

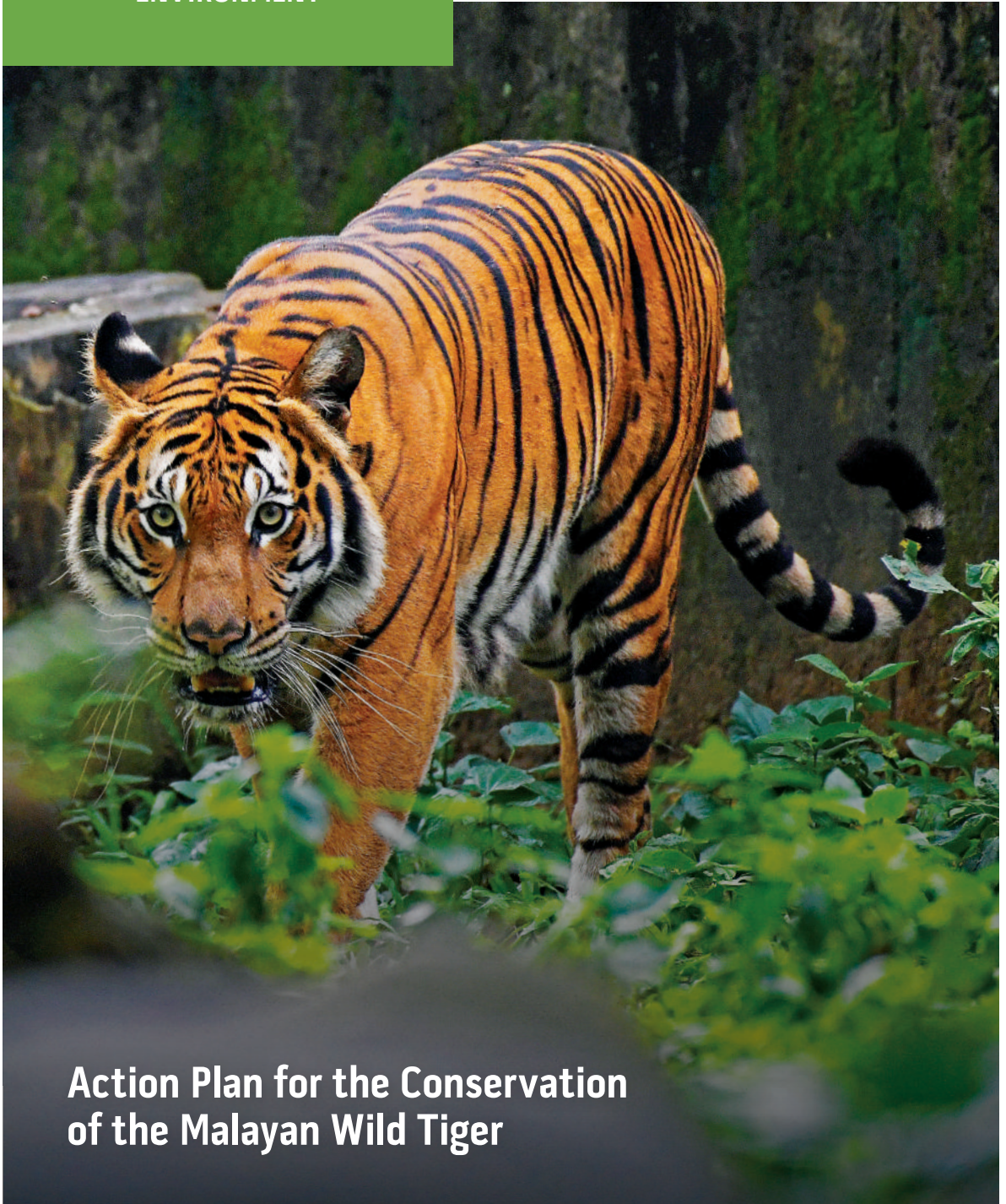
RESEARCH SUMMARY



ENVIRONMENT

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**Action Plan for the Conservation
of the Malayan Wild Tiger**



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Summary Reports are abbreviated research documents commissioned by Yayasan Hasanah to support evidence-based policy recommendations for its impact areas and the nation. These reports may not necessarily reflect the official views of Yayasan Hasanah.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Malayan tiger, a beloved symbol of Malaysia's natural heritage, stands at the brink of extinction, with fewer than 150 wild tigers remaining in our forests. Due to habitat loss and land development, only four states remain home to 90% of the Malayan tiger population: Pahang, Perak, Kelantan and Terengganu – a critical reality demanding swift and unified action.



On July 18, 2022, a multi-stakeholder initiative involving government agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector, and philanthropic organisations was orchestrated by Yayasan Hasanah, culminating in the Tiger Conservation Roundtable. The objective of the Roundtable was to understand the issues and challenges faced by those in the conservation ecosystem, both in the field and in terms of funding, and to solicit recommendations for a three-year action plan. Key players in this mission are three prominent NGOs: Pertubuhan Pelindung Alam Malaysia (Pelindung), Rimau, and WWF-Malaysia, who are integral to proposed actions covering operations, monitoring, enforcement, communication, education, and other initiatives.

A substantial funding of RM 101,025,696.10 is urgently required, spanning the critical period from 2023 to 2025. The focus of this financial support will prioritise patrolling efforts, a paramount element in the battle against tiger poaching – which has been identified as a key threat to the Malayan tiger. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) plays a pivotal role in governmental initiatives in tiger conservation, with 11 initiatives outlined in four main themes, namely, Enforcement; Conservation; Research and development; and Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA).

This decline of the tiger population is attributed to various factors, including poaching, industrial agriculture expansion, commercial logging, habitat destruction, pollution, and the illegal trade of tiger products. To address this crisis, the 'Action Plan for the Conservation of Malayan Wild Tiger' has been developed for 2023 to 2025. Key actions identified include bolstering field personnel, enhancing prey populations, mobilising efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts, curbing the spread of virulent diseases, and expanding forest connectivity to support tiger mobility. Consequently, these recommendations underscore the need for diversifying funding sources, conducting annual discussions with stakeholders, and strengthening coordination under the leadership of Yayasan Hasanah.

THE MALAYAN TIGER: A BRIEF OVERVIEW

The Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) is native exclusively to Peninsular Malaysia and is fully protected under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010.

Adult Malayan tigers are typically 2.3 to 2.6 metres long, with an average lifespan of up to 20 years. They mate year-round, with most cubs born between March and June, and a second peak in September, often with litters of two to five cubs. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List has categorised it as 'critically endangered' since 2015.

Historically, Malayan tigers roamed throughout Peninsular Malaysia's forests, with a preference for lowland areas and a variety of habitats, ranging from peat swamps to lower montane forests. Their habitat choice is influenced by the presence of large ungulate prey, including various deer species and wild boar. However, due to habitat loss and development,

the Malayan tiger population is now concentrated in just four Peninsular States. These areas primarily include three forest landscapes: the Main Range Landscape, Greater Taman Negara, and Southern Forest Landscape; which encompass core zones prioritised for tiger conservation efforts and intersect with Protected Areas (PA) and the Central Forest Spine (CFS).

The existing protected areas in Peninsular Malaysia are spatially divided into four primary regions: Banjaran Titiwangsa-Banjaran Bintang-Banjaran Nakawan, Taman Negara-Banjaran Timur, Southeast Pahang-Chini and Bera Wetlands, and Endau-Rompin National Park-Kluang Wildlife Reserve.

The Malayan tiger population in Peninsular Malaysia is facing a grave decline due to several significant threats:

Poaching

Despite being legally protected, these tigers are hunted for their body parts, prized in traditional medicines. This illegal trade poses a serious threat, and an individual tiger carcass can fetch over half a million ringgit. Malaysia lost approximately 39 wild tigers to poaching between 2008 and 2018.

Habitat Loss and Forest Fragmentation

Large-scale agricultural activities and logging since the mid-20th century have led to the conversion of extensive lowland forests, reducing forest cover from 74% in 1957 to 43% in 2023, with 65% of the total forest loss occurring within tiger habitats.



Declining Prey Base

A healthy tiger population depends on the availability of large ungulate species like barking deer, sambar deer, and wild boar. These prey species are also affected by habitat loss and overhunting for human consumption. Regulations controlling their hunting are often violated, further diminishing their populations.

Virulent Diseases

Two diseases, canine distemper virus (CDV) and African Swine Fever (ASF), pose threats to both Malayan tiger populations and their prey. CDV affects various terrestrial carnivores, attacking the respiratory, gastrointestinal, and nervous systems, leading to fatalities in some tigers. ASF, while not reported in tigers, affects wild boars, a significant prey item. Its presence could indirectly impact tiger populations through the depletion of their prey.

Human-Tiger Conflict

Fragmented and unsuitable habitats push tigers into remaining lowland areas, which overlap with human settlements, livestock, and agricultural lands. This situation increases the risk of Human-Tiger Conflict (HTC). HTC encompasses tiger sightings near human settlements, direct attacks on humans and/or livestock, and the perceived fear of such attacks. Between 2008 and 2019, 652 HTC incidents were reported.

POLICY, LEGISLATION AND REGULATION IN MALAYSIA RELATED TO TIGER CONSERVATION

In this section, we will explore Malaysia's commitment to conserving its unique tiger population, which is established in a multifaceted approach that encompasses policy, legislation, and international obligations.



The **Federal Constitution** grants substantial autonomy to each state in Malaysia, allowing them to create laws and manage forestry policies. This decentralised approach results in limited federal government influence over the conversion of tiger habitats.

However, the **National Land Council**, founded in 1958, fosters collaboration between federal and state governments, particularly concerning land, mining, and forestry, to ensure the preservation of forests as a vital natural resource.

To address conservation on a spatial level, Malaysia adopted the **Fourth National Physical Plan (NPP-4)** in 2021, a blueprint emphasising spatial sustainability and climate change resilience. Under its development targets, NPP-4 aims to increase forest coverage in Peninsular Malaysia to 50% to support Malaysia's goal of becoming carbon-neutral by 2050.

As of 2022, the forest coverage stood at 43.41%. This is of significance because many of these forested areas are crucial for potential tiger habitats. Achieving the NPP-4's forest coverage target also involves the restoration of degraded areas and ensuring their connectivity, as outlined in the Central Forest Spine (CFS) Masterplan.

The **National Policy on Biological Diversity (2012-2026)**¹ provides the direction and framework for the nation's biodiversity management. This policy outlines five overarching goals and 17 targets encompassing stakeholder empowerment, reducing pressures on biodiversity, and safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, in the face of development pressures and increasingly complex challenges – including bolstering Malayan tiger conservation efforts.

Additionally, the recently introduced **Malaysia Policy on Forestry (2021)** provides a comprehensive framework for forest management across Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah, and Sarawak. It prioritises sustainable forest management, biodiversity conservation, indigenous community involvement, and research and development to enhance forest management practices. Peninsular Malaysia has its regional Forestry Policy, focusing on sustainable management, protection areas, and collaboration among stakeholders.

¹The policy has since been updated and renamed as the National Policy on Biological Diversity (2022-2030), and is publicly available on the NRES website: <https://www.nres.gov.my/>

The **National Forestry Act 1984** administers and manages forests within Malaysian states, allowing for the designation of permanent reserved forests, including those vital for wildlife sanctuaries. The **Environmental Quality Act 1974** contributes to conservation by mandating Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) for specific forest-related activities. These assessments regulate various activities, from land development to construction near sensitive areas, ensuring the environment's protection.

Internationally, Malaysia actively upholds the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**, which aims to conserve biological diversity and ensure equitable benefit sharing from genetic resources. This dedication is reflected in Malaysia's **National Policy on Biological Diversity 2022-2030**, currently aligning with the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) of the CBD.

Malaysia is also a signatory to the **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES)**, an international agreement between governments with the aim of ensuring that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species. This commitment is reflected in the development of the International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 (Act No. 686).

Furthermore, Malaysia has pledged under the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 45% by 2030, calculated against Malaysia's 2005 gross domestic product. This substantial commitment includes a 35% reduction on an unconditional basis and an additional 10% reduction, subject to support from climate finance funding, technology transfer, and capacity development by developed countries. The commitment is further supported by the National Climate Change Policy enacted in 2009, which provides a comprehensive framework to tackle climate change challenges.



NATIONAL INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS ON MALAYAN TIGER CONSERVATION

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) is the leading governmental agency responsible for tiger conservation in Peninsular Malaysia.



Several notable key initiatives have been implemented to conserve and protect the tiger species since its designation as a totally protected species under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010. Notable initiatives include:

Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT)

Established in 2003, this serves as a platform for information exchange and collaboration among conservation partners.

National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia (NTAP)

Established from 2008 to 2020, it aimed to secure viable tiger populations in Malaysia. However, while it focused on ecological corridors, it received insufficient private sector participation.

First National Tiger Survey (NTS1)

conducted from 2016 to 2020, revealed a tiger population of fewer than 150 individuals.

Save Our Malaysian Tiger campaign

Started in 2019 and ran until end-2020. The campaign collected funds with a significant contribution from the private sector.

NRES and PERHILITAN initiated a significant 10-year conservation effort from 2021 to 2030 including the establishment of the **National Tiger Conservation Task Force (MyTTF)** chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister with Task Force members representing heads of state governments and relevant key agencies of the government.

The Strategic Actions for the Conservation of Malayan Tiger (2021-2030) was developed with nine main initiatives:

- Enhance enforcement and patrolling or boots on the ground.
- Strengthen the Special Protected Area Response Team or SPARTA as a special tactical team for addressing Malayan Tiger conflict.
- Improve the preservation and conservation of Malayan tiger habitats.
- Establishment of the National Tiger Conservation Task Force or MyTTF chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister of Malaysia.
- Establishment of a dedicated Tiger Conservation Unit under the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.
- Establishment of the Wildlife Crime Bureau under the Malaysia Royal Police.
- Strengthen the National Wildlife Forensic Laboratory under the Department of Wildlife and National Park.
- Provide financial incentive to Tiger Range States.
- Improve the management of Malayan Tiger habitat through an accreditation scheme.

Comparatively, key learnings from four other tiger range countries were documented where success in those countries include the importance of key themes such as identifying tiger corridors, prey management, law enforcement, transboundary cooperation, research, and public awareness in the success of tiger conservation initiatives.



Menraq ranger Safian Latif sets up a camera trap to monitor the movement of Malayan tigers or, potentially, poachers.

SECURING THE FUTURE OF MALAYAN TIGERS: A FUNDING FRAMEWORK (2023 – 2025)

The Funding Plan for the Conservation of Malaysian Wild Tigers for 2023-2025 was developed following consultations with stakeholders during the aforementioned Tiger Conservation Roundtable in July 2022.

It has set direction until 2025 and emphasises alignment with the National Policy on Biological Diversity (2016-2025) and its key principles for biodiversity management in Malaysia.

The policy emphasises five key principles, namely:



- 1 The importance of treating biological diversity as a national heritage to be conserved for future generations
- 2 The need for precautionary measures to mitigate biodiversity loss, even in the absence of full scientific certainty
- 3 Shared responsibility across all sectors of society for biodiversity conservation

- 4 Good governance, marked by accountability and transparency, as crucial for effective biodiversity conservation
- 5 Participatory planning and management of biodiversity

These principles provide a foundation for the implementation of the National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia.



Implementation Framework

An implementation framework covering three key areas was also developed for the policy, namely:

- Alignment with the National Policy on Biological Diversity (2016-2025), focusing on biodiversity management principles as highlighted above.

- A 'whole-of-society' approach, emphasising the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration for effective Malaysian tiger conservation, involving various groups like governments, NGOs, indigenous communities, youth, business, and academia.

- Monitoring and review of the Action Plan's progress, with every organisation reporting against what has been prioritised based on each other's mandate and processes.



The effective conservation of the Malaysian wild tiger requires a concerted, collaborative effort from all stakeholders. This section outlines the current efforts, future plans and funding spent or required by the government, relevant authorities and NGOs involved in tiger conservation.



A snippet of the terrains that RIMAU's Menraq rangers have to maneuver, whether wet or dry, during their 2-week patrols.

NRES and PERHILITAN

For an effective Malaysian tiger conservation, collaboration is required between the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES) and its Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), with the wider conservation NGO in the landscape.

NRES focuses on policy development and securing support for the federal budget. Their initiatives, presented during the Tiger Conservation Roundtable, encompass enforcement, conservation, research, and public awareness. Key activities include forest monitoring and patrolling to combat poaching. Although 3,200 rangers are needed for effective patrolling, budget constraints have limited this to 800 rangers. An additional RM 52 million per year is required to meet the full quota.

Under the conservation theme, NRES plays a vital role in gazettement protected forest reserves and planning viaducts to facilitate genetic flow between tiger populations. However, funding for enhancing incentives to Tiger Range States is lacking. The Ecological Fiscal Transfer (EFT) scheme, which discourages commercial use of ecologically important forests, requires RM 184 billion, but only RM 70 million was allocated in Malaysia's 2021 Budget.

PERHILITAN, the implementing government agency of NRES's initiatives responsible for the enforcement, conservation and protection of biodiversity in Peninsular Malaysia, collaborates with NGOs for field monitoring of tiger activities, including WWF, WCS, Pelindung, and Rimba.

Among several key initiatives carried out:

- A pilot tiger survey in Taman Negara (2010-2015), costing RM300,000. It identified 15-20 tigers within a substantial Taman Negara area.
- The first National Tiger Survey (2016-2020) with a budget of RM18.7 million revealed less than 150 Malaysian tigers within the vast 40,000 km² Central Forest Spine.
- An ongoing monitoring program in the Titiwangsa Range National Landscape (2021-2025) with an estimated budget of RM35 million for continuous camera trapping. Specific findings are pending.

Key challenges involve funding for essential equipment, logistics, tiger traps, ranger salaries, campaign materials, and training.

Pertubuhan Pelindung Alam Malaysia (Pelindung)

Pelindung's efforts centre on the vast Taman Negara-Banjarnan Titiwangsa (TNBT) area, which they've further divided into specific regions. Their key activities involve close monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, and ranger training.

Pelindung's extensive work includes:

- Tiger and Wildlife Monitoring: Utilising camera traps and wildlife sign surveys to track tiger populations and wildlife trends.
- Community Engagement: Running awareness programs tailored to local stakeholders, such as Orang Asli communities and plantation workers.
- Mitigation Programs: Focusing on conflict mitigation strategies to foster positive perceptions of tiger conservation in the area.
- Collaborative Operations: Providing support to initiatives like Operasi Bersepadu Khazanah (OBK) for joint operations and intelligence.

The organisation also expanded their reach to the Greater Taman Negara Landscape, recognising the importance of lowland areas. This holistic approach ensures that their conservation efforts are both broad and impactful.

Pelindung: Funding Requirements 2023-2025

Pelindung's funding requirements for 2023 to 2025 are dedicated to several critical conservation areas. These areas include the Perias-Balah Forest Plot, Ulu Jelai Forest Plot, Batu Talam-Lentang Forest Plot, Taman Negara Forest Plot, and Greater Taman Negara (Pahang). The total amount needed for these areas for the next 3 years amount to RM 69,388,546.10.

Pelindung's funding allocations are categorised to support various aspects of conservation efforts. This includes providing necessary field equipment for ranger teams, equipment and utilities for ranger posts, operational costs, and data processing for field stations. Additionally, funding will be allocated for long-term monitoring of tigers and wildlife, including the acquisition of equipment for wildlife monitoring. A portion of the funding will also cover project management and administration fees.

RIMAU

Persatuan Pelindung Harimau Malaya (RIMAU) is an NGO dedicated to the preservation of the Malayan tiger with the aim of saving the Malayan tiger and its habitat from the brink of extinction. RIMAU's vision is to ensure that the Malayan tiger is valued as a critical part of Malaysian and world heritage. RIMAU looks to develop partnerships to secure the survival of the Malayan tiger and works with local community in the landscape to conserve and patrol tiger habitats in Royal Belum, Aman Jaya Forest Reserve and Korbu Forest Reserve in Perak.

Ongoing projects:

- From 2021 to 2024, Yayasan Sime Darby contributes RM1,200,000, supporting patrolling, training, and a community education and public awareness (CEPA) program in Royal Belum State Park.
- From 2021 to 2023, Yayasan Hasanah enhances collaboration between RIMAU with the Perak Forestry Department, focusing on establishing, training, equipping patrolling teams, and creating a basecamp in Aman Jaya.

Forest Reserve

- Yayasan Hasanah's Special Grant of RM855,000 from 2021 to 2023 continues to fuel patrolling efforts in Royal Belum, covering equipment, insurance, training, and the promotion of the MENRAQ patrol unit.
- Billplz's contribution of RM154,000 supports VETOA's patrolling in the Korbu Forest Reserve.

RIMAU: Funding Requirements 2023-2025

RIMAU empowers and deploy Orang Asli patrollers in Royal Belum, Aman Jaya and Korbu and supports the patrolling of Community Rangers (formerly known as Veteran and Orang Asli (VETOA) assigned to them from PERHILITAN.

These operational areas are crucial for RIMAU's core activities, which include tiger and wildlife monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, and awareness programs aimed at the Orang Asli and local communities. In total, the funding needs for these areas from 2023 to 2025 amount to RM 17,262,800.00, ensuring that RIMAU can continue its efforts to protect the Malayan tigers and their habitat.

WWF Malaysia

WWF Malaysia focuses its conservation efforts on the alluring landscapes of Belum-Temenggor, Korbu, and Royal Belum State Park. In conjunction with other NGOs, their activities encompass camera trapping, continuous monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, and community engagement. Notably, WWF Malaysia goes the extra mile by actively seeking Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) certification, making Royal Belum State Park the first in Southeast Asia to be nominated.

In recent years, WWF Malaysia has received substantial financial support:

- In 2019, Maybank, its network and the public allocated RM 4,770,000.00 to assist initiatives such as camera trapping, anti-poaching patrols, CA|TS management, community engagement, and land use analysis.
- In 2020, they obtained RM 4,000,000.00 from Maybank, its network and the public supporting activities like re-monitoring camera traps, anti-poaching patrols, CA|TS assessment, community engagement, and ongoing camera trapping.
- In 2021, contributions from from Maybank, P&G, their networks, and the public reached RM 3,160,000.00. These funds aided camera trapping, re-monitoring, anti-poaching patrols, CA|TS assessment, community engagement, and preliminary results.

WWF Malaysia: Funding Requirements 2023-2025

WWF Malaysia directs its funding towards several vital areas dedicated to the conservation of Malayan tigers. These regions encompass the Temengor Forest Reserve, Amanjaya Forest Reserve, Korbu Forest Reserve, Royal Belum State Park, and Gunung Basor-Stong Utara. The total funding required for the next three years amounts to RM 13,561,600.

In addition to these specific allocations, WWF Malaysia designates RM 140,000 between 2024 and 2025 for activities related to Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS) that are not associated with the aforementioned areas.

The core activities undertaken by WWF Malaysia in these regions encompass tiger and wildlife monitoring, ecological linkage survey and monitoring, and capacity building for the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (CA|TS). These activities are integral to the broader efforts aimed at conserving the Malayan tigers in the specified regions, ensuring their long-term survival and protection.



L to R: Menraq rangers Safian Latif, Sufian Raman, Fahmi Jali and Ardi Kembong

PRIORITY ACTIONS: FUTURE OUTLOOK AND STRATEGY (2023 – 2025)



Based on the analysis carried out on existing stakeholders' activities, a strategic roadmap has been developed for 2023 to 2025.

This roadmap emerges from careful analysis and collaboration with key stakeholders. The priorities encompass specific spatial zones and activities, an appraisal of financial requirements, and potential funding sources.



Priority Spatial Areas

Two sets of focal areas beckon attention. Firstly, the current areas where NGOs are actively involved—Taman Negara-Banjaran Titiwangsa (TNBT) and the Main Range—take precedence. For TNBT, designated zones include Perias-Balah Forest Plot, Ulu Jerai Forest Plot, Batu Talam-Lentang Forest Plot, Taman Negara Complex, and the expansive Greater Taman Negara. The Main Range highlights Temengor Forest Reserve, Amanjaya Forest Reserve, Royal Belum State Park, Korbu Forest Reserve, and Gunung Basor-Stong Utara.

Secondly, prospective areas are a focal point. Analysing land use maps obtained from Pelan Induk Rangkaian Ekologi Central Forest Spine (PIRECFs) sheds light on how nearby plantations and land-use zones may impact these areas. Notably, forest fragmentation arising from agricultural activities is concerning, as it intersects with potential Malayan tiger habitats. Consequently, these areas should be central to spatial planning. Moreover, interviews reveal that northern Banjaran Titiwangsa, particularly the Belum-Temengor-Amanjaya forest plot, has seen more conservation efforts, making it essential to balance efforts by focusing on the southern parts.

Priority Activities and Initiatives

The array of priority activities and initiatives falls under distinct categories. Operations, monitoring, and enforcement take the lead, involving anti-poaching patrols, capacity building (including training), monitoring and mitigation programs for human-tiger conflict, land-use monitoring, and support for Operasi Bersepadu Khazanah (OBK). Communication, Education, and Public Awareness (CEPA) campaigns play a vital role, encompassing awareness and educational efforts. The blueprint includes other significant endeavours such as accrediting forest reserves under CA|TS and rehabilitating designated areas.

Funding Gaps and Requirements

Through collaborative discussions with key NGOs, namely Pelindung, RIMAU, and WWF Malaysia, we unveil funding gaps in their priority areas. It is vital to note that these funding gaps solely represent the needs of these three NGOs, and not the entire spectrum of tiger conservation efforts. A consolidated glimpse into the total funding required for monitoring and patrolling activities in the areas managed by these NGOs from 2023 to 2025 tallies up to RM101,025,696.10.

This strategic roadmap, built on careful analysis and collaboration, forms a critical blueprint for ensuring the Malayan tiger's preservation in coming years.

Existing and Potential Funders for 2023 to 2025

In years to come, securing adequate funding is imperative to support the conservation of the Malayan tiger. To ensure that the necessary financial resources are available, it's evident that a broader spectrum of potential donors and funding sources must be engaged. This will enable the sustainable execution of crucial conservation actions.

Within the government sector, collaboration between NRES and PERHILITAN (Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia) is pivotal. Their involvement could significantly contribute to the financial support required for the tiger conservation initiatives.

In the private sector, there exist a range of potential funding sources to explore. Foundations like Yayasan Sime Darby contributed 1.84 million from 2017 to 2020 and pledged RM 5.3 million between 2021 to 2024. The Maybank Foundation contributed RM 5.37 million from 2017-2021 and also pledged RM 1.45 million from 2022 to 2023. Additionally, the CIMB Foundation and Yayasan Petronas are potential contributors. Collaborations with plantation and timber companies, as well as various corporate entities, are also avenues for financial support.

Furthermore, engaging on an international scale is essential. Seeking support from prominent international grants and donors such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), World Bank, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) holds significant promise. These international entities can provide substantial funding for conservation initiatives.

This diversified approach to securing funding sources ensures a multi-faceted strategy for achieving the critical conservation goals set for 2023 to 2025. By engaging these stakeholders strategically, the protection of the Malayan tiger can be safeguarded effectively.



RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ENHANCED TIGER CONSERVATION

Drawing upon the insights of this comprehensive study, a series of recommendations emerges to strengthen stakeholder capabilities in the realm of Malayan Tiger Conservation. These actions are poised to further bolster the ongoing efforts to protect this iconic species.



Enhanced Sustainable Funding

To ensure a sustainable stream of funding, a pivotal step is to broaden the engagement with potential donors. Convening a "Funding Roundtable" will facilitate open communication with these stakeholders, clearly articulating the financial needs required to support the extensive spectrum of Malayan tiger conservation endeavours.



Targeted Funding Allocation

A nuanced approach to funding distribution is proposed, taking into account the specific areas under patrolling. This recognition is based on the observation that there's an uneven distribution of patrollers per hectare within the Central Forest Spine (CFS) landscape. Areas with smaller sizes necessitate higher patroller density compared to their larger counterparts.



Regular Collaborative Dialogues

A recurring mechanism for dialogue among stakeholders is recommended. Annual "roundtable discussions" should be held to pinpoint emerging areas in tiger conservation that require supplementary funding and support. This adaptive approach ensures that efforts are consistently aligned with evolving needs.



Enhanced Coordination

The synergy among all stakeholders is paramount. Effective coordination mandates regular reporting and updates on activities, resource or funding requirements, and shared insights.



NGOs' Accountability

NGOs are encouraged to provide periodic updates to the relevant funders and stakeholders, reflecting the status of initiatives, encountered challenges, and lessons learned.



Centralised Reporting

Aggregating the information received for organised reporting, and subsequently disseminating the information to donors/funders and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), builds greater accountability.



These recommendations collectively reinforce the commitment to safeguarding the Malayan tiger. With over RM 100 million funding requirements from 2023 to 2025, it is evident that financial support is crucial. However, funding alone is not the only answer. It can be rendered inefficient if resources are not allocated strategically and effectively.

Understanding the multifaceted nature of environmental conservation is essential; it's not just about protecting the tigers, but their prey and habitats too. Continuous learning and assessment are required to ensure that conditions are well-understood, and initiatives are modified to adapt to pressing needs.

By enhancing funding strategies, fine-tuning allocation, fostering regular dialogue, and strengthening coordination, these actions are set to invigorate the conservation landscape, ensuring the Malayan tiger's rightful place in Malaysia's rich biodiversity.



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