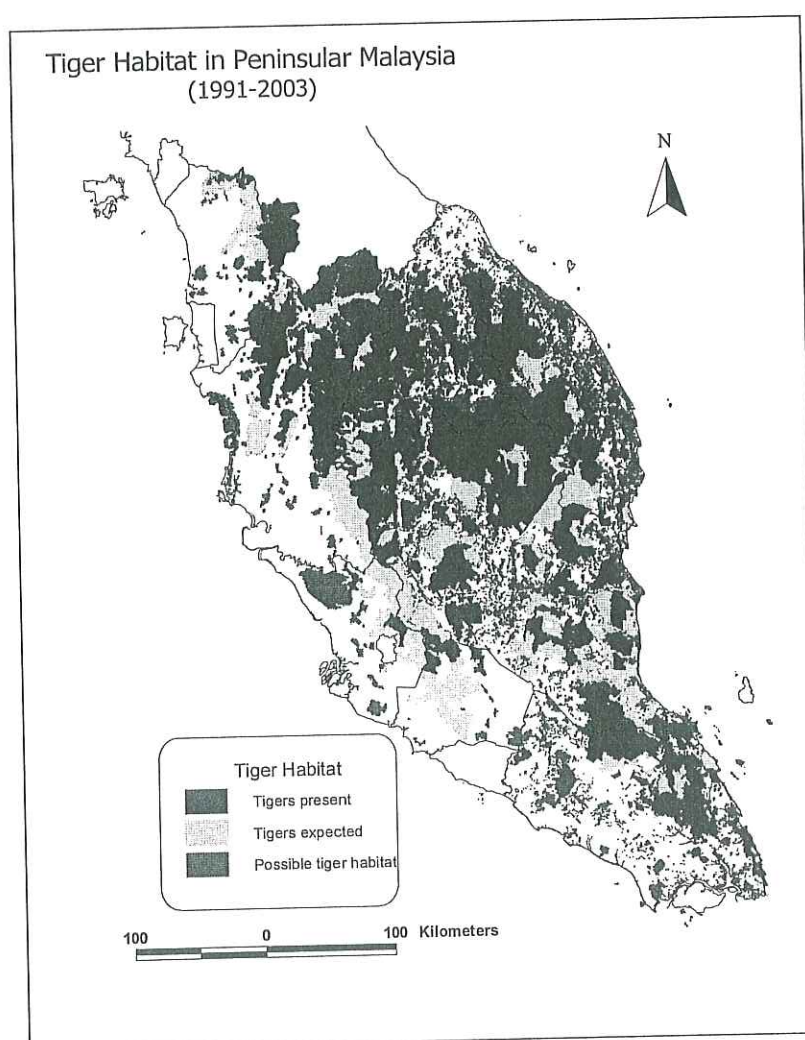


Report prepared by:
Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP), Peninsular Malaysia.

MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION OF TIGERS 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 is required. With regards to tiger, no Special Permit have been issued for activities other than this.

3. Legislation

a. CITES

Malaysia is now in the final stage of enacting its national CITES legislation "International Trade in Endangered Species 2006" and scheduled to be tabled in Parliament end of this year. This Act will be covering all the requirement stipulated under CITES.

b. Amendment of the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972

Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP) is also in its final stage of amending its 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 has 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. In Malacca Zoo (Zoo under the management of DWNP) for example has started the tiger captive breeding programme in 1992 and since then a total of 64 tigers (22

male and 42 female) have been bred in Malacca Zoo. The successfully bred tigers not only able to support Malacca Zoo for its own exhibition but also for the other zoological parks in Malaysia. So far 27 head tigers have been adopted by a few 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 cost for feeding and 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 bred 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 .



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

5. Enforcement

A total of 3,612 cases were apprehended by DWNP from year 2001 to 2006, only 8 cases or less than 0.2% related to tiger or tiger parts. The detail of cases related to tiger as shown in table below:

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 6,000 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	To be retrial

a. Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) – flying squad

In addition to the existing enforcement unit , In early 2005, the Wildlife Crime Unit (WCU) was established to forge a better networking among the enforcement officers within the DWNP and other enforcement agencies, with the intention to strengthen actions and to further intensify anti-wildlife crime efforts. Last year, there were 36 cases of wildlife smuggling and 42 cases of illegal hunting. There were also fifteen foreign men apprehended for illegal encroachment and poaching.

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 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

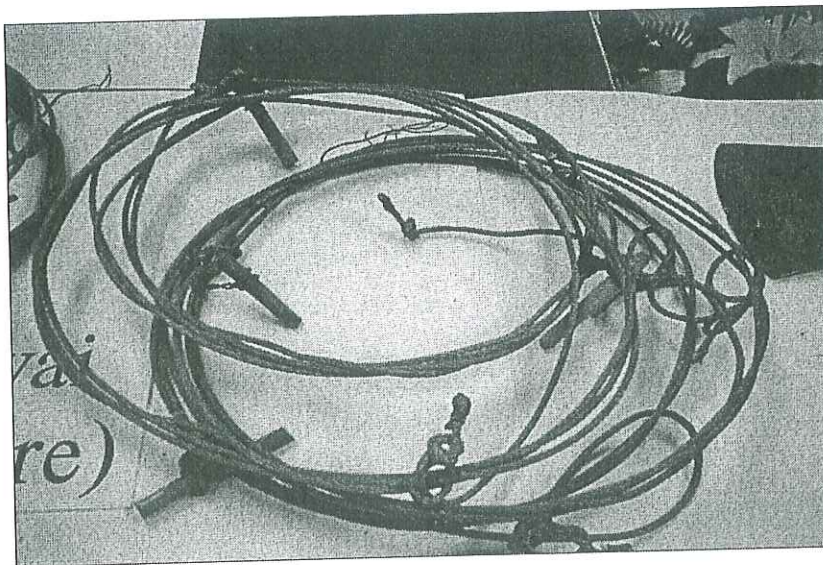
is designed to promote inter-agency and international cooperation to combat the illegal wildlife trade and targets wildlife crime syndicates by promoting intelligence sharing and cross-border operations. As representative for Malaysia DWNP has been actively involved in the meetings and discussions.

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. Anti – Foreign Poachers .

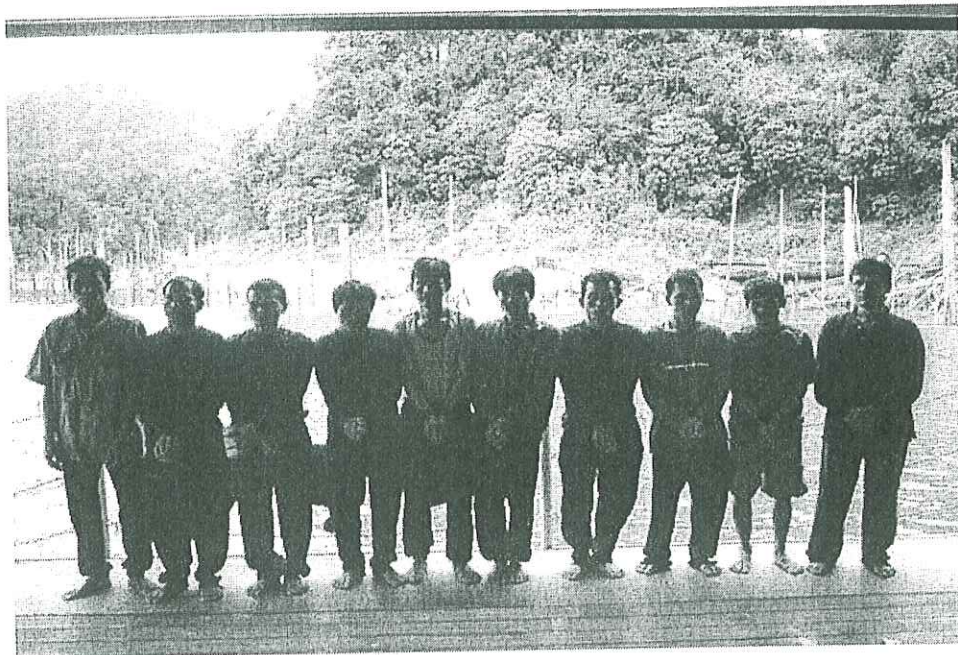
Malaysian forested areas which served as main habitats for tigers are now being encroached by foreign people . No doubt the main interest is actually for gaharu (*Aquillaria malacensis*) , but due to their side activities which is to trap wild animals for their own consumption , this has lead to the reduction of wildlife population in Malaysian forest . The foreign poachers prefer to use snares , since it is the easy way for them to get the animals . After setting it in strategic places , they can leave it for the next day to check their luck. Unfortunately the snares do not select the victim. It could be any species , including tigers. In order to achieve a better result in cracking down the poachers , DWNP has requested the Armed Forces help in carrying out the enforcement and anti-poaching work since the year 2001 . To date to 71 foreign poachers have been apprehended by Malaysia from the joint operations carried out by DWNP and armed forces .



Snares
confiscated
from
poachers



Camp erected by poachers in Malaysian forests which caused habitat destruction.



Poachers that were apprehended during the Anti-Foreign Poachers Operation carried out by DWNP and armed force.

f. Inventories on TCM

The DWNP is planning to hold an inventory to update all the TCM shops in Peninsular Malaysia in 2007. This exercise will enable the department to have the latest information on all traditional Chinese medicines originated from protected wildlife that sold in TCM shops. All medicines that were not illegal obtained will be confiscated.

6. 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. A 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

7. Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT)

Towards the goal of reducing trade in tigers , DWNP continues to collaborate with NGO's working on tigers in Malaysia . In 2003 , DWNP initiated a landmark alliance in the form of the **Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers**, known by its acronym MYCAT, with the financial support of Save the Tiger Fund. DWNP provides institutional support to MYCAT Secretariat's Office. Aside from DWNP, the current partners from NGO's are the Malaysian Nature Society, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, the Wildlife Conservation Society and WWF-Malaysia.

a. MYCAT's major achievements (both joint and individual) thus far:

- **Public Awareness through Various Media**
Public talks as well as interviews on live television and radio talkshows are given to raise public awareness on threats to tigers in Malaysia. Members of the public receive periodic updates on global and local tiger conservation issues and updates on MYCAT activities via the MYCAT e-group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat/
- **Taman Negara Community Outreach Programme**
In May and September 2005, rural community outreach programmes were held by DWNP in villages outside the Taman Negara National Park border. MYCAT NGO partners participated as expert observers and assisted in the facilitation of the programme. Such programmes are important to gain support from the local community in combating illegal activity, including poaching in Taman Negara.

- **Tumpat Tiger**

A case involving a snared and mutilated tiger made the local news in October 2005. The culprit was apprehended but only received a small fine in penalty. The MYCAT Secretariat's Office generated attention on the issue, which resulted in members of the public, and the local and international conservation community writing to the media and relevant authorities. This led to an appeal being filed, and a retrial has since been ordered.

- **TRAFFIC Southeast Asia's Media Workshops**

Workshops were held for the Malaysian and Singaporean media in December 2005, entitled *Media Tigers* by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia. The objective of the workshop was to increase media understanding and interest in conservation issues, especially the illegal wildlife trade. All MYCAT partners gave presentations at the workshop on related topics.

- **Wildlife Conservation Society's Teachers for Tigers**

In January 2005, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) held the first train-the-trainers workshop in Malaysia at the Institute of Biodiversity in Pahang. Forty DWNP wildlife rangers and environmental educators from MYCAT partner organizations participated. The workshop included lectures and practical activities on the ecological value of tigers, tigers in history and cultures, threats affecting tigers, human-tiger conflict and current tiger research. In July 2005, WCS held a Zoo Educators Training Course for DWNP staff of Zoo Melaka.

- **WWF-Malaysia's efforts in human-wildlife conflict reduction**

WWF-Malaysia is developing a human-tiger conflict mitigation model with its partners and target community in Jeli, Kelantan. A paddock built in Kampung Lata Janggut was successful; tigers circles the paddock, but were unable to enter. In June 2006, WWF-Malaysia held a joint workshop with DWNP and the RELA, Malaysia's auxiliary police unit, on working together to reduce human-wildlife conflict and curb illegal hunting. In July 2006, WWF-Malaysia held a workshop on human wildlife conflict mitigation, which was participated by DWNP, other NGOs, international experts and local universities.

b. Plans for the future

The goal is to strengthen tiger conservation in Malaysia by forging greater partnership through increased communication and collaboration with MYCAT partners, the public, other government agencies, members of the private sector and zoos. Programmes schedule from Oct 2006 – Sept

2007: Funded by Zoological Society of London's 21st Century Tiger and US Fish and Wildlife Service

The specific objectives of the programme are to

- ◆ Reduce domestic illegal trade and increase protection of the tiger and its prey in Peninsular Malaysia → Nationwide public awareness campaign to reduce trade, poaching and consumption of the tiger and its prey
- ◆ Plan strategies for the next three decades to ensure the survival of the Malayan tiger → To review National Tiger Conservation Action Plan
- ◆ Increase public awareness and support through zoo awareness programmes → Zoo outreach and awareness programme
- ◆ Expand formal partnership with other relevant agencies and maintain open communication lines among the partners and with the public → Facilitation of information exchange and communication between key organizations in tiger conservation

Roundtable discussions

In the next 2 months, DWNP will host roundtable discussions with MYCAT partner NGOs to discuss:

- Short-term (5 years) and long-term (30 years) goals and indicators for tiger conservation; and
- Specific roles of NGOs in assisting the law enforcement.

Action Plan Workshop

In November 2006, DWNP in collaboration with MYCAT partner NGOs will hold a three-day workshop to review the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan.