

Asian Big Cat Report for 65th Standing Committee Meeting (MALAYSIA)

Question	Answer
1.	LEGISLATION
1.1.1	Yes
1.1.2	- All Asian big cats are listed as Totally Protected species under Wildlife Conservation Act (Act 716) and Appendix I of International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 (Act 686)
1.1.3	<p>- Act 716: No hunting and commercial trade of live, parts and derivatives of Asian big cats are allowed. This new Act provides for higher penalties of not less than RM100,000 and a maximum of RM500,000¹ and imprisonment of not more than 5 years for any person who commits an offence involves tiger, leopard or clouded leopard.</p> <p>- Act 686: No commercial trade is allowed for Asian big cats. Any person who imports or exports any of these species without a permit commits an offence and shall be fined not exceeding RM100,000 per animal but such fine shall not exceed in the aggregate of RM1,000,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 7 years or both. Where such person is a corporate body, to a fine not exceeding RM 200,000 for each animal but such fine shall not exceed in the aggregate of RM2,000,000.</p>
1.1.4	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010, the Director General may, in writing, delegate any of the powers or duties assigned to him under this Act to any officer, subject to such terms and conditions as he thinks fit. A delegation under this section shall not preclude the Director General himself from performing or exercising at any time any of the powers or duties so delegated.</p> <p>Any person hunting, etc.,(hunting includes pursuing, trapping, capturing, taking or killing any wildlife by any prescribed means, whether or not the wildlife is then subsequently taken, trapped, captured or killed totally protected wildlife without special permit) who commits an offence under which offence involves tiger, leopard, clouded leopard shall, on conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than RM 100,000 and not more than RM 500,000 and with imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years.</p>
1.1.5	Yes. All Asian big cats are Totally Protected under National Law. No commercial hunting or trade of live, parts and derivatives; or claimed to contain any derivatives of Asian big cats are allowed.
2	NATIONAL ENFORCEMENT
2.1.1	Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) is the responsible agency in Peninsular Malaysia
2.1.2	Yes
2.1.3	A rotation system is implemented in DWNP to enable all staff to gain experiences and contribute in wildlife crime enforcement. Apart from the existing enforcement unit, the DWNP has formed 5 special Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU)

¹ RM1.00 = USD 0.31

2.1.4	Continuous training is needed for enforcement staff as the rotation system will bring inexperience staff to join the team. Financial support is also crucial. To date, WCU actively works with no boundary restrictions in the whole Peninsular and act as a “flying squad”.
2.1.5	<p>- Level of illegal trade in tigers and their prey in Malaysia were determined through surveys of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) shops and exotic meat restaurants and highlight the need for improved legislation and enforcement.</p> <p>- Marked improvement in focused and intelligence driven anti-poaching patrol of key forest sites and enforcement of wildlife and wildlife trade laws:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management Information System (MIST) based patrols were introduced. • Routine Law Enforcement (LE) patrols by DWNP HQ, State DWNPs and District DWNPs. • Specific Taman Negara National Park patrol • Specific Public Holiday patrol at PAs hotspot • On-going interagency patrols in protected areas, including with the army • Increase the frequency of spot-checks and arrests on restaurants, TCM shops, hunters, commercial animal dealers and private animal collectors. • Revocation of licenses and non-renewable licenses for offenders. <p>1. Capacity of enforcement/patrol teams at the Malaysia-Thai border and the Straits of Malacca were enhanced. On-going training were conducted through Biodiversity Institute (IBD) with training materials developed and some through international agencies</p> <p>2. DWNP has an on-going Better Management Practices (BMP) to deal with Human-Tiger Conflicts (HTC) based on the seriousness and the actions taken include advising communities to keep their cattle in paddocks instead of free ranging.</p> <p>3. Other in-house trainings in wildlife forensics and species identifications were conducted among DWNP staff as continuous capacity building.</p>
2.1.6	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Every co-operation in enforcement or intelligence sharing should be done formally between agencies as different Department/Ministry has different priorities in combating different type of crime. The level of challenges between agencies is difference as well. We are continuously engaging various enforcement agencies to tackle issue of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife product. For instance collaboration with the Royal Malaysian Army, Royal Malaysia Police, Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Anti-smuggling Unit, Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency and Forestry Department.</p>
2.1.7	<p>Yes.</p> <p>Some of the law enforcement efforts being carried out in Malaysia includes:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DWNP is part of the 1NRE Enforcement Team which consist of law enforcement departments under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) in enforcing related laws; - The DWNP also cooperate with other enforcement agencies such as the Royal Malaysian Customs Department, Royal Malaysia Police, Malaysian Armed Forces, Anti-smuggling Unit and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency as part of the Blue Ocean Strategy in law enforcement; - Regionally, through ASEAN-WEN, the DWNP has taken concerted efforts to combat wildlife crime since its establishment in October 2004. Through this network, the DWNP has succeeded in foiling 80 attempted smuggling and confiscated wildlife destined for overseas countries illegally including the arrest of several suspected smugglers between 2005 and 2012; - The DWNP is currently cooperating with INTERPOL through the Environmental Crime Programme whereby many operations on illegal wildlife trade, poaching, smuggling of pangolins and Asian big cats were conducted; - At the same time, the International Trade of Endangered Species Act 2008 has been enforced to deter the international illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife especially concerning CITES-listed species. In curbing wildlife smuggling, the Department has created 13 border check-points to prevent cross border wildlife smuggling.
2.1.8	No. Cases are investigated through multi-layered approach, which specific offense are investigated and prosecuted base on relevant laws of the enforcement agency which conduct the enforcement activities.
2.2.1	Yes. Implementation of Management Information System (MIST) in the protected areas (PAs): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MIST was introduced in Johor in 2009 in collaboration with the WCS Malaysia and Johor Wildlife Conservation Project - To enhance existing patrolling system (wildlife inventory) in the PAs under DWNP - Enhancement of wildlife inspection, law enforcement and forensic skills - To develop capacity building among wildlife rangers
2.2.2	a) Yes b) Yes c) No d) No e) Yes f) Yes g) Yes h) Not applicable
2.2.3	Training is included in the annual training programme.
2.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthens Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) - Strengthens intelligence unit at DWNP - Enhancement of Wildlife Forensics at DWNP

2.3.2	Yes.
3	INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT COOPERATION
3.1.1	Yes , Malaysia is a member of ASEAN-WEN.
3.1.2	<p><i>Malaysia-Thailand Bilateral Meeting on Wildlife Enforcement Cooperation</i></p> <p>The meeting brought together officers from CITES MAs, Customs and Police of both countries to discuss suppression of cross-border illegal trade in wildlife. Participants shared information on several specific cases of poaching and illegal wildlife trade involving nationals of both countries. The Bilateral Meeting also achieved multiple consensuses on closer cooperation, including joint training and investigations.</p> <p>Malaysia and Thailand were able to come up with a joint strategic plan identifying activities to follow-up and implement on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Information and exchange, particularly on specific wildlife of concern between the 2 countries, on transportation routes and border areas for joint activities, on list of persons involved for investigation and monitoring, and on wildlife forensics. b) Specific areas of cooperation pertaining to enforcement, conservation, research and other related issues, and c) Joint activities relating to patrolling, biodiversity survey and research including matters to zoonotic diseases and capacity building activities.
3.1.3	No.
3.2.1	Yes.
3.2.2	DWNP, Royal Malaysia Police, Interpol/NCB Malaysia, Malaysian Armed Forces, Royal Malaysian Customs Department
3.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yes b) Yes c) Yes d) Yes
4	RECORDING OF INFORMATION
4.1.1	<p>Yes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Wildlife related offences b) Monthly and ad hoc basis c) DWNP d) Yes e) Not applicable
4.1.2	Not applicable
4.1.3	Managing information gathering centralized and integrated intelligence management, coordination and analysis. It also provides technical intelligence support to the operational components of WCU and where necessary, to other operational units.
4.1.4	Yes.
5	CAPTIVE BREEDING
5.1.1	No
5.1.2	Not applicable

6	STOCKPILES
6.1.1	Yes
6.1.2	All stockpiles and confiscated specimens were kept in DWNP's vault and occasionally used during awareness programme.
6.1.3	No
6.1.4	No
7	CONSERVATION MEASURES
7.1.1 7.1.2	<p>The Malayan tiger (<i>Panthera tigris</i>) is one of big cat species and only found naturally in Asia. There are several subspecies of tigers in the world and the species found in Malaysia (only in Peninsular Malaysia, The Malayan tiger is not found in Sabah and Sarawak) is known as the Malayan tiger subspecies (<i>Panthera tigris jacksonii</i>).</p> <p>Due to the dense forest cover, tigers are rarely seen in the Malaysian forests; therefore an accurate estimate of the number of tigers in the whole country is nearly impossible. Based on several site specific studies, tiger-livestock conflict reports received by the DWNP, inventories carried out at national parks and wildlife reserves, it is estimated that Malaysia has about 500 tigers. This indicates that Malaysia currently supports the largest known tiger population in Southeast Asia. The four main tiger states, Pahang, Perak, Kelantan and Terengganu support nearly 90% of the tiger habitat in Malaysia. Sambar deer, barking deer and wild boar was the main prey species for the tiger.</p> <p>National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (NTCAP) has identified 49,000sqkm (4.9mil ha) area in the Central Forest Spine (CFS) as the Malayan tiger habitat. With the cooperation of the state governments, an area of 6,200sqkm (620,000 ha) of the Malayan tiger habitat has been gazette as protected areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Pahang National Park ii. Terengganu National Park iii. Kelantan National Park iv. Belum State Park, Perak v. Endau Rompin State Park, Johor <p>With the tiger habitat was included in the CFS Master Plan, it will ensure the conservation and preservation of habitat. Until now, the NRE through the DWNP and the Department of Forestry in collaboration with the state government has established a CFS ecological corridor at a cost of MYR170 million in the three areas as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Sg Deka Ecological Corridor, Terengganu (north of Taman Negara National Park) ii. Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor, Pahang (west of Taman Negara National Park) iii. Gerik Ecological Corridor, Perak (south of Belum State Park) <p>Tiger survey was conducted through collaboration with other organizations as well. DWNP is focusing on surveys at Taman Negara National Park, WWF at Belum State Park and WCS at Endau Rompin State Park. Other organization such as Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT)</p>

