



STOP DEFORESTATION

Belum Terlambat, Hentikan Sekarang

#SELAMATKAN HUTAN ACEH

HAKA Foundation

HUTAN ALAM DAN LINGKUNGAN ACEH
ANNUAL REPORT

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A reminder of what is at stake when forests disappear, and why protecting the Leuser Ecosystem matters more than ever.

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2025 was a year that asked more from us than we thought we were ready to give. For over a decade, HAKA's story has been one of forests: standing between the Leuser Ecosystem and the forces that would clear it, and walking beside the communities of Aceh as they defend the rivers, peatlands, wildlife corridors, and living systems that hold this landscape together. We have always known why this work matters. In late November, we learned it in the most immediate way possible.

When Cyclone Senyar moved in from the Strait of Malacca, none of us imagined that a storm so rare and so far south could bring such devastation. Within days, floods and landslides had torn through 18 of Aceh's 23 districts and cities. In that moment, the relationship between forest protection and human survival was no longer an argument to be made in meetings, maps, or policy papers. It was visible in broken roads, submerged villages, families cut off from help, and communities forced to carry uncertainty on their shoulders.

The disaster reminded us that ecological loss is never abstract. When forests are weakened, people are left more exposed. Villages we had walked through on patrol were swept away. Roads our teams had driven a hundred times were gone. And beneath the shock sat a harder truth: the watersheds that failed under that rainfall were also landscapes already weakened by years of deforestation upstream, the very places we had been warning about all along. This was not simply a natural disaster. It was, in part, a landscape telling us what happens when forests are no longer intact.

Farwiza Farhan

Executive Director
Hutan Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh

HAKA is not an emergency response organisation. We are conservationists, advocates, community organisers, legal campaigners, GIS specialists, educators, and field workers. We had no fleet of rescue boats, no warehouse of relief supplies, and no standard operating procedure for a humanitarian crisis of this scale. In the first hours, that gap felt enormous. But our people are from this land, and the communities with whom we had spent years building trust were the ones now stranded, displaced, and in need of help. So we did the only thing that made sense: we mobilised ourselves, and we showed up anyway, trusting that we would figure it out as we go.

What humbled me most was not our own effort, but how quickly we were joined by others. Within days, you, our community, partners, and donors mobilised behind us with a speed and generosity that still moves me. Funds arrived before we had finished writing the appeal. Long-time supporters wrote simply to ask, "What do you need, and how fast can we get it to you?" Partners who had never worked in emergency response reorganised themselves overnight to help us act. We were not prepared to be first responders. Because of you, we did not have to be prepared alone.

That trust is not something we take lightly. When someone gives before there is a polished plan, they are telling an organisation: I believe in what you have already built, and I believe you will do right by this moment. Carrying that belief through a crisis changes an organisation. It has changed HAKA. Your support allowed us to mobilise help for affected communities, assist our own team members stranded in remote locations, and provide immediate supplies, including solar lamps and internet access for communities that had lost electricity and communications during the disaster.

This year sharpened our sense of responsibility. It reminded us that defending the Leuser Ecosystem is not only about preventing future loss; it is also about standing with people when the consequences of that loss are already here. It taught us that resilience is not built in a moment of crisis, but through years of relationships, trust, local knowledge, and shared purpose. It also showed us where we must grow: in preparedness, in care for our own team, in stronger systems for community response, and in deeper integration between conservation, climate resilience, and recovery.

To everyone who supported HAKA in 2025: thank you. Thank you for believing in our team while we were learning in real time. Thank you for trusting an organisation that was not designed for emergency response, but chose to act anyway. Thank you for standing with the people of Aceh as they begin the long path from survival to recovery.

The work ahead will not be easy. But this year has made one thing even clearer: protecting forests is protecting life. And as long as Aceh's communities continue to stand for their forests, HAKA will continue to stand with them.

Thank you for standing with Aceh when it mattered most.

With gratitude,

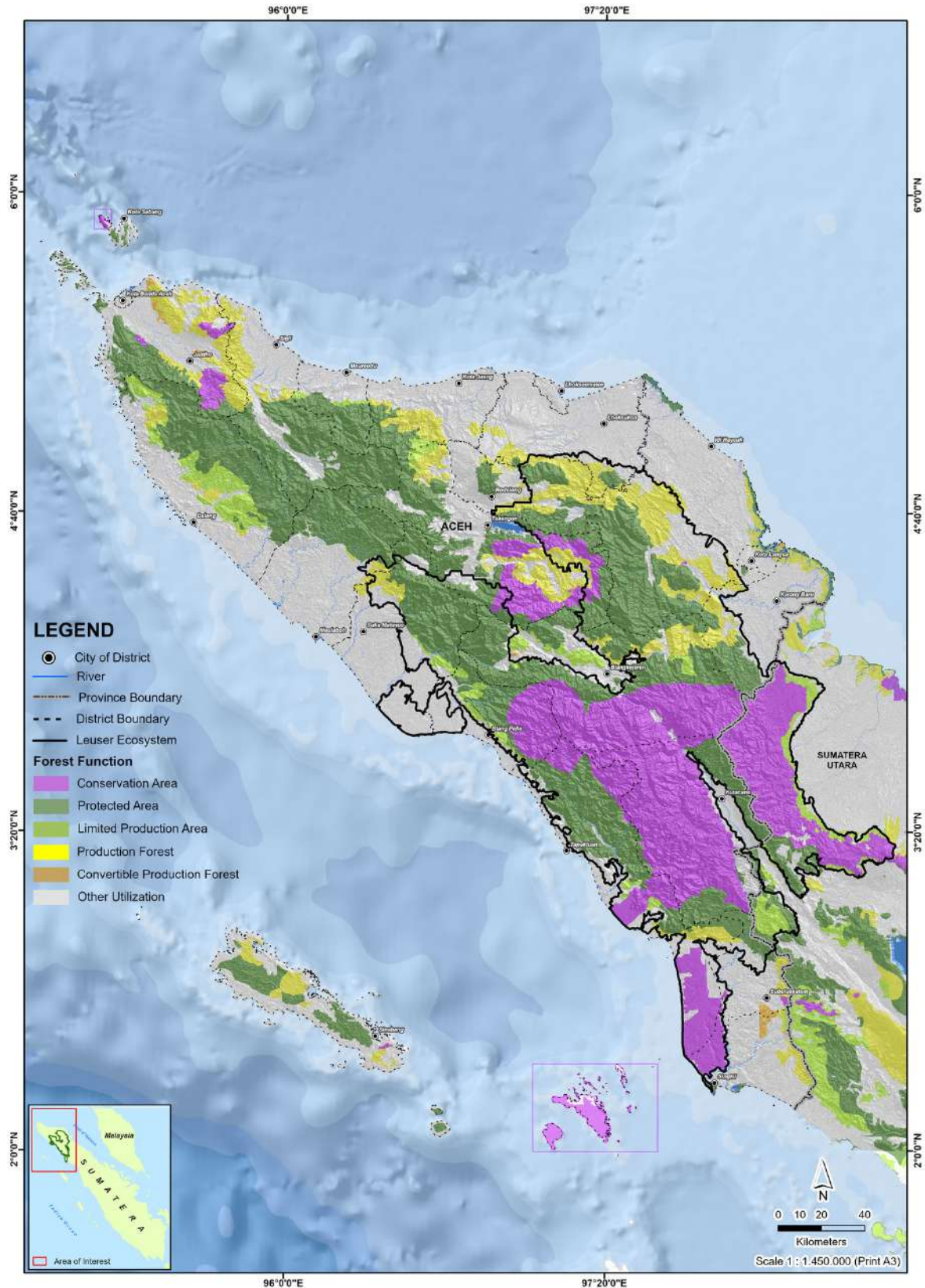
Farwiza Farhan

Executive Director

Hutan Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh

MAP OF THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM

ACEH PROVINCE





Sumatran Orangutan (*Pongo Abelii*)

An aerial photograph of a vast, dense rainforest. In the foreground, the forest canopy is thick and dark green. A layer of white mist or low clouds hangs over the forest floor in the middle ground, creating a sense of depth. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a cloudy, overcast sky. The overall tone is serene and majestic.

