



Singapore
Wildcat
Action
Group

The SWAG Report

Singapore Wildcat Action Group (SWAG)

Instagram: [@swag.cat.sg](https://www.instagram.com/swag.cat.sg)

The SWAGGER newsletter: <https://swagcat.substack.com>

Website: <https://www.swagcat.org>

SWAG was founded in 2019 by people who believe that ordinary citizens can make an extraordinary difference for wildcats. We are driven by a passion for wildcat conservation and hold a special love for the Malayan tiger and the leopard cat.

Our Co-Founders

Dr. Vilma D’Rozario, a nature educator and wildlife activist for over 20 years, advocates for wildlife and wild habitats through her volunteer work with NGOs, wildlife working groups, and government agencies.

Carmen Pang, a former award-winning journalist, now dedicates her time and energy to advocating for nature and wildlife.



SWAG campaigns for meaningful action that helps us achieve our mission of building grass-root support for wildcat conservation, raising funds to protect the world’s last 150 Malayan tigers living in the wilds of Malaysia, and increasing public awareness of the leopard cat in Singapore.

As a volunteer-led organisation, our work is powered by people who give their time, skills, energy and passion because they believe wildcats deserve a future. We don’t want people to simply donate and walk away. Our aim is to bring people closer to conservation.

We take supporters into the story through sharing what we learn, introducing them to the people doing the work and showing how their support translates into action on the ground.

Conservation works best when we work together. Our partnerships are built on trust, transparency and shared purpose. As we work closely with our conservation partners, we can see the challenges, celebrate the successes and understand where support is most needed.

From Singapore, For Wildcats

SWAG may be based in Singapore, but our conservation journey reaches far beyond our shores. Our volunteers have walked tiger forests in Malaysia, joined anti-poaching surveillance patrols, planted trees to restore habitats, worked alongside indigenous communities, and helped raise funds for frontline conservation.

At the same time, we continue to learn about and advocate for Singapore’s own wildcats — the elusive and critically endangered leopard cats that survive in our increasingly urbanised landscape.

The challenges facing a leopard cat in Singapore and a tiger in Malaysia may look very different, but both depend on people caring enough to act.

The Leopard Cat in Singapore

Changi Coast leopard cats documentary

In 2025, SWAG conducted a ground-up conservation study along the Changi Coast to investigate the presence of mainland leopard cats in Singapore, triggered by a series of public sightings in 2024 and a leopard cat roadkill incident near Changi Naval Base in 2019.

With support from the National Parks Board (NParks), SWAG launched a rapid field survey from mid-July 2025 to end-April 2026 to establish if leopard cats inhabit the area, the number of individuals and their habits, and inform potential strategies for ensuring their long-term survival.

18 motion-sensor trail cameras were installed along the coast. We faced a number of challenges in the area due to construction works, difficult seaward access, and tricky navigation through thick vegetation. Volunteers often navigated these difficult landscapes while carrying equipment, installing cameras, and returning regularly to check and maintain them.

By April 2026, the survey had documented five leopard cats. The first leopard cat recorded was an adult female named Bulat in August 2025. She became the key confirmation that mainland leopard cats were still present along the Changi Coast. *One of the most memorable moments came when the team discovered footage of a leopard cat kitten. The volunteers described screaming with excitement upon seeing the young leopard cat.* The team followed Bulat through two successful pregnancies (Budak and Lima) and observed her raising kittens despite the pressures of habitat disturbance and urban development. Bulat's survival and reproductive success gave hope that the Changi Coast population may still have a future despite its vulnerability.



SWAG hopes this project will inspire greater public interest in leopard cat conservation and encourage long-term monitoring initiatives along the Changi Coast and other suitable habitats in Singapore. We also aim to contribute to the development of a future Species Action Plan for mainland leopard cats to help guide conservation strategies.

