

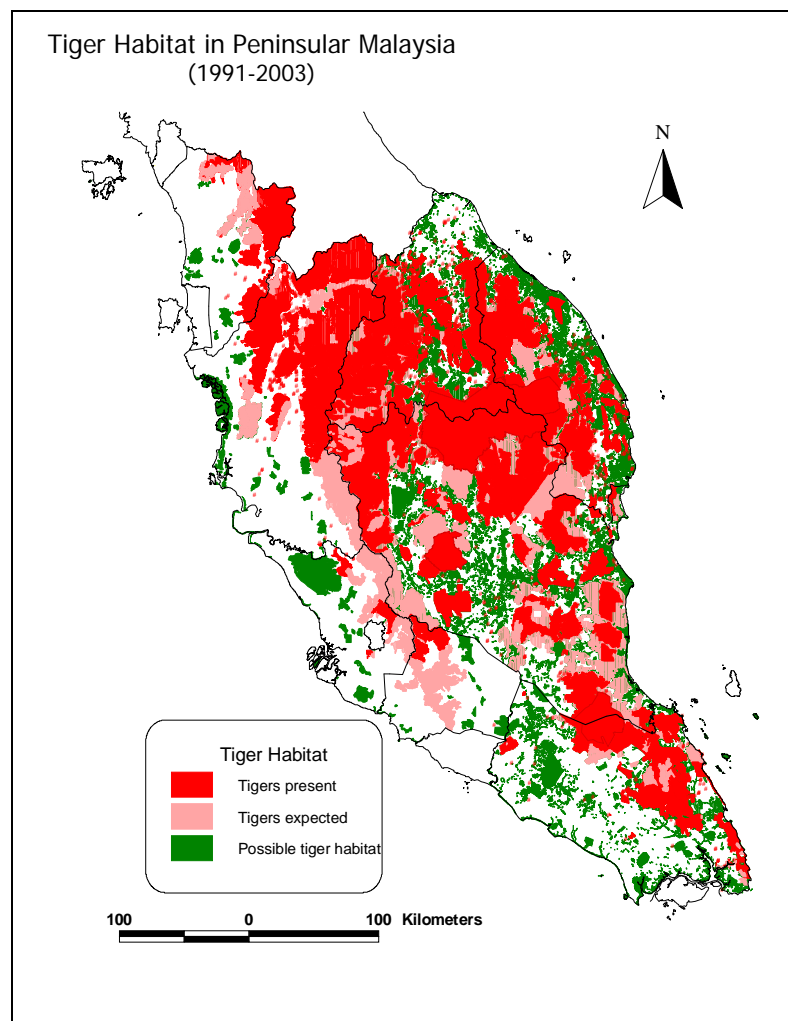
Report prepared by:

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## MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF TIGER IN MALAYSIA.

### 1. Distribution and Population Status

While tigers are not naturally found in East Malaysia, they are widely distributed throughout Peninsular Malaysia except for islands and small states such as Perlis, Pulau Pinang, Melaka, and the federal territories of Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya. Although the preferred habitat is lowland forest, tigers are habitat generalists, inhabiting a variety of habitat types from peat swamp to small woodland inside plantations to lower montane forest, up to the Gunung Bintang Hijau at 1730m in the state of Perak. The four main tiger states, Pahang, Perak, Kelantan and Terengganu support nearly 90% of the tiger habitat in Malaysia.



Tigers are rarely seen in the forests, therefore an accurate estimate of the number of tigers in the whole country is nearly impossible. Based on average carrying capacities of tropical forests, tigers' energetic needs, estimated tiger densities, and the land areas occupied by tigers between 1991 and 2003, it is roughly estimated that Malaysia has at least 490 tigers. This indicates that Malaysia currently supports the largest known tiger population in Southeast Asia.

## **2. Legal status**

In Peninsular Malaysia, tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is listed as totally protected species under the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972. Under the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998 (State of Sarawak), tiger is listed under Protected animals category whereas Sabah Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 accorded totally protected status to tiger. For further clarification, tiger is not found in Sabah and Sarawak.

In Peninsular Malaysia, trade in tiger is only allowed for non commercial purposes such as research, captive breeding programme and exchange between zoological parks. For these activities, permission in term of Special Permit from the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment of Malaysia is required. With regards to tiger, no Special Permit has been issued for activities other than this.

