the wildlife trade. This has resulted in large numbers of gibbons held in private hands or surrendered to rescue centers across their range. In a report commissioned by ARCUS foundation this year, our concerns about the shift to online trading was confirmed, with Javan gibbons identified as one of the primary gibbons species being offered by traders on social media platforms.

The total Javan gibbon population is currently estimated between 400-3000 individuals in approximately 63 fragmented populations. It is likely that only three of these populations are viable (Campbell et al., 2008), although the population in Gunung Gede Pangrango is likely to be significantly threatened in coming years by major development around this National Park. Although successful reintroduction programs are underway, protection of all remaining gibbons is critical which should see the focus shift to management of wild populations and combatting the illegal trade.

THE IMPACT OF TRAUMA

TRAGICALLY, YOUNG GIBBON IRMA, RESCUED LAST YEAR AFTER BEING FOUND STRAPPED TO A WOMAN'S LEG EN ROUTE TO KUWAIT, SUCCUMBED TO ILLNESS.

THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT ON THESE INFANTS AS A RESULT OF BEING TAKEN FROM THEIR MOTHERS AT A YOUNG AGE CAN HAVE A LIFELONG IMPACT, FOR THOSE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE.

FOR OTHERS THE DENIAL OF ADEQUATE NUTRITION AND INCREDIBLE STRESS BECOMES TOO MUCH FOR THEIR SYSTEMS TO HANDLE AND DESPITE THE VERY BEST OF CARE, THEIR LIVES ARE CUT SHORT. THE LOSS OF IRMA SYMBOLISES THE SAD REALITY OF THE CRUEL AND INSATIABLE DEMAND FOR PET GIBBONS.



WHAT IS WILDLIFE ASIA DOING?



Through our partner, the Silvery Gibbon Project, we continue to provide ongoing support to the operation of the Javan Gibbon Centre (JGC) as well as a successful reintroduction program and the operation of the very first Gibbon Protection Unit (GPU).

Following the establishment of the new reintroduction site in 2012, 19 gibbons have since been released back into the forest Mt Malabar. All groups continue to be monitored, except for the first released pair who separated quite soon after they were released and have not been sighted in the last 2 years. The family groups continue to thrive and two offspring have now been born to released gibbons, giving a promising indication of the success of the program. As is the case in other regions the GPU model has proven an effective method to monitor and protect the released gibbon population but also to engage closely with local communities surrounding the release site. The team has undertaken SMART training and we hope that with additional funding support we will be able to expand this program in the near future.

The aim of these programs is to not only rescue and rehabilitate ex pet gibbons but to successfully protect and re-populate a significant area of habitat with rehabilitated Javan gibbons and to provide direct protection to wild gibbon populations. Ultimately though, we must also address the root cause of decline in Javan gibbon populations and we hope in the coming year to refocus our effort on wild population protection and mitigating the illegal trade.

With ever increasing threats to Protected Areas, genuine behaviour change will be required. An enormous task for a rapidly growing human population but not insurmountable with the right strategies and engagement with key communities in Javan gibbon habitat.

Stay tuned for some new initiatives on the horizon in 2019!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Every gibbon has a story. Almost always taken from the wild and ripped from their mother's as infants, those lucky enough to be rescued have undoubtedly experienced a life of trauma. The rehabilitation process requires many years of intensive care by dedicated and experienced staff at the JGC. These keepers have such a crucial role in seeing that these gibbons are mentally and physically ready for a return to the wild, and they need your help. Your donations will support rescue operations and the care of gibbons at the JGC as well as the important activities of the monitoring team post-release and the Gibbon Protection Unit, patrolling forest in West Java.

ADOPT A GIBBON

FOR JUST \$55/YEAR YOU CAN SUPPORT THE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF A JAVAN GIBBON AND HELP THEM GET BACK TO THE FORESTS OF JAVA, WHERE THEY BELONG.

Adopt a gibbon @ www.wildlifeasia.org.au or contact us to find out more.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTARY, EMERGENCY AND SEED FUNDING TO LOCAL NGOS



With our partner, the Asian Rhino Project, we have contributed considerable funding to the conservation of Javan and Sumatran rhinos over the last 15 years.

The Javan rhino population is currently stable with an estimated 60-63 individuals. With the identification of a suitable translocation site in process, ideally, a second population will be established in the near future.

The Sumatran rhino has received unprecedented attention this year with numerous news stories highlighting the complex and largely unsuccessful historical attempts to save this species.

It is now widely accepted that numbers are significantly low, perhaps with 75 even being an optimistic estimate.

Although much talk continues of the bold action required, progress remains slow and it would appear that we continue to preside over managed decline of this species.

