The Malaysian tiger is the national animal of Malaysia and it is the pride and symbol of strength for Malaysians. Sadly, the number of tigers in the country has plummeted from over 3000 in the 1950s, to approximately 200 today. Worldwide, the number of tigers left in the wild is around 3500. This essay will discuss whether the efforts to support tiger conservation in Malaysia should start from students.

Firstly, it is undeniable that all forms of awareness about tiger conservation is crucial in the attempt to protect these big cats and create a safe haven for them to roam freely and reproduce in their natural habitat. Students play an important role as they are more vocal about their concerns and are willing to speak out. Having a group of students who are prepared to stand up and make known the plight faced by the Malayan tigers could possibly sway the relevant organisations and authority bodies to come up with more tiger-friendly initiatives.

Nevertheless, the scope of conservation is wide and there is more to be done. For example, the main threats to the existing tiger population in Malaysia are caused by a few factors. The first is poaching, where tigers are killed for their pelts and bones which are used in Asian medicine. In this case, awareness on tiger conservation and debunking the myth of how tiger bones can create miraculous cures is pivotal to stop the demand for tiger body parts.

Habitat loss is also a big threat as tigers have a smaller area left to hunt and breed, which leads to lack of available prey. This leads to another major issue, the human-tiger conflict, where tigers are killed by farmers in retaliation to the killing of the livestocks on farms. Mere spread of awareness alone will not do much for these tigers. Active actions must be taken to stop the ongoing threats faced by these wild cats. Non-profit animal conservation groups must work hand in hand with the local authorities to enact strict policies that are tiger-friendly and impose heavy fines or sentences on the illegal poaching and killing of tigers.

In conclusion, although students can and do play an important role in the conservation of tigers, I do not agree that tiger conservation in the country should start with them. Relevant authorities with the non-profit animal conservation groups should spearhead the efforts and ensure the sustainability of these majestic creatures.