

# Impact Report 2025

Saving the Indonesia's Wild Bird Populations



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## Letter from the Executive Director

2025 was a challenging year, but we made it through together. Thanks to the collaboration, commitment, and incredible support from so many people we can't name one by one, we managed to achieve so much.

We rescued tens of thousands of wildlife, mostly birds, from the illegal trade and gave them a second chance to live in their natural habitats.

Overall, throughout 2025, we have supported the rescue of 30,363 animals from the illegal wildlife trade, of which 99.81 percent (30,306 individuals) were birds. The majority of confiscated birds that survived were released into suitable habitats after being confirmed healthy. Meanwhile, 510 confiscated birds that were sick and unable to fly due to wing damage caused by poachers' traps underwent treatment at our songbird rehabilitation center.

In addition to wildlife rescue efforts, we also successfully enhanced the capacity of state and non-state actors to combat the illegal trade in wildlife, particularly wild bird, in Indonesia. This was achieved through awareness and capacity building activities, coordinating law enforcement efforts, and monitoring and mapping trade networks.

We realize that efforts to save Indonesia's wild birds cannot be done alone. We need the cooperation and collaboration of all parties.

Endless thanks to everyone who played a part in 2025. Please keep supporting us in 2026!

With my sincere gratitude



Marison Guciano

## Our achievement

Significant advancements were made in efforts to save Indonesia's bird from the illegal wildlife trade in 2025 period, resulting in 58 seizures and 30,363 wildlife (99.81% were birds) rescued. The majority of confiscated birds (most songbirds) that survived were released into their natural habitats.

Apart from wild birds, we also rescue other wildlife, such as marble cat, The Sulawesi bear cuscus and Siamang gibbons. In addition, we also successfully assisted authorities in intercepting illegal shipments of animals originating from Africa, such as pygmy goats, bushbabies, and meerkats. These animals were smuggled from Africa to Indonesia via Thailand. Please see the seizure locations in the infographic below.

## FLIGHT'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The following are the achievements of FLIGHT for two thousand twenty-five (January - December 2025)



FLIGHT's support in combating the illegal songbird trade is not only limited to assisting law enforcement to conduct seizures, but also facilitating the release of confiscated songbirds back into their natural habitat. This support has helped the authorities alleviating the logistical challenges of handling significant volumes of songbirds. In addition, FLIGHT's support has ensured the proper care, handling and appropriate release of confiscated songbird.

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*Seizure of 4,095 birds in Lampung on October 3, 2025*



*Release of 4,095 confiscated birds in Lampung on 3 October 2025*

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To ensure that the released birds are safe from poachers' traps, we conduct routine patrols and joint patrols in Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park. Joint patrols involve the communities, forest rangers, police, military, and quarantine authorities. The synergy between the many parties involved in patrols and seizures is proof of the excellent commitment and synergy between state institutions and the community in protecting wild birds, especially those in Lampung.

We also put up signs prohibiting wildlife hunting in the Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park area. These prohibition signs are placed at the entrances to forests and forest areas bordering residential areas.

During patrol, we found two traps set by poachers to catch songbirds in the Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park area. We then destroyed the traps so that they could no longer be used by poachers.

The hunters' trap consists of tree branches coated with a mixture of rat glue and rubber sap. Hunters generally use bird songs played on their cell phones to lure birds to come and perch on their traps.



*Joint patrol in Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park, Lampung*

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*The installation of a sign prohibiting the poaching of wildlife in Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park*

Throughout 2025, we have built three new aviaries to care for confiscated birds that are sick and unable to fly due to wing damage caused by poachers' traps. One aviary was built in Lampung and two aviaries were built in South Sumatra. During 2025, 510 songbirds underwent treatment at our Center. They were released into suitable habitats after being confirmed to be in good health.



*An aviary built in Lampung to care for confiscated birds*

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*A confiscated bird undergoing treatment at our center*



*Our songbird rehabilitation center located in the Wan Abdul Rachman Forest Park area, Lampung*

To support the availability of food for birds released into the wild, we have established nurseries and planted trees whose fruits and flowers can be used as food and are favored by birds, one of which is the mulberry tree. This activity is a form of forest enrichment.

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*A nursery garden with trees whose fruits and flowers are favored by birds*



*Planting mulberry trees, a type of tree whose fruit and flowers are favored by birds, in the Wan Abdul Rachman Forest Park area*

During the previous project period, FLIGHT investigations uncovered the widespread involvement of corrupt military personnel in the illegal wildlife trade. Hundreds of wildlife (mostly Papuan species) were seized by Military Police from two Navy warships on July and September 2022.

Amid the widespread involvement of corrupt military personnel in illegal wildlife trade syndicate networks, FLIGHT have collaborated with the Naval Military Police and The Indonesian National Armed Forces Strategic Intelligence Agency (BAIS TNI) to tackle this problem.

To address the involvement of military personnel in illegal trade, FLIGHT successfully established a strategic alliance with the armed forces through four intensive capacity-building sessions in 2025.

On February 17, 2025, we collaborated with the Naval Military Police Center (Puspomal) during their Technical Working Meeting in Jakarta. Attended by regional commanders, this high-level session featured key speakers including Nunu Nugraha from the Ministry of Forestry and FLIGHT Honorary Advisor Davina Veronica. They emphasized that protecting wildlife is synonymous with safeguarding national assets.