Reinforcing our support of rhino protection in Leuser, where we believe the greatest chance of their survival remains, we continue to provide assistance to Yayasan Badak Indonesia (YABI) and the International Rhino Foundation (IRF), for the operation of rhino protection units, equipment supplies for rangers and captive breeding efforts.

**INTERNATIONAL
RHINO
FOUNDATION**

**JAVA AND
SUMATRA,
INDONESIA**

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

PROVIDING EMERGENCY AND SEED FUNDING TO LOCAL NGOS



In collaboration with our partner, Silvery Gibbon Project, we have provided some additional funding support for the HURO program in Meghalaya, India. HURO has successfully set up the first rescue center dedicated to the Western Hoolock Gibbon in a challenging part of India. The program conducts rescue, rehabilitation and reintroduction of gibbons in collaboration with education support within the local community and the operation of a school with around 150 students. The illegal trade continues to be an enormous challenge in this region as is securing ongoing funding for this program. Our emergency funding has assisted to maintain important operations while programs are further developed.

**HURO
PROGRAM**

INDIA

WILDLIFE ASIA IN THE COMMUNITY

Wildlife Asia's fundraising and volunteer team have continued to grow our supporter base and spread our message about the conservation of wildlife and habitat. Ensuring that our messaging is always consistent with our mission and aligns with our values around mitigating climate change and reducing waste, we limited our merchandise this year to virtual gifts and reusable Keep Cups. As wildlife conservationists we believe that we have a responsibility to encourage more sustainable living and increase awareness of environmental issues more broadly. Relating these issues directly to iconic wildlife has been a useful tool to connect with children and adults alike.

Similarly, engaging with the community through art has proven an effective mechanism for Wildlife Asia to raise our profile and educate.

Wildlife Asia focuses our social media effort on organic growth and engaging with our audience through effective storytelling, establishing an authentic online presence. We balance our limited resources with steady increase in our online following, providing up to date information on our projects, campaigns and appeals as well as breaking news related to our work.



REACHING OUT TO THE USA

Wildlife Asia established a partnership with Californian organisation I Stand With My Pack (ISWMP) and launched a fundraising campaign for Sumatran elephants at an event in October 2017. In collaboration with Paul Hilton, we presented at the inaugural Rise Against Extinction Gala, reaching out to a new audience to highlight the dire situation facing Sumatran elephants and the threats to the Leuser Ecosystem.

This was a great opportunity to generate some extra funds for the elephant program in Leuser but also to connect with some new supporters.

Thanks to ISWMP for hosting us and we look forward to further opportunities in future!



IN MEMORIAM

Saw O Moo On April 5, 2018, one of Karen's most committed land protectors, peace advocates, and Indigenous rights defenders: Saw O Moo was killed by Burma Army Soldiers in Mutraw District, Karen State. Saw O Moo worked as a local community partner with the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network and will be remembered for his life-long passion and commitment to preserving Indigenous Karen cultural traditions, promoting customary land stewardship, and leading local community forest conservation activities as the Luthaw Paw Day Community Forest Coordinator. In his roles as Indigenous Wildlife Researcher and Kheshorter Community Forest Committee Advisor,

Saw O Moo worked tirelessly to protect some of the last intact old-growth forest and endangered species habitat remaining in Burma. He was also one of the most active local community leaders in the Salween Peace Park, a grassroots initiative to create a 5,400-sq. km Indigenous Karen reserve in Mutraw District. Saw O Moo firmly believed in its vision for peace, biodiversity conservation, and cultural preservation. "For us as Indigenous people, the Salween Peace Park represents our deepest desires and needs," he told the crowd at a public consultation meeting in December 2017. The death of a community member under these circumstances during a time of peace building is deeply unsettling and we extend our condolences to Saw O Moo's family and friends and all of the Karen Environmental and Social Action Network (KESAN) team. We are grateful for Saw O Moo's tireless work to preserve Indigenous Karen cultural traditions, promote customary land stewardship and protect forests and we hope that the Karen people stand strong in their quest for peace in their homeland.

Saw O Moo



Salman Panuri



In May, FKL ranger Salman Panuri tragically died while attempting to cross the currents of Lawe Bengkung, Southeast Aceh whilst on patrol, protecting the forests and wildlife Leuser. A shining star amongst FKL teams, Salman was remembered in this tribute from Rudi Putra; "I met you in 2005 just as you stopped fighting and decided to lay down your weapons for good. Your eyes were sharp as a hawk's - full of confidence - and your step nimble. Although smaller than most of your fellow combatants in the fight for independence of your native land, I thought then maybe even the forest dwellers would be overwhelmed by you. Without hesitation I chose you to be one of our rangers to protect the Leuser Ecosystem. A decision I will remember for the rest of my life. Thousands of kilometers you explored, there might not be one part of Leuser that you did not step on. One day in 2007, I asked you to go back into the forest despite our lack of funds at the time, but without any word of argument, you volunteered to do the job - to protect Leuser. Your loyalty is truly one that I will never be able to return. When you needed to stop working as a ranger for a few years in order to take care of other things it was a hard decision for me to accept, but I realize this was a move that later set your sights even higher.

