

WildCats interim (mid-year) Reporting Form

This report will be made public. If it contains confidential or sensitive information, please also provide a revised report for sharing with the public.

Section I. Project Information	
Project Title: STRENGTHENING STABLE COLLABORATION FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE SUMATRAN TIGER WITH CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP GROUPS, PREACHERS AND GOVERNMENT	
Grantee Organisation: Lingkar Inisiatif Indonesia	
Location of project: Kerinci Seblat National Park and its surroundings in North Bengkulu and Lebong Regencies, Bengkulu Province and North Muli Rawas Regency, South Sumatra Province.	
Size of project area (if appropriate):	No of tigers and / or Amur leopards in project area, giving evidence & source:
Partners: <i>(Please give details of partners, including communities, academic institutions etc. for this project.</i> 1. The Leaders and Executive of the Indonesia Islamic Scholars Council (MUI) Lebong and North Bengkulu District; 2. Management Units (UPT) of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) - Kerinci Seblat National Park Authority and Bengkulu Unit for Conservation of Natural Resources (KSDA); 3. Lebong District Forestry Service; 4. Fauna and Flora Tiger Protection & Conservation Units (TPCU); 5. Lebong District Police Authority; 6. Local Community Religious Leaders, other Forest edge Community Leaders and Youth Groups.	
Project Contact Name: <i>(main contact via email)</i> Iswadi	
Email: iswadi.limgkarinstitut@gmail.com	
Actual start date of project: 01 February 2026 - 31 January 2027	
Reporting period: February - July 2026	

Section II. Project Progress
Summary of progress for the first 6 months:

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During the February–July 2026 reporting period, Lingkar Inisiatif implemented a range of community engagement, conservation monitoring, intelligence, and institutional coordination activities to strengthen Sumatran tiger conservation in and around Kerinci Seblat National Park.

Community awareness activities integrating MUI Fatwa No. 04/2014 with Sumatran tiger conservation education were conducted in three target villages, reaching 146 participants, approximately 30% of whom were women. The activities increased community knowledge of tiger conservation, the protected status of wildlife, and mechanisms for reporting suspected hunting and illegal wildlife trade. Religious leaders, community leaders, women’s groups, youth, village authorities, and forest-edge communities were encouraged to serve as partners in community-based early warning and reporting.

As part of Global Tiger Day 2026, Lingkar Inisiatif conducted a series of activities under the theme “Connecting Spaces, Saving Lives,” including a snare-removal patrol, Conservation Talk, public competitions, nature exploration, and media outreach. The campaign was further expanded through an RRI Bengkulu broadcast on 29 July 2026, increasing public exposure to messages on tiger conservation and community participation.

Field protection efforts included 9 SMART Patrols, covering 44 patrol days and 195 km. Patrols recorded 8 tiger signs/observations and evidence of a diverse assemblage of priority wildlife, including elephants, Malayan tapirs, sun bears, clouded leopards, and other protected species. These data provide important evidence for identifying areas of high conservation value, detecting threats, and prioritising future patrols and monitoring.

Field intelligence confirmed that poaching and illegal wildlife trade remain significant risks, although some indications suggest reduced visibility of trade at the local trader level. Reports from Jambi, Bengkulu, and South Sumatra indicate that illegal activities may be becoming more concealed and adaptive. Several allegations related to tiger poaching, possession and trade, and planned snaring were identified and are undergoing further verification. These findings reinforce the importance of continued SMART Patrols, community reporting, targeted investigations, and monitoring of wildlife trade through digital and social media platforms.

Institutional coordination with Kerinci Seblat National Park was also strengthened through three face-to-face meetings, as well as participation in monthly online coordination with PHS/TPCU. Coordination focused on sharing field results, planning activities, and strengthening joint responses to conservation threats. Lingkar Inisiatif also worked with KSNP Region III and the Tiger Heart community group to establish a joint organising committee for Global Tiger Day.

Overall, the reporting period strengthened the foundation for Sumatran tiger conservation through an integrated approach combining community awareness, religious engagement, field protection, intelligence gathering, public outreach, and institutional collaboration. The results provide a stronger basis for early detection of threats, community participation, and more targeted conservation responses in the next reporting period.

