

Dato' Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim, Director-General, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN), Malaysia

The Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia, known as PERHILITAN, is placed under the authority of the Malaysian Ministry of Land, Water and Natural Resources (KATS). PERHILITAN focuses on wildlife conservation and manages national parks in Peninsular Malaysia. Dato' Abdul Kadir started his career in conservation when he first joined PERHILITAN in 1992. Throughout his 27 years in service, Dato' Abdul Kadir gained extensive experience from carrying out wildlife surveys, patrols and enforcement on the ground, often spending many months in a year, in the jungles of Malaysia. In 2016, Dato' Abdul Kadir was promoted as the Director-General, and drawing on his past experiences, he embarked on efforts to build up the Department's capacity to tackle poaching and illegal wildlife trade. Currently, PERHILITAN efforts are supported by strong political will by the Minister and the Malaysian government, to combat poaching and illegal wildlife trade. These efforts include national Programmes such as the inter-agency ground enforcement (Malaysia Biodiversity Enforcement Operations Network, MBEON; involving PERHILITAN, Royal Police Malaysia, Army and NGOs) and international collaborations with INTERPOL. The Malaysian government is now in the midst of reviewing the Wildlife Conservation Act (Act 716) and has recently launched a national public campaign on 'Save the Malayan tiger', in which the Prime Minister's wife is the patron.