## **3. Legislation**

### **a. CITES**

In 24<sup>th</sup> December 2007, the Upper House (Senate) of the Malaysian Parliament passed the "International Trade in Endangered Species Bill 2007". This Act covers all the requirement stipulated under CITES and it is anticipated to be enforced in 2008.

### **b. Amendment of the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972**

Department of Wildlife and National Parks , Peninsular Malaysia ( DWNP ), through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, is also in its final stage of amending the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972 , The amendment takes into consideration of the new development in wildlife conservation and also the requirements of international conventions such as CITES and CBD. Under the new amendment, issues on wildlife smuggling have been addressed. Licensing system also been extended to cover activities such as exhibition, zoological parks, circus and captive breeding operations. Definitions on claimed to contain and derivatives are also included. The penalties on illegal trade in wildlife also been increased to 10 to 30 fold compared to current provisions.

#### 4. Ex-situ Conservation

Under the ex-situ conservation programmes, tigers placed (homed) in the zoological parks in Peninsular Malaysia are doing well and most of the tigers holding facilities in Malaysia are able to breed this species in captivity. Malacca Zoo (Zoo under the management of DWNP), which started the captive breeding programme in 1982, has since then bred a total of 64 tigers (22 males and 42 females). Successfully bred tigers not only able to support Malacca Zoo for its own exhibition but also for other zoological parks in Malaysia. So far 27 captive bred tigers have been adopted by the major zoological parks in Malaysia under zoo exchange programme. Internationally, Malacca Zoo had already exchanged 9 tigers with zoological parks in Germany, Singapore, Viet Nam and United States of America.

Since 2005, Malacca Zoo has temporarily ceased its captive breeding programme due to high maintenance cost and due to limited space. The tigers were separated in order to avoid mating so that the captive bred population in the zoo can be controlled. Apart from breeding tigers in captivity, Malacca Zoo also acts as holding facility for tigers rescued from law enforcement work and which has been removed from wild due to conflict with human and livestock.



Zoo Keeper feeding tiger cubs that born in captivity in Malacca Zoo.

## 5. Enforcement

A total of 7,205 cases were apprehended by DWNP from year 2001 to 2007, only 10 cases or less than 0.2% is related to tiger or tiger parts. The detail of cases related to tiger as shown in table below:

Table 1: Enforcement Cases related to tiger apprehended by DWNP from year 2001 to 2007.

Year	Offence	Action Taken
2001	Illegal possession of 15kg of tiger bones	Fined RM16,000 by court
2001	Illegal possession of 5 pieces of tiger penis	Still in court proceeding
2001	Illegal possession of 1.5kg of tiger meat	Fined RM4,000 by court
2003	Illegal possession of 33.7kkg of tiger bones, 4 tiger fangs and 6 tiger claws	Fined RM6,000 by court
2003	Illegal possession of 1 tiger skull, 31 tiger claws, and 10 tiger fangs	Fined RM3,000 by court
2003	Attempted smuggle into Malaysia 30 pieces of imitation tiger skins by an Indian National	All fake specimens were confiscated; the Indian National was detained for investigation and released for having valid travel document.
2004	Attempted smuggle into Malaysia 6 pieces of imitation tiger skins and 144 tiger claws by an Indian National	All fake specimens were confiscated; the Indian National was detained for investigation and released for having valid travel document.
2005	Illegal possession of 1 dead tiger	Fined RM7,000. The DWNP through the Public Prosecutor seeking for a retrial.
2005	Illegal possession of tiger fang	Still in court proceeding
2007	Illegal possession of tiger bones	Still in court proceeding

**a. Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) – flying enforcement squad**

In early 2005, the Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) was established in addition to the existing enforcement units, to forge a better networking among the enforcement officers within the DWNP and other enforcement agencies. The aim is to strengthen enforcement actions and to further intensify anti-wildlife crime efforts.

**b. Inter agency Cooperation**

DWNP is enhancing its inter-agency cooperation with other enforcement agencies such as Royal Malaysian Police, Royal Customs Department of Malaysia, Royal Malaysian Armed Forces, Maritime Agency and Anti Smuggling Unit. These enforcement agencies acted as front liner and the cooperation given by these agencies is very important to ensure that the exit and entry points of the country are not used to smuggling wildlife. Since the cooperation started, a number of wildlife smuggling cases were referred to DWNP by the Anti Smuggling Unit.