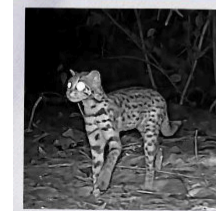
We are grateful to NParks' for their support, Dr Marcus Chua for his expert guidance, Dawn Kua for generously sponsoring the camera traps and supporting the documentary production, and all the volunteers who helped with installing, monitoring and analysing the camera traps!

Note: NParks plants to relocate the leopard cats to other suitable habitats.

Bulat

- first leopard cat recorded in survey
- key confirmation of mainland leopard cats' presence
- attentive and capable mother

- evidence breeding was occurring in the area
- her survival and reproductive success give hope that Changi Coast population may have a future despite vulnerabilities

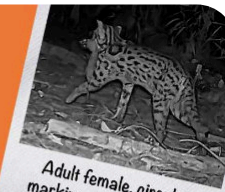


Adult male, M-shaped marking on left shoulder

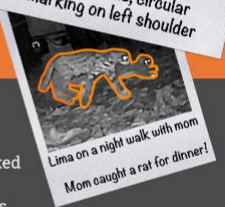
Asli

- unusually relaxed and confident around cameras
- scent-marking the area associated with territory establishment and communication

- regular appearances across multiple sites suggested he ranged widely along coastline



Adult female, circular marking on left shoulder



Lima on a night walk with mom
Mom caught a rat for dinner!

Pulau

- slimmer and more energetic than the other adults
- frequent scent-marking

- repeated appearances contributed to understanding of how multiple leopard cats may coexist within the same coastal landscape



Juvenile female, circular marking on right shoulder



Adult male, skull-shaped marking on right flank

Budak

- first recorded with Bulat at ~six weeks old

- playful, energetic, highly curious
- increasingly independent and confident



Tigers Need Our Help

The Malayan tiger is extinct in Singapore and critically endangered across Peninsular Malaysia. The remaining tigers face a combination of threats: shrinking and fragmented habitats, poaching, snares and the illegal wildlife trade. Protecting tigers therefore means protecting much more than individual animals.

It means keeping forests intact.

It means supporting rangers who spend weeks on foot in remote forests.

It means working with communities who live alongside wildlife.

And it means making it harder for organised wildlife criminals to operate.

No single organisation can do all of this alone. That is why SWAG puts our trust in partnerships. We support organisations whose work complements one another — from boots-on-the-ground protection of tiger forests to the investigation and prosecution of wildlife crime.

And we don't just raise funds from Singapore. Where possible, our volunteers go into the field, walk the forests, meet the people doing the work and learn from our partners firsthand. This makes our fundraising personal.

We know the people behind the work. We understand the challenges they face. And we have seen their commitment up close.

A Tiger Does Not Survive Alone

Its future is shaped deep in the forest — in the quiet work of rangers, in the strength of communities living alongside wildlife, and in the choices of people who refuse to let it disappear. From monitoring Singapore's elusive leopard cats to supporting frontline tiger conservation in Peninsular Malaysia, SWAG brings people together across borders to protect wildcats and the places they call home.

Today, we are honoured to work alongside three outstanding conservation partners: Malaysian Conservation Collective, RIMAU, and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. Each works at a different part of the conservation challenge. Together, they help protect tiger landscapes, support the people who patrol them, restore habitats, engage communities and tackle the illegal wildlife trade that continues to threaten Asia's wildcats.



Global Tiger Day 2026 at Pos Yum Village

Singapore Tiger Week 2023



Our Partners

Malaysian Conservation Collective

The Malaysian Conservation Collective (MyCC) works alongside government agencies, indigenous communities and conservation partners to safeguard and restore some of Malaysia's most important tiger landscapes in Pahang. Its rangers and volunteers patrol more than 300 km² of forest across the Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor and the newly established Cadu patrol area. Their work is demanding and often takes place far from roads and infrastructure. Patrol teams search for signs of illegal activity, deactivate snares, gather information and monitor the forest for threats to tigers and other wildlife.