We further expanded this impact on August 1, 2025, in Surabaya by engaging approximately 100 naval officers stationed across the archipelago, from Sabang to Merauke. This initiative successfully transformed these officers from solely ocean defenders into committed guardians of Indonesia's forests and wildlife.



*An awareness-raising meeting was held at the Navy Military Police Headquarters in Jakarta on February 18, 2025*

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*Surabaya, August 1, 2025: 100 Naval Officers uniting to protect Indonesia's wildlife as a national asset.*

On July 4, 2025, the Indonesian National Armed Forces Strategic Intelligence Agency (BAIS TNI), with the support of FLIGHT, successfully seized dozens of wild animals—the majority of Papuan species—from a warship in Tanjung Priok Port, Jakarta. The seized wild animals were handed over to the Jakarta Natural Resources Conservation Agency. The intelligence agency asked us not to expose this case because the news of the seizure is very sensitive if it becomes public knowledge.



The handover of animals confiscated from a warship at Tanjung Priok Port, Jakarta, to the Jakarta Natural Resources Conservation Agency on 4 July 2025.

Solidifying our presence in Eastern Indonesia, a critical hotspot for parrot trafficking, FLIGHT and the Maluku Natural Resources Conservation Agency (BKSDA) strengthened collaboration with the Naval Military Police in Ambon.

On November 17, 2025, our team met with Lieutenant Colonel Sudrajat Mukti Nugroho, Commander of Kodaeral IX Ambon Naval Military Police. This high-level coordination served to establish a unified front for surveillance and enforcement in the Maluku region. It ensures that our protection efforts are synchronized across the archipelago, closing gaps in monitoring that smugglers often exploit.



*Ambon, November 17, 2025: FLIGHT and BKSDA Maluku strengthening the enforcement alliance with the Naval Military Police Commander of Lantamal IX to combat wildlife crime in Eastern Indonesia.*

To fortify the critical Sumatra-Java crossing, FLIGHT supported a strategic Technical Guidance session on October 22, 2025, hosted by the Lampung Quarantine Agency.

During this session, the Head of Lampung Quarantine, Donni Muksydayan, emphasized a paradigm shift in supervision: moving from reactive port checks to proactive 'upstream-to-downstream' synergy. While Bakauheni Port remains a vital choke point—evidenced by 13 smuggling attempts foiled and 6,685 birds seized by Quarantine officials in 2025—interception at the exit gate is not enough.

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This initiative focused on strengthening cross-sectoral coordination to detect and stop trafficking at the collection points (upstream) in the provinces of origin. By integrating intelligence with quarantine supervision, we aim to dismantle smuggling networks long before they reach the port, mitigating both biodiversity loss and biosecurity risks.



*Cross-sectoral synergy in action: A Technical Guidance meeting at the Lampung Quarantine Agency on October 22, 2025. Stakeholders, including BAIS TNI, gathered to formulate strategies for preventing wildlife smuggling and biosecurity threats from the source.*

In the 2025 project period, FLIGHT is working to reduce the high market demand for caged birds by educating young generations in schools. Efforts to raise awareness in communities around release sites are also being made to ensure the birds are safe from poachers. These awareness-raising activities can complement ongoing law enforcement efforts to tackle the massive illegal trade in songbirds.

In the past 12 months, FLIGHT has visited 14 schools in different locations and 12 community groups around Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park to educate and raise awareness on the importance of protecting birds and other wildlife in nature.

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*Awareness-raising socialisations for communities living near forests on 20 January 2025*



*Socialization to raise awareness among one of the community groups in the Wan Abdul Rachman Forest Park area*

Recognizing that education is the key to long-term forest protection, FLIGHT collaborated with UPTD Tahura Wan Abdul Rachman, Satintelmed BAIS TNI, and PGN to inaugurate the Tahura Wan Abdul Rachman Reading House.

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Situated near forest-edge villages where land conversion pressure is high, this facility provides children with free access to environmental literature. The Reading House serves as a permanent educational hub designed to instill conservation values from an early age. It aims to cultivate a new generation that actively cares for their natural heritage. This initiative complements our economic empowerment programs, such as bird-friendly coffee development, creating a holistic approach to community engagement.

On February 24, together with key authorities, we conducted a social service activity by donating school supplies to children in villages around the Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park in Lampung. Some of the forest village communities are still trapped in poverty, so their children's school needs are often not met.



*Nuwo Baca: A new hub for conservation education. This reading house was established to cultivate a love for nature among the younger generation living around the Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park.*



*Social service activities for children in villages around Wan Abdul Rachman Grand Forest Park on February 24, 2025*



*Visiting Bojonegoro Integrated Junior High School to conduct educational activities on 28 May 2025*

2025 was a successful year for our efforts to save Indonesia's wild bird populations.. Many major bird traders have gone bankrupt and ceased operations. Of the 370 major traders we

identified across Indonesia, 68 have stopped trading, mostly in Sumatra. The decline in market demand has certainly made birds in the forest safer from poaching.

Another piece of good news is the harsh sentences that judges have begun to hand down to traffickers. On November 10, 2025, a smuggler of 336 Sumatran songbirds who was caught at the Port of Bakauheni, Lampung, was sentenced to 5 years in prison and fined IDR 200,000,000 (around USD 12,500) by the Tanjung Karang District Court, Lampung. <https://kumparan.com/lampunggeh/terdakwa-penyelundupan-ratusan-burung-liar-divonis-5-tahun-penjara-26F6XR9jD0g/2>

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