

# The Malayan Tiger Conservation Programme

- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Partnership for the  
Malayan Tiger -



Final Report submitted by

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## Introduction

Thirty years have passed since the tiger was listed as a totally protected species in Malaysia under the Protection of Wild Life Act in 1976. Malaysia is one of 13 nations where the tiger clings for survival today. Throughout its range, the species lost 93% of its original habitat and three subspecies in the past century (Dinerstein et al. 2006). In the past decade alone, tiger habitats in India, Indochina and Southeast Asia shrunk by 40%. Threats to the survival of wild tigers are mounting and the world without tigers may become a reality in our lifetime.

Challenges to tiger conservation are multi-faceted. Finding solutions therefore requires an integrated conservation approach. As the leading government agency in wildlife conservation in Malaysia, one of the critical roles of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP) is to promote the integration of and collaboration with conservation partners in reaching the goal of conservation excellence.

In the overarching spirit of partnership, the DWNP initiated the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) in 2003. MYCAT is a formal yet flexible platform for information exchange, collaboration, and resource consolidation among the conservation partners. The current partner organizations are the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (TSEA), the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF-Malaysia.

The goal of the Malayan Tiger Conservation Programme is to strengthen tiger conservation in Malaysia by enhancing public awareness levels on tiger conservation-related issues and by forging greater partnership through increased communication and collaboration with MYCAT partners, the public, other government agencies, members of the private sector and zoos.

This project aimed to support four areas identified in 2006 by MYCAT as immediate priorities.

1. **Reduction in local consumption and trafficking of tigers and tiger prey through targeted campaigns.** A series of targeted campaigns focused on reducing consumption of traditional tiger medicine and meat of both tigers and tiger prey as a delicacy, and local trafficking and poaching of tigers and their prey nationwide.
2. **Drawing roadmaps to secure the future of the Malayan Tiger.** By consolidating expertise, MYCAT collaboratively produced the National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia to provide direction and specific actions required to ensure the survival of the Malayan tiger into the next century.
3. **Building local support and cultivating conservation-minded Malaysians through awareness programmes in zoos.** MYCAT developed and implemented tiger-themed events and permanent displays in the National Zoo to raise awareness and support for tiger conservation.
4. **Maintain and expand conservation partnerships.** MYCAT maintained the platform for increased communication among the current and future partners

for better coordination and collaboration in tiger conservation to disseminate and consolidated information to the public to raise awareness and support.

This document reports the accomplishments in respect to the second objective that was financially supported by 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger. For information on other objectives, refer to the supplemental information, *MYCAT TRACKS 2006-2007* at the end of this document.

### Malayan Tiger Conservation Workshop



Using the collaborative MYCAT platform, DWNP, together with MYCAT NGO partners held the Malayan Tiger Conservation Workshop in November 2006. The objective of the workshop was to develop the *National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia* (hereafter the Plan) reflecting national needs and local capacity in line with existing national policies relevant to tiger conservation.

The workshop was officiated by the Deputy Undersecretary of the Conservation and Environmental Management Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE). Representatives from key stakeholders participated in the workshop, including senior officials from the DWNP, Department of Forestry, Department of Town and Country Planning, Public Works Department, Interpol, Johor National Parks Corporation, Perak State Park Corporation, and Federation of Chinese Physicians and Medicine Dealers Association of Malaysia.

Speeches by the Deputy Undersecretary of MoNRE and Director General of DWNP commemorated the three decades of total protection of the tiger in Malaysia and provided the participants with Malaysia's vision for tiger conservation. A press conference and articles on the event were carried by several local newspapers (Appendix 1) and featured in MNS' monthly newsletter, *Pencinta Alam* (Appendix 2). The programme then moved on to a series of targeted presentations and panel discussions that addressed major threats to tigers.

Foundations for the workshop were laid two months prior to the workshop, where MYCAT conducted a threat assessment for tigers in Malaysia and discussed the goals of tiger conservation through a series of Working Group meetings. The presentation on the results of the assessment and the proposed goals and objectives set the scene and led the participants into the subsequent group discussions on quantitative indicators and specific actions to reach the collective goals.

As some of the actions to mitigate the threats to tigers are beyond the jurisdiction of the wildlife conservation agencies, the panel discussions and subsequent group discussions involved decision-makers from other relevant government agencies and stakeholders. The presentations and discussions were held in both English and Bahasa Malaysia, Malaysia's national language, to ensure maximum participation from all the participants.

The following is the programme of the workshop.

