



GLOBAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM (GWP) MALAYSIA NEWSLETTER

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HIGHLIGHTS

1

Participants from across Global Wildlife Program countries, including Malaysia, convened in South Africa for the “Building Blocks for a Thriving Nature-Based Tourism Sector” workshop.

2

International Orangutan Day 2025 highlighted Sarawak’s conservation achievements, underscoring the state’s strong commitment to protecting the Bornean orangutan and safeguarding its rich biodiversity.

3

The 2025 Accelerated Integrated Implementation Approach (AIIA) Workshop united key partners and stakeholders to review progress and shape a strategic vision for future conservation efforts.




Prepared By
Project Management Unit
Global Wildlife Program
(GWP) Malaysia



Participants of the workshop, “Building Blocks for a Thriving Nature-Based Tourism Sector,” in iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa

NATURE-BASED TOURISM WORKSHOP IN ISIMANGALISO WETLAND PARK, SOUTH AFRICA




MKUZUE (June 3): A total of 62 participants from 22 Global Wildlife Program (GWP) countries, including Malaysia, gathered for a workshop titled “Building Blocks for a Thriving Nature-Based Tourism Sector.”

Organised in collaboration with South Africa’s Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) and the iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority, the workshop facilitated rich knowledge-sharing on sustainable tourism development in and around protected areas.

GWP Malaysia actively participated in the event, contributing regional perspectives and engaging in discussions to strengthen nature-based tourism strategies that benefit both conservation and local communities.

The workshop aimed to foster knowledge sharing and learning on developing commercially viable tourism around protected areas that delivers benefits for conservation and communities.





The aim of the workshop was to support countries in developing commercially viable nature-based tourism sectors that will create jobs and positively impact the economic development of local communities

Participants discussed their progress and plans to integrate nature-based tourism into development strategies. They also explored the design and implementation of tourism products and value chains that support job creation.

During the workshop, through an insightful Park tour, iSimangaliso showcased some of its attractive ten jewels and projects that are being implemented through the GEF funding. These projects include boats, boat replacement engines, safety equipment and snorkelling equipment that were bought for three concessionaires from Madlangula community.



iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority hosted the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Learning Exchange Workshop brought together government representatives working on nature-based tourism development



This field visit reflects GWP Malaysia's commitment to biodiversity protection, sustainable development and inclusive conservation in Sarawak

SITE VISIT TO GUNUNG LESONG, TAMAN NEGARA ULU SEBUYAU & TAMAN NEGARA SEDILU, SARAWAK

Kuching(June 25): As part of GWP Malaysia's ongoing efforts, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) recently conducted a site visit to Gunung Lesong, Taman Negara Ulu Sebuyau and Taman Negara Sedilu. The purpose of the visit was to assess the landscape's potential for conservation work and community-based engagement.

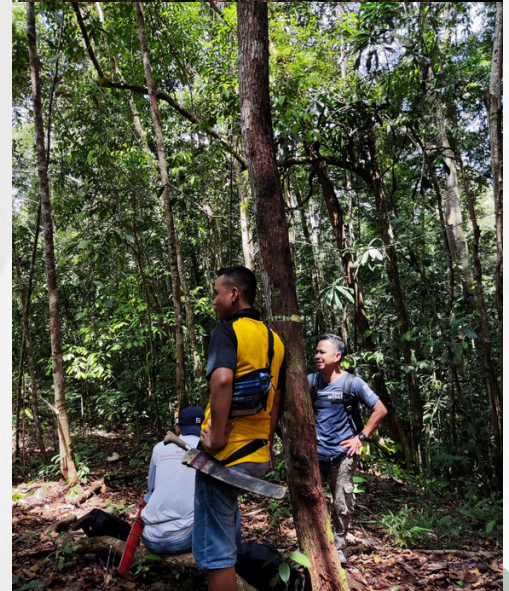
During the visit, the team observed and marked orangutan nests, an important step in monitoring population health and understanding habitat use. They also explored potential sites for community-led conservation and sustainable ecotourism initiatives, while assessing existing infrastructure to determine its readiness for future enforcement efforts and environmental education programs.