At the end of 2016 you asked to re-join us. Oh ... It feels like I can sense the sharp radiance of your eyes now. Wandering for 6 months a year, climbing the highest mountains, crossing rivers, fishing in the middle of the forest, telling stories and cracking jokes. All the jokes and funny stories that cannot be written down but only retold and all the laughter that was never diminished even after hundreds of retellings. Oh... You were an expert at entertaining us, even though I often had to nudge you to start telling your stories. Saturday, March 10, 2018 was the last day we met. Dozens of people were surrounding you, made happy with laughter because of your stories. Stories that I am sorry I will never hear again, my friend. Your choice to come back to guard Leuser is the destiny for your body to dwell on the earth of Leuser, the earth you are guarding. Dozens of years you protected her and your last breath in the water was from the forest you have been protecting. Your body is still, but your soul will never stop smiling. Until the end of your life you were guarding the water we drink, the clean air we breathe. Goodbye my friend. We believe God will reward you as a warrior for the earth. You fell to protect Leuser, for the sake of protecting your nation."

An overview

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

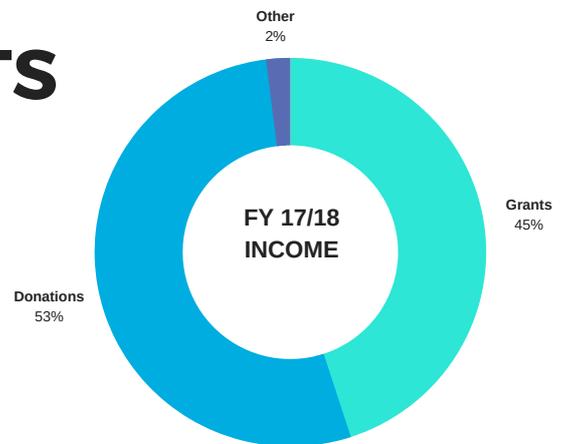
16%

INCREASE IN
PROJECT SPEND

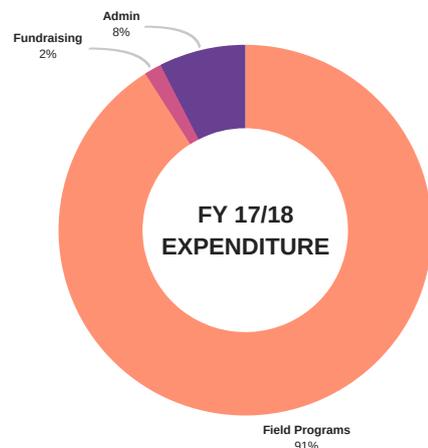
increase on previous financial year in funds distributed to WA, SGP and ARP field projects

7.5%

ADMINISTRATION
COSTS



Grants	582,612	45%
Private Donations	685,894	53%
Interest	1,442	.5%
Other	19,330	1.5%
TOTAL INCOME	1,289,278	



Program	1,385,062	91%
Fundraising	20,504	1.5%
Admin	114,587	7.5%
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,520,153	

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	TOTAL ASSETS	LIABILITIES	TOTAL EQUITY
WA	489,262	3,457	485,805
SGP	113,014		113,014
ARP	101,939		101,939
TOTAL	704,215	4,457	700,758

WHERE DID OUR FUNDS GO?

PROGRAM	2018
JAVAN GIBBON FOUNDATION Javan Gibbon Conservation	53,541
KESAN Karen Wildlife Conservation Initiative	751,446
WILDLIFE 1 CONSERVANCY Karen Wildlife Conservation Initiative	42,400
FOREST, NATURE and ENVIRONMENT ACEH Leuser Ecosystem General	94,678
FOREST, NATURE and ENVIRONMENT ACEH Leuser-Legal and Policy	109,386
YAYASAN ECOSYSTEM LESTARI Lesuer Ecosystem Legal	83,427
FORUM KONSERVASI LEUSER (FKL) Leuser Rhino Patrol Teams	24,455
FORUM KONSERVASI LEUSER (FKL) Leuser Elephant Patrol Teams	46,126
HURO PROGRAM Gibbon Rehabilitation Project	7,649
INTERNATIONAL RHINO FOUNDATION (IRF) Sumatran and Javan Rhino Programs	50,000
LEUSER- Other Legal work and Elephants- Consultants	70,575