**c. Wildlife Enforcement Network (ASEAN-WEN)**

Malaysia, along with the rest of the ASEAN member countries is a member of the ASEAN-WEN, the world's largest wildlife law enforcement network. The network is designed to promote inter-agency and international cooperation to combat the illegal wildlife trade and targets wildlife crime syndicates by promoting intelligence sharing and cross-border operations. As focal agency for Malaysia, DWNP has been actively involved in the meetings and discussions. Malaysia through Ministry Of Natural Resources and Environment and Department of Wildlife and National Parks host and co-organised the Second ASEAN-WEN Workshop on Task Force and Working Groups Development with ASEAN-WEN Support Programme.

**d. Intensified Border Control**

Under the recent reorganisation of DWNP, emphasis has been given to strengthen the enforcement for all entry points to this country. DWNP has identified 17 established entry points located in 9 states that have to be manned at all times. The department is now in the process of recruiting new officials and setting up new offices for these entry points. Apart from this, DWNP recognises the heavy tasks ahead and has started to organise courses for the officers at the border posts to be better equipped with knowledge on wildlife identification and enforcement procedures.

**e. Continuous Patrolling of Taman Negara National Park Against Foreign Poachers**

Taman Negara National Park, which serves as the main habitats for tigers, are now being encroached by foreigners. In addition to illegally extract gaharu (*Aquillaria malacensis*), the main target by these encroachers, they also trap wild animals for their consumption while looking for gaharu. This has lead to the destruction in pockets of habitats and reduction of wildlife populations in these habitats. The foreign poachers prefer to use snares, since it is the easy way for them to get the animals. Unfortunately these snares do not select the intended wildlife victim. Any wildlife, including tigers could be victim of these snares. In order to effectively curb this encroachment, the DWNP has initiated the continuous patrolling programme of the Taman Negara National Park by deploying rangers from other parts of Peninsular Malaysia. The DWNP has also requested the assistance from Armed Forces of Malaysia in carrying out the enforcement and anti-poaching work since the year 2001. To date, about 80 foreign encroachers have been apprehended within the Taman Negara National Park under this programme.



Snares  
confiscated  
from  
poachers





Camp erected by encroachers in the forests.

#### **f. Enforcement activities on TCM**

DWNP carried out a nation wide enforcement activities on Traditional Chinese Medicines (TCM) Shops in September 2007. The one week long operation covered 293 TCM shops in 11 states and Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur in Peninsular Malaysia. During the operation, the bear detection kits that DWNP obtained from the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) were used to detect bear gall bladder and medicines that claimed to be originated from bear. Specimens with positive result were sent to Department of Chemistry for further identification. Legal action was taken on TCM shop owner operates without valid licence from the Department.

### **6. Capacity Building Workshop**

i) Workshop on the “Working together to stop tiger trade and poaching” was held from 14 to 15 November 2006 in Johor Bharu, the said workshop was co-organised by TRAFFIC South East Asia, Johor State Park Corporation and also Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). The workshop was attended by officers from the Johor State Park Corporation, Department of Wildlife and

National Parks and also Johor Forestry Department. The objectives of the workshop were to bring together the relevant Malaysian government departments that have a role in preventing tiger trade and poaching in the state of Johor and decide on the action plan to stop such activities in the state.

ii) Malayan Tiger Conservation Workshop was hosted by Department of Wildlife and National Parks with the help from MYCAT (The Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers). The said workshop was held in the Institute for Biodiversity in Pahang from 7 to 9 November 2006. It was attended by more than 60 experts from government agencies, research institutions and NGOs, this three-day workshop focused its discussion on four main topics namely:

- a) Habitat conservation-landscape level and integrity in forest contiguity,
- b) Species conservation-illegal trade and enforcement,
- c) Sustainable Rural Development-human-tiger conflict and
- d) Conservation science-studies and monitoring mechanisms.

The main aim of this workshop was to come out with a draft National Action Plan for the conservation of Malayan tigers in Malaysia.

## **7. Public Awareness Programme**

Malaysia realises that in order to prevent or eradicate illegal trade in tigers, apart from effective enforcement and cooperation with NGOs, public awareness programmes no doubt can be seen as one of the most powerful tool in bringing the message across. DWNP is very much involved with public awareness programmes on environmental issues. Activities that carried out by the DWNP such as exhibition, talks, seminars and dialogues are targeted at school children, general public, wildlife traders, restaurateurs, Traditional Chinese Medicine Practitioners, rural folks and also Orang Asli (aborigines).

Local community is always the link between the DWNP and enforcement work especially in densely populated areas either urban or rural areas. It is very pertinent to have local community support for any enforcement work especially in tackling illegal activities. DWNP organizes constant meetings and dialogues with local community for the past years. DWNP takes the opportunity to work with the village head, Community leader and other influential person to gain information on illegal activity against the wildlife law.

DWNP is also working closely with mass media and electronic media to educate general public on the conservation of wildlife, offences and penalties stipulated under the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972. The news papers often covered stories of court proceeding where wildlife offenders been charge. The electronic media also has shown interest when a few TV production companies agreed to



work with DWNP to produce wildlife related programmes without any charges to the department. Series epic stories about the experience of DWNP in enforcement work on illegal hunting which named after “Hunters” also aired via one of the TV Station in Malaysia.



DWNP's official having discussion with the head community of local aborigines

## 8. Tiger-Human Conflict

Tigers have been seen as pests for some villagers in Malaysia to a great extent for those staying in Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang States. Tigers not only caused loss of livestock but also human lives occasionally leading to significant economics loss to the farmers every year. A total of 1,878 cases of tiger-human conflict have been reported to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) from 1998 to 2005. This is further illustrated by Table 2.

**Table 2: Tiger-Human Conflict from year 1998 to 2005.**

Year	Number of Cases
1998	234
1999	338
2000	318
2001	345
2002	Data not available
2003	312
2004	198
2005	133

The data collected from 1991 to 2003 showed that 15 human lives were lost due to tiger attack and 56 people were injured by tigers. In addition 710 heads of livestock were preyed by tigers in the same period of time.

## **9. Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT)**

MYCAT is the alliance of governmental and non-governmental organisations committed to saving the Malayan tiger. Since its formation in 2003, MYCAT has been chaired by the Director General of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP). DWNP 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, the four leading NGOs involved in wildlife conservation in Malaysia.

MYCAT's objectives are:

1. Secure the Central Forest Spine (51,000 km<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, outside protected areas.
4. Apply sound science in monitoring the efficacy of conservation actions and improving the knowledge of tiger ecology.

MYCAT SO facilitates communication among the partners and coordinates their joint projects.

### **Highlights of MYCAT work in 2006 - 2007**

In November 2006 DWNP, in collaboration with the MYCAT NGO partners, organised the **National Tiger Conservation Workshop** involving many government agencies, NGOs and individual contributors to develop a **National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia** to consolidate current knowledge and conservation strategies relevant to the Malayan tiger. The subsequent plan identifies specific actions to be carried out over the next eight years 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. The plan is currently awaiting its final endorsement by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and will be officially launched this year.

The early months of 2007 saw the start of MYCAT's **campaign to reduce local consumption of trade in tigers and tiger prey**. By mid-2007 outreach programmes were conducted in two well-known wild-meat trade hotspots; Kampung Punan and Kahang in Johor. At the end of 2007, a major urban outreach event was held at Malaysia's National Zoo. This nationwide campaign involves all the MYCAT partners, for instance, conservation education expertise from WCS and intelligence information from TSEA.

In December 2007, MYCAT launched the **Tiger Crime Hotline** to increase the quality and quantity of information provided by members of the public, about tiger-related crimes. Reports received are instantly channelled to DWNP's enforcement division for action.

To cultivate and nurture conservation-minded Malaysians MYCAT SO conducted 11 **extension programmes** (based on information consolidated from its partners) involving presentations, activities and interactive booths, that together reached out to almost 3000 adults and children, and provided volunteer opportunities to 200 individuals.

To raise **greater consciousness** and encourage the public to take positive action for the tiger, MYCAT works closely with the **media** and we continue to use the **MYCAT e-group** 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. MYCAT also highlights important issues in the **MYCAT Watch** column provided by MNS in their monthly national newsletter, *Pencinta Alam*, and quarterly magazine, *Malaysian Naturalist*.

### **Financial support for MYCAT**

Financial support for MYCAT SO and MYCAT joint projects (2006-2007) were provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and by ExxonMobil Malaysia. Additional financial and in-kind support were provided by all the MYCAT partners as well as the following: Johor National Parks Corporation, Zoo Negara, 9 Lives Communications, Tamarind Springs, Penguin Books, Chin Pik Wun, Novista TV, Yeo Hiap Seng Trading Sdn Bhd, Salt Media Consultancy, Wildtrack Photography, 8TV, Ribena, volunteers, celebrities, Dial M for Dance, and members of the public.