Biodiversity and habitat conditions were documented throughout the site, with particular attention given to ecological connectivity between the parks.

The visit also included engagement with nearby local communities to gauge their interest and readiness to participate in upcoming GWP initiatives.



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In collaboration with GWP Malaysia, PERHILITAN's National Wildlife Forensic Laboratory successfully hosted the Wildlife Forensic Basics Workshop No. 1/2025 for northern zone officers

PERHILITAN : WILDLIFE FORENSIC BASICS WORKSHOP NO. 1/2025

Gunung Jerai (July 7): The National Wildlife Forensic Laboratory, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), successfully organized the Wildlife Forensic Basics Workshop No. 1/2025, involving PERHILITAN officers from northern zone states.

The workshop introduced participants to the fundamentals of wildlife forensics from crime scene handling techniques, DNA sampling and evidence management to laboratory analysis procedures.

A special highlight was the session with the Royal Malaysia Police (RMP) on crime scene investigation, adding value to the training.

Through a mix of theory, hands-on practice and real-case simulations, this workshop strengthened the capacity for wildlife law enforcement and conservation of endangered species in Malaysia.



This effort reflects PERHILITAN's commitment to advancing forensic science as a vital tool in protecting the nation's biodiversity.

The workshop was carried out with full support under the Global Wildlife Program (GWP), in line with efforts to enhance institutional capacity in combating wildlife crime in an integrated and effective manner.

The Wildlife Forensic Basics Workshop combined theory, practical exercises and real-case simulations to boost enforcement capacity and support the conservation of endangered species in Malaysia



The workshop equipped participants with essential skills in crime scene handling, DNA sampling and evidence analysis to strengthen wildlife crime investigations



Mohd Soffian Bin Abu Bakar (Director, Sabah Wildlife Department), and Dr Rebecca Mary Malangking (Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment) hold the newly launched publications marking a key milestone in strengthening conservation strategies

SABAH UNITES FOR CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BANTENG

LAHAD DATU(Aug 10): Sabah held its inaugural Banteng Day with a community celebration aimed at raising awareness for one of Borneo’s most critically endangered species, the Bornean banteng.

The event brought together government officials, conservationists and local residents to highlight the plight of the estimated 325 remaining banteng in Sabah, which face threats from illegal hunting and habitat destruction.

“The banteng is a lesser known but ecologically vital species and raising public awareness about its conservation is crucial,” said Sabah Wildlife Director Mohd Soffian Abu Bakar during the opening ceremony.

Two significant conservation documents were launched during the event, namely, an updated mid-term review of Sabah’s Banteng Conservation Action Plan and a research manual for field monitoring of the species. Both aim to strengthen scientific approaches to protecting the banteng population

WWF-Malaysia Sabah Head of Conservation Dr Rebecca Jumin noted the collaborative nature of the conservation effort.

“The Bornean banteng is a symbol of Sabah’s rich biodiversity, and its protection requires strong collaboration between government, communities, and conservation partners,” she said.

The State Government revealed its participation in the Global Wildlife Program Malaysia, a USD 1.5 million initiative running from 2025 to 2028.



The Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) has announced its involvement in the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Malaysia, a USD 1.5 million initiative running from 2025 to 2028

Funded by the Global Environment Facility and managed by the United Nations Development Programme, the project will focus on conserving banteng habitat in the Greater Maliau Basin through population monitoring, enhanced patrols and community-based conservation programs.

Tabin Wildlife Reserve, identified as the last stronghold for the eastern banteng population, has become the focal point for conservation efforts involving habitat restoration, population monitoring and anti-poaching activities conducted by multiple agencies and conservation partners.



MG
Malaysia Gazette
20 OGOS 2025

**SFC terima peruntukan
RM2 juta dari GWP perkukuh
usaha pemuliharaan Orang
Utan**

Malaysia
MUHAIMIN M.

**GWP Malaysia Allocates
USD 479,436 to Support
Sarawak Forestry Corporation**

MAKKAL OSAI

மக்கள் ஒசை



International Orangutan Day 2025 was successfully featured in more than 20 news outlets, including regional and state media, significantly boosting public awareness.

INTERNATIONAL ORANGUTAN DAY 2025: MEDIA SPOTLIGHT ON SARAWAK'S CONSERVATION MILESTONES

KUCHING(Aug 19): Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Malaysia brought eight journalists, cameramen and photographers from five media agencies to help highlight International Orangutan Day 2025.

Media representatives from regional platforms joined the event, including Bernama TV, Malaysia Gazette, Free Malaysia TV, Makkal Osai and online portal Lobak Merah.

Held at the iconic Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, the event showcased Sarawak's strong commitment to protecting the Bornean orangutan and preserving its unique biodiversity.

The media also had the opportunity to gain deeper insights into the orangutan conservation efforts led by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC).

GWP Malaysia was also highlighted in a special media report, showcasing its collaboration with SFC and support for conservation efforts in Sarawak.



FMT
Delima, mangsa
korban cinta

234,000ha of total protected areas set aside for orangutan conservation
BY SAMUEL AUBREY ON AUGUST 20, 2025, WEDNESDAY AT 8:02 AM SARAWAK
For the freshest news, join The Borneo Post's Telegram Channel and The Borneo Post on Newswav.



MalaysiaGazette
MULIAHATI MAHAUWAN
ar kurang perhatian, GWP Malaysia gesa libat komuniti



CITRA
Sarawak terima RM2 juta
dari GWP untuk pulihara
orang utan
Sarawak Boosts Orangutan
Conservation Initiatives in
Conjunction with International Day
MAKKAL OSAI மக்கள் ஒசை



DATUK LEN TALIF SALLEH
Menteri Perancangan Bandar, Pentadbiran Tanah dan Alam Sekitar Sarawak



FMT
Lindungi hidupan liar
di Malaysia

BERITA SOSIAL
"Kalau orang utan pupus..." – Sarawak & GWP Malaysia Perkuh Pemuliharaan Orang Utan Di Sarawak
by Syazyiah Sharif
14 days ago
Share Tweet
1,000
KNOW MORE

In addition to covering the event, several media agencies produced their own feature stories on orangutan conservation to be published on their respective platforms



GWP Malaysia was also highlighted in a special media report, showcasing its collaboration with SFC and support for conservation efforts in Sarawak



Datuk Len Talif Salleh (Deputy Minister, Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment, Sarawak) and Abang Arabi Abang Aimran (General Manager, Sarawak Forestry Corporation) with officials during the launch of International Orangutan Day at Semenggoh Wildlife Centre, Kuching, Sarawak

LONG-TERM COMMITMENT REAFFIRMED TO PROTECT ORANGUTANS

KUCHING (Aug 20): Long-term plans are in place to protect the Bornean orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) in Sarawak.

Despite challenges such as high conservation costs and limited manpower in remote areas, Sarawak has embarked on an integrated approach combining habitat protection, law enforcement, scientific collaboration, and community participation.

At the launch of the International Orangutan Day 2025, the state government, through the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), reaffirmed its long-term commitment to protecting the species.

It highlighted new initiatives, strengthened partnerships, and community-led approaches that have helped maintain a stable orangutan population in the state.

The state's International Orangutan Day celebration was launched at the Semenggoh Wildlife Centre by Deputy Minister for Urban Planning, Land Administration and Environment Sarawak, Datuk Len Talif Salleh.

“The orangutan is a symbol of Sarawak’s natural heritage. Its survival depends on collective efforts from government policy and scientific research to the dedication of local communities,” said Len.

This year, Sarawak has set aside 234,335 hectares of land specifically for orangutan conservation, out of the one million hectares targeted for Totally Protected Areas (TPAs).

These protected sites now provide critical habitats that support nearly 2,000 wild orangutans, with the majority located in Lanjak Entimau and Batang Ai.

Among the designated areas are Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and its extension (182,983 ha), Batang Ai National Park and Extension (26,159 ha), Sedilu National Park (6,311 ha), Ulu Sebuyau National Park (18,287 ha), and Gunung Lesong National Park (595 ha).

