



YAYASAN ULIN
Research, Education, and Empowerment

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



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FOREWORD

We give thanks to Almighty God for His grace and blessings, which have enabled Yayasan Ulin to complete this annual report on activities carried out in the Special Purpose Forest Area (KHDTK) of Universitas Mulawarman, Samarinda, and the Mesangat area. This report serves as documentation of the various programs, achievements, and lessons learned throughout the year, while also reflecting Yayasan Ulin's commitment to supporting environmental conservation, education, and community empowerment. The activities of Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari currently focus on the Mesangat area and the KHDTK of Universitas Mulawarman in Samarinda. These initiatives function not only as platforms for research and the advancement of knowledge, but also as tangible spaces for collaboration among academics, local communities, and other stakeholders. Through these partnerships, Yayasan Ulin strives to safeguard the sustainability of forest ecosystems, raise environmental awareness, and deliver social and economic benefits to surrounding communities.

We recognize that the success of each program would not be possible without the support of many parties. Therefore, we extend our highest appreciation to Universitas Mulawarman, local governments, partner organizations, and all community members who have actively participated in these activities. May this synergy continue and grow stronger in the future.

Finally, we hope that this annual report will serve as a source of information, inspiration, and motivation for all stakeholders to continue contributing to forest conservation and the improvement of community well-being. May all efforts undertaken receive the grace and blessings of Almighty God.

Samarinda, November 2025 Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari

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MESANGAT & KHDTK SAMARINDA BIODIVERSITY LIST	

Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari

Activity Summary 2025

This document provides a concise English summary of Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari's 2025 Annual Report, prepared to support international partners and donors. It provides a brief overview of the organisation's mission and objectives, its key activities, conservation outcomes, and alignment with long-term, community-led conservation in East Kalimantan.

The 2025 Annual Report demonstrates Yayasan Ulin's sustained presence, experience, and credibility in Mesangat Wetland. The activities documented provide a strong foundation for future work focused on updated baseline assessments, standardised monitoring systems, and long-term, community-led protection of crocodilians and wetland biodiversity.

This summary is intended as a supporting document for international partners and does not replace the full Annual Report.

Governance and Organisational Development

Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari is a locally based Indonesian conservation organisation established in 2009 and active in East Kalimantan for over two decades. It was formed originally under the name Yayasan Ulin/Ironwood Foundation as a response to protect the Mesangat Wetlands from habitat altering threats, especially since the discovery of the Siamese crocodile and the Sunda gharial in the area.

In 2024–2025, Yayasan Ulin undertook organisational strengthening to better align its structure, systems, and partnerships with its long-standing mission. This included improving project coordination, data management practices, and communication with stakeholders. These changes were designed to reduce dependence on short-term projects and ensure conservation continuity beyond individual funding cycles or personnel.

Organisational Vision and Mission

Since then the organisation has the following mission:

“Inspire successful conservation management of threatened species outside protected areas in Kalimantan”

Which are achieved through its objectives:

1. To encourage and support long-term inventories of natural flora and fauna, especially for Rare, Threatened or Endangered (RTE);
2. To contribute towards the establishment of a permanent local database on the natural flora and fauna of Kalimantan.
3. To encourage and support technical training in the management of biodiversity with all natural habitats within the Kalimantan landscape.
4. To proper healthy populations of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife, and natural flora and fauna including solution for establishment of suitable use of exploited populations of natural species;
5. To develop and demonstrate practical, economically viable, sustainable and mutually beneficial models for community management of biodiversity.

Geographic Focus

Yayasan Ulin operates in East Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo, primarily within the Mahakam River basin. The organization's flagship conservation work is focused on the Mesangat Wetland (Danau Mesangat) and (in collaboration with YASIWA) the adjacent Kenohan Suwi wetlands in Muara Ancalong District. This wetland system represents one of the most important remaining freshwater habitats in Kalimantan and supports several globally threatened species of high conservation priority. These wetlands have been a core conservation site for Yayasan Ulin since 2009.

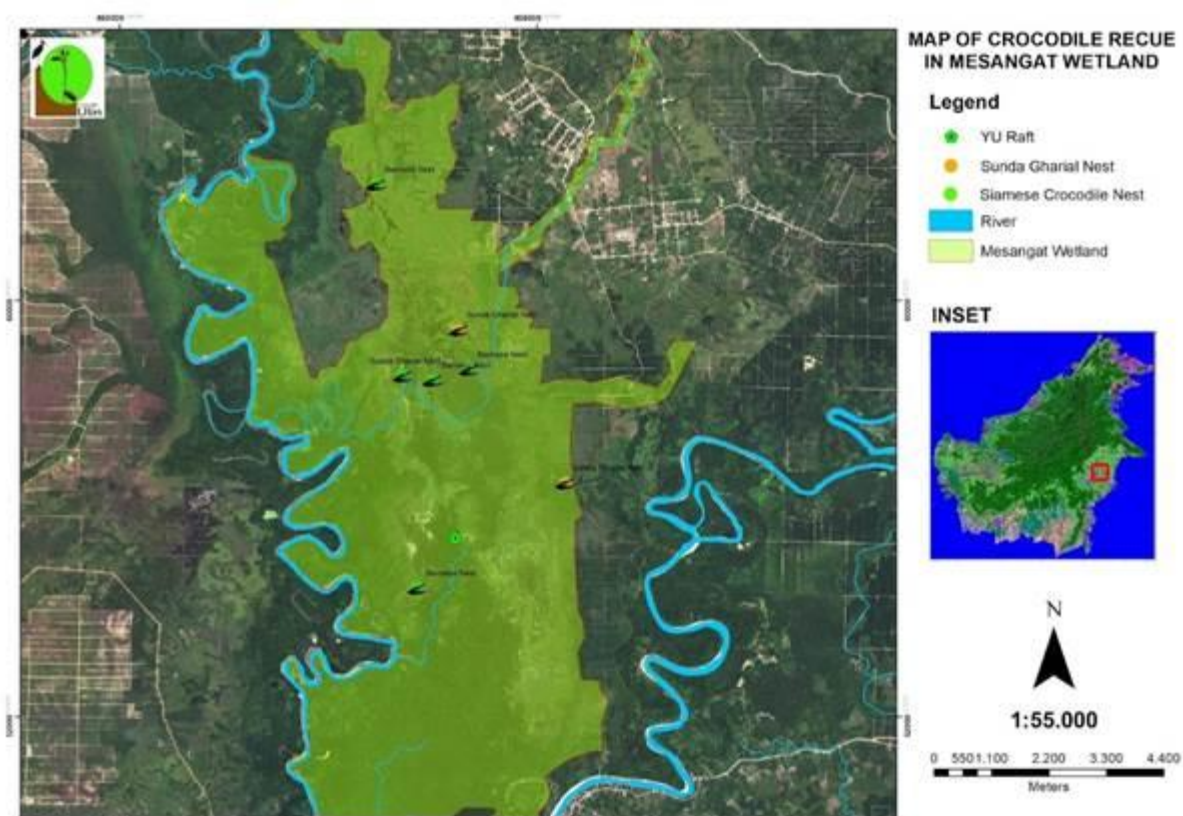


Figure 1. Map of Mesangat

The Mesangat–Suwi wetland support a mosaic of open water, marshes, peat swamps, riparian forests, and seasonally inundated vegetation. Despite long-term pressures from logging, fire, and land-use change, the area remains a critical refuge for several globally threatened species and is one of the last strongholds for freshwater wetland biodiversity in the region.

Program overview of Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari

Various programs implemented throughout the year in the education forest of Samarinda and Mesangat include:

1. Forest Conservation Program

- Planting endemic tree species of Kalimantan (such as ulin, meranti, and others).

2. Education and Research Program

- Wildlife population research and monitoring in and around conservation areas.
- Socio-economic and other applied research supporting conservation within Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari's working areas.
- Conservation education through workshops and environmental seminars.
- Facilitating field practicums and research opportunities for young conservationists.

3. Community Economic Empowerment Program

- Development of community-based ecotourism.
- Assistance for environmentally friendly small enterprises.

4. Public Outreach and Environmental Education Program

- Environmental awareness campaigns in schools and local communities.
- Exhibitions showcasing research outcomes.

5. Collaboration and Partnership Program

- Cooperation with universities, local governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders.
- Strengthening national and international networks for tropical forest conservation.
- Collaboration with private companies to ensure robust biodiversity monitoring practices.

Through these roles and programs, Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari strives to serve as a driving force in conserving forests outside formal protected areas while simultaneously improving the quality of life of surrounding communities. Details in the timeline of the programs held are listed in table 1.

Table 1 Timeline summary of Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari activities in 2025

No.	Activity Name	Timeframe	Category	Outcomes
1	Research Orientation and Yayasan Ulin Team Introduction at the Mesangat Wetland	14–20 January 2025 (once in 2025)	Education, Research, and Partnership	Provided an overall understanding of the Mesangat wetland for prospective researchers from the Faculty of Forestry, Universitas Mulawarman, and delivered initial briefings for the Yayasan Ulin team for the 2025 work period.
2	Development of Research Station Assets and Yayasan Ulin Basecamp	January–August 2025	Institutional Development	Improved infrastructure and facilities of Yayasan Ulin at the KHDTK of the Faculty of Forestry, Universitas Mulawarman, Samarinda.
3	Monitoring and Observation in the Mesangat Wetland	January 2025	Research	Collected biodiversity monitoring data in the downstream Mesangat area.
4	Monitoring and Observation in KHDTK Faculty of Forestry, Universitas Mulawarman	January–November 2025 (12 monitoring events)	Research, Protection, and Partnership	Conducted patrols for area protection and biodiversity monitoring within the KHDTK of the Faculty of Forestry, Universitas Mulawarman, Samarinda.
5	Biodiversity and Carbon Assessment for PT. Narkata Rimba	June–September 2025 (4 carbon assessments and 1 biodiversity assessment)	Research and Partnership	Generated data and documentation related to carbon stocks and biodiversity for PT. Narkata Rimba.
6	Field Work Practice for Faculty of Forestry Students, Universitas Mulawarman	Once in 2025	Protection, Research, and Partnership	Enhanced students' skills in biodiversity observation and forest area protection schemes.
7	Orangutan Population Assessment in Kutai National Park (TNK) with BNF and YJP	September–October 2025	Research and Partnership	Produced information on orangutan population size and density in Kutai National Park.

8	Public Discussions and Guest Lectures	August and November 2025	Education	Increased understanding and awareness of crocodile conservation and Mesangat wetland ecosystems.
9	Proposal Writing and Herpetofauna Training	June 2025	Education	Strengthened the capacity of Yayasan Ulin staff and students in developing project proposals for international donors.