Our Vision

To safeguard the Leuser Ecosystem - Aceh's forests, nature, and environment - so that wildlife and people can thrive and prosper in harmony, in perpetuity.

Morning mist over the Leuser intact rainforest

How We Work

ADVOCATE

HAkA drives policy change, raises public awareness, and challenges ill-advised development projects that threaten the Leuser Ecosystem.

EMPOWER

Working side by side with local communities, we help people defend their land from destruction, take charge of their own development and natural-resource management. We foster grassroots leadership, build community associations for a stronger collective voice, and promote sustainable livelihoods. This empowerment approach also extends to strengthening the skills of partner NGOs, government agencies, and other civil-society groups.

MONITOR

HAkA continuously tracks changes in forest cover and land use across the Leuser Ecosystem using satellite imagery and remote sensing. We analyse these data to guide conservation strategies, inform decision-makers, and trigger timely on-the-ground action.



STRATEGY

1. Protecting and restoring populations and ecosystems
2. Ensuring strong policies and regulations for the Leuser Ecosystem
3. Strengthening law enforcement
4. Promoting conservation-based economic development
5. Building a supportive community for the protection of the Leuser Ecosystem
6. Ensuring collaborative and inclusive communication
7. Building education for conservation

Standing with Aceh

– AND REBUILDING WHAT IS LOST

In the final days of November 2025, Cyclone Senyar tore across Sumatra. The devastating floods took lives, washed away homes, and struck the forests and communities we have worked with for the last decade. This is a story of disaster, but also of response on the trust we have grown together.

The storm was one of the worst in living memory. Across Sumatra, more than 1,200 people lost their lives, including 561 in Aceh alone. With clean water scarce and homes flooded, the risk of disease began to rise. In Aceh, the scale was staggering: millions of people were affected, tens of thousands were forced from their homes, and the roads and bridges that connect communities were torn apart.

The receding floodwaters revealed a stark truth: the debris they carried was laden with logged timber, offering clear evidence of the connection between upstream forest loss and the destructive flooding faced by communities downstream. This event served as a powerful reminder of the urgency and importance of our work.

The Leuser Ecosystem was hit hard. Twelve of the 13 districts within the ecosystem were affected. For a brief but terrifying moment, 97 of our staff and guests in Leuser were missing in the disaster zones. We are deeply grateful that every one of them survived and has since been found safe. But many of our field sites and partner communities did not escape unharmed.

We appealed for help, and you mobilized.

As soon as the cyclone passed, HAKA and FKL launched a joint emergency fundraising appeal and opened a dedicated donation account. We called on friends and partners around the world to stand with Aceh and help us take immediate action.

Thanks to the support that poured in, our teams were able to reach communities cut off by the storm and deliver critical supplies and aid. Our field network and staff, many of whom were personally affected by the disaster, pushed forward to reach some of the most isolated village forest communities with food, water, and care.

2.5M

People affected in Aceh

91,700

People Displaced in Immediate Aftermath

648

Bridges damaged

1,648

Roads damaged

**HAKA & FKL Joint Disaster Response -
Aid Distributed in Aceh**
Outputs as of May 2026

359,000

UNITS

Food supplies

1.2+ m

LITRES

Drinking & sanitation water

7,600+

UNITS

Shelter & household supplies

5,300+

UNITS

Medical & health supplies

3,700+

KITS

WASH (Water,
Sanitation & hygiene)

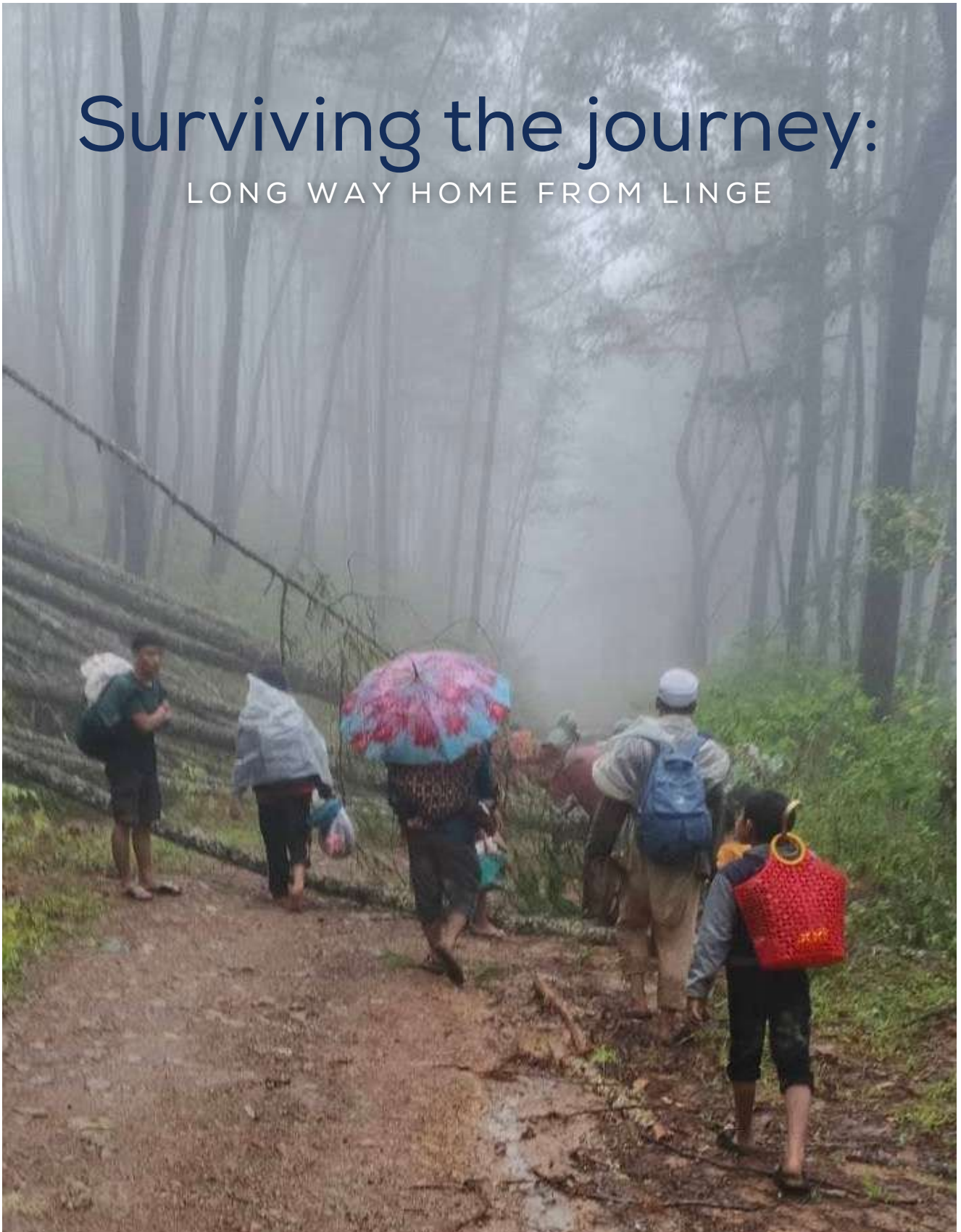
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VILLAGES

