



MEMO

July 29, 2024

TO: Editors and Journalists

RE: Rainforest Trust Celebrates International Tiger Day by working to save vital habitat for the Critically Endangered Malayan Tiger

This year on International Tiger Day, [Rainforest Trust is working to protect critical habitat in Malaysia](#) for the Malayan Tiger, one of the rarest tigers in the world.

The Malayan Tiger is Critically Endangered, found only on the Malay Peninsula and in the very southern tip of Thailand. It is estimated that less than 300 individuals remain in the wild. Peninsular Malaysia holds some of the world's oldest, most intact rainforests and is home to seven wild cat species, including the rare Malayan Tiger. These cats and other species are threatened by poaching, logging, and exploitation of less-regulated forest areas.

Rainforest Trust is working with partner Panthera to expand the existing network of high-quality, big-cat habitat by safeguarding 332,541 acres in Malaysia's most important tiger stronghold, the 1.4 million-acre greater Taman Negara National Park landscape. The new protections will be achieved with the creation of the 102,905-acre Tembeling Protected Area and upgrading the protection status of the adjacent 229,636-acre Gunung Aais Forest Reserve with on-the-ground safeguards against poaching.

Part of a 20-year strategy to save the entire central forest spine of Peninsular Malaysia for threatened species, the new protected area offers connections to Kenyir State Park, created by Rainforest Trust in 2018, and other forest and watershed reserves. Panthera and other stakeholders will also advocate for the need to restrict the uses of a proposed new road that will cross the northern portion of the protected area, where the virtually undisturbed, primary rainforest of Gunung Aais Forest Reserve is a carbon vault of global significance.

Peninsular Malaysia is one of the most cat-rich areas of the world. Seven wild cat species whose ranges overlap here include: Tiger, Leopard, Clouded Leopard, Leopard Cat, Flat-headed Cat, Marbled Cat and the Asiatic Golden Cat. Tiger.

Over 150 mammal species have been documented within the Taman Negara forest complex. In addition to cats, other species found in the new park include elephants, Sun Bear, Gaur, Sambar Deer, Dhole, Malay Tapir, Long-tailed Macaque, pangolins, otters and bats. Critically Endangered birds include the Helmeted Hornbill and the Malay Crestless Fireback, a ground-dweller that has suffered from decades of overhunting and habitat loss.

To limit threats posed by the proposed new road across the state park, Panthera and other stakeholders will advocate for creation of a wildlife crossing and will propose strategies to mitigate poaching, including restrictions on road use and imposition of a fee on road users.



To learn more about Rainforest Trust, visit www.rainforesttrust.org.

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About Rainforest Trust

Since 1988, Rainforest Trust has been safeguarding imperiled tropical habitats and saving endangered species by establishing protected areas in partnership with local organizations and communities. With its partners, Rainforest Trust has safeguarded more than 50 million acres of vital habitat across Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Asia-Pacific. Rainforest Trust is a nonprofit organization that relies upon the generous support of the public to successfully implement its important conservation action. The organization is proud of earning a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator. Learn more about the work of Rainforest Trust by visiting RainforestTrust.org, [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [LinkedIn](#).