**7 Nov 2006**

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
<b>Opening speech</b> <i>Malaysia's vision for the Malayan Tiger</i>	<b>Dr Nadzri Yahya</b> Deputy Undersecretary Conservation and Environmental Management Division Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
<b>Introduction to the workshop</b> <i>Expectations and outputs</i>	<b>Mr Rasid Samsudin</b> Director General Department of Wildlife and National Parks
<b>Malaysia in global tiger conservation efforts</b> <i>Significance of Malaysia and international funding mechanisms for tiger conservation efforts worldwide</i>	<b>Dr John Seidensticker</b> Chairman Save the Tiger Fund Council Scientist and Head, Conservation Ecology Center, Smithsonian's National Zoological Park
<b>Where we are and where we want to go?</b> <i>Focused action plan using a holistic and integrated approach</i>	<b>Dr Kae Kawanishi</b> Secretariat Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers
<b>Tiger Management Plan and priorities</b>	<b>Mr Kadir Hashim</b> Principal Assistant Director

	Biodiversity Conservation Division Department of Wildlife and National Parks
<b>Role of NGOs in tiger conservation</b>	<b>Ms Kanitha Krishnasamy</b> Science Officer Science and Conservation Malaysian Nature Society
<b>Capacity building, community outreach and awareness programmes</b>	<b>Dr Melvin Gumal</b> Malaysia Programme Director Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia
<b>Panel Discussion 1: Implementation of National Physical Plan</b> a. Implementation, enforcement and monitoring of National Physical Plan (NPP. 18 and 19)  b. What it means to tigers, challenges and possible resolutions  c. Discussion d. Resolutions	<b>Ms Siow Suan Neo</b> Deputy Director National Physical Plan Division Department of Town and Country Planning  <b>Mr Brian Lee</b> Tiger Project Leader WWF-Malaysia
<b>Panel Discussion 2: Combating the tiger trade</b> a. Specific trade-related threats to tigers in Malaysia  b. Current mitigation measures, plans and recommendations for the future  c. Discussion d. Resolutions	<b>Mr Chris R. Shepherd</b> Senior Programme Officer TRAFFIC Southeast Asia  <b>Ms Misliah Mohd Basir</b> Director Law & Enforcement Division Department of Wildlife and National Parks
<b>Panel Discussion 3: Human-Tiger Conflict as a result of unsustainable rural development</b> a. Current status, mitigation measures and recommendations for the future  b. Resolutions from Human-wildlife Conflict Mitigation Workshop in July 2006  c. Discussion d. Resolutions	<b>Mr Salman Saaban</b> Senior Assistant Director Biodiversity Conservation Division, Department of Wildlife and National Parks  <b>Mr Ahmad Zafir Abd Wahab</b> Tiger Team Scientific Officer WWF-Malaysia

**8 Nov 2006**

Recap of the previous day Finalise the goals and priorities Briefing on the group discussions
Group discussions on action plan
Progress report on discussions

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Q & A / Discussion
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**9 Nov 2006**

Group discussions
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<i>Revision of plans based on suggestions from other groups</i>
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Finalising the Tiger Action Plan
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<i>Commitment</i>
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Final presentation by groups
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Q & A
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Closing
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**Tiger Action Plan**

All decisions reached and plans discussed during the workshop formed the first, rough draft of the Plan. At the 10<sup>th</sup> MYCAT Working Group meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2006, the drafting committee, comprising selected members of the MYCAT Working Group, was formed to shoulder the task of drafting the Plan.

The Plan is the culmination of the joint efforts of all interested parties involved in tiger conservation in Malaysia. Besides numerous telephone and online discussions, the drafting committee met 17 times between November 2006 and July 2007 to review and improve the Plan, which underwent 11 revisions before submission to the DWNP Tiger Action Plan Advisory Board, comprising DWNP senior officials and headed by the DWNP Director General, in August 2007. The Plan was presented to the Advisory Board by the MYCAT Secretariat's Office in September 2007 and subsequently the Board met four times to further improve the Plan. After this internal draft (the 12<sup>th</sup> draft) was finalised, it was made available on the DWNP website for open public review for 2 weeks in December 2007. After the public review and comments, the 13<sup>th</sup> draft was submitted to the two major stakeholders in the government, namely the Forestry Department and Department of Town and Country Planning Department (DTCP) in January 2008 for their review, as well as to solidify the relationship towards successful implementation of actions where these agencies are involved. Revisions made by DTCP were received and incorporated in March. Due to the general election that occurred in March, there was a major delay in receiving a response from the Forestry Department. As their full support of the Plan is vital, we allowed a period of time for the post-election government to settle in, and we managed to communicate with the Forestry Department, and received full support of the Plan, with some minor changes incorporated, in April. With that, the Director General of DWNP submitted the 15<sup>th</sup> and final draft to the MoNRE in May and the Minister finally endorsed the Plan at the end of June. The Plan will be published by the third quarter of 2008.