Reached with relief

Surviving the journey:

LONG WAY HOME FROM LINGE



A landslide swallows the only path between Linge and Takengon .
Villagers walked the long way toward Takengon, clearing the road by hand as they went.
After the festival ended and the bridge fell, the team walked out of Linge through thick
mud and broken ground – exhausted, but never alone.

Celebrating a landscape

Our journey to Takengon from Banda Aceh began under relentless rain. Wet roads, drifting fog, and the steady rhythm of water against the car window accompanied us through the night. We arrived late and chose to rest, unaware that this brief pause marked the beginning of a far more demanding journey—one that would test our strength, our minds, and our will.

The next morning, we pushed on to Linge to help prepare for the Second Nenggeri Linge Festival. It was never just a cultural event. The festival was the community's way of saying, together and out loud, that Linge is an indigenous and conservation landscape – a place where culture, nature, and the spirit of musarak, of working as one, are lived every single day. Despite the cold and the rain that would not let up, the community moved as one body. The women kept the kitchen going; the men built the stage. In that stormy weather, standing together became its own kind of warmth.

The opening night glowed. Guests came from every corner and every walk of life, and under a black, rain-heavy sky, the poetry of LK Ara rang out like a prayer – steadying us, binding us together. But by the second day, the rain still had not stopped. The river was rising fast, and the planned activities had to be canceled. Journalists who went out looking for a phone signal came back with only two things: footage of a river gone wild, and a bag of meatballs that turned out to be our last proper meal before we were down to rationed instant noodles.

The only bridge home was gone

The next morning brought the news we feared. The bridge linking Linge to Takengon had collapsed. We were cut off. But panic gave way to responsibility. We made an emergency plan: four people would try to cross first and carry word that the rest of us were stranded. Before we could even take it all in, evacuees from nearby villages started arriving, each one carrying a story of something lost. And even though Linge itself was isolated, it opened its doors to them. In that moment, our shared humanity weighed more than our fear.

Crossing the River

The day of the crossing came under gray skies. Bang Abdul led us, steady and calm. Landslides had ripped through everything – roads caved in, trees down, power lines scattered across the ground. The bridge that had carried ordinary daily life was simply not there anymore. Nature had redrawn the map, and now we had to find our place inside it.

On 29 November, two inflatable rafts became lifelines for 41 people. The river was classed as Grade 3+ – strong currents, waves you couldn't predict, sudden, dangerous drops. For three hours, one by one, we crossed. We weren't only crossing distance; we were crossing our own fear. No one asked to stop. We held on to one another and made sure no one was left behind.

41

People carried across the river

3 hrs

in the water, on two rafts

Grade 3+

River conditions during the crossing



The muddy march home

The journey did not end at the river. We walked for hours through landslides and thick mud, the kind where one wrong step could swallow a person whole. Four of us fainted along the way. There were tears – not from weakness, but from sheer exhaustion. And then local villagers, working shoulder to shoulder to build makeshift roads, helped us back to our feet. In the middle of a disaster, this was humanity at its purest.

The days blurred together – walk, rest, move again, walk some more. By 1 December, our strength was almost gone. We haven't had proper food for days. Then, somewhere in the distance, the sound of a motorcycle. Familiar faces appeared: colleagues who had come to find us. Relief poured over all of us. We were not alone anymore.

Soon after, the vehicles arrived. The tears came again – but this time from relief, not fear. Against everything, we reached Takengon, where the rest of the HAKA team was waiting for us. Only then did it truly sink in: this disaster was far bigger than us.

This journey was never just about floods or landslides. It was about people who kept moving when strength was nearly gone. About staying steady when fear threatened to take over. What carried us through was leadership, resilience, and the quiet power of solidarity.

“And perhaps the simplest truth remained: we kept going because we wanted to go home – to hold our families again, and to return with a gratitude that would never be the same.” – Hutari Nadhira



Key Impacts

A year of milestones. Some achievements took years to build. We turn patient advocacy, community empowerment and monitoring into lasting protection for the Leuser Ecosystem. None of these wins were ours alone – every win belongs to a collective of women paralegals, the students, communities and partners.

ACROSS THE ECOSYSTEM

13

districts

Environmental messaging in religious outreach

Led by Teungku Inong and Teungku Agam, conservation values now reach communities through faith across all 13 districts and cities of Leuser

1,897

Participants engaged

725k

Total views

100,893

Accounts reached

5,000

Total interactions

ACEH BARAT DAYA

1

New Movement

Aceh Women Paralegal Society (P3A) established

Actively led by a trained female paralegal, the initiative brings together 40 women involved with P3A, putting women at the forefront of environmental justice.

5

dayah or

Islamic boarding schools now practising ecology

Student gardens, tree nurseries, and environmental content woven into the curriculum – a new generation learning to care for creation.

CONSERVATION AGREEMENT

1

districts

A strategic partnership with the Nagan Raya District

Government was strengthened to advance conservation efforts, particularly the protection of the Tripa peat forest as one of the Leuser Ecosystem's critical peatland landscapes.

4,670+

Islamic students reached

At least 4,670 young students are growing up with conservation as part of their everyday learning

Green growth principles formally adopted in Aceh's provincial policy framework

After more than five years of consistent advocacy, the Aceh Green Growth Plan was formalized through a Governor Regulation, strengthening the basis for more sustainable development across the province.

1

Palm oil permit revoked – PT Ika Bina Agro Wisesa

The company's license was withdrawn following 500 hectares of illegal forest clearing



Seeing the Forest Clearly: Data & Monitoring

Our eyes on the forest grew sharper than ever – more maps, more flights, and forest data trusted enough to enter Indonesia’s official records

1,086

Map products produced

217

Drone reconnaissance missions

22

Drone mapping missions

50,017 ha Mapped by drone

Across 22 mapping missions, guiding patrols and advocacy.

2025 Forest data in “Aceh Dalam Angka 2025”

District- level forest cover and deforestation data officially published in the provincial statistics record.

Data collaboration with BPKH XVIII

Monthly PlanetScope data now used by government agencies, with an MoU underway for long-term synchronisation

> 9

Cases followed up (5% pangolin scales seized and 4 protected eagles rescued)

Causes monitored and supported during the year.

> 5

Perpetrators sentenced to imprisonment

Carried forward toward prosecution and accountability.

“Two Decades of Deforestation in Aceh” published

A major report with BPS Aceh linking deforestation and poverty, charting twenty years of forest change to inform smarter decisions.



