

MYCAT



TRACKS

Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers

THE ALLIANCE OF GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS
WORKING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE MALAYAN TIGER



best foot forward

21st Century Conservation Partnership for the Malayan Tiger

The loss of 95% of the tiger's original habitat in the last hundred years indicates that this century may become the time of no return for this magnificent species. Tigers are threatened by habitat loss, forest fragmentation, poaching, illegal trade of their parts and derivatives, depletion of prey species, retaliatory killings and removal by the authorities as a result of human-tiger conflict, incidental killings due to snares set for other wildlife, and lack of public awareness and support. Challenges to tiger conservation are multi-faceted and reaching solutions requires an integrated conservation approach, which is why MYCAT was established.

MYCAT's role is to increase communication and opportunities for collaboration among the partners whose tiger conservation priorities include habitat protection, human-tiger conflict resolution, law enforcement, monitoring of illegal trade, research, education and public awareness. ►

spread the word!



SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN SEPTEMBER 2003, MYCAT SAW ITS MOST ACTIVE YEAR IN 2005.

MYCAT played an increasingly significant role in raising public awareness on tiger conservation issues, through the local media, public talks, community outreach programmes and the MYCAT e-group.

MYCAT'S primary role is to provide a platform for communication and collaboration among individual organisations working on tigers in Peninsular Malaysia. 2005 marked a remarkable enhancement in communication that resulted in several tangible outputs. These outputs may not be major when evaluated on their individual merits, but each represents a step towards collaboration and cooperation in a manner that is yet unprecedented in the field of conservation in Malaysia.

Formed in March 2005, the MYCAT Working Group met five times last year. Besides periodic updates on current activities and issues, the Working Group discussed issues such as hosting a tiger symposium, drafting an action plan, amendments to the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972, exotic meat restaurants, public awareness, and the release and relocation of problem tigers to name a few.

The MYCAT e-group is open to anyone interested in learning more about tigers, and receiving news and updates about tiger conservation as well as MYCAT activities. Members of the e-group can also send each other tiger-related information and exchange ideas online. The e-traffic significantly increased from 14 emails in 2003 to 533 emails in 2005.

> Sign up at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat/



PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH VARIOUS MEDIA

In November, MYCAT Coordinator Loretta Ann Soosayraj gave a talk on tigers at the SONY STYLE showroom in the Kuala Lumpur City Centre shopping mall in conjunction with 'Living with Nature', a nature photography contest organized by MNS, CLICK! Magazine and SONY. In the same month, MYCAT Secretariat Dr Kae Kawanishi was a guest on a live talkshow on Traxxfm, a



L.A. SOOSAYRAJ/MYCAT



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national radio station, discussing the status of and threats to wild tigers in Malaysia, legislation, as well as actions that the public should take to better protect tigers. In December, DWNP Conservation of Biodiversity Division Director Siti Hawa Yatim and TRAFFIC Southeast Asia Senior Programme Officer Eugene Lee were guests on the NTV7 Breakfast Show, a national television talkshow, discussing threats to tigers, especially the illegal trade in tigers locally and regionally.

TAMAN NEGARA COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

In May and September, DWNP conducted rural community outreach programmes in Kampung Pagi and Kuala Sat, villages just outside the border of the Taman Negara National Park. The programme was funded by ExxonMobil Malaysia with the financial administrative



KAE KAWANISHI

support from MNS. Education experts from MNS, WCS and WWF-Malaysia participated and assisted DWNP in facilitation of the programme. Their valuable feedback is being used to improve the modules for future programmes. Malaysia's leading national daily newspapers, *The Star* and *The New Straits Times*, carried articles about MYCAT and the outreach programme.

MYCAT NEWS AND UPDATES

News from and about MYCAT were disseminated to the public through the *Pencinta Alam*, MNS' monthly newsletter, online magazine Wild Asia (<http://www.wildasia.net/main/article.cfm?articleID=256>), a link to the article in WCS Malaysia Programme's website and WWF-Malaysia Tiger Team's newsletter *Tigers Alive!*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In September, MYCAT responded with letters to the editors of various media, responding to the case of a tiger cub that was removed from the trade by the intervention of an individual who paid a large sum of money for the cub. The letters stressed that 'rescuing' an individual in this manner was counter-productive,

and that in cases such as these, the authorities must be informed immediately as no one else is empowered to act.

TUMPAT TIGER

In October, a case involving a snared and mutilated tiger made the local news. The culprit was apprehended but only received a small fine in penalty. MYCAT partners were interviewed by various media and the MYCAT Secretariat's Office