The aim of the Plan is to establish a holistic but focused and achievable conservation strategy that lays out specific actions to be taken over the next eight years (Phase I: 2008-15) towards the common vision of securing viable tiger populations in Malaysia for the next century and beyond. In essence, the Plan functions as the work plan for MYCAT for the period of 2008 to 2015. Through this plan, the Malaysian government has the opportunity to present healthy tiger populations as an exemplar of its on-going efforts to develop economically in a sustainable manner rather than the Malayan tiger becoming another symbol of the systematic loss of tropical forest and

an ecosystem in crisis.

The National Physical Plan (NPP) is the blueprint for spatial planning in Peninsular Malaysia and, therefore, provides the backbone for the Plan's aspiration to secure a large expanse of interconnected tiger habitat, defined as the Central Forest Spine (CFS) in the NPP. Envisioned for realisation by 2020, the CFS is a network of forest complexes connected by green linkages that, together, form a contiguous forest spine for Peninsular Malaysia. Permanent Reserved Forests within the CFS provide critical habitat and connectivity to core tiger populations in the priority areas and buffer them from anthropogenic and natural demographic fluctuations. PRFs still contribute to the nation's economic drive, where ecologically sound land-use practices such as eco-tourism and sustainable forestry are permitted. This is vital for the nation and the tiger because the large forest ecosystems that the tiger needs to thrive are also a primary source of the resources upon which human livelihoods depend. The presence of healthy tiger populations across the CFS will signify the balanced progression of the country's ecology, society, culture and economy and, ultimately, an enhancement of the quality of life of Malaysians.

The goal for 2020 identified in this National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia is:

Tiger populations actively managed at carrying capacities across the three landscapes within the Central Forest Spine and connected with functioning corridors.

This Plan identifies four objectives towards achieving this goal:

1. Secure the Central Forest Spine with strictly protected priority areas in landscapes connected with corridors.
2. Provide effective and long-term protection of tigers and their prey.
3. Promote and practice ecologically sound land-use, compatible with tiger conservation outside the priority areas.
4. Apply science in monitoring the efficacy of conservation actions and improving the knowledge of tiger ecology.

This Plan further outlines priority outcomes for each of the objectives and then translates these conservation objectives and desirable outcomes into concrete actions, responsible agencies, measurable indicators and realistic time-frames. These details lay out the first phase of the Plan to be carried out between 2008 and 2015; dates that deliberately coincide with the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysian Plan.

In this Plan the importance of accountability and transparency in conservation actions is implicit, with an in-built evaluation and learning mechanism for a continued process of implementation. The overall indicator of success, or the Plan's measurable target, is:

About 1,000 wild tigers surviving on wild prey in the Central Forest Spine by the year 2020.

The success of this conservation strategy must be reflected in the known status of the distribution and density of the tiger populations in Malaysia. In order to use these

indicators, we must first establish a base-line upon which we can monitor our efforts to stabilise, increase and manage tiger numbers. By doing this, we hold ourselves accountable to the wild tigers for which this Plan is devised; the importance of conservation science, the fourth objective of the plan, becomes imperative. Applying scientific methods to measure the efficacy of conservation actions allows for the efficient planning of, allocation of resources to, and the implementation of specific activities. This increases the accountability and transparency in the conservation actions taken.

By using an adaptive management approach to implement the Plan, the agencies involved can ensure a process that is both proactive and reactive, allowing lessons to be learned and new knowledge and methods to be incorporated as the work evolves. As such, it is a living document. This Plan is a collection of working models, strengthened through stakeholder dialogues, tested in practice, and constantly reviewed and revised. In order for real and mutual accountability and learning to take place, the core of the stakeholder engagement strategy must involve a two-way mechanism (dialogues). Here, responsible agencies and individuals will be actively encouraged to exchange views, clarify expectations, address differences, enhance understanding and encourage creative and practical solutions. MYCAT will continue to provide the necessary platform for the dialogues and learning.

### **Acknowledgements**

This project would not have been possible without the generous financial support given by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger, a programme of the Zoological Society of London. Additionally, MYCAT received in-kind and monetary contributions from all the MYCAT partners towards the workshop. WWF-Malaysia financially supported the action plan drafting team leader for 6 months between 2006 and 2007. The MYCAT Secretariat's Office has received financial support from the US Fish and Wildlife Service for administration, communication and execution of joint projects for 2006-2007 and from the Save the Tiger Fund for 2008.