Details of activities and results to date:

1. Intensive socialization of FATWA MUI No. 04/2014 in six villages in Lebong and North Bengkulu districts identified by the project team where active hunting and trade in protected wildlife occurs

During the February–July 2026 reporting period, Lingkar Inisiatif conducted community awareness activities integrating MUI Fatwa No. 04/2014 on the Preservation of Endangered Wildlife to Maintain Ecosystem Balance with education on Sumatran tiger conservation. Activities were conducted in three target villages: Semlako Village, Lebong Regency; Suka Maju Village; and Suka Baru Village, North Bengkulu Regency, reaching a total of 146 participants. Participation included 48 people in Semlako, 56 in Suka Maju, and 42 in Suka Baru, with approximately 30% of participants being women.

The activities engaged religious leaders, women’s groups, community leaders, village government representatives, youth, and forest-edge communities. Key topics included the protected status of the Sumatran tiger, threats from hunting and illegal wildlife trade, the importance of prey species such as

deer, and relevant religious and national legal provisions for wildlife protection. The MUI Fatwa was used to reinforce the message that protecting endangered wildlife is not only a legal obligation but also a moral and religious responsibility.

Pre- and post-training assessments indicated increased participant knowledge of Sumatran tiger conservation and its protected status. Participants also gained a better understanding of the importance of reporting suspected hunting, snares, possession or trade of protected wildlife, and other activities potentially linked to wildlife crime.

To strengthen community participation in wildlife protection, participants were encouraged to report information directly to Lingkar Inisiatif or through religious leaders, community leaders, and village authorities. Information received is recorded and subject to initial verification, including the location, timing, species involved, and nature of the reported threat. Where appropriate, verified information can be followed up through coordination with conservation authorities, village government, and law enforcement agencies, depending on the nature and urgency of the case. Communities were also advised not to directly confront suspected offenders.

Overall, the activities have strengthened community knowledge and awareness and begun to establish local communities and religious networks as partners in detecting and preventing threats to Sumatran tigers and their prey. The participation of approximately 30% women also helped broaden the reach of conservation messages within households and communities. Increased knowledge, support based on religious values, and improved reporting channels provide a foundation for earlier detection and more effective responses to hunting and illegal wildlife trade. Further socialisation in the remaining target villages and continued strengthening of the community reporting and follow-up mechanism will be undertaken in the next reporting period.

2. Regular informal meetings with Indonesia Council of Islamic Scholars (MUI) leaders in Lebong and North Bengkulu districts regarding progress made and actions required or recommended.

During the February–July 2026 reporting period, Lingkar Inisiatif and the North Bengkulu Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI) held two coordination meetings to strengthen their partnership in implementing faith-based conservation activities. The meetings focused on target villages, outreach materials, resource persons, and plans for continued collaboration.

During the coordination process, MUI North Bengkulu informed Lingkar Inisiatif that it plans to undertake an organisational leadership transition in the coming months. MUI expressed its expectation that the transition would not affect the partnership already established and that collaboration with Lingkar Inisiatif on Sumatran tiger and wildlife conservation could continue and be strengthened under the new leadership.

MUI also proposed expanding the faith-based conservation approach by engaging religious leaders from different faith communities and developing a Conservation Da'i network to extend conservation messages through religious activities and community networks.

Overall, the two coordination meetings strengthened the institutional relationship between MUI North Bengkulu and Lingkar Inisiatif and established a foundation for the continued implementation of faith-based conservation. MUI's commitment to maintaining the partnership through the upcoming leadership transition is an important step toward ensuring the sustainability and longer-term impact of community and religious engagement for Sumatran tiger and wildlife protection.

3. Commemoration of Global Tiger Day

In commemoration of Global Tiger Day 2026, Lingkar Inisiatif implemented a series of activities under the theme “Connecting Spaces, Saving Lives” to increase public awareness and engagement in Sumatran tiger conservation. The activities included a snare-removal patrol in the Seblat Landscape (North Bengkulu–Mukomuko), a Conservation Talk, public competitions, nature exploration, and media outreach.