Key Conservation Activities up to 2025

Yayasan Ulin implemented integrated conservation activities combining field research, monitoring, and community engagement. Table 1 showcases a summary of Yayasan Ulin activities in 2025.

Within the several activities held, these included crocodilian surveys and nest monitoring; rapid biodiversity observations; habitat condition assessments; and community-based monitoring and reporting of wildlife presence and threats. Detailed information on Crocodile sightings and records can be found in our crocodile and nest reports.



Siamese crocodile observation in Pondok Lalang Area

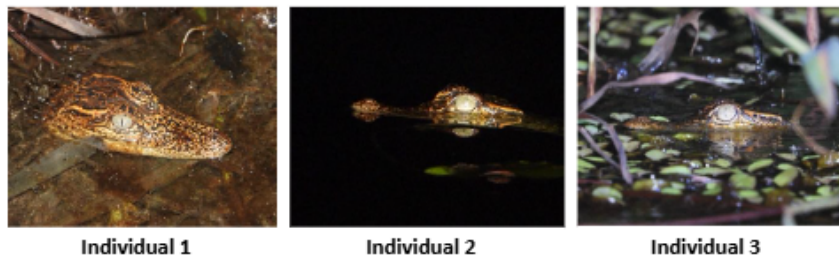


Figure 2. Crocodile sightings by our field team (Above), Identified individuals (middle) and crocodile nest records (below)

Yayasan Ulin has also mapped identified crocodile sightings and nest records (See the Mesangat Lake map in Figure 1).

Community participation remained central to all activities. Indigenous Dayak and local Kutai community members were actively involved as monitoring partners, field assistants, and stewards of wetland habitats. The organisation continued to apply practical conflict-mitigation approaches, including safe release of accidentally captured wildlife, to reduce human–wildlife conflict and build local support for conservation.



Figure 3 Community driven human-wildlife conflict mitigation. Reports came from local community members to Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari of presence of a crocodilian. We then responded to, and with assistance with local authorities, acted by relocating the individual avoiding further conflict.

Capacity Building and Partnerships

Yayasan Ulin prioritised capacity building throughout 2025 by engaging Indonesian university students in field surveys, data collection, and applied conservation activities. Students gained hands-on experience in wetland ecology, species monitoring, and conservation problem-solving. Yayasan Ulin also made “learning fun” by holding camera trap competitions.

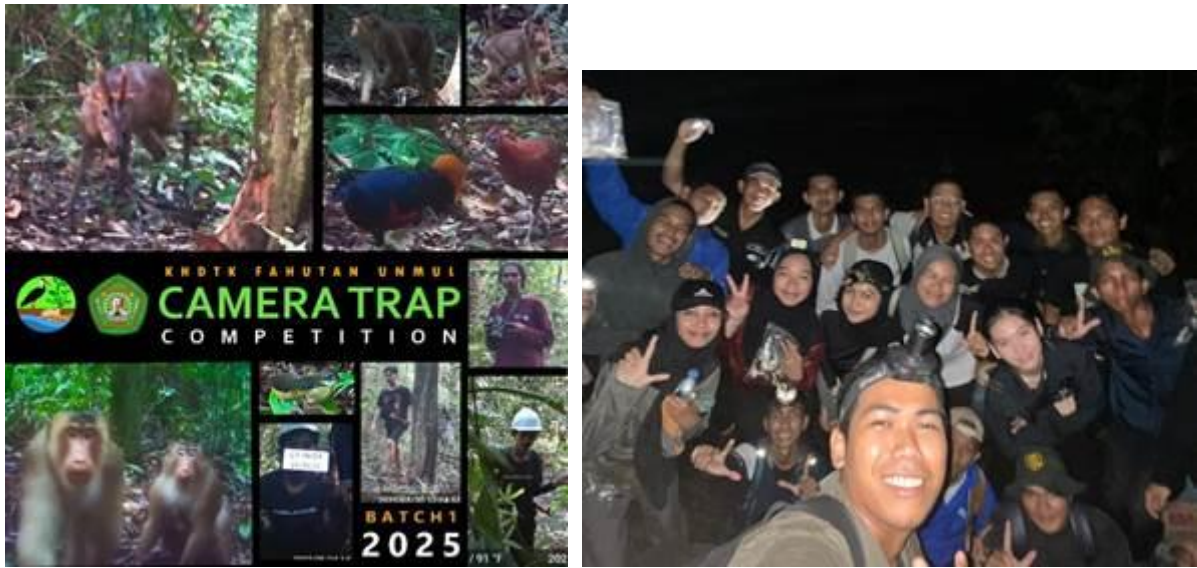


Figure 4 Camera trap competition (left) night survey work with students (right)

In 2025, Yayasan Ulin was appointed by Mulawarman University to manage the University's adjacent forested area. This forest is used as an education forest by the University and is the only natural refuge left for surrounding biodiversity. The forested area is habitat to threatened species such as the Bornean Orangutan, Malaysian Giant Turtle, and many more. Since then, Yayasan Ulin has developed its headquarters in the area, surveyed and safeguarded biodiversity in the forest, as well as being involved with authorities in activities.