Many thanks to all who made contribution towards developing this Tiger Action Plan that will lead all of us to a future in which tigers thrive in Malaysia.

### **Reference**

Dinerstein, E., Loucks, C. Heydlauff, A., Wikramanayake, E., Bryja, G., Forrest, J., Ginsberg, J., Klenzendorf, S., Leimgruber, P., O'Brien, T., Sanderson, E., Seidensticker, J. and Songer, M. 2006. *Setting Priorities for the Conservation and Recovery of Wild Tigers: 2005-2015 : A User's Guide*. WWF, WCS, Smithsonian, and NFWF-STF, Washington, D.C. – New York.

### **List of Appendix**

Appendix 1. Media coverage of the workshop

Appendix 2. MNS newsletter, *Pencinta Alam*, reporting the workshop

Appendix 3: *MYCAT TRACKS* reporting accomplishments of other objectives



## **Cover Story: Let the beast prosper**

By SAM CHEONG

15 November, 2006

If the Malayan Tiger is to continue to survive, the public must play its part, writes SAM CHEONG, who was at the recent Tiger Conservation Workshop held in Pahang. IF there is a place where the Malayan Tiger (genus *Pantera Tigris*) can “live long and prosper”, it has to be in our very own jungles. Despite being threatened by illegal poaching and human conflict in its natural habitat, our nation’s largest cat specie still has a stable population in the wild.

This can be attributed to more than 30 years of conservation work by the Government as well as the direct involvement of non-governmental organisations like the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF). Researcher Kae Kawanishi, who specialises in the Malayan tiger, predicts that the number of tigers in the wild will actually increase if their conservation area remains protected from human intrusion and poachers.

She added that there is an estimated 500 to 1,100 cats in the wild based on data collected by remote monitoring work carried out by organisations like WWF and the Department of Wildlife.

“The highest concentration of tigers is around Perak, Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan where conservation areas like Belum-Temenggor and Taman Negara are located,” she explained.

Kawanishi was speaking at the first Tiger Conservation Workshop in the Wildlife Department’s Bio-Diversity training centre in Lanchang, Pahang.

Save The Tiger Fund spokesman John Seidensticker said the tiger population in Peninsular Malaysia is remarkable despite the great pressures brought about by the destruction of its natural habitat and conflicts with humans.

Commenting on the long-term action plan on the conservation of the Malayan tiger, Wildlife Department Director Rashid Shamsudin said the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) will make the necessary recommendations to the Government.

“Efforts to raise awareness among the public is ongoing and I urge people who have information about illegal poaching of tigers to get in touch with us so that immediate action can be taken,” he said.

The department’s Director of Law Enforcement Mislihah Mohd Bashir said around one case of illegal



**These Malayan Tigers are being taken care by its licensed owner who runs a resort in Perak.**

harvesting of tigers and its parts is reported annually.

“This is based on official statistics from enforcement activities throughout the Peninsular. The department has also carried out joint operations with the army to flush out foreign poachers.

“Since 2002, we have apprehended more than 75 people, mostly foreigners, for illegal poaching. They have been charged in court under the Wildlife Protection Act and Immigration Act.”

Mislih added that the street price for a tiger is estimated at RM60,000 per carcass. Its body parts and organs are harvested and sold in China where the value is based on the foreign exchange.

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# PENCINTA ALAM

Branch Newsletter of the Malaysian Nature Society



## DECEMBER 2006

### COVER STORY



Workshop participants

Photo by Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia

### Malayan tiger conservation workshop

by Kanitha Krishnasamy

*Commemorating three decades of tiger protection (1976 – 2006)*

**NOVEMBER WAS AN** exciting month for MYCAT partners, as we began drafting the essence of what will be the National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia. Malaysia will be joining, amongst others, Bhutan, Thailand and Myanmar, in the list of countries that have developed their Tiger Action Plans.

Lead and hosted by PERHILITAN, the Malayan Tiger Conservation Workshop was held from 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006 in Lanchang, Pahang at the Institute for Biodiversity.

The aim of this workshop was to draft the beginnings of the National Action Plan for the Malayan Tiger, reflecting national needs and local capacity in line with existing national policies relevant to tiger conservation.

More than 60 experts from government agencies, research institutions and NGOs came together and identified goals and objectives,

*Ensuring its continued protection for the next three decades (2007 - 2037)*

specifying priority actions and quantifiable indicators, not only for the next 30 years, but also for the next five years.

This workshop was officiated by Dr Nadzri Yahya of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), who in his speech said that while he was happy to commemorate 30 years of legal protection of the tiger in Malaysia, he felt a great sense of dissatisfaction that traditional medicines claiming to be made from tigers are openly sold, that tiger meat is offered in exotic meat restaurants, and that a Malaysian man was found with a butchered tiger in his refrigerator, ready to be transported to Thailand.