Dua Dekade Deforestasi Aceh Launching



What this year taught us

2025 tested us in ways we did not plan for. It was a dynamic yet challenging year for HAKA, shaped not only by significant political and institutional transitions at both local and national levels, but also the Cyclone Senyar disaster.

The relationships and coordination pathways we had spent years building suddenly narrowed. Many seats were filled by acting officials, which made policy engagement more cautious and pushed our strategic plans back. So we did what we always do – we adapted. We remapped who held power, rebuilt relationships one by one, and opened new lines of communication with the people now making decisions.

At the national level, the ground shifted again. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry was split into two separate ministries, and with it came overlapping mandates and priorities that did not always line up. That meant we had to engage with several institutions at once, and our advocacy got more complicated. We felt it directly: the implementing rules for the Wildlife Qanun stalled because the agency meant to lead them did not follow through. It was a hard reminder that policy progress depends on someone inside government staying committed – and that we need to read these institutions more deeply than ever.

And then, in November, Cyclone Senyar hit. It disrupted nearly everything we had planned and forced us to drop our timelines and turn, overnight, toward emergency response – mobilising and delivering aid to communities in crisis. Yes, it set our programs back. But it also showed us something about who we are.



Protecting forests requires a shared commitment across sectors.



A glimpse of the destruction left by the 2025 floods and landslides, seen here in Beutong



Community members participate in a weaving skills training to strengthen sustainable livelihoods and local economic resilience.



Women leaders and community members work side by side, demonstrating that conservation and community well-being are strongest when pursued together.



Collaboration with law enforcement agencies remains essential to strengthening environmental protection and accountability across the Leuser landscape.

In those weeks, our relationship with local communities grew stronger and more real. We were no longer only the people who advocate and monitor – we were the people who showed up when the water rose. That experience taught us how much organisational flexibility, readiness for risk, and the ability to respond to a crisis matter – and that we can do all of it without losing sight of where we are headed in the long run.

WHAT MADE THE YEAR HARD

- Leadership changes after the elections slowed coordination and decisions.
- Acting officials meant cautious engagement and delayed plans.
- The Ministry split created overlapping, inconsistent mandates.
- The Wildlife Qanun rules stalled without internal follow-through.
- Cyclone Senyar disrupted activities and shifted our priorities

HOW WE RESPONDED

- Remapped stakeholders and rebuilt relationships from the ground up.
- Opened fresh communication channels with new decision-makers.
- Engaged several intuitions in parallel to keep advocacy alive.
- Deepened our institutional analysis and adaptive strategy
- Stepped up as humanitarian actor, closer to our communities

Even with all of this, 2025 moved us forward in ways that matter. We sharpened our fight against wildlife crime through the new ILE unit, shifting toward a more proactive, intelligence-led approach that targets the organised networks behind the trade – not just the people at the bottom. And we opened our doors wider to the public, especially youth and the media.



The peatland is one of the most carbon-rich forests on earth – and Tripa was one of the last refuges of the Sumatran orangutan. HAKA continues to advocate for policy and protection of the patches that still remain.

The focus of 2025

A record-breaking year of forest loss, a hard-won act of accountability, and the women standing guard over their forest. This is where 2025 came into focus.



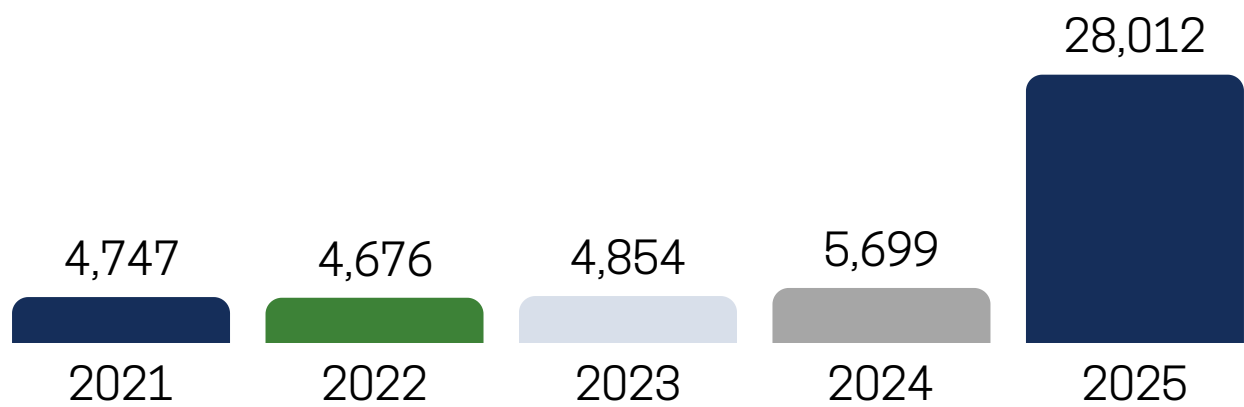
Aceh and Leuser Ecosystem Deforestation in 2025

For nearly a decade, the story of Aceh's forests had been one of slow, hard-won progress. Forest loss fell year after year, reaching its lowest point in 2023. Then 2025 turned that story on its head. Our monitoring recorded a staggering 39,687 hectares of forest cover lost across the province – the worst single year in a decade, and a likely cause was the catastrophic cyclone and floods that struck Aceh in November 2025.

"There was an extremely sharp spike in 2025. Forest loss jumped to 39,687 hectares based on our monitoring data."– Lukmanul Hakim, GIS Manager, Yayasan HAKA

Annual forest cover loss – Leuser Ecosystem (KEL) , Aceh

In hectares, after years near 5,000 ha, 2025 broke the pattern entirely.



Source : HAKA GIS Monitoring KEL (Aceh) lost 28,012 ha in 2025 – nearly 5X the 2024 figure.

What Drove the Loss: Nature and People

Within the Leuser Ecosystem, the 28,012 hectares lost in 2025 came from two very different forces. We separated every hectare into its cause – natural events like landslides and storms, and anthropogenic loss caused by human activity. The split tells an important story about where prevention is still possible.

This massive loss is strongly linked to the worsening floods across Aceh. When upstream forests can no longer absorb water – whether through landslides or human clearing – rivers can no longer hold the rain, and the disaster flows downstream to communities. Protecting Leuser's forests and protecting Aceh's people are the same task.

NATURAL CAUSES

20,395 ha

73% – driven largely by landslides and storm damage, concentrated in Aceh Timur, Aceh Tengah, and Gayo Lues in 2025.

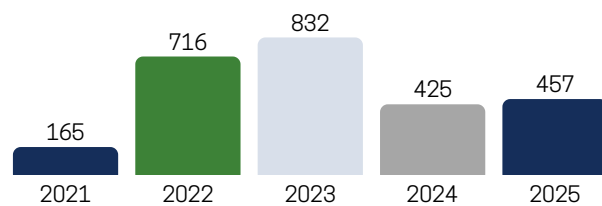
ANTHROPOGENIC

7,561 ha

27% – dominant in Aceh Selatan (2,195 ha) and Nagan Raya (2,130 ha), where people caused almost all the loss.

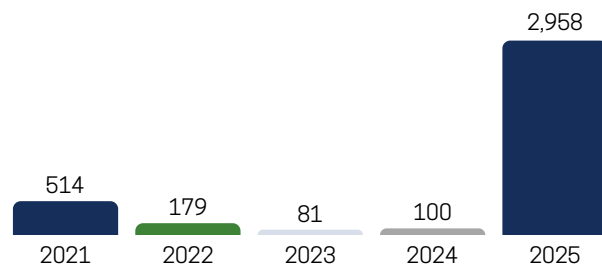
Rawa Singkil Wildlife Reserve

Forest loss (ha), 2021 – 2025 – held relatively steady



Gunung Leuser National Park (TNGL)

Forest loss (ha), 2021 – 2025 – a sudden 2025 surge.



TNGL's 2,958 ha in 2025 was overwhelmingly natural (2,760 ha) versus 198 ha human-caused – a sign of the disaster's force, not a failure of protection



HAKA and MaTA present findings from their joint investigation into PT IBAS – roughly 500 hectares of oil palm developed without the required plantation permit

From evidence to a permit revoked: PT IBAS Case

Cyclone Senyar left no room for doubt. The scale of the damage across Aceh made one thing painfully clear: deforestation and careless land management are not abstract problems – they put real communities in real danger. We chose to turn that hard truth into a moment for accountability. Together with our partner MaTA, we strengthened our push for the government to act against companies tied to forest destruction and broken rules.

Our focus fell on PT Ika Bina Agro Wisesa (IBAS) in Aceh Utara. Through a joint investigation published in October 2025, HAKA and MaTA documented serious concerns: the company had expanded into protected forest and was running a palm oil mill without the required plantation permit (IUP-B). The evidence pointed to roughly 500 hectares of oil palm developed without that permit – including land overlapping protected forest and community-managed areas.

In January 2026, the government announced the revocation – a major win for the joint advocacy HAKA and MaTA had led. When one company lost its licence, it will send a clear signal to every operator inside the Leuser Ecosystem: breaking the rules will carry consequences.

From investigation to revocation in just a few months – proof that careful evidence, strong partnerships, and the right moment can move the government to act.

How women in Tenggulun protect their village forest and wildlife

In the villages around the Leuser Ecosystem, forests are not only protected by organisations – they are protected by the people who live beside them. One of the clearest examples is the Cendana women's group from Tenggulun village, Aceh Tamiang. These mothers have taken the lead in guarding their forest, because they know their lives depend on it.

They patrol the forest near their village regularly, watching for illegal logging, signs of encroachment, and changes in the land. What makes their work so powerful today is that they are no longer just taking part – they are leading. The group has built the skills to monitor their own forest, collect their own data, and even fly drones to see change from above. That means they can respond faster, and understand what is happening in their area without waiting for help from outside.

Their motivation comes from lived experience. After past floods hit their village, they understood – deeply – that losing the forest has real consequences. Since then, they have taken it upon themselves to protect it. For these women, protecting the forest means protecting their water, their safety, and their children's future.

Today, the Cendana group stands as a frontline guardian of the forest – balancing the daily work of home with the work of conservation, and proving that communities are not just beneficiaries, but leaders.

When communities have the knowledge, the tools, and the confidence, they can protect their own forests – sustainably, and on their own terms. That is what lasting conservation looks like.



Guardians of their own forest. Community rangers on patrol – part of the Cendana group that monitors the land their lives depend on.



Gluten-free flours made from bananas and sweet potatoes grown in and around Tenggulun's village forest



Aceh police and HAKA conducted socialization on the prohibition of the use of >4.5mm air rifle, especially for hunting.

Advocate

Advocacy at HAKA is rarely the work of a single moment. It is the long, patient work of building public support that policy needs to land, walking beside communities who carry the cost of bad decisions, and making sure that when a government finally moves, the law moves with it. Through campaign, we reach people's hearts through celebration of culture, faith, art and youth to build share ownership of Leuser. In 2025, four stories captured what that looks like in practice.

BU-Moe? Fest – A movement, not a moment

Bu-Moe Fest was not merely the one-day event itself. It was a multi-platform public campaign designed to put Leuser into the daily life of Aceh – through art, education, faith, youth voices, and public dialogue. Instead of one big launch and a quiet aftermath, we built dozens of doorways into conservation so different audiences could each find their own way in.

Bu-Moe Fest Reach in Numbers

1,897

Participants engaged

725k

Total views

100,893

Accounts reached

5,000

Total interactions

Over the campaign, we brought together communities, students, artists, religious leaders, and policymakers through activities that crossed every kind of audience:

Environmental conferences

School Outreach

Mural Campaigns

Theater Performances

Legal Discussions

Conservation Seminars

Tree Planting

Biodiversity events

Focus Group Discussions

Aceh Youth Environment Conference (AYEC)

The real strength of Bu-Moe Fest was its ability to bridge sectors. The campaign reached not only the general public – especially young people – but also academics, the media, government officials, and community leaders. Through spaces like AYEC and a series of focus group discussions, it opened room for dialogue, real recommendations, and collective action.



What we learned is simple but important: a campaign can be more than awareness. It does not have to be a single event with a single audience. It can be a chorus of events, connecting artists, students, scholars, religious leaders and decision-makers around one shared cause for Leuser. It is a connected network of people, sectors, and ideas all pulling in the same direction.

Highlight

Policy Win: the law on Aceh Green Growth Plan (Pergub GGP) issued

For years, the Aceh Green Growth Plan (GGP) was a good idea sitting on a shelf. Drafted back in 2021, it carried the province's commitment to balance economic growth with environmental care – but without legal status, it could not actually guide decisions, coordinate agencies, or hold anyone accountable.

In 2024 we set out to change that. We engaged directly with Bappeda (the Aceh Development Planning Agency), brought updated data and analysis to the table, and supported the public discussions that gave green growth a clearer place in Aceh's development priorities. The argument was straightforward: environmental sustainability is not the opposite of economic growth.

In January 2025, the Government of Aceh formally issued Governor Regulation No. 14/2025 on the Aceh Green Growth Plan 2025–2045. With that signature, the GGP went from being a strategy document to an enforceable policy instrument. Green growth principles now have to be considered in spatial planning, investment decisions, and sectoral development across the province.

It also matters beyond Aceh's borders. The regulation aligns provincial planning with Indonesia's national climate commitments, and gives government agencies, partners, and stakeholders a clearer common ground to coordinate from. After more than five years of patient work, the law finally caught up with the idea.

The Aceh Green Growth Plan, 2021 – 2025

A four- year journey from planning document to enforceable policy.

✓
2021
GGP first drafted & introduced

✓
2024
HAkA advocacy with Bappeda begins

✓
Jan 2025
Pergub No.14/2025 issued

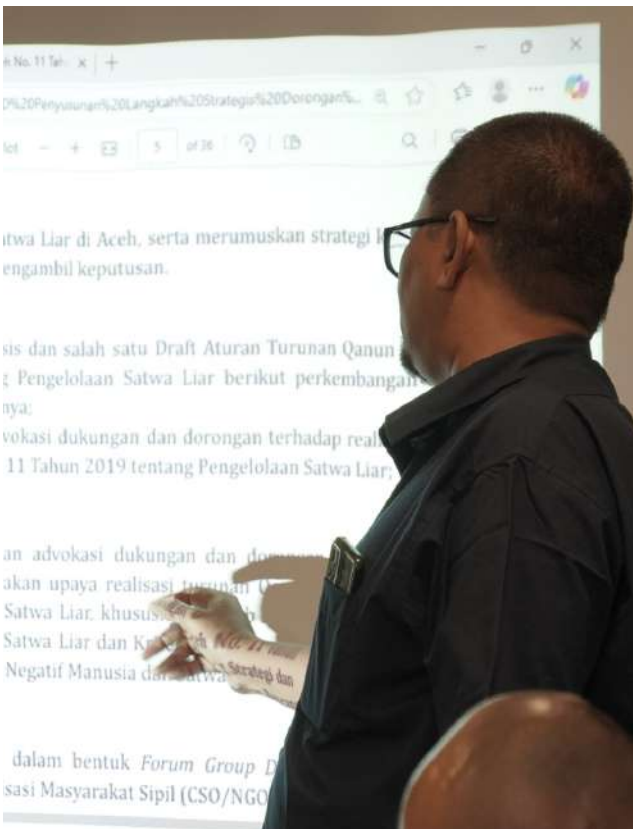
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2025 – 2045
Implementation across sectors

Pergub No. 14 / 2025

On the Aceh Green Growth Plan 2025 – 2045 – a 20 – year legal framework to guide spatial planning, investment, and sectoral policy



Advancing policy dialogue on human-wildlife conflict in Aceh.



Policy Win: Six Districts Unite to Resolve Cost of Human-Wildlife Conflict

Across Aceh, human-wildlife conflict is becoming more frequent and more severe. Elephants, tigers, orangutans, and crocodiles all increasingly cross paths with people – and when they do, the cost are high on communities, wildlife livelihoods, and local economies.

In 2025, our advocacy brought together six district governments around a single, urgent request. Through a series of multi-stakeholder Focus Group Discussions – joining local governments, technical agencies, practitioners, and communities – we built consensus on a joint letter, signed by six district heads (Bupati), calling on the provincial government to speed up the implementing regulations under Qanun Aceh No. 11/2019 on Wildlife Management.

Why a policy for Human-Wildlife Conflict as Extraordinary Disaster (KLB) Classification Matters

The Gap	There is currently no formal mechanism to classify severe human-wildlife conflicts as <i>Kejadian Luar Biasa (KLB)</i> – extraordinary events – so government response stays slow and uneven.
What KLB unlocks	Faster government response – access to emergency resources – a legal basis to compensate communities harmed by wildlife conflict.
The Mandate	It already exists in Qanun 11/2019 – but stays on paper until the provincial government issues the operational Governor Regulation that puts it into action.

By aligning six district leaders behind a single, urgent ask, we turned scattered local concern into a shared political signal – one the provincial government cannot easily set aside. The work continues until the Governor Regulation is issued and communities living with wildlife conflict have the protection, response, and compensation the law promises them.



Empowerment

Conservation lasts when the people closest to the forest are the ones leading it. Across 2025, we walked alongside Aceh's women, communities, and religious leaders as they stepped fully into that role. HAKA's role was simply to stand with them – through training, organising, equipping, and showing up – until they could carry the work themselves. The stories that follow are theirs.



Konferensi Pers Perkumpulan Perempuan Paralegal Aceh

Pembentukan Forum Perkumpulan Paralegal Lingkungan Hidup Aceh (FPPLH Aceh)

*Voices that are no longer faint
"Suara yang tak lagi samar"
How 51 women paralegals from
across Aceh became one
collective voice*

At the end of 2025, 51 women from across Aceh gathered in one room. They were not officials. They were mothers, teachers, farmers, and women carrying the quiet, daily work of holding their families and villages together. What brought them into the same room was not a job description – it was a shared awareness that an injustice in their lives could no longer be ignored.

For these women, environmental damage is not a topic. It is the water so polluted that they can no longer consume, the harvest that shrinks every season, the children who fall sick, and a household load that grows heavier each year. The injustice has a name – extractive activity – and it slowly poisons their water, fouls their air, and erodes their ability to live well on their own land. And the cruel irony is that the women fighting hardest against it are the very women who have lost the most.

The Long Road of Forming Women Paralegal Network

None of this happened overnight. Since 2018, HAKA has supported 258 women through paralegal training – first the basics of law and rights, and then the deeper, slower work of helping each of them find and strengthen her own voice. Many of these women had never imagined standing in front of a crowd, reading a permit document, or sitting across the table from someone in power.

Step by step, that changed. They began to move beyond the role society had handed them. They kept watching over their homes – and they began watching over the forest too. They learned to read permit papers, to write letters to government, and to speak directly with policymakers.



Unwavering against pressure and intimidation

In several regions, the threats were not abstract. Mining did not only damage the land – it divided communities. Villages that once lived peacefully began to splinter. Village officials found themselves on opposite sides of the same dispute. Horizontal conflict became unavoidable. And the attempts to silence the women came in many forms.

But every pressure shaped a new kind of resilience. When the women noticed that mining activity stopped only on the day a raid happened, and resumed the very moment officials left, they understood something important: this inequality was not an accident. It was systematic. From that realisation they grew sharper, more critical, and began to see patterns they had been told not to see.

That clearer sight pushed them forward. They studied the legal position of their communities. They learned advocacy strategy. They began to ask hard questions about policies that worked against the people they loved. And the change did not stop at them – it travelled home. Families who had once been hesitant about all of this slowly began to feel something else: pride. They saw that this was not a hobby. It was the work of protecting the life they all shared. At heart, every one of these women is a mother who simply wants her children and grandchildren to still be able to enjoy nature in the same place they call home.

The pressure these women had to face

- Bribes were offered to stop speaking out
- Threats of being reported to the police
- Stigma and discrimination
- Their own communities are being divided
- Intimidation and direct threats
- Seizure of their own land
- Threats of criminalisation
- Environmental recommendations ignored

From many voices to one loud ones

The movement grew. Petitions were filed. Motions of no confidence were lodged. Reports were sent to one institution after another. Often, the responses did not touch the root of the problem. Even the recommendations of environmental bodies could be brushed aside. Through all of it, the women faced stigma, intimidation, discrimination, and even threats of criminalisation. And from those experiences came one important lesson: when one of us is attacked, the rest of us cannot stay silent.

Slowly they understood – voices raised separately were not strong enough. When they moved together, something shifted. Companies became more responsive. Pressure became real. Their voices began to count. From there, the movement matured. It stopped being only protest and started carrying solutions with it. That single conviction shifted the direction of everything. The movement could no longer be a collection of separate village voices – it had to become one. And so a collective home was born.

What They Did Together

- 01

Planted Trees

Restoring land in the very places they were defending.
- 02

Taught Their Communities

Sharing environmental law so others could stand on solid ground too.
- 03

Strengthened Village Rules

Building protection into the everyday governance of their own villages.
- 04

Built Alternative Livelihoods

Creating more sustainable income so families weren't forced to choose between land and survival.
- 05

Read & Challenged Permits

Studying official documents and pushing back on the ones that ignored community life.
- 06

Spoke to Decision-Makers

Sitting at tables they had once been told they did not belong at.

★ ESTABLISHED LATE 2025

Forum Perkumpulan Perempuan Paralegal Lingkungan Hidup Aceh

FPPLH ACEH

A forum uniting women's voices across regions of Aceh into one stronger movement to protect their land, water and futures.

What Really Changed

BEFORE	AFTER
Placed at the receiving end of harm	Standing as people who know their rights
Surviving in isolation	Leading as one collective
Faint voices, easy to overlook	A force that can no longer be ignored
Speaking village by village	Speaking in the name of Allah



Festival Nenggeri Linge 2 – A Cultural Event that Endured

The second Festival Nenggeri Linge was meant to be a celebration. By the time it was over, it had also become a story of survival – and a promise from the district itself. Held in the homeland of the Gayo people, this was never just a cultural event. It was the community's collective reaffirmation that Linge is an *indigenous and conservation landscape*, a place where culture, nature, and the spirit of *musarak* – working as one – are lived every day. From preparation to planning, from much of the funding to the execution itself, the festival was carried by the community's own hands.

During his visit to see the preparations of the festival, the Bupati of Aceh Tengah committed that the Festival Nenggeri Linge will, from now on, become an official agenda of the district.

On the first day four main events were held. In a central stage, the festival held Didong competition, a traditional Gayo art which combines singing, poetry and body percussuion. There was a non-timber forest product exhibition under a traditional Gayo house nearby the main



Pembukaan Festival Nenggeri Linge

stage showcased by HAKA's partner communities. For the children, the festival held academic quiz (*cerdas cermat*) and theatre where the children of Linge performed beautiful stories of everyday Gayo life and of *merantau*.

The festival held its first day event, but on the second day, the team had to fight their way out of the disaster zone to return home – a story all its own, now part of Linge's memory.

What started as a festival became a shared lesson – about resilience, about a community building an event from its own hands, and about what culture means when it meets crisis.



Festival Nenggeri Linge Hari ke 1

Eyes on the forest, held by the community

Conservation works best when the people closest to the forest are the ones watching over it. In 2025, HAKA supported 15 Community Patrol Teams (CPT) operating across Aceh's social forestry areas – independent, community-based monitors patrolling the very land they are managing. Of every 100 rangers, more than a third are women. Now, 5,716 hectares of forest are under the everyday watch of the community rangers. A conservation efforts as it should be, implemented by the people who live with the forest.

The Patrols in Numbers

15

CPT teams supported

87

Rangers in total

30

Women rangers

5,716 ha

Patrolled area

What they are finding

- Biodiversity data – flora, fauna, and fungi records
- Geodiversity – waterfalls, rivers, and forest features
- Cultural sites – including ancient burial grounds
- Threats – Illegal logging traces and animal snares

Where they need more support

- Mapping and digitisation skills (most groups lack laptops)
- Field documentation standards (Photo quality, SOPs)
- Data entry and report writing capacity
- More patrol equipment – headlamps, GPS, gear



CPT LPHK Peteri Pukes



Before paralegal training, when people in Beutong were summoned by the police or a company, they were afraid. They simply went. No questions. No documents asked for. After paralegal training, that changed. They learned to ask, calmly: What is the basis for this summons? What document is this written on? What are my rights, and what are my obligations?

It started in 2020, when Mak Wod first joined a paralegal training in West Aceh. Two organisations were working to support communities facing a gold-mining project: WALHI, strengthening the men's group, and HAKA standing beside the women's group. From that training, Mak Wod went home and quietly built something extraordinary. She spoke to the women of Beutong about their rights – one mother, one neighbour, one friend at a time.

She organised 50 of them. And from that organising, Perempuan Beutong Bersatu (PBB) was born.

HAKA continued to support PBB through deeper training – paralegal practice, Environmental Impact Analysis (AMDAL), and organisational governance. By 2025, this was no longer a group of trainees. It was a self-organising women's collective.

And then came August. Mak Wod and her team of ibu-ibu were out in their forest when they discovered bird poaching in progress. They did not call anyone. They did not wait. They approached the poachers themselves, asked them to stop their activity, and asked them to leave the village. The poachers left.

Conservation Spoken through Faith

In Aceh, religious leaders shape daily life in ways that few others can. When a teacher in a dayah teaches that protecting creation is part of the faith, students do not just learn it – they live by it. That is why HAKA has invested in building a faith-based pathway to conservation through the Teungku Inong – Aceh's network of female Islamic religious leaders, embedding environmental stewardship into religious teaching.

In 2025, we facilitated a three-day Focus Group Discussion in Takengon, bringing together 20 female Islamic leaders from across Aceh to review and strengthen the Teungku Inong ecological education module. The room became a space to share experiences, surface challenges, and explore how to weave conservation messages into religious teaching and daily community life.

The Reach So Far

20

Female religious leaders in the FGD

38.9%

of participants have fully implemented the module

4,670

Students reached across dayahs (religious schools)

Daily Practices Inside Dayahs

Tangible behaviour changes already seen

Waste Segregation

Reduced single-use plastics

Small-scale food production

Stingless-bee cultivation

Solar energy adoption

Circular-economy approaches

MODEL DAYAH • A LIVE CASE STUDY

Raudhatul Jannah

Among the dayahs the FGD visited, Raudhatul Jannah stood out as a model of how a religious school can hold ecological practice and faith education together – providing the kind of inspiration that other dayahs can adopt and adapt for themselves.

The FGD also surfaced a real gap: many teachers had quietly made changes but had no platform to share what they learned. The discussion finally opened that exchange – surfacing practical examples that had never been written down. Participants asked for two things going forward: broader access to the module, and materials adapted for younger audiences through more interactive and visual formats.



A person wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt with "KALAMATI" and "DRONESPILOT" printed on the back is seen from behind, holding a drone controller. A drone is flying in the sky above them. The background is a lush green forest landscape with a dirt path.

Monitor

In 2025, our monitoring work covered three connected fronts. The GIS unit turned satellite data and drone flights into maps and evidences to communities, government agencies, and journalists alike. We shared what we knew, training 9 different groups and beginning a formal data partnership with the Ministry of Forestry through BPKH Wilayah XVIII. And we put the data to work – most powerfully in Tenggulun, where satellite evidence of 300 hectares of illegal oil palm inside Gunung Leuser National Park, combined with two years of patient advocacy, led to the felling of around 300 hectares of illegal plantation in September 2025.

The GIS Engine Behind Our Advocacy and Campaign Operation

Almost every other story in this report started with our GIS unit. Every advocacy meeting, every law enforcement operation, every press release – they all rest on a foundation of credible, verifiable data. In 2025, that foundation grew sharper and reached further than ever before.

In 2025, an official request from Ministry of Forestry (BPKH XVIII) for our monthly PlanetScope satellite imagery marked the start of a long-term data partnership. The imagery is now used by the ministry technical units across Aceh. And now a formal MoU is being drafted to synchronize our data with the Ministry's.



GIS-generated deforestation data informing conservation action in Aceh

The Year in Maps & Flights

175

Maps produced for internal & external use

75

External data requests fulfilled

5

Official data dissemination letters

Drones in the Air

166

Free- flying missions

9

Drone mapping missions

16,322 ha

Area covered by drone mapping

Teaching Others to See

9 TRAINING DELIVERED IN 2025. BASIC GIS. DRONE. GLOBAL FOREST WATCH. MY MAPS.

LPHD Community groups

University students

BBTNGL

Pemko Subulussalam

Recognised by the State

BPS ACEH AWARD – STRATEGIC PARTNER

BPS Aceh recognized HAKA as a strategic partner for our contribution to strengthening data-based advocacy for the protection of the Leuser Ecosystem. Our forest data is now published in *Aceh Dalam Angka* and the BPS book on *Deforestation and Welfare*.



