

BIJI ALAM

Quarterly newsletter

Sep 2026

WINNERS CHOSEN!

It has been a long few months looking through an impressive field of candidates but our six scorers and judges finally decided on two great winners for this year's awards. You'll have to wait for the 3 November to find out who won and the only clue we can give out is that the theme colour for our brochure this year may not be forest green



WHAT NOW?

All hands are on deck in the run up to our award night - our filmmakers are already on site shooting the scenes; our trophy artist '26 is putting on the finishing touches to the trophies, award agreements are being signed, invitations to our media partners being sent out and our copywrite team is busy trying to squeeze lifetimes of work and passion into a couple of pages of A4. All will, we hope, come together with a bang on the night.

NATURE NEWS

In our new format website planned to go live later this year, we have decided to add on a new section called Nature News - a collection of articles we think are particularly noteworthy on Malaysian and global nature. We don't promise to be all encompassing, but we hope to be interesting. As a sneak preview, here are links to the items we have found most significant - [The 7th National Report to the Convention of Biodiversity](#), the just out Birdlife quadrenial report [State of the World's Birds](#) and the cheering news that the leatherback turtle is finally back after 9 long years! We missed you!

Leatherback turtles return to Terengganu after nine years

By **Bernama**

September 2, 2026 @ 11:25am



WINNERS '25 REPORTS

The half year reports of our 2025 winners are in. Here's what they have been up to.



Dr Munira Azman

Munira's award for SPMP was given to develop community appreciation for the thousands of migratory shorebirds who flock to the 10km TAT-KLM site near Penang to rest on their travels. She also wanted to develop an eco-tourism industry with fishermen and to strengthen bird monitoring. All with the aim of achieving formal protection for the area and to build community protection for the birds. In the last six months:

Munira and her team at SPMP have held

- A seminal Shorebirds Carnival attracting 300 people from a wide range of stakeholders, notably the state dignitaries but also fishermen, schools, NGOs, private sector and other government agencies.
- An Ekokids workshop - with 20 children, their parents and 30 UPSI students participating to learn about the birds and their habitats.
- A capacity building bird identification work shop for fishermen, SPMP volunteers and others.
- The award money was also spent on equipment like a TV and stand to help during workshops and an artificial roost to help the birds find resting places during the high tides.

Munira's efforts have paid off. Shortly after the carnival, the Penang Forestry Department agreed to put forward the site for international recognition as part of the East Asian-Australian Flyway (EAAF) route and in July 2026, Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow publicly stated the state government's aspiration for Penang to become the first state in Peninsular Malaysia to receive EAAF recognition.

The remaining RM5,361.50 is expected to be fully utilised during the ongoing monitoring and setting up the high-tide roost. Final expenditure will be reconciled and reported once these research activities are completed.

Congratulations on your **great outcomes**, Munira and SPMP!



Dr Nurzhafarina Othman

Farina's award for Seratu Aatai was given to **foster understanding of elephant behaviour** and so promote confidence and lessen conflict during elephant encounters. This is particularly important for workers and their families in oil palm plantations who are the ones most likely to see elephants in their daily lives. Elephants now frequent plantations looking for food as a result of their dwindling forest habitat and can provoke panic and aggression for both human and animal. Humana plantation schools are set up for plantation workers families in the Lower Kinabatangan area where plantations dominate the landscape.

Farina and her team at Seratu Aatai have made

- 11 visits to 5 schools in 5 plantations, spreading awareness and practical safety skills during encounters.
- Taken pupils from the schools to visit the Bornean Elephant Sanctuary to help familiarize them with and learn about elephants.
- Created innovative teaching and outreach materials, including the cartoon series Jalan Arif which teaches elephant behavior in a fun way, reaching way beyond schools. The first three episodes generated 210,300 views and 9,561 interactions on social media.

"There are increasing efforts to promote coexistence by improving habitat connectivity and establishing corridors that allow elephants to move safely through fragmented landscapes, particularly within and around oil palm plantations. This also requires preparing the people who live and work in these landscapes to share that space safely."

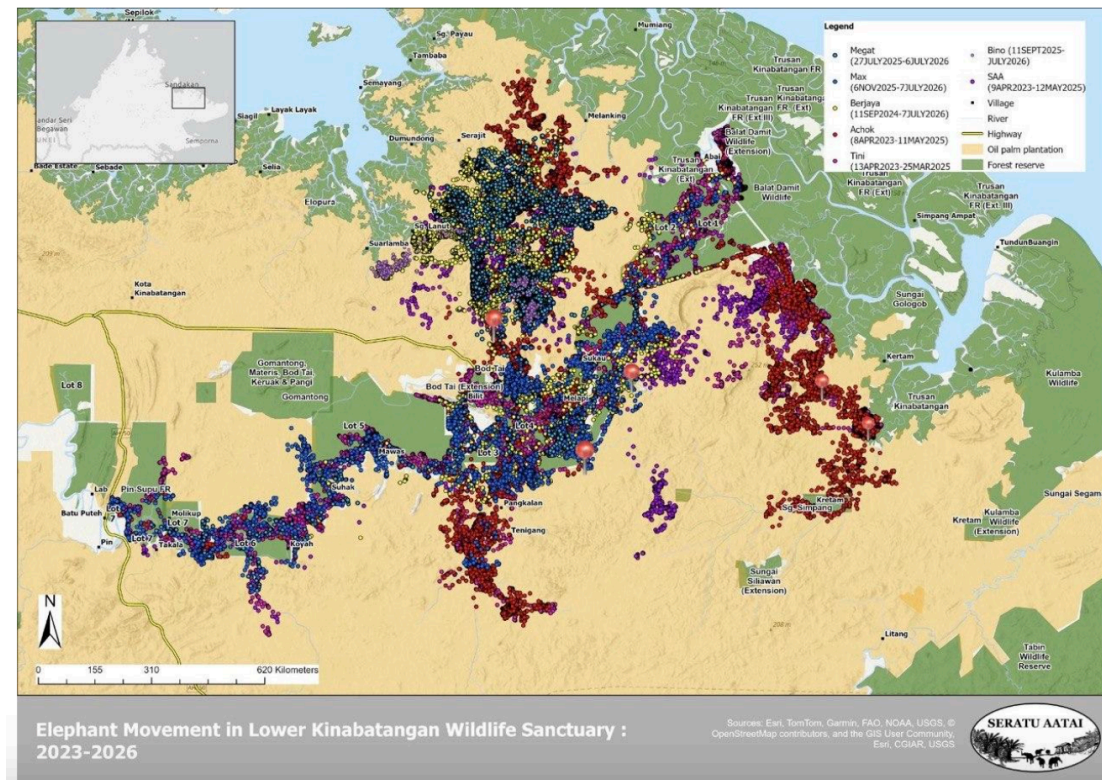
With less conflict arising, Farina hopes it will be easier to work with plantation managers to come up with solutions, such as corridors, for peaceful coexistence.

Farina is also refining how to measure the outcomes of her programmes "Building our team's capacity in monitoring and evaluation will allow us to better track outcomes over time, identify which approaches are most effective, and use the findings to improve future education and coexistence programmes."

The balance of RM6,600 will be spent on further developing educational materials and visiting schools.

Great work, Farina and Seratu Aatai!

Track the movements of individual elephants below and see where they wander in relation to the schools (light red dots) in Lower Kinabatangan, Sabah.



”

*With warm regards,
Natalie, Teckwyn and the Biji Alam Team.*



**Biji Alam Conservation Society, Selangor (Persatuan Konservasi Biji Alam) registration
number: PPM-012-14-06092024
email: bijialamorg@gmail.com**

Visit Us