

SPECIAL ADDRESS BY HRH THE REGENT OF PAHANG
ON ESTABLISHMENT OF
AL-SULTAN ABDULLAH ROYAL TIGER RESERVE
06 DECEMBER 2023 | MALAYSIA PAVILION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I stand before you today at the COP28 with a mission of utmost importance.
2. Today, I speak not just as the Regent of Pahang but as an advocate for the majestic Malayan Tiger, an animal that symbolises our shared heritage and a vital part of our natural ecosystem.
3. The establishment of the Pahang Royal Wildlife Sanctuary, named the Al-Sultan Abdullah Royal Tiger Reserve, marks a pivotal chapter in our conservation efforts.
4. The Malayan Tiger, a magnificent creature that epitomises strength and power, is unfortunately facing the grave threat of extinction.
5. This animal, proudly featured on both Malaysia and Singapore's national crests, is now critically endangered due to illegal poaching and habitat destruction.
6. From a robust population of over 3000 tigers in the 1950s, we are now left with fewer than 150 in the wild.
7. This alarming decline is a result of relentless poaching and a significant loss of habitat, driven by our quest for development and economic growth.
8. Recognising the gravity of the situation, the Malaysian government has launched comprehensive measures to protect this iconic species.
9. The National Tiger Survey, a detailed study conducted across Malaysia's dense jungles, has shed light on the stark reality of the Malayan Tiger's predicament.

10. In response, we have mobilised a nationwide effort involving various agencies, including the Royal Malaysian Police, the Forestry Department, and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.
11. This collaborative initiative, aimed at curbing poaching and preserving the tiger's habitat, is a testament to our commitment to saving the Malayan Tiger.
12. In the heart of this nationwide effort is the Al-Sultan Abdullah Royal Tiger Reserve, a sanctuary spanning over 100,000 hectares.
13. This reserve is strategically located next to Taman Negara National Park, forming a contiguous protected area that is crucial for the Malayan Tiger's survival.
14. The reserve is not just a haven for the Malayan Tiger and other endangered species; it will also be a hub for conservation research and practices.
15. At the reserve, we are implementing world-class standards for habitat management and prey enrichment, which are essential for the Malayan Tiger's repopulation.
16. The establishment of this reserve also signifies our dedication to international collaboration in conservation efforts.
17. We are adopting global accreditation standards, such as the Conservation Assured Tiger Standards (or CATS) and the IUCN standards for protected and conserved areas, to ensure that our practices meet the highest international benchmarks.
18. Central to our strategy is the principle of collaborative partnership.

19. The complex endeavour of repopulating and ensuring the survival of the Malayan tiger requires a collective effort from government agencies, NGOs, private entities, and international partners.
20. No single organisation can shoulder this responsibility alone.
21. It is a multi-faceted approach that encompasses habitat management, anti-poaching efforts, research, and community engagement.
22. Our vision for the reserve includes not just the protection of the Malayan Tiger but also the development of facilities for re-wilding, captive breeding, and translocation efforts.
23. These initiatives are aligned with the national tiger recovery plan, underscoring our holistic approach to conservation.
24. Today, I invite all supporters, to join us in this critical mission.
25. The potential for research partnerships is vast, including studies on the co-benefits of the Malayan Tiger conservation to climate change mitigation.
26. The financial sustainability of the reserve is crucial.
27. We are exploring innovative mechanisms, including Public-Private Partnerships, to ensure the long-term viability of our conservation efforts.
28. The reserve's management model is designed to attract and facilitate these partnerships, blending conservation goals with financial sustainability.
29. We recognise that the Malayan Tiger is a treasure belonging to Malaysia and the world.

30. Its survival is a responsibility we all share.
31. The Malayan Tiger is a symbol of our natural heritage, and its extinction would be an irreplaceable loss to global biodiversity.
32. Ladies and gentlemen,
33. The task before us is monumental, but our resolve is steadfast. The establishment of the Al-Sultan Abdullah Royal Tiger Reserve is a significant step, but it is just the beginning.
34. We need global support, expertise, and commitment to turn the tide for the Malayan Tiger.
35. Let us come together, pooling our resources and knowledge, to ensure that the roar of the Malayan Tiger continues to echo through the jungles of Malaysia.
36. Let us work hand in hand to protect this magnificent species and preserve it for generations to come.
37. Thank you.