On 29 July 2026, Lingkar Inisiatif was also invited as a resource speaker on Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI) Bengkulu through the Bengkulu Menyapa programme, with the theme “Protecting the Sumatran Tiger Ecosystem.” The programme provided an opportunity to reach a wider public audience with information on the ecological importance of the Sumatran tiger, threats to its habitat, and the importance of community participation in protecting tiger ecosystems. This media engagement helped extend the reach of the campaign beyond the direct participants of the Global Tiger Day activities.

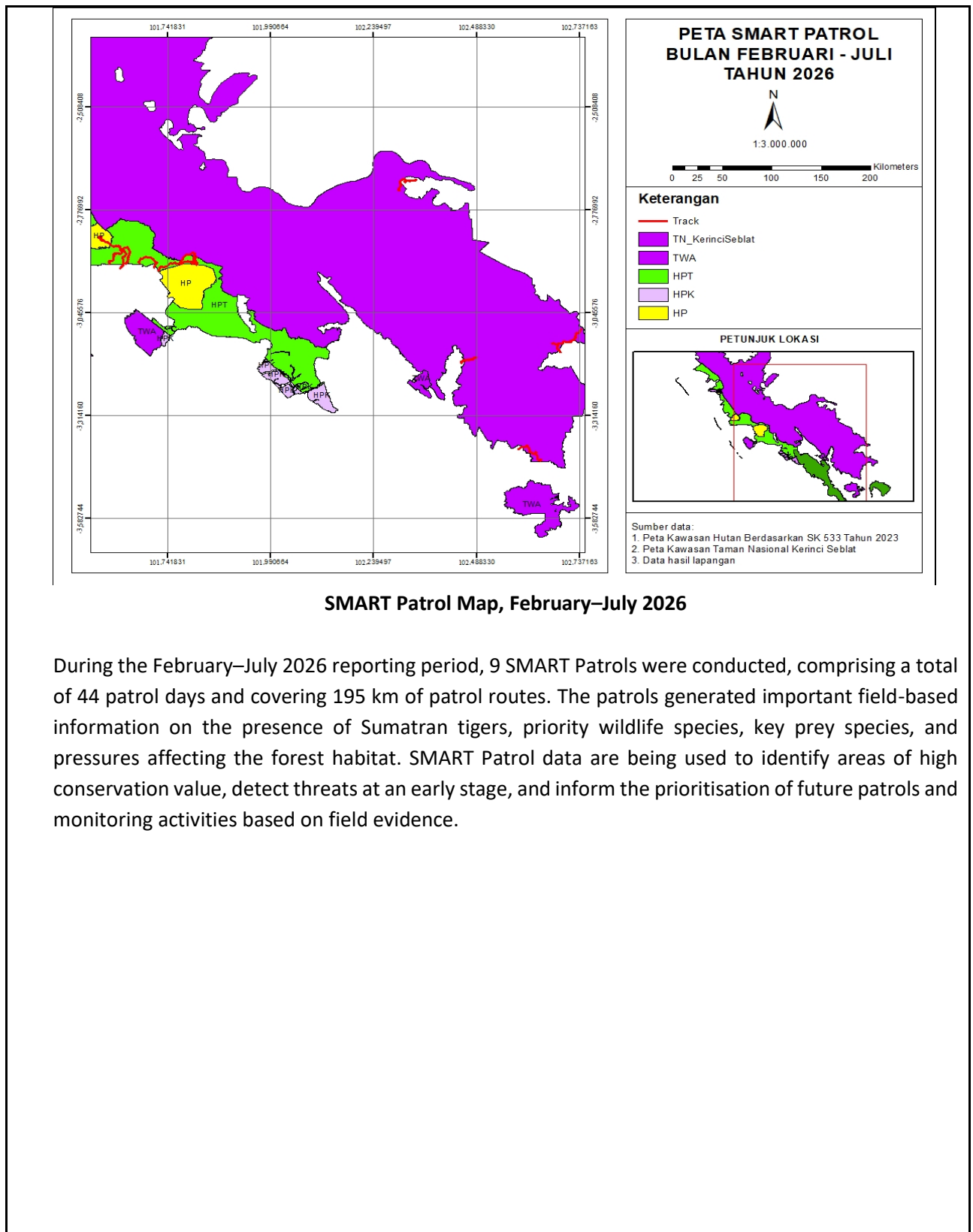
The Snare Removal Patrol was conducted from 29 July–3 August 2026 in the Seblat Landscape. Three teams, each consisting of six personnel, participated in the patrol. The activity focused on identifying and removing snares and other hunting threats in tiger habitat, contributing directly to reducing risks to Sumatran tigers and their prey.

The Conservation Talk, held on 31 July 2026, provided a forum for information exchange, education, and discussion on environmental and wildlife conservation. Key issues discussed included the decline of wild tiger populations, threats from poaching, habitat degradation, and the importance of collaborative action to protect tiger habitats.

A series of public competitions and nature activities was also organised at the Madapi Forest Nature Tourism Area, Rejang Lebong Regency, including poster design, creative video, colouring, solo singing, and nature exploration. These activities involved children, youth, and adults and provided accessible platforms for conservation education and creative expression. Participants were encouraged to develop greater awareness of the importance of protecting Sumatran tigers and their habitats.

Overall, Global Tiger Day 2026 combined direct conservation action, public education, creative engagement, and media outreach. The activities helped increase public awareness of the importance of Sumatran tiger conservation, broaden the reach of conservation messages through media, and strengthen community participation in protecting tigers and their habitats.

- 4. Regular SMART forest foot patrols, pre-planned or information-led, by collaborative rapid response patrol units focused to detecting and reducing threats to tigers, tiger prey and habitat with a target of 18 SMART patrols, each lasting an average six days, and covering a total distance of >500Km over the project period.**





Wildlife Species	Direct Wildlife Encounters	Wildlife Signs	Dead Wildlife	Survey Results
Babi Hutan - Sus scrofa	1	2		
Baning Cokelat - Manouria emys	1			
Beruang Madu - Helarctos malayanus		6		
Elang	1			
Gajah Sumatera - Elephas maximus		15		
Harimau Sumatera - Panthera tigris sumatrae		8		

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Kijang Muncak - Muntiacus muntjak		2		
Kuau Raja - Argusianus argus		12		
Kucing Kuwuk - Prionailurus bengalensis		1		
Landak - Hystrix spp		1		
Macan Dahan - Neofelis diardi		1		
Monyet Ekor Panjang - Macaca fascicularis	9			
Musang	1			
Pelanduk Kancil - Tragulus kanchil		1		
Rangkong		7		
Rangkong Badak - Buceros rhinoceros	8	6		
Rangkong Gading - Rhinoplax vigil		2		
Rusa Sambar - Rusa unicolor		5		
Siamang - Hylobates syndactylus	2	19		
Tapir Asia - Tapirus indicus		9		

Wildlife Sightings Table, February–July 2026

The presence of key Sumatran tiger prey species was also confirmed, including 5 sambar deer, 2 muntjac, 2 wild boar, and 1 lesser mouse-deer. These records indicate that the area continues to provide important prey resources for Sumatran tigers. However, patrol teams also documented 3 indications of hunting using glue traps, demonstrating that pressure on wildlife remains present. If left unaddressed, such hunting could reduce prey availability and potentially affect habitat suitability and the carrying capacity of the area for Sumatran tigers. Maintaining prey populations is therefore an important component of sustaining viable tiger habitat.

In addition to threats to wildlife, SMART Patrols documented 45 records of pressures on the forest area, of which 34 were related to unauthorised or inappropriate land use. At least 151 hectares were identified as being under use, including approximately 104 hectares of oil palm plantations and 14 hectares of coffee cultivation. Patrol teams also recorded 2 indications of illegal logging involving approximately 6 m³ of processed timber, 5 huts/shelters/camps, and 1 motorcycle, indicating continued human access and activities within the protected area. These findings demonstrate that the tiger habitat continues to face multiple and interacting pressures, including wildlife hunting, land encroachment, forest conversion, illegal logging, and human activities within the forest.