Figure 5 Yayasan Ulin headquarters and research station

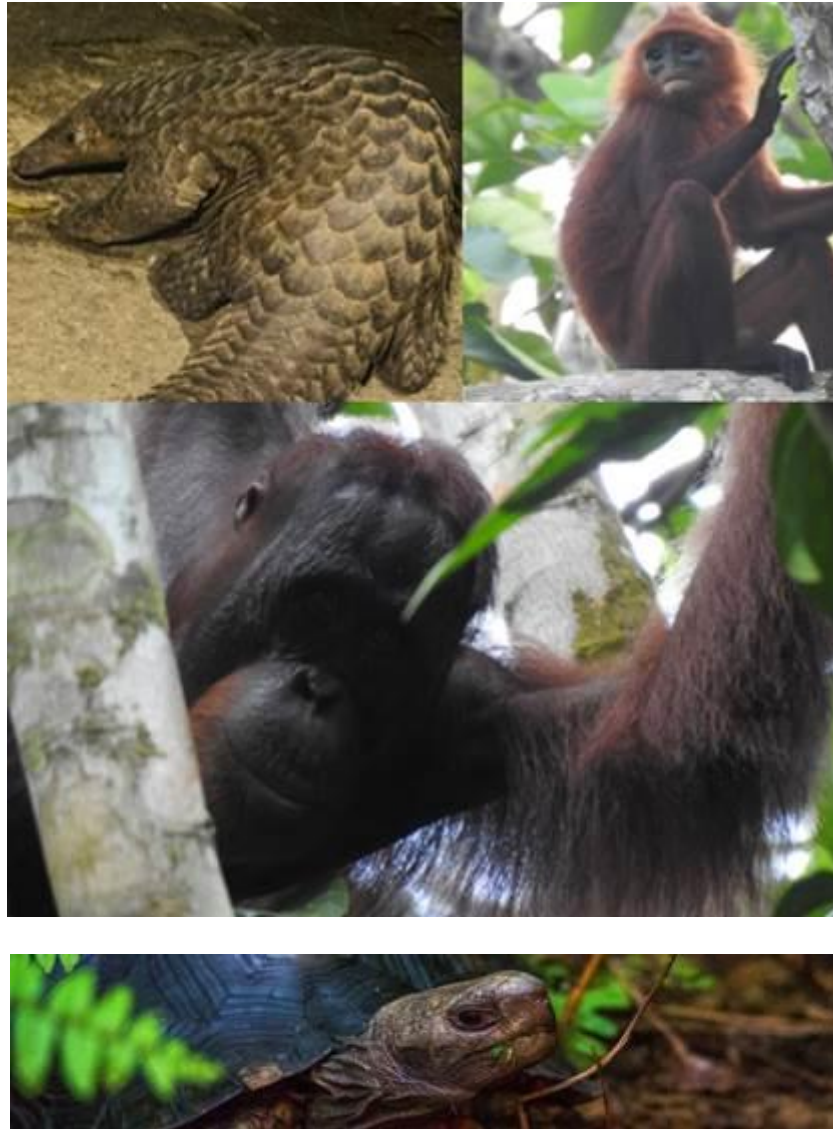


Figure 6 Biodiversity of the forest surrounding the research station, Asian pangolin (top left), maroon leaf monkey (top right), Bornean orangutan (middle) and Asian Giant Turtle (bottom)



Figure 6 Yayasan Ulin members measuring an encountered Asian pangolin

In 2025, Yayasan Ulin assisted the East Kalimantan authorities in thwarting illegal mining in the Mulawan University protected education forested area. The issue has even caught attention of the national government. Yayasan Ulin since then supported the authorities through assisted patrols, talking with local communities, documentation, mapping and other information gathering. The information was used to mitigate further mining threat and Yayasan Ulin continue to assist in monitoring the forest for future threats. This activity was covered by national media.





Figure 7 In collaboration with authorities, protecting local forests (top), the ministry and local police officers gather and discuss mitigation plans near Mulawarman University forested area (bottom left) and the identified area being prepared for illegal mining (bottom right).

These activities strengthened partnerships with Mulawarman University, local NGOs, and government agencies, including BKSDA East Kalimantan, to support coordinated conservation action.

Challenges faced in 2025

Throughout 2025, Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari faced a range of challenges reflecting the complexity of conservation work in Kalimantan, both in KHDTK and the Mesangat Wetlands. These challenges span ecological, social, financial, and institutional dimensions.

Area and Political Aspects

1. The threat of illegal mining encroachment in KHDTK, which placed significant pressure on the area. For YU-NL, this case also became an important learning experience, highlighting the complexity of advocacy and legal processes in forest and non-forest areas.
2. Changes in HGU (Right of Cultivation) land ownership in the Mesangat Wetlands—from PT Cipta Davia Mandiri (CDM) to PT Telandan Prima Group—requiring renewed engagement, dialogue, and coordination within the Essential Ecosystem Area (KEE) forum.

Social and Institutional Aspects

1. Collaboration with stakeholders is sometimes constrained by bureaucracy, differing interests, and suboptimal inter-institutional coordination.
2. The illegal mining case in KHDTK demanded greater involvement from YU in advocacy, documentation, and transparency in area management.

Financial and Operational Aspects

1. Limited funding, despite fundraising efforts through merchandise sales, coffee collaboration, and equipment rental. Available funds have not fully covered field operational needs.
2. High logistics and travel costs (e.g., off-island seminars and outreach activities) place pressure on organizational budgets.
3. Dependence on short-term corporate and donor collaboration projects, which do not always guarantee long-term sustainability.
4. The 2025 budget was heavily focused on the development of a basecamp and research station, resulting in less optimal monitoring activities in the Mesangat Wetlands.
5. An unstable team structure, with no long-term contracts for field personnel, leading to reliance on students and volunteers.

Outreach and Publication

1. Limited public communication capacity, causing conservation messages to reach only a narrow audience.
2. Student and volunteer engagement remains fluctuating, depending on academic cycles and university support.

These challenges underscore that conservation work is not solely about protecting biodiversity, but also about building social, economic, and institutional systems that support long-term sustainability.

Yayasan Ulin must continue to strengthen collaboration strategies, diversify funding sources, and expand outreach to respond more effectively to future challenges.

Activities planned for Yayasan Ulin 2026 - 2030

1. Conservation Programs in KHDTK Fahutan UNMUL, Samarinda

- **Biodiversity conservation programs** in KHDTK focusing on key species (Asian brown tortoise, orangutan, gibbon, or Sunda pangolin). Funding sources are currently under proposal development, targeting international conservation grants (e.g., Tortoise Conservation Program, CLP, Rufford, YJP, etc.).
- **Nursery development and ironwood (ulin) tree planting** as a conservation symbol, with funding support from the Faculty of Forestry, Mulawarman University.
- **Conservation Camp**, a capacity-building program for young conservationists in East Kalimantan. This program aims to provide in-depth education on conservation practices and technical skills and will be implemented collaboratively with partner organizations using a shared-budget approach. Confirmed collaborators include Yayasan Jejak Pulang (YJP), Yayasan BUMI, Yayasan Khatulistiwa, ALERT, and DDPI (Regional Council on Climate Change Research).

2. Conservation Programs in the Mesangat Wetlands

- A **documentary film project** planned in collaboration with National Geographic, scheduled for 2026–2027, in partnership with ECCN (Early Career Crocodile Network), KONKLUSI, and National Geographic Explorers. Funding is expected from the National Geographic Explorer Grant.
- **Crocodile research and monitoring programs** involving Forestry students from UNMUL. Funding will be sourced from YU internal funds or collaborative funding with the Faculty of Forestry. Student research topics (undergraduate theses and master's theses) will focus on ecology, crocodilians, mammals, birds, and other wetland fauna.

3. Public Education and Outreach Programs

- **Conservation campaigns** through social media, exhibitions, and environmental festivals.
- Production of educational materials (posters, booklets, short videos), with funding sought from small grants focused on media and outreach outputs (e.g., Savesnake.org).

4. Fundraising Plan for 2026

Grant Applications

- **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)**, Oriental Bird Club, and BirdLife International.
Proposal focus: Storm's stork conservation and protection of the Mesangat Wetlands.

- **Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP).**

Proposal focus: Turtle conservation and youth conservation campaigns in East Kalimantan, targeting students from primary school to university level in Samarinda.

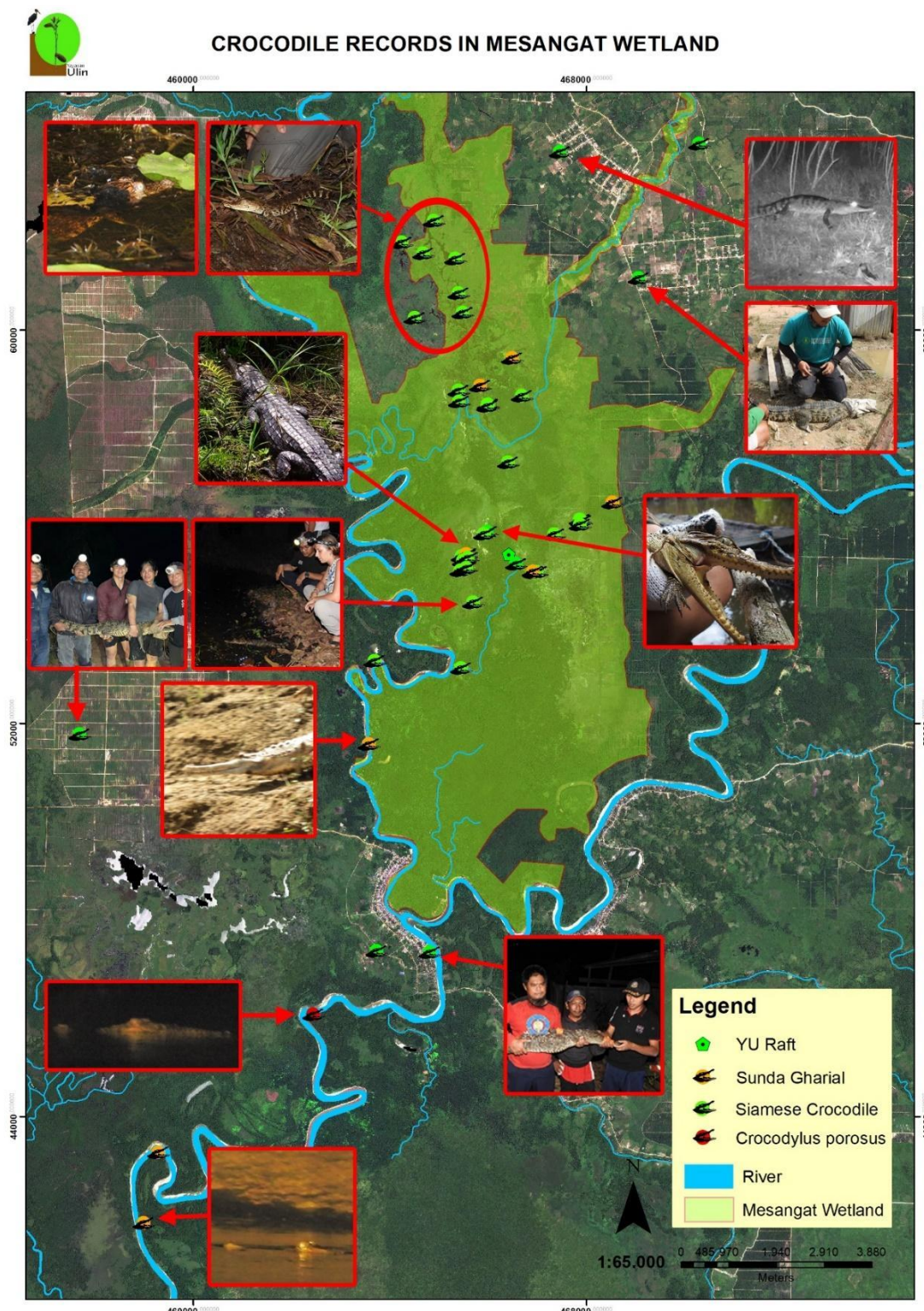
Merchandise Development

- Production of **new-edition conservation T-shirts** inspired by research and activities in Mesangat and KHDTK.
- Additional merchandise: tote bags, stickers, and wildlife calendars.
- Target net profit: **IDR 10,000,000 in 2026**
- Target market: students, NGOs, and environmentally conscious youth.

APPENDIX

This section contains supporting materials that complement and strengthen the main report, including documentation, figures, maps, photographs, and additional data relevant to the activities, collaborations, and conservation efforts of **Yayasan Ulin Nusantara Lestari**. The appendix serves as supplementary evidence to provide further detail and context for the information presented in the main sections of the document.

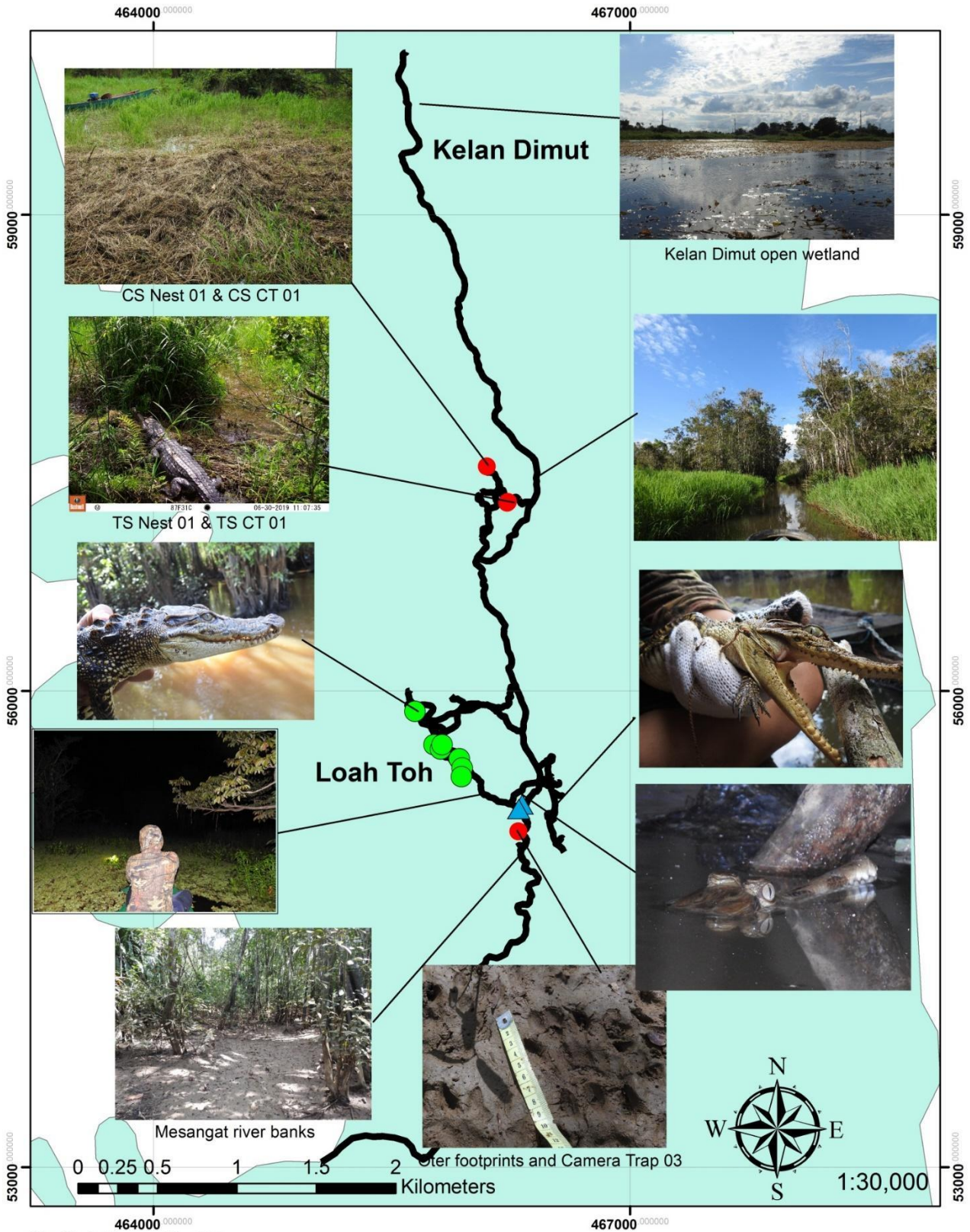
1. Map of crocodile sightings and rescue 2019 - 2022

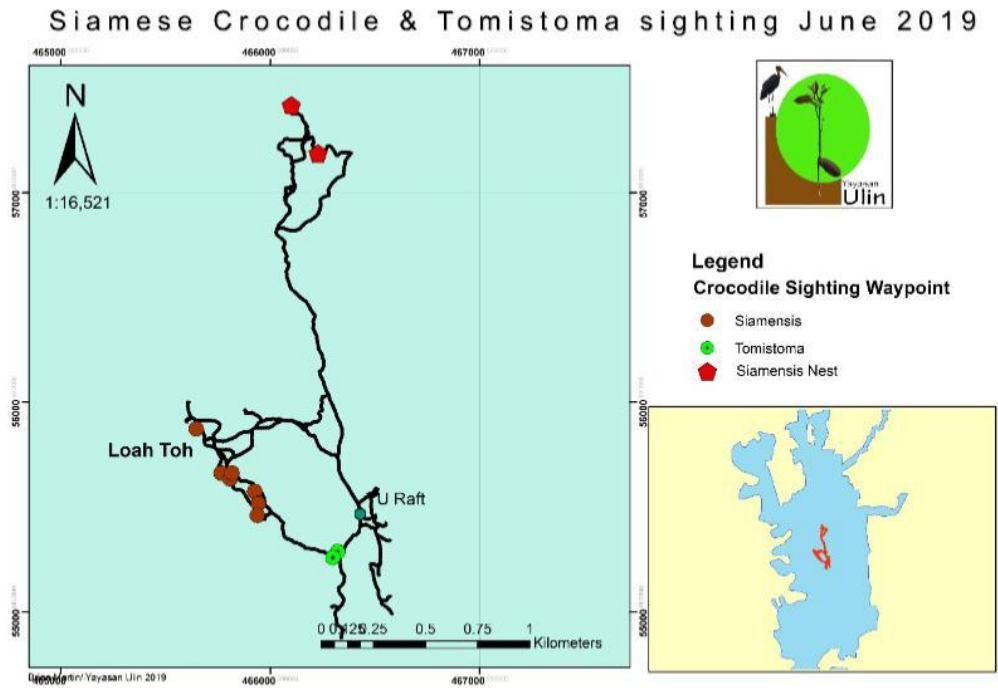


2. Map of Mesangat Wetland field survey 2019



Mesangat Wetland Field Survey July 2019





3. Mesangat wetland changes in environmental conditions due to drought

In 2021 is the end of long drought season in Mesangat, water level is continue to rising, but some of the area is already covered with dense scrub, grass and other water plant vegetation, access to Raft in 2021



2019



2021



2019



2021



2019



2021



2020



2021



2020



2021



2020



2021

Map of drone survey in Mesangat

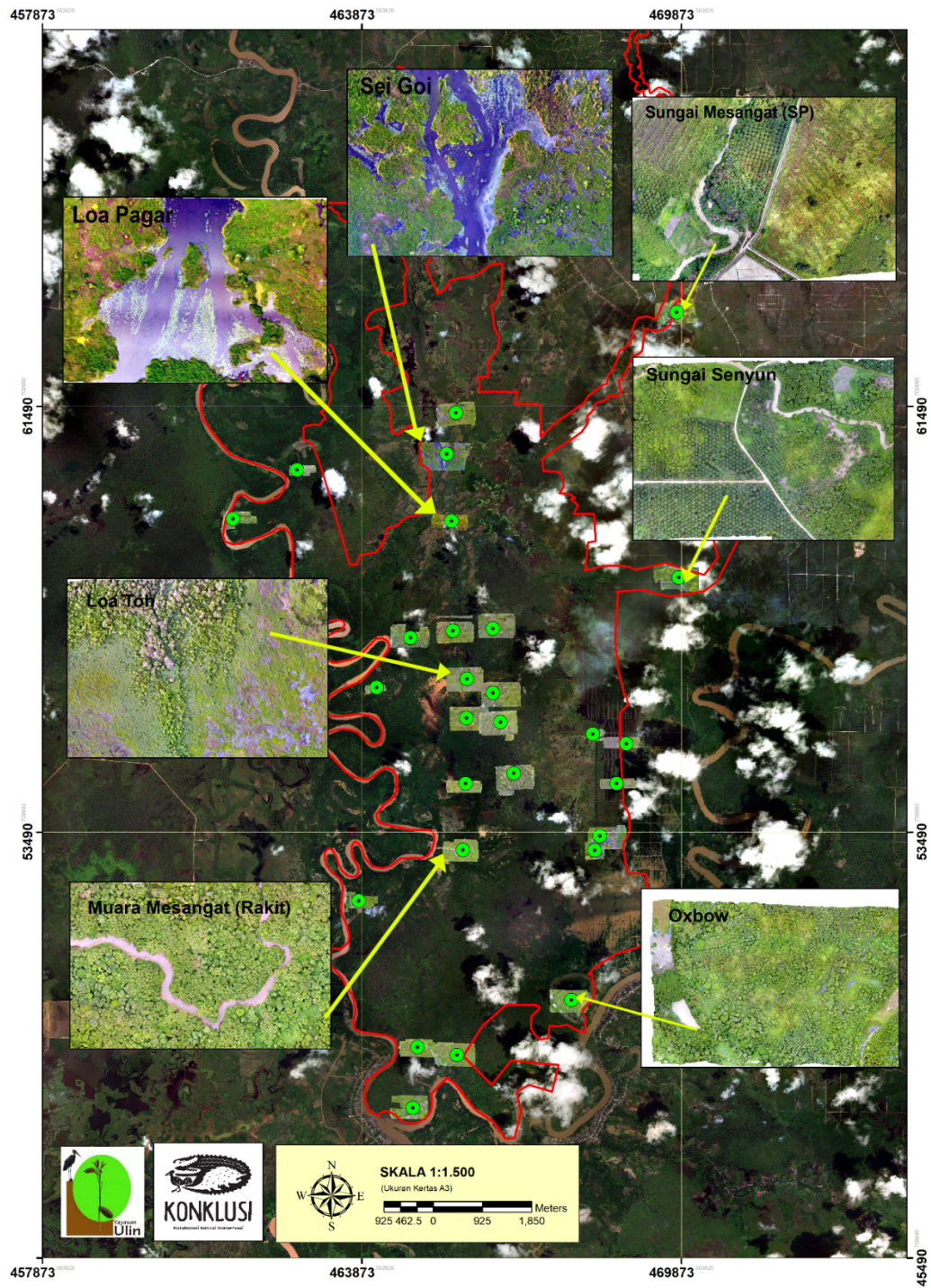


Table2. Mesagat Biodiversity List

ORDO/FAMILI	SPECIES	IUCN	CITES
MAMMALIA			
Carnivora	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	LC	A2
	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	LC	A2
	<i>Latrogale perspicillata</i>	VU	A1
	<i>Prinodon linsang</i>	LC	
	<i>Mustela nudipes</i>	LC	NL
	<i>Arctogalidia trivirgata</i>	LC	
	<i>Prionailurus planiceps</i>	EN	A1
	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	LC	A2
Ursidae	<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>	VU	A1
Suidae	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	VU	NL
Cercopithecidae	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	LC	A2
	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>	EN	A1
Cercopithecidae	<i>Presbytis cristata</i>	NE	A2
Rodentia			
Sciuridae	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	LC	NL
Muridae	<i>Rattus sp</i>	NE	NL
	<i>Echinosores gymnura</i>	LC	NL
	<i>Hystrix brachyrura</i>	LC	
Bovidae	<i>Bos taurus</i>	NE	
Cervidae	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	VU	

REPTILIA			
Crocodylidae	Tomistoma schlegelii	VU	A1
	Crocodylus siamensis	CR	A1
	Crocodylus porosus	LC	
Squamata	Boiga denrapezi	LC	
	Boiga dendrophila	LC	
	Boiga cynodon	LC	
	Boiga Jaspidea	LC	
	Acrochordus javanicus	LC	
	Gonyosoma oxycephalum	LC	
	Homalopsis buccata	LC	
	Ophiophagus hannah	VU	
	Malayopython reticulatus	LC	
	Dendralapis pictus		
	Enhydris plumbea		
Scincidae	Eutropis multifasciata		
Varanidae	Varanus salvator	LC	A2
Trionychidae	Amyda cartilaginea	Vu	
Geoemydidae	Orlitia borneensis		
Geoemydidae	Cyclemys dentata	NT	NL

	Coura amboinensis	Vu	
AVES			
Accipitridae	Ichtyophaga ichtyaetus	NE	NL
Bucerotidae	Anthracoceros albirostris	LC	A2
Anatidae	Dendrocygna arcuata		
Caprimulgidae	Caprimulgus macrurus		
Ciconidae	Leptoptilus javanicus	VU	NL
	Ciconia stormi	EN	NL
Columbidae	Streptopelia bitorquata	LC	NL
	Streptopelia chinensis	LC	NL
Alcedinidae	Alcedo meninting	LC	NL
	Todiramphus chloris		
	Pelargopsis capensis	LC	NL
Coraciidae	Eurystomus orientalis	LC	NL
Cuculidae	Centropus sinensis	LC	NL
Rallidae	Amaurornis phoenicurus	LC	NL
Galliformes	Lophura ignita	LC	
Aegithinidae	Aegithina tiphia	LC	NL
Artamidae	Artamus leucorhynchus	LC	NL
	Lonchura leucogastroides		
Eurylaimidae	Cimbirhynchus macrorhynchos	LC	NL
Muscicapidae	Cyornis turcosus	NT	NL
Pellorneidae	Trichastoma rostratum		

Rhipiduridae	Rhipidura javanica	LC	NL
Sturnidae	Acridotheres cristatellus	LC	NL
	Aplonis panayensis	LC	NL
	Copsychus saularis	LC	NL
Vangidae	Hemipus picatus		
Ardeidae	Ardea alba	LC	NL
	Ardea intermedia	LC	NL
	Ardea purpurea	LC	NL
	Ardeola speciosa	LC	NL
	Egretta garzetta	LC	NL
	Egretta intermedia	LC	NL
Picidae	Picus miniaceus	LC	NL
Strigidae	Ketupa ketupu		
Anhingidae	Anhinga melanogaster	NT	NL
Turnicidae	Turnix sylvaticus		
AMFIBI			
Dicroglossidae	Limnonectes paramacrodon	NT	NL
	Hylarana erythraea		
	Hylarana nicobariensis	LC	NL
	Rachophorus pardalis		
	Kaluloa baleata		