He stressed that the public owes a civic duty to assist law enforcement authorities to provide accurate and timely information on any illegal activity concerning wildlife.

### About MYCAT Watch

The Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) is an alliance of governmental and non-governmental organisations working for the conservation of the Malayan tiger. MYCAT partners are the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), the Malaysian Nature Society, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF-Malaysia.

Discussions focused on four main themes; (a) Habitat conservation – landscape level and integrity if forest contiguity, (b) Species conservation - illegal trade and enforcement, (c) Sustainable Rural Development - human-tiger conflict, etc issues and finally (d) Conservation Science – studies and monitoring mechanisms.

The three landscapes identified as high priority for Malaysia is the greater Taman Negara, Main Range

Continued on page 2

and the Southern Complex (Endau-Rompin complex). These areas were also identified as high priority in a study by a team of scientists from the Save the Tiger Fund, the World Wildlife Fund, the Wildlife Conservation Society in July 2006 ([www.savethetigerfund.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Full\\_Reports](http://www.savethetigerfund.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Full_Reports))

The next step is to produce the *Draft National Action Plan for the Malayan Tiger*, which will be circulated to the participants and other important stakeholders for improvement. The workshop concluded with all the key agencies committing to protect the Malayan tiger in the wild, signaling a true beginning in the realm of Malaysian tiger conservation. Now, the monumental challenge that lies ahead will be implementing and realizing this Plan in its entirety, with active and integrated participation and collaboration of all sectors of the Malaysian community, including you and me. Look out for more updates at:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian\\_cat](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat) or [www.mns.org.my](http://www.mns.org.my).

## DISCOVERY

### Fossil teeth from a limestone cave in Selangor

By Lim Tze Tshen

ON 13TH AUGUST 2006, a chance visit to a small cave north of Kuala Lumpur revealed the presence of a number of isolated teeth.

On 8 October I joined a team that visited the cave to validate this finding.

Descending a talus of rocks and refuse, welcomed by the yipping of puppies that call this small and innocuous dank cave their home, we come to the place where the first discovery was made.

Sticking out from the low-hanging ceiling is a tooth, glaring in the light of my headlamp. Brushing away the mud, I know we have found something special: a fossilized molar.

Within a palm's distance is another set of teeth (two teeth in juxtaposition), varying from the previous specimen in terms of size and general morphology: definitely molars, suspected to come from a different animal.

Still reeling from the excitement of the discovery, I realize there are more teeth in the roughly 0.3-m layer across the cave: under our faltering torches they appear as a band of stars glittering in the dark-brown clay. This stratum is approximately 1.3 m from the cave floor and 1.0 m from the ceiling.

Furthermore, bone fragments appear in clays both at the upper surface of this stratum and on the cave floor. Initial contact with experts in paleoanthropology and paleontology



cave with streams running through it. The highlight is the majestic view of the sunbeam streaming down into the centre of the cave. One could see insects dancing in the light forming an 'ethereal' being... but



Chepor Recreational Park where we stayed at. We had a delicious barbecue dinner with plenty to spare for the following day's breakfast!

before we could reach the point where the light touched the ground, we had to cross a river. Taking the easy way out would be to cross a plank strategically placed by previous cavers.

Feeling adventurous, everyone chose the "challenging" route, i.e. squeezing and wedging along a small ledge. One false step and you'll fall into the river below (about 6 feet deep)! Everyone managed to maneuver and cross safely. We had a breather at the next pristine pond, absorbing the amazing view.

After Gua Kanthan, we headed to Ulu

After breakfast, we headed eagerly to conquer Gua Kelawar, famed for its confusing caverns and labyrinths. Gua Kelawar is situated next to an oil palm estate and nearby pig farms. There are several entrances to the cave. The unique features of Gua Kelawar are its vast chambers, rich ecosystem (we saw mice, spiders, snakes, fish, bats, etc) and diversity of cave formations. There are loads of gour pools, columns, stalactites, stalagmites, helectites and curtains. What never ceased to amaze us was that all the passages were interlinked and

## MEMBER'S REPORT

### Exploring Gua Kanthan & Gua Kelawar

By Ng Sue Lynn  
Photos by Darren Wong and Rosalynee Lee

EARLY SATURDAY MORNING (4/11/06), a convoy of six cars headed for Chemor, Perak. Upon arrival, 22 participants and cavers from MNS Selangor Branch's Cave Group immediately donned their colourful "cave-suits" to explore the first cave, Gua Kanthan (read: 'Easy' in Hokkien). Gua Kanthan is nestled amidst a lush jungle and fish rearing ponds. We had to hike for about 10 minutes to find the cave entrance. Gua Kanthan is a relatively dry



Come dusk on Saturday, 20th of January 2007

... in a distance, we will hear...