MyCC's Mat and Alex with indigenous Orang Asli community rangers at a ranger appreciation event

The people behind the mission

Led by Alex Jack, the team is deeply committed to protecting the Malayan tiger. They invest not only in protecting forests, but also in the welfare, training and development of their rangers. Despite limited resources, they continue to achieve extraordinary results through passion, perseverance and collaboration.

SWAG supports MyCC through fundraising, awareness and hands-on conservation. MyCC generously shares its knowledge with us and keeps us involved in its conservation work while our members join MyCC on anti-poaching surveillance walks and habitat restoration activities, experiencing firsthand what it takes to protect a tiger landscape.

RIMAU

In Perak, RIMAU works to secure a future for the critically endangered Malayan tiger through frontline protection, community partnerships, education and outreach. Their work recognises something fundamental to successful conservation: People and wildlife must be able to thrive together.

RIMAU supports frontline patrollers, works with communities living alongside tiger landscapes and builds awareness among the next generation. Over the past two years, we have helped fund a community ranger, celebrated Global Tiger Day and World Ranger Day alongside the RIMAU team, and partnered on The Tiger's Forest, a series of art workshops with Temiar children.



Lara, Harun and indigenous Orang Asli community rangers at Global Tiger Day 2026 celebrations

The heart behind everything they do

Lara Ariffin, Harun Rahman, the rangers and the entire RIMAU team give their all to support tiger conservation. Their sincerity — *keikhlasan* — and deep respect for indigenous communities shine through every project.

They listen. They build trust. They involve communities rather than simply speaking for them. And they inspire young people to care about wildlife and their forests.

TRAFFIC Southeast Asia

A tiger may be protected by a ranger in the forest, but that is only one part of the battle against illegal wildlife trade.

To tackle wildlife crime, we need intelligence, research, strong policies, and effective law enforcement along with prosecutors who have the knowledge and tools to bring wildlife criminals to justice.

This is where TRAFFIC makes an extraordinary difference. Working with governments, enforcement agencies and conservation partners across the region, TRAFFIC helps strengthen the fight against wildlife crime through research, intelligence, capacity building and policy. Their work helps uncover the scale and nature of wildlife trafficking and equips those on the frontlines with the knowledge and skills needed to disrupt it.



Kanitha (fourth from right) and Elizabeth (third from left) with SWAG & friends, dinner 2024

The people behind the work

Kanitha Krishnasamy and Elizabeth John inspire us with their perseverance and determination to confront wildlife crime, often against enormous odds. Beyond conservation, they have taught us the importance of courage, integrity and never giving up.

Malaysian Conservation Collective

Protecting the forest one patrol at a time

More than conservation partners, they have become our trusted friends.



TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
Because protecting tigers doesn't stop in the forest



Every patrol matters.

A removed snare can save a life.

A piece of intelligence can help prevent poaching.

A ranger's presence can deter illegal activity.



RIMAU

Protecting tigers by strengthening communities

Through the years, SWAG has expanded our wildlife conservation network around the region.
[Read our stories here.](#)

SWAG-tivities

SWAG regularly conducts outreach activities to promote wildlife conservation and spread awareness about Southeast Asia's biodiversity:

- information booths eg. Singapore's Annual Biodiversity Festival
- storytelling, interactive activities and games for kids
- film screenings
- conferences, seminars and webinars
- media interviews
- walking tours eg. Leopard Cat QUEST @Ubin (page 8), Trek for Tigers (page 8), Tiger Ruck SWAG Edition



Volunteer
with SWAG

2023: Convened **Singapore Tiger Week** bringing Singapore and Malaysia together to discuss tiger conservation and find solutions to combat illegal wildlife trade

2024: Hosted **SWAG
x Catmosphere:
Catwalk**

From 2025: Partnered with RIMAUI and The Tiger's Forest to run **art workshops for children of indigenous rangers in Pos Yum village.**

2025: Conducted fundraising and awareness campaigns for **TRAFFIC's Protecting Wildcats from Trade & Trafficking (PACT) programme** (page 8)