Together, these landscapes ensure long-term survival of orangutans and other wildlife species.



Collaborations with the UNDP-GEF Global Wildlife Programme, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), WWF-Malaysia, and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) continue to focus on habitat conservation, wildlife crime prevention and sustainable community livelihoods

Conservation efforts in Ulu Sebuyau, Sedilu, and Gunung Lesong have been further strengthened under the Global Wildlife Programme (GWP) Malaysia, which now manages the three parks as a unified complex.

In 2025, GWP Malaysia allocated USD479,436 (RM2.03 million) to support SFC’s initiatives on boundary security, habitat protection, and community-inclusive recovery strategies.



The partnership between GWP Malaysia and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) aims to sustain a stable wild orangutan population in the region

GWP MALAYSIA TEAMS UP WITH SFC TO PROTECT ORANGUTANS, PUSHES FOR LOCAL INVOLVEMENT

PUTRAJAYA (Aug 19): Public awareness of wildlife conservation in Malaysia remains low, despite the country being one of the 38 nations participating in the Global Wildlife Program (GWP).

National Project Manager and Technical Advisor of GWP Malaysia, Norizal Khushairi, said that many people may recognize species like the orangutan, but still lack a deeper understanding of their ecological importance in maintaining ecosystem balance.

“I would say, in general, there’s still room for improvement in terms of public understanding regarding the impact and contributions of wildlife to the environment. For example, if the orangutan were to go extinct, there would certainly be consequences for the ecosystem, as each species plays a role,” he told reporters.



National Project Manager and Technical Advisor of GWP Malaysia, Norizal Khushairi, said that many people may recognize species like the orangutan, but still lack a deeper understanding of their ecological importance in maintaining ecosystem balance

He added that biodiversity-related issues, such as wildlife conservation, often receive less attention. “That’s why, through GWP, we are prioritizing awareness at the community level,” he said.

Norizal further highlighted that the partnership between GWP Malaysia and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) is a first of its kind, aimed at sustaining a stable wild orangutan population in the region.

“This project also emphasizes the role of media as a key channel to communicate conservation messages to the public, while also engaging local communities through initiatives such as the Community Conservation Area.

“For example, we could further promote local handicrafts and indirectly support orangutan conservation activities, especially in areas where nearby communities are already involved,” he added.



The partnership between GWP Malaysia and Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) aims to sustain a stable wild orangutan population in the region



The AIIA Workshop reaffirmed the collective commitment of all partners to strengthen delivery and ensure that GWP Malaysia contributes meaningfully to national and global biodiversity goals.

GWP MALAYSIA HOSTS THE ACCELERATED INTEGRATED IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH (AIIA) WORKSHOP 2025

BAYAN LEPAS (Sept 7): The Accelerated Integrated Implementation Approach (AIIA) Workshop 2025 was successfully held under the Global Wildlife Program (GWP) Malaysia, bringing together key partners and stakeholders to reflect on progress and set the course for future action.

Participating Responsible Partners (RPs) included the Royal Malaysia Police/Wildlife Crime Bureau (PDRM-WCB), Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), Sarawak Forestry Corporation and Sabah Wildlife Department. Each RP was given the opportunity to review the implementation and performance of the 2025 Annual Work Plan (AWP), allowing them to assess their progress and commitments.

The session also involved identifying Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT), highlighting priority areas that require attention and building alignment towards an integrated implementation plan.

In addition, the partners worked collaboratively to finalise the AWP 2026, incorporating lessons learned, field insights and emerging strategic priorities.

A key highlight was a presentation by PERHILITAN titled “Wildlife Trade and Trafficking”, which outlined current challenges in wildlife crime, enforcement mechanisms, relevant legislation and ongoing operational efforts.

The workshop concluded with a resolution session led by the Deputy National Project Director, YBrs. Dr. Khairul Naim bin Adham reinforcing the shared commitment to integrated conservation, effective enforcement and community-based action.



The discussions highlighted both the progress achieved and the systemic challenges that need to be addressed for sustainable impact.

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