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

2018 INCOME

AMOUNT

WILDLIFE ASIA INCOME	1,244,509.10
SILVERY GIBBON PROJECT INCOME	40,015.31
ASIAN RHINO PROJECT INCOME	4757.82

2018 EXPENSES

AMOUNT

ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	4,200.02
AUDIT FEES	1,500
BANK FEES AND CHARGES	1,299.08
INSURANCE	2,223.35
PRINTING, STATIONARY AND OFFICE	2,700
SALARIES-ORDINARY	98,649.72
SUPERANNUATION	9,371.70
TRAVEL AND ACCOM	2,668.52

Audited financial reports for Wildlife Asia, the Silvery Gibbon Project and the Asian Rhino Project have been provided to the Department of Consumer Protection WA, Register of Environmental Organisations and the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission.

STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

THE AWESOME PEOPLE BEHIND THIS PROJECT



LEIF COCKS
PRESIDENT

Leif is the founder and President of The Orangutan Project. He has worked hands on animals for over 25 years - initially in zoos and with and for orangutans for more than 25 years including the successful reintroduction of orangutans including the first two successful zoo-born reintroductions. In respect to his professional, animal, human and financial management skills, Leif has a MSc studying orangutans and is the author of the Orangutans and their Battle for Survival and Orangutans; My Cousins, My Friends. Leif's years in the field have earned him respect within the conservation field. He has been a key player in developing conservation plans for orangutans and influencing positive change for orangutan protection and survival.



MATT HUNT
VICE PRESIDENT

Matt Hunt has been working with wild animals for over 25 years - initially in zoos and wildlife parks but for the past 18 years his work has focused on combatting the illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia. As Chief Executive of Free the Bears, he is responsible for overseeing projects and partnerships in six countries throughout Asia, developing world-class bear sanctuaries, training local teams to provide optimal care and promoting environmental awareness in some of the world's least developed countries. Matt believes that long-term conservation of wildlife in Southeast Asia will only be achieved through a combination of strengthened law enforcement and improved environmental awareness.



SOPHIE DENTRINOS
SECRETARY

Sophie is the Vice Chairperson of the Asian Rhino Project and a zoo keeper with over 15 years experience, specialising in African Carnivores. Sophie has had a keen passion for rhinos and their plight since her high school years, when she did work experience with black rhinos. Sophie is the Australasian Species Coordinator for the Endangered African Painted Dog, and holds several qualifications including a Post Graduate Certificate in Captive Vertebrate Management, Certificate 3 in Zoo keeping and a Diploma in Animal Technology.



CLARE CAMPBELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Clare Campbell is on a mission for change. After graduating from Zoology and Marine Biology she worked at Perth Zoo for over a decade, establishing conservation programs around key species within Asia. Recognising the broader conservation needs in Asia, Clare assisted in establishing Wildlife Asia to deliver immediate and effective conservation in priority landscapes. Working directly with local communities and field teams Clare has helped to established Wildlife Protection Units across Indonesia and Myanmar, conducted rescue, rehabilitation and successful reintroduction of gibbons and orangutans, and supported ground breaking research and the establishment of protected areas.



DEMELZA STOKES
KWCI PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Demelza Stokes joined us this year to coordinate KWCI's project activities. She comes to the role with many years of experience working as a freelance journalist in challenging environments across Southeast Asia. She has documented and produced multimedia stories on conservation issues from across Burma's conflict areas including the illegal timber trade in Burma's northern Kachin state, illegal fishing in the Myeik Archipelago, and hydropower development in the Salween basin. Demelza is passionate about conservation in this region and brings essential communication skills which are critically important to working effectively in this region.

TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS

THANK YOU

Wildlife Asia extends a sincere thank you to all of our donors, partners and supporters who have enabled us to make a genuine impact in the fight to protect species and forests in Asia. You have chosen to take the step towards being part of the solution and we are grateful for the generosity that has made our work possible.

Thank you also to our wonderful committee members and team of volunteers who dedicate countless hours, organising events and supporting the cause.

Finally, we wish to extend our utmost gratitude to the teams working on the frontline. From rangers to office staff, these dedicated groups and individuals work under difficult conditions with very little recognition. They are committed to ensuring a future for their wildlife, but also their communities and culture. We will continue to stand beside you.

MAJOR DONORS

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Vince and Karen Pisani
Marc Bowden
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Li Khang
Robert Dion
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Tranby College
Jeff and Ursula Beaton

And to all of our regular and anonymous donors, thank you!





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We have Deductible Gift Recipient status in Australia and fiscal
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Donations can be made via our website or contact us directly for more information
at clare.campbell@wildlifeasia.org.au

www.wildlifeasia.org.au