From 2025: SWAG and TTF also run art workshops for schools in Singapore

From 2025: Teamed up with Ruck Republic for annual **Tiger Ruck SWAG Edition**

Leopard Cat QUEST @Ubin

Increasing biodiversity awareness

The QUEST takes participants on a nighttime walk around Pulau Ubin's rustic kampong lanes and forested areas to look for the glint of the leopard cats' eyes, and hopefully also encounter the greater mousedeer, common palm civet, sleeping birds and butterflies, foraging fruit bats, snakes, mangrove wildlife and more. [Sign up for the next QUEST](#) for a unique adventure and learn more about Singapore's extensive biodiversity.



Protecting Wildcats from Trade & Trafficking (PACT) programme

Combatting illegal wildlife trade

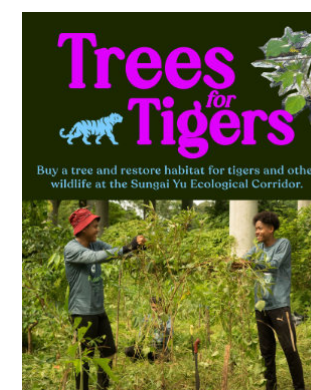
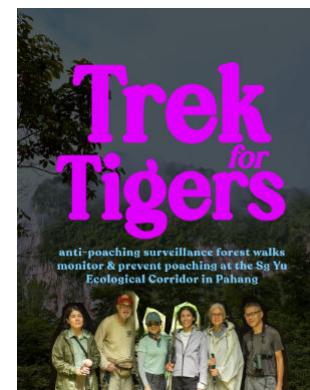
Asian wildcats, such as tigers, leopards, and clouded leopards, are threatened by poaching and illegal trade. Despite ongoing efforts to protect them, populations of these species continue to decline due to rampant trafficking of their body parts. To enhance their protection, particularly in Malaysia, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia has launched the PACT project to strengthen enforcement agencies' and prosecutors' capacity to combat wildlife crime. [Read more about the PACT project.](#)



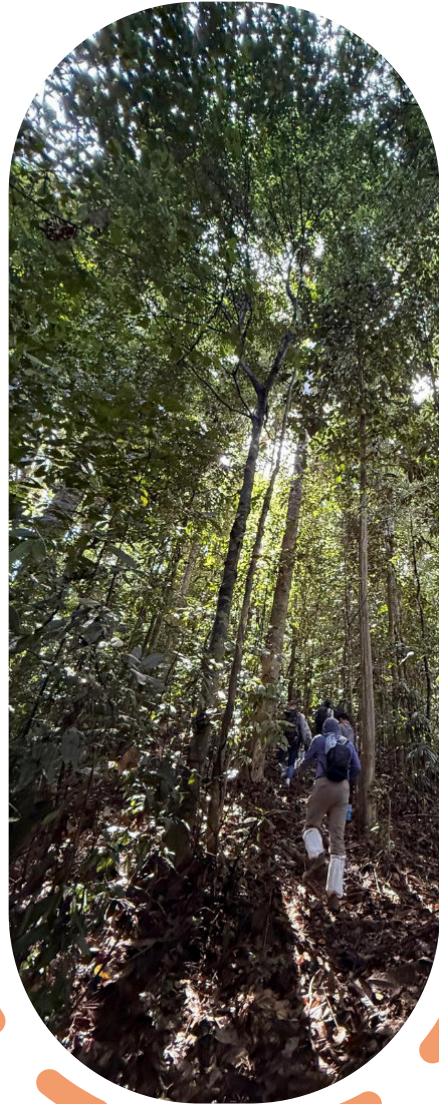
Trek For Tigers & Trees for Tigers

Citizen action for conservation

Trek for Tigers is a 3-day citizen conservation programme in support of Malayan tigers at the Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor in Merapoh, Pahang ([provisional itinerary and optional extended activities](#)). Experienced guides bring volunteers on anti-poaching surveillance forest walks followed by a hands-on habitat restoration for wildlife activity, Trees for Tigers, where volunteers plant saplings together with the local community. [Sign up to start your conservation journey.](#)