... sounds of splashing waves and cheers of laughter ...

# MYCAT

## TRACKS

2006 - 2007

Since its formation in 2003 MYCAT has been chaired by the Director General of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), also the agency that hosts the coalition's Secretariat's Office (MYCAT SO). The remaining MYCAT partners are the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (TSEA), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF-Malaysia.

MYCAT's vision is a Malaysia in which tigers thrive in perpetuity. To achieve this vision MYCAT provides a platform for dialogue, collaboration and resource consolidation among partners. MYCAT SO facilitates communication among the partners and coordinates joint projects.

© Chris R. Shepherd / TSEA

### MYCAT's objectives

1. Secure the Central Forest Spine (51,000km<sup>2</sup> of contiguous forests) with protected core areas linked within the greater landscape by ecological corridors.
2. Provide effective protection for tigers and their prey from poaching and trade.
3. Promote the practice of ecologically sound land-use, compatible with tiger conservation.
4. Apply sound science in monitoring the efficacy of conservation actions and improving the knowledge of tiger ecology.

This newsletter highlights the milestones achieved under the various MYCAT joint projects as well as those achieved by individual MYCAT partners in various tiger-focused conservation efforts in 2006 and 2007.

In November 2006, DWNP in collaboration with other MYCAT partners organised a workshop involving many government agencies, NGOs and individual contributors. The aim of the workshop was to develop a *National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia* that would consolidate current knowledge and conservation strategies relevant to the Malayan tiger.

The plan identifies specific actions to be carried out between 2008 - 2015 as a foundation for achieving the 2020 target of 1,000 wild tigers living, with sufficient wild prey, in the Central Forest Spine, which is the backbone of Peninsular Malaysia's environmentally sensitive area network.

Following extensive work by the MYCAT drafting team in consultation with the wider MYCAT community, the plan is currently awaiting its final endorsement by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Once ratified, it will be officially launched in 2008.

To cultivate and nurture conservation-minded Malaysians, MYCAT SO conducted 11 extension programmes involving presentations, activities and interactive booths. The programmes, which reached out to almost 3,000 adults and children, were produced based on information consolidated from MYCAT partners.

During the course of these programmes, volunteer opportunities were provided to 200 individuals, many of whom have since indicated either their intention to continue

volunteering for conservation or their keenness to explore the potential of pursuing careers in conservation. MYCAT hopes to expand this programme to provide them and others with more opportunities and training.

To raise greater consciousness and encourage the public to take positive action for the tiger, MYCAT works closely with the media and continues to use the MYCAT e-group at [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian\\_cat/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat/) to keep subscribers updated on global and local tiger-related news. The e-group also provides a platform to engage subscribers and partners alike in active discussions on tiger issues such as China's controversial attempts to legalise their domestic tiger trade. The monthly average e-traffic increased from 44 in 2005 to 75 in 2007.

Important issues continue to be highlighted in the MYCAT *Watch* column provided by MNS in their monthly national newsletter, *Pencinta Alam*, and quarterly magazine, *Malaysian Naturalist*. A number of educational materials were produced and used in extension programmes and distributed for conservation education purposes.



## The Campaign

The early months of 2007 saw the start of MYCAT's campaign to reduce local consumption of trade in tigers and tigers' prey. By mid-2007 outreach programmes were conducted in two well-known wildmeat trade hotspots; Kampung Punan and Kahang in Johor.

> Reports on pages 3 & 4.

In December, the Tiger Crime Hotline was launched by celebrity Tiger Ambassadors during an urban outreach event - *Race Against Time*. The purpose of the 24-hour hotline is to encourage the public to report accurate and timely information on suspected tiger-related crimes. Reports received are instantly channelled to DWNP's Law and Enforcement division for action. The Tiger Ambassadors also launched a signature petition campaign to push for improved wildlife legislation.

> Report on page 5.

# Sehari Mengenal Harimau

## SK Punan Outreach Programme, 19 June 2007



© MYCAT

Comprising about 300 villagers, Kampung Punan is one of several Orang Asli villages in the surrounding area of Endau-Rompin.

A conservation outreach programme was held in SK Kampung Punan, the school in Kampung Punan, an Orang Asli (aboriginal) village in Johor. It was a site-specific component of MYCAT's campaign to reduce local wildmeat consumption and trade.