Overall, the SMART Patrol results provide two important findings for conservation management. First, the continued detection of Sumatran tigers, Sumatran elephants, priority wildlife, and key prey species demonstrates that the area retains significant ecological importance and should remain a conservation priority. Second, the continued detection of hunting, land use, forest clearing, logging, and other human activities demonstrates that the ecological function of the area remains under significant pressure and requires sustained monitoring and targeted management responses.

The SMART Patrol data will be used to support evidence-based conservation decision-making, particularly in identifying priority areas, increasing patrol frequency in locations where high conservation value overlaps with significant threats, monitoring the continued presence of Sumatran tigers and their prey, and strengthening follow-up actions on suspected hunting and other illegal activities in coordination with the protected-area management authority and relevant partners. This approach enables limited patrol resources to be directed more effectively towards locations and threats requiring the greatest level of intervention.

As a result, SMART Patrol is contributing not only to the collection of patrol and biodiversity records, but also to a more targeted and adaptive protection system. By linking field evidence with patrol planning and follow-up actions, the programme strengthens the early detection of threats and provides the evidence required to maintain habitat quality, protect tiger prey populations, and support the long-term persistence of the Sumatran tiger population.

5. Wildlife crime investigations and data sharing with partners to build knowledge of threats and sources of threat facing wild Sumatran tiger and to support advancing information secured to wildlife crime law enforcement by TPCUs or others where evidence is available.

During February–July 2026, field intelligence collected across Jambi, Bengkulu, and South Sumatra indicates that Sumatran Tiger poaching and illegal trade remain significant risks, despite signs of reduced trading activity among some local traders. In Jambi, one wildlife trader reported that he had not purchased Sumatran Tiger skins for approximately two years, citing increasing difficulties in marketing wildlife products and greater risks associated with illegal wildlife trade. This indicates a possible reduction in activity at the trader level, but does not demonstrate that wider illegal trade networks have ceased.

In Bengkulu, reports of Sumatran Tigers entering or approaching human settlements indicate that human–tiger interactions continue in areas bordering tiger habitat, requiring continued monitoring and field verification.

In Musi Rawas, South Sumatra, a human–tiger conflict in February 2026 resulted in the death of a farmer. Subsequent information indicated that the victim and several associates had allegedly installed snares targeting Sumatran Tigers in TNKS before the incident, and that two tiger skins had allegedly been sold previously. These allegations remain subject to further verification. In another village, following a conflict that resulted in the deaths of 17 buffaloes, information was received concerning a group of hunters allegedly planning to set snares. This information is being treated as intelligence and an early warning, rather than as a confirmed poaching incident.

In S Village, intelligence indicated the alleged involvement of three individuals in poaching and the suspected possession of a female Sumatran Tiger skin measuring approximately 140 cm. Information also indicated that a person reportedly acted as a possible financier and was said to be associated with the village government. The identities, roles, and involvement of those concerned remain under investigation and have not been treated as confirmed cases.

Overall, the findings demonstrate that reduced visibility of wildlife trade does not necessarily mean reduced poaching risk. Illegal activities may be becoming more concealed and adaptive, increasing the importance of field intelligence, community reporting, and digital monitoring.

The findings reinforce the need to maintain and strengthen SMART Patrols, community-based early warning systems, targeted field investigations, monitoring of illegal wildlife trade through social media, and coordination with TNKS management and law enforcement agencies.

6. Regular meetings with Kerinci Seblat National Park Authority to prepare plans and agree actions required to securing the national park conservation area.

During the reporting period from February to July 2026, Lingkar Inisiatif maintained regular coordination with Kerinci Seblat National Park (KSNP) to support the effective implementation of conservation activities. A total of three face-to-face coordination meetings were held with KSNP officials, including the Head of the Technical Division and the Head of KSNP Region III.

In March 2026, Lingkar Inisiatif coordinated with the Head of the Technical Division of KSNP. During the meeting, the Head of the Technical Division requested that Lingkar Inisiatif join the monthly online coordination meetings with the PHS/TPCU team. These meetings provide an opportunity to present progress and results from activities implemented during the previous month and to share plans for activities in the following month. This coordination mechanism has strengthened communication, improved activity planning and alignment, and supported closer coordination between Lingkar Inisiatif, PHS/TPCU, and KSNP.