2024 - YTD 2026



Trek for Tigers

Trees for Tigers



2024

- **Anti-poaching surveillance walks:**
14 groups | 92 volunteers
- **Leopard Cat QUEST @Ubin:** > 200 participants
- **Donations & pledges**
over SGD25,000 to MYCAT¹

¹ Prior to 2025, SWAG partnered with conservation group MYCAT to conduct CatWALK Plus anti-poaching surveillance walks in Merapoh, Pahang.

2025

- **Anti-poaching surveillance walks:**
3 groups | 18 volunteers¹
- **Leopard Cat QUEST @Ubin:** > 200 participants
- **Donations & pledges**
 - SGD30,000 to PACT project
 - SGD1,000 to Small Wildcat Conservation Foundation
 - ~SGD14,000 to RIMAU

¹ MyCC took over conservation activities in the same location in 2025 and led its first Trek for Tigers trip in August 2025.



Scorpion moult fluorescing blue under UV light

SWAG Annual Fundraiser 2025



YTD 2026

- **Anti-poaching surveillance walks:**
9 groups | 46 volunteers (179 trees planted)
- **Leopard Cat QUEST @Ubin:** 65 participants
- **Donations & pledges**
Information will be updated in Dec 2026



The future of the Malayan tiger will not be decided by one organisation, one government or one country. It will be shaped by thousands of decisions made by people who choose to care and to act.

Your support can help keep rangers in the forest.

It can help restore habitats.

It can help communities become conservation partners.

It can help strengthen the fight against wildlife crime.

And ultimately, it can help give the Malayan tiger and Asia's wildcats a fighting chance.

Your contribution will help with:

Frontline Protection

Supporting anti-poaching patrols and the people who protect tiger landscapes.

Habitat Restoration

Helping restore degraded forest habitats that wildlife depends upon.

Community Conservation

Supporting meaningful engagement, education and partnerships with communities living alongside tiger forests.

Fighting Wildlife Crime

Supporting efforts to strengthen enforcement and prosecution of illegal wildlife trade.

Singapore's Wildcats

Continuing research, monitoring, public education and conservation action for Singapore's native leopard cats.

[Click here to support SWAG's conservation work with our partners in 2027](#)

Protect wildcats

Protect forests

Support the people who protect them

Support SWAG

Together, we can turn action into impact!





Photo credits (by page):

1. SWAG co-founders - SWAG
2. Changi Coast leopard cat survey volunteers - SWAG
3. Global Tiger Day - Amparo Espadas, Singapore Tiger Week - SWAG
4. Ranger appreciation event - MyCC
5. Global Tiger Day - Vilma D'Rozario, TRAFFIC with SWAG & friends - SWAG
6. SWAG & MyCC - Vilma D'Rozario, SWAG & RIMAU - Harun Rahman, TRAFFIC presentation - SWAG
7. Drawing for the Planet
8. Leopard Cat QUEST @Ubin - SWAG, Trek for Tigers - Vilma D'Rozario
9. Trek for Tigers - Brice Li, Trees for Tigers - MyCC, moulting scorpion - Jamie Wong, Hajat Fundraiser - SWAG, artwork - Pearlyn Sim
10. Artwork - Pearlyn Sim
11. Festival of Biodiversity - Rosie Zeng, Vilma D'Rozario; Tiger Ruck - Amparo Espadas, Vilma D'Rozario; Trek for Tigers - Brice Li; blue-winged pitta - Anika Udayakumar; leopard cats of Changi Coast discussion - Amparo Espadas; NTU Biodiversity Week Exhibition - SWAG; Little Tiger storytelling - Vilma D'Rozario; Earth In Focus film festival - Earth In Focus & Wild Space; PACT fundraiser - SWAG