Village leaders were consulted with prior to the programme to ensure the most suitable and effective methods were employed. A joint project with DWNP and Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC), the aim was to enhance Kampung Punan's appreciation for wildlife in their backyard - the Endau-Rompin National Park. The programme was devised based on adaptations from WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* and WWF-Malaysia's *Pengembaraan Si Belang*, amongst others. The day-long programme involved 49 students, aged between 6 and 12, and eight school staff. Shy and anxious at first, the children soon warmed up, and actively participated in the interactive sessions. The day drew to a close with the students making pledges to protect the wildlife in Endau-Rompin. They wrote their oaths on cut-outs of various animals and stuck them on a banner, now displayed in the school as a reminder of their commitment to the wildlife of Endau-Rompin.



© MYCAT

Students mapping their own territory in their village, to better understand the importance of a tiger's territory.



© MYCAT

Tiger Origami. This step-by-step craft exercise was a little challenging, but all managed to produce attractive cats with various patterns!



© Julia Ng / TSEA

Eagerly, most of the students attempted to answer the quiz questions. Even the pre-school kids didn't want to be left out!



© MYCAT



© MYCAT



Pledge by Adie Bin Nordin to protect wildlife in Endau-Rompin.

# Sehari Mengenal Harimau

SRJK (C) Kahang Outreach Programme, 12 August 2007



With the programme in SRJK (C) Kahang, Johor, MYCAT, DWNP and JNPC made history as it was the first Mandarin-language tiger conservation outreach programme held in Malaysia.

The event, a site-specific component of MYCAT's campaign to reduce local wildmeat consumption and trade, aimed to enhance appreciation for wildlife in the Endau-Rompin National Park among locals. Kahang is the town nearest to the Park.

Interactive activities and games based on WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* manual were conducted by 10 volunteer facilitators, aided by MYCAT partners' staff and members. The volunteer facilitators were specially trained by WCS conservation educators, to ensure they were fully equipped to deliver a fun but effective programme to the upper primary students.

Towards the end of the session, students wrote down their pledge to help tigers and other wildlife in Endau-Rompin on animal cut-outs and stuck on a banner, now displayed in the school as a reminder of their commitment.

The 300 students joined parents, as well as 200 lower primary students in the school hall, where they learned more about tigers in culture and the importance of saving the tiger.



The students' creative artwork was displayed in the school hall for all to appreciate. Some parents were seen keenly reading tiger conservation messages created by their children.

The interactive booth, which featured real tiger body parts, also drew many parents, inquisitive to learn more about the use of tigers in traditional medicines, and other threats. The outreach programme ended on a high note, with 18 students rewarded for their creative artwork in the art competition held in conjunction with the programme.

Selected pieces were used to produce an awareness-raising desktop calendar.



© Lee Hwee Jing (李惠晶), Age 10



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The students actively participated in all the sessions, asking questions and attempting all the exercises unabashedly.

Comparing human teeth to the tiger's, to learn more about the tools which make the tiger the ultimate predator.

Students attempting to stalk and ambush prey, just like a wild tiger would.



# Race Against Time

Tiger Day at Zoo Negara, 16 December 2007



© Chris R. Shepherd / TSEA

"Did you know that tigers are in trouble? Only about 500 tigers are left in Malaysian jungles, and less than 3,000 tigers left in the world! Hundreds of tigers are killed and traded every year for their parts. Tigers and

The event was a component of MYCAT's nationwide awareness campaign to reduce the incidence of people consuming tigers and tigers' prey in all forms, targeting the urban crowd.

The day-long event saw many getting their hands dirty making plaster casts of tiger footprints, learning about the cruelty of snares, playing wildlife games and much more. Thousands took their first step in saving wild tigers by signing the petition for improved legislation.

people share the same world. They were here before us but because of us, the King of the Jungle is about to disappear forever. Saving tigers means saving forests that give us clean air and water.

"Please stop eating tiger meat and stop buying medicine and ornaments made from tiger parts and stop destroying the tiger's home. We save our tigers and tigers will protect our forests. Tiger poachers should be ashamed and be sent to jail. Please help tigers and support our petition to the government to amend the law now!"

Tiger Junior Ranger Brandon Koh, 11, could not have put it better, as he spoke at MYCAT's Race Against Time, a joint project with Zoo Negara. He echoed MYCAT's aim to raise concern among the public on the critical status of tigers and urgent need for action.

## Vital Statistics

Zoo visitors	8,257
Visitors who visited at least 1 interactive booth	4,015
Petition signatures collected	5,831*
Signatures by adults (18 years and above)	4,210
Signatures by youth (Below 18 years)	1,621
MYCAT volunteers + Tiger Junior & Senior Rangers	156

\* Including signatures collected by the Tiger Junior Rangers prior to the event.