Evidence into Action in Tenggulun, Gunung Leuser National Park

This is the story of what becomes possible when monitoring stops being a back-office activity and starts walking arm-in-arm with advocacy, communication, and law enforcement.

Inside Gunung Leuser National Park, near Tenggulun in Aceh Tamiang, illegal oil palm had quietly expanded for years. Through our GIS unit, we combined satellite analysis with field verification to produce something the system could not ignore: a credible, dated, georeferenced record of approximately 296 hectares of oil palm planted inside a national park. That evidence then went to work – into policy dialogue, civil-society coalitions, public storytelling, and finally enforcement.

From Satellite Image to 300 Hectares Restored in the National Park

2024 7 FEB 2024

**INITIAL COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN
TENGULUN**

Building local awareness around the Aceh-North Sumatra boundary dispute.

29 FEB 2024

JOINT OPERATION UNCOVERS ILLEGAL CLEARING

Aceh Police partner with us; heavy equipment and four suspected actors identified.

3 APRIL 2024

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER FGD IN BANDA ACEH

Coordinating follow-up on forest conversion inside GLNP.

22 APRIL 2024

CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION LETTER

HAKA, WALHI Aceh, LBH Banda Aceh, JKMA, and others jointly urge action.

9 JULY 2024

**HIGH-LEVEL ENGAGEMENT WITH THE WALI
NANGGROE**

Elevating the issue politically at the highest provincial level.

18 OCTOBER 2024

MULTI-AGENCY COORDINATION LED BY GLNP

A unified institutional response begins to take shape.

6 DECEMBER 2024

GIS ANALYSIS CONFIRMS 296 HA OF ILLEGAL OIL PALM

The evidence base is locked in.

12 DECEMBER 2024

DOCUMENTARY RELEASED ON YOUTUBE

Public reach grows – pressure builds.

16- 21 DECEMBER 2024

**JOINT ENFORCEMENT – SIGNS, CLEARING, SYMBOLIC
RESTORATION**

The first on-the-ground actions take place.

2025 4 SEPTEMBER 2025

**300 HECTARS OF ILLEGAL OIL PALM DESTROYED BY
SATGAS PKH**

The Forest Area Enforcement Task Force completes the breakthrough enforcement action.

Tenggulun is the proof of concept. Data alone does not move governments. But data, paired with coalitions, public storytelling, and political will, can shift institutional response from delay to coordinated enforcement – even inside a national park.

Youth Engagement in Digital Advocacy and Legal Reform on Wildlife Crime Enforcement

Illegal wildlife trade has been moving online – and so has the conversation around how to stop it. In 2025, we asked a simple question: can young people lead this work in a way our generation could not? We invested in two parallel experiments. One was about reaching people; the other was about protecting how the law works.

Interns under our Environmental Cadre Programme conducted a legal and field-based review of how wildlife crime is enforced in Indonesia. They visited prisons. They interviewed people convicted of wildlife crime offences. And they found something quietly important. Law enforcement has been doing undercover buy operations which often resemble entrapment where the perpetrators were exposed to demand for illegal wildlife products. Indonesian law clearly regulates undercover buy methods for narcotics case, but for wildlife crime enforcement, the legal guidance simply is not there. To bring this gap into public debate, we facilitated a Legal Discussion Seminar at the Faculty of Law, Universitas Syiah Kuala – led by our youth researchers themselves.

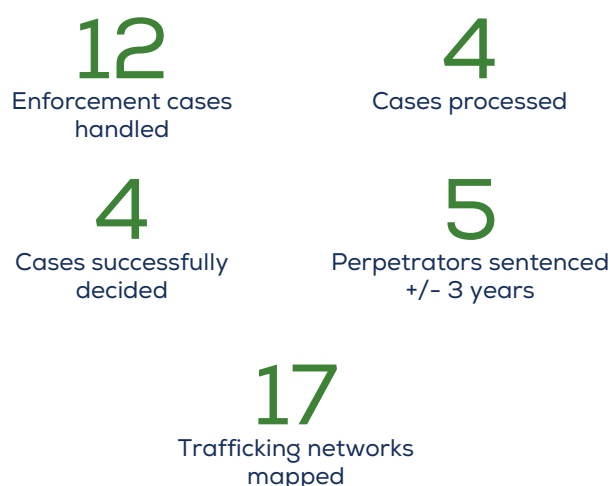
The seminar was led by the interns as youth researchers and convened key stakeholders, including representatives from POLDA Aceh, BKSDA Aceh, the Aceh High Court, academics, civil society organizations, and media. Discussions highlighted the absence of clear legal guidance on undercover-buy practices in wildlife crime enforcement and emphasized the need for stronger ethical and regulatory frameworks.

This integrated approach demonstrates the value of youth-led initiatives beyond awareness-raising. By combining digital communication with evidence-based legal analysis, HAKA not only expanded public engagement but also contributed to more informed and accountable conservation governance. The initiative highlights how young professionals can play a critical role in bridging communication, research, and policy—ensuring that both public narratives and enforcement practices evolve in ways that are effective, ethical, and aligned with long-term conservation goals.

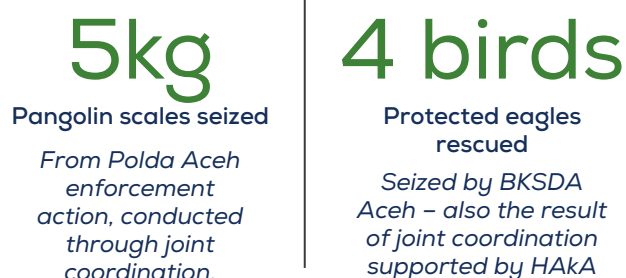
Intelligence-based enforcement against Wildlife Crime

Our law enforcement team works on the part of conservation that few people see – the slow, careful work of tracing wildlife crime networks, supporting authorities with evidence, and following cases all the way through to a courtroom sentence. In 2025, the work intensified.

ILE Team Results, 2025



Wildlife and protected species recovered through coordination with the law enforcement authorities:



Every one of these numbers represents months of patient intelligence work, partnership with law enforcement, and persistence through legal process.

Award

PPATK

PPATK Recognition of HAKA's Data-Driven Environmental Crime Report

In November 2025, HAKA received formal recognition from the Financial Transaction Reports and Analysis Center (PPATK) for a report that was assessed as comprehensive, well-structured, and supported by strong and credible data. The report demonstrated HAKA's capacity to compile and analyze complex information related to environmental and natural resource crimes in a manner that meets the standards of financial intelligence and law enforcement institutions. This recognition was publicly highlighted by Forest Watch Indonesia, emphasizing the growing role of civil society organizations in contributing to evidence-

based enforcement and accountability mechanisms.

The report submitted by HAKA has now been formally processed by PPATK and is expected to be forwarded to investigators in the near term for further legal follow-up. This development marks an important step in bridging civil society monitoring with formal investigative processes and demonstrates how robust, data-driven reporting can support state institutions in addressing environmental crime. The recognition reinforces HAKA's strategic role in strengthening transparency, inter-agency collaboration, and the overall effectiveness of environmental law enforcement in Indonesia.



Partners



THE ECOLOGY TRUST



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