During May and June 2026, the team also coordinated with the Head of KSNP Region III to prepare for the Global Tiger Day celebration, scheduled for late July 2026. As part of these preparations, Lingkar Inisiatif, the Tiger Heart community group, and KSNP Region III established a joint organizing committee to coordinate the planning and implementation of the event.

The Global Tiger Day celebration was planned to take place at the MADAPI Forest Tourism Area in Rejang Lebong Regency. The event aimed to increase public awareness of Sumatran tiger conservation, promote community engagement, and strengthen collaboration among government agencies, conservation organizations, community groups, and other key stakeholders. Through these coordination efforts, the project has contributed to strengthening institutional collaboration and shared ownership of Sumatran tiger conservation initiatives.

Give details of any obstacles to success that the project has encountered over the last 6 months

During the first six months of the reporting period, the implementation of the planned activities proceeded effectively and without any significant operational constraints. All activities were implemented as planned and within the established timeframe, enabling the team to achieve the intended outputs in accordance with the agreed work plan and implementation schedule

Budget
Media:

1. Kematian Gajah dan Harimau, Amankah Koridor Satwa di Bentang Alam Seblat
<https://mongabay.co.id/2026/05/18/kematian-gajah-dan-harimau-amankah-koridor-satwa-di-bentang-alam-seblat/>
2. Gajah Harimau Mati, Menhut Didesak Segera Ubah Hutan Seblat Jadi Suka Marga Satwa
<https://rri.co.id/bengkulu/regional/2393894/gajah-harimau-mati-menhut-didesak-segera-ubah-hutan-seblat-jadi-suaka-margasatwa>
3. Gajah Harimau Mati, Menhut Didesak Segera Ubah Hutan Seblat Jadi Suka Marga Satwa

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- <https://regional.kompas.com/read/2026/05/06/183531878/gajah-dan-harimau-sumatera-mati-di-bengkulu-pemerintah-didesak-cabut-izin>
4. Lingkar Inisiatif Dorong Kenaikan Status Bentang Alam Seblat jadi Suaka Margasatwa
<https://gardaanimalia.com/lingkar-inisiatif-dorong-kenaikan-status-bentang-alam-seblat-jadi-suaka-margasatwa/>
 5. Desakan Selamatkan Bentang Alam Seblat Menguat, Pasca Kematian Gajah dan Harimau
<https://apakabar.co.id/lingkungan-hidup/desakan-selamatkan-bentang-alam-seblat-menguat-pascakematian-gajah-dan-harimau/>
 6. Kenapa Bentang Alam Seblat Harus Dijadikan Suaka Margasatwa
<https://www.tempo.co/lingkungan/kenapa-bentang-alam-seblat-harus-dijadikan-suaka-margasatwa-2134086>
 7. Menteri Kehutanan Diminta Ubah Seblat Jadi Suaka Margasatwa
<https://www.betahita.id/berita/12051/menteri-kehutanan-diminta-ubah-seblat-jadi-suaka-margasatwa>
 8. Penertiban Perambah Hutan Bentang Seblat Bengkulu tak Tuntas, Gajah dan Harimau Sumatera Akan Terus Jadi Korban
<https://kanopihijauindonesia.or.id/penertiban-perambah-hutan-bentang-seblat-bengkulu-tak-tuntas-gajah-dan-harimau-sumatra-akan-terus-jadi-korban/>
 9. Global Tiger Day, Lingkar Inisiatif dan Tiger Heart Intensifkan Patroli
<https://rri.co.id/bengkulu/regional/2607392/global-tiger-day-lingkar-inisiatif-dan-tiger-heart-intensifkan-patroli>
 10. Tiger Heart dan Lingkar Inisiatif Gelar Beragam Lomba Peringati Global Tiger Day
<https://rri.co.id/bengkulu/regional/2605530/tiger-heart-dan-lingkar-inisiatif-gelar-beragam-lomba-peringati-global-tiger-day>
 11. BENGKULU MENYAPA I MENJAGA EKOSISTEM HARIMAU SUMATERA I EDISI 29 JULI 2026
<https://www.youtube.com/live/nJoOhQe-tr0>