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© Shariff Wan Mohamad / WWF-Malaysia



© Shariff Wan Mohamad / WWF-Malaysia

Tiger Junior Rangers tirelessly collected signatures for the petition.

Signatures for the urgent amendment of the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972, which needs a major facelift to fight today's crime against wildlife.

Tiger Ambassadors Ning Baizura, Vince Chong, Rina Omar, Aishah Sinclair, Yasin, Susan Lankester, Xandria Ooi, Chelsia Ng, Maple Loo and Corinne Adrienne launched the Tiger Crime Hotline, the 24-hour hotline for SMS reports on crimes against tigers and tigers' prey.

# PARTNER MILESTONES



Between 2006 and 2007, DWNP conducted six biodiversity inventory programmes nationwide and 67 patrol trips in the Taman Negara National Park. Apart from collecting wildlife data, the inventories and patrols

tackle issues of encroachment and poaching in the park. In this time frame, 13 encroachers and poachers were apprehended.

In 2007, three wildlife underpasses were completed along the Second East-West Highway at a critical linkage in the Greater Taman Negara Landscape. This was as a result of advice provided by DWNP to the government's development agencies on wildlife mitigation measures. DWNP is also working with the Terengganu state government to establish a wildlife sanctuary in the area to secure the wildlife corridor.

In July 2007, immediately after the MYCAT community outreach in Kampung Punan and acting on information provided by TSEA, DWNP raided 10 restaurants in Kahang. More than 300kg of meat from several different species of wildlife (including tiger prey species) was seized and five individuals were charged with related offences.

In September 2007, DWNP checked 312 traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) outlets nationwide to assess the volume of trade in illegal wildlife products. Eight percent of the outlets had products with totally prohibited ingredients and the proprietors were charged under the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972. Among the totally prohibited items detected were tiger bone and pangolin scales.

In December 2007, Parliament passed the International Trade in Endangered Species Act. This new legislation allows Malaysia to fulfill its obligations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and amongst others, permits fines of up to MYR 2,000,000 and maximum jail sentences of seven years to be imposed on offenders.



In April 2006, MNS launched the Belum-Temengor Campaign, a six month postcard campaign under the Belum-Temengor Conservation Initiative. Its objective was to secure this

critical tiger habitat as a fully gazetted protected area comprising the Royal Belum State Park and the Temengor Forest Reserve. MNS also stipulated the importance of stopping the conversion of natural forest flanking the East-West Highway. The campaign culminated with the issuing of 80,000 postcards to the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Perak, all signed by the public in open support of the campaign. In May 2007, the 1,170km<sup>2</sup> Royal Belum State Park was legally gazetted.

As a caveat, however, the Chief Minister of Perak stressed that, although the Belum-Temengor Complex is one of the state's priority conservation sites, the Temengor Forest Reserve is also a key source of timber. He called upon MNS to collaborate with the state to address this complex issue by working towards a balance between conservation and development; efforts in this direction are ongoing.

Finally, MNS' ongoing efforts to motivate and educate the Malaysian public through its *Kelab Pencinta Alam* camps and training sessions with active use of WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* manual as it reaches out to teachers and school children alike.



In mid-2007, WCS conducted a series of workshops designed to train Malaysia's tiger conservationists and biologists in the statistical methods needed to analyze data gained from occupancy surveys.

In August 2007, WCS education experts trained 10 Mandarin-speaking MYCAT volunteers to carry out the

## Take action!

Financial support for MYCAT SO and MYCAT joint projects (2006 - 2007) were provided by the **US Fish and Wildlife Service**, **21<sup>st</sup> Century Tiger** and **ExxonMobil Malaysia**.

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Thank You!

- Learn about tigers and their prey from reliable sources and share with your friends and family.
- Join and support conservation organisations.
- Write to the media and the authorities on relevant issues such as indiscriminate development, illegal logging, poaching, etc.
- Ask for legal herbal alternatives instead of traditional medicines claiming to contain tiger or other endangered species.
- Do not eat the meat of tiger, wild deer or wild pig.
- Stay away from all wildmeat restaurants.
- Pay more for wildlife-friendly products.
- Do not support zoos, theme parks or private collections that display illegally acquired wildlife.
- SMS reports of any suspected crimes involving tigers and their prey to the Tiger Crime Hotline at 019 356 4194.

## MYCAT Education Materials



Car sticker



Posters



Bookmarks

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### Join the MYCAT e-group to find out more about:

- how to help
- local and global tiger news
- careers in wildlife conservation
- volunteer opportunities

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian\\_cat](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat)