

Project Update: December 2016

Faecal sample collection of Sumatran elephants in Harapan rainforest was conducted from October 2015 to October 2016, in parallel with a monitoring survey of elephants and other wildlife in the area. A field team of five people searched for elephant dung boli and collected the outer epithelial layer of fresh faecal samples for DNA analysis. The Sumatran elephant population in Harapan rainforest was estimated at around 19 individuals in 1997, although a report in 2011 showed a rapid decline to 11 individuals. Nowadays, there is a herd of six elephants commonly sighted in the area.

Due to small number of animals in the area, it was challenging for the field team to find fresh faecal samples. A total of 30 faecal samples have been collected and currently are being transferred to the laboratory in Jakarta.



Left: A herd of Sumatran elephants in Harapan Rainforest. Right: Female elephant Jenni roaming Harapan Rainforest.



Left: Collecting Sumatran elephant faecal samples. Right: Sumatran elephants in Harapan rainforest faecal samples for DNA analysis.