



Protect the Most Important Forests Left for Tigers in Malaysia

Some of the oldest, most intact rainforests in the world are located on Peninsular Malaysia. These forests are the historic home to the Malayan Tiger and their prey, Sambar Deer and Gaur, as well as six other wild cat species, Asian Elephants, Gibbons, Hornbills and multitudes more.

Poaching, logging and exploitation of less-regulated forest areas threaten the abundant biodiversity in this landscape. **The population of the Malayan Tiger is down to approximately 150 individuals, making it one of the rarest tigers in the world.** We cannot allow its existence to be lost to poachers.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Panthera, seek \$1,850,970 to create the 332,541-acre Tembeling Protected Area to expand Malaysia's most important tiger stronghold, the greater Taman Negara National Park landscape. This expanded state park will bring new protection to 102,905 acres of forests and upgrade the protection status of the adjacent 229,636-acre Gunung Ais Forest Reserve where, despite logging restrictions, there is no on-the-ground protection against poaching. The existing network of high-quality, protected big-cat habitat includes the national park itself, Malaysia's first and largest, Kenyir State Park (another Rainforest Trust project) and other forest and watershed reserves.

This initiative is a major step forward in a 20-year strategy to save the entire central forest spine of Peninsular Malaysia—the largest remaining forest block in Malaysia—for threatened species. The new protected area wraps around the western and southern boundary of the Gunung Ais reserve. Our earlier 2018 project to create Kenyir State Park added 72,040 acres to tiger protection north of Taman Negara.

SUPPORT ANTI-POACHING PATROLS TO SAVE BIG CATS

The range of seven different wild cat species overlap here: Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Leopard Cat, Flat-headed Cat, Marbled Cat and the Asiatic Golden Cat—making it one of the most cat-species-rich areas on the entire planet.

Both Tiger and Leopard are targeted by poachers through the heavy use of snares. The snaring crisis occurring throughout Southeast Asia is driving severe declines in threatened species, and even non-target species within protected areas, due to the random nature of snares. This project will support a rigorous program of anti-poaching patrols in the expanded tiger park. Panthera staff will continuously evaluate wildlife protection measures and work with local governments, communities and other partners to elevate protections.



102,905
ACRES

\$1,850,970
PROJECT COST

\$17.99
COST PER ACRE

23,499,989 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

Malay Crestless Fireback (CR),
Helmeted Hornbill (CR),
Indochinese Leopard (CR),
Tiger (EN), Malay Tapir (EN)



Indochinese Leopard © Dome Pratumtong

PROTECT AN EXTRAORDINARY ARRAY OF MAMMAL SPECIES

Over 150 mammal species have been documented within the 1.4-million-acre contiguous Taman Negara forest complex. In addition to the cats, other species found in the new park include elephants, Sun Bear, Gaur, deer, Dhole, tapir and primates (like the Long-tailed Macaque), pangolins, otters and bats. The Malay Crestless Fireback, a ground-dwelling bird of the region, is Critically Endangered from decades of overhunting and habitat loss.

A new road was approved by authorities prior to this project's onset that will cross the northern portion of the new Tembeling State Park and Gunung Ais Forest Reserve. Although construction probably cannot be stopped, our partner and other stakeholders will advocate for a range of mitigation strategies, including restrictions on road use, imposition of a fee on users, and the creation of a wildlife crossing. This is especially critical since the virtually undisturbed, primary rainforest of Gunung Ais Forest Reserve is a carbon vault of global significance.



The project area © Amir Isqandar/Panthera

