



FACTSHEET

HALA-BALA – ROYAL BELUM TRANSBOUNDARY
CONSERVATION PROJECT INITIATION



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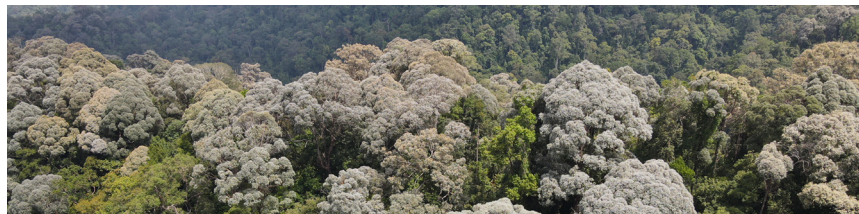
PROJECT BACKGROUND

Hala Bala Wildlife Sanctuary and **Bang Lang National Park** form part of one of the largest remaining intact forest landscapes on the Malay Peninsula, connected with Royal Belum State Park in Malaysia. This ancient tropical evergreen forest supports exceptional biodiversity, including the only known population of the Malayan tiger (*Panthera tigris jacksoni*) in Thailand, more than 300 bird species including 10 hornbill species, and is regarded as a forest of hope for the critically endangered Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*).



The ecological connectivity between protected areas across Thailand and Malaysia makes this landscape a vital Transboundary Conservation Landscape, where coordinated conservation efforts on both sides of the border can create significant positive impacts at the regional scale. Recognising its strategic importance, WWF is strengthening cross-border collaboration, scientific exchange, and conservation actions with partners in Malaysia.





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KEY INTERVENTIONS : STRENGTHENING MALAYAN TIGER AND BIODIVERSITY MONITORING

- Established 70 camera trap stations across Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary and Bang Lang National Park to monitor Malayan tigers and other key wildlife species.
- Camera locations were selected using SMART Patrol data and ecological indicators, including habitat suitability, prey abundance, connectivity, and forest integrity.
- Generated critical data on tiger populations and biodiversity to support evidence-based conservation management.
- Integrated Indigenous and local ecological knowledge to improve survey efficiency and access to remote forest areas.
- Strengthened collaboration with the Department of National Parks (DNP), Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary, Bang Lang National Park, and Hala-Bala Wildlife Research Station to support long-term wildlife monitoring and conservation.



KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: CONFIRMING MALAYAN TIGER PRESENCE AND SECURING LONG-TERM CONSERVATION SUPPORT

- Camera trap surveys confirmed the presence of at least 11 resident Malayan tigers across the Hala-Bala and Bang Lang forest landscapes.
- The findings provide strong scientific evidence of tiger persistence in southern Thailand and highlight the importance of the Hala-Bala-Bang Lang Forest Complex as a critical habitat for this globally endangered subspecies.
- Successfully secured long-term funding to support tiger conservation and biodiversity monitoring across the landscape.
- Funding will sustain camera trap surveys, SMART Patrol operations, ecological research, and evidence-based conservation planning.



NEXT STEPS

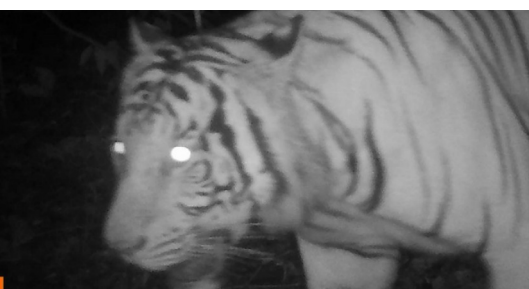


- Continue supporting the study, monitoring, and population assessment of the Malayan tiger and other key wildlife species across target areas.
- Ensure wildlife monitoring and survey activities are implemented according to the agreed collaboration plan.
- Provide appropriate and sufficient monitoring and survey equipment, considering local climate and terrain constraints.
- Supply essential operational equipment to support field staff in carrying out their duties effectively.
- Strengthen the capacity of protected area staff through training and skills development.
- Enhance the effectiveness of protected area management, wildlife protection, and law enforcement.
- Foster and coordinate transboundary conservation collaboration between the Hala-Bala Forest Complex and the Belum Forest Complex.
- Promote long-term biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of shared forest landscapes.



CHALLENGES: RESOURCE AND OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

- Funding and equipment for wildlife monitoring may be insufficient to support large-scale monitoring across a vast landscape.
- Survey sites are often remote and difficult to access, with some locations requiring 7-12 days of trekking.
- High-elevation areas (>1,000 m MSL), identified as important habitats for certain wildlife species, remain under-surveyed due to accessibility constraints.
- High humidity and heavy rainfall affect the performance and durability of camera traps and other field equipment. Equipment limitations and malfunctions can lead to data gaps and incomplete datasets in some survey areas.



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