	<p>contribute continuous awareness programme at Sungai Yu Ecological Corridor and RIMBA conducting monitoring programme on the usage of viaducts by wildlife at Sungai Deka Ecological Corridor. All activities under NTCAP are monitored by the NRE.</p> <p>National Tiger Survey will be expanded to other site in the near future to monitor every tiger population in Peninsular Malaysia.</p> <p>Initially, a year moratorium on issuance of license to hunt sambar deer and barking deer was gazetted for 2009 to recover the population of tiger's prey species. Subsequently the moratorium was extended to six years from 2010 to 2015, which target 2 breeding cycles of deer. Deer populations were monitored on selected sites to assess the impact of the moratorium. However, such prey species are completely protected within Protected Areas (PAs) where no hunt is allowed.</p> <p>A Nature Tiger Conservation Centre is being planned to rehabilitate conflict tigers and plan for the re-introduction into safer habitats as Malaysia strive to increase its tiger population under the NTCAP.</p>
7.2.1	<p>Yes.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The DWNP collaborates with Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) and international organizations such as IUCN, Global Tiger Initiatives (GTI) and Global Tiger Forum (GTF) in order to enhance the conservation of the tiger species. 2. The DWNP had received technical assistance from the Global Environment Fund (GEF) for the period of 2013-2018 to improve the sustainable financing of three major tiger habitats recognized under the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (NTCAP) and the International Global Tiger Recovery Programme (GTRP) namely Taman Negara National Park, Belum State Park and the Endau Rompin State Park. In addition, another GEF tiger project has been approved to improve the connectivity between forest blocks within the Central Forest Spine (CFS).
8	EDUCATION, AWARENESS, OUTREACH, CAPACITY BUILDING
8.1.1	Yes.
8.1.2	<p>Alongside enforcement activities, community outreach is a crucial tool to reduce consumption and trade of threatened wildlife. Long-term outreach, especially, is preventive in nature, with the hope that the killing and smuggling of wildlife can be avoided by reducing the threats at the source.</p> <p>Public awareness programmes play a paramount role in enhancing awareness and public support on the importance of conservation and sustainable biodiversity management. These programmes also enable the DWNP to share its knowledge regarding its function and activities amongst the target groups such as school children, university students, local community and public. Several public awareness programmes conducted annually. Most of these programmes were biodiversity education related programmes, followed by exhibitions/ talks and visits as well as Community</p>

	Outreach Programme. The DWNP also carried out various programmes in collaboration with the NRE, Department of Orang Asli Development (JAKOA), National Science Centre as well as NGOs such as MYCAT, WWF, WCS and etc. These collaborations included public awareness programmes, biodiversity education programmes, Tiger Day celebration and many more.
8.2.1	Yes. Malaysia established “Green Court” since September 3, 2012. Judges and magistrates who handle environmental cases will also handle other cases but their specialty is cases involving the environment issues (including wildlife related cases).
8.3.1	No
8.3.2	Not applicable
9	DEMAND REDUCTION
9.1.1	No
9.1.2	Not applicable
9.2.1	Not applicable (as Malaysia do not have official pharmacopoeia)
9.2.2	Not applicable
9.2.3	Yes
9.2.4	An engagement programme with TCM practitioner was conducted as an effort to gain their support in minimizing the use of endangered species in their medicinal ingredients.
9.3.1	Yes
9.3.2	Campaigns are parts of the programmes mentioned in 8.1.2
10	NATIONAL SEMINARS IN APPENDIX-I ASIAN BIG CAT RANGE STATES
10.1	No
10.2	Yes
10.3	No
10.4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Sivanathan T. Elagupillay Director Ex-situ Conservation Division Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia KM 10 Jalan Cheras 56100 Cheras Kuala Lumpur Tel: 603-9086 6800 / 6019- 225 5547 Email: siva@wildlife.gov.my 2. Mr. Hazril Rafhan bin Abdul Halim Senior Assistant Director Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia KM 10 Jalan Cheras 56100 Cheras Kuala Lumpur Tel: 603-9086 6800 Email: hazril@wildlife.gov.my
10.5	None