



Funded by the European Union



# CASE STUDY

## Malaysia

Community members join force with law enforcement officers to protect tigers at key source site and combat illegal wildlife trade

# 2019



@WC&S

## Partners against Wildlife Crime

### Abstract

The project aims to disrupt illicit supply chains of wildlife from source to market by leveraging civil society partnership to increase the effectiveness of Government action. To achieve this objective, the work in Malaysia focusses on enhancing tiger protection in a regionally important site, the Endau-Rompin Landscape (ERL). Project partners support multi-agency patrolling inside the National Park, and pilot innovative and collaborative initiatives such as community-led patrolling and key informant networking, which empower communities and help them to contribute in the protection of the biodiversity of their traditional lands. Partners also work on combatting the illegal wildlife trade online through the promotion of a secure wildlife crime hotline.

### Context

As its neighbors, Malaysia suffers from Asia's insatiable appetite for wildlife. In particular, the Endau-Rompin Landscape, one of three source sites in Malaysia where tigers still have a good chance of survival, is under great threat from poaching and extraction. Facing these threats, law enforcement agencies often lack manpower, equipment and experience in conducting anti-poaching operations strategically and efficiently. Meanwhile, local communities who feel the loss of biodiversity, are poorly engaged in anti-poaching effort, by lack of capacity, resource and trust with government entities. Nationwide, public awareness of illegal wildlife and exotic pet trade remains at a minimal level.

**Wildlife Crime Hotline**  
Hotline Hidupan Liar

019 356 4194 | [report@malayantiger.net](mailto:report@malayantiger.net)

Report wildlife crimes such as

- Illegal hunting or trade
- Keeping wildlife without a licence
- *Laporkan jenayah-jenayah hidupan liar*  
*Pemburuan atau perdagangan hidupan liar secara haram*
- *Menyimpan hidupan liar tanpa lesen*

Your identity will remain anonymous.  
*Identiti anda akan dirahsiakan.*

Info we need *Maklumat yang diperlukan*

- Location *Lokasi*
- Nature of incident *Jenis jenayah*
- Date & Time *Tarikh & Masa*
- Image *Gambar*

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Damping Galangan

Promotion of the Wildlife Crime Hotline @MYCAT

# Objectives

1

TO ENHANCE PROTECTION IN ENDAU-ROMPIN LANDSCAPE (ERL), A KEY SOURCE SITE FOR ENDANGERED TIGER IN MALAYSIA.

2

TO FORM AND SUPPORT THE DEPLOYMENT OF JOINT PATROL TEAMS TO DETECT AND PREVENT THREATS TO WILDLIFE AND HABITATS.

3

TO DEVELOP AND USE INTELLIGENCE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL INFORMANT NETWORKS AND THE PROMOTION OF A WILDLIFE CRIME HOTLINE.



Mr. Zul Sangka guiding his patrol team to a poaching hotspot @WCS

# Results

1

**152 PATROLS COMBINING MULTI-AGENCY AND COMMUNITY PATROLS** conducted mainly on foot and covering over 4,797 km. Patrolling performance received a major boost with the establishment of *Ops Bersepadu Khazanah (OPS)*, an improved system that focuses on deep-forest counter-poaching enforcement; it resulted in a 5-fold increase in the number of teams deployed and the capture of 20 nationals and foreigners arrested for various wildlife and forest crimes.

2

**OVER 200 INFORMATION/INTELLIGENCE REPORTS** recorded/received during patrolling both at source site and online; those reports were verified then shared with law enforcement agencies, resulting in some instances in law enforcement actions including seizure, arrest and prosecution.

3

**1 NEW NETWORK** formed, the Pan-Peninsula Incursion Analyst Network (PIAN) to share information and jointly improve field operation protocols and analysis methods.



Community patrolling on foot @WCS

# Testimonial

Mr. Zul Sangka is a villager from Kg. Peta, nearby ERL in Johor State. For over a decade he has observed increasing signs of poaching as he ventures in the forest to catch fish and frogs and collect other non-timber forest products. “We have to avoid certain areas as there are so many poachers from Malaysia but also Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam in the forest; we are worried that they may attack us as we hear some of them have firearms. We did not report to the authorities because they seldom took action. When they tried, they could not find them as they do not know the area well”. In November 2019, he participated in the first operation of the revamped patrolling system *Ops Bersepadu Khazanah*, after receiving training on how to conduct patrol and gather information on poachers. He continues: “I was glad to share my knowledge of the area and guide the teams to where the poachers were. I feel safe because there were armed personnel in the team. The patrol that I joined arrested a poacher and I am proud that my knowledge and skills led to the arrest. I hope there will be more operations like this in the future so the people of my community can look for forest products without worrying about our safety. I am excited to be involved in the patrols around my village because I am confident that, with the help of OBK, we will be able to arrest more people. With less poaching activity, there will be more wildlife and I believe it will benefit ecotourism in my village and provide alternative income for my livelihood”.



Picture from camouflaged camera trap set up at an entry point of ERL to capture incursion from poachers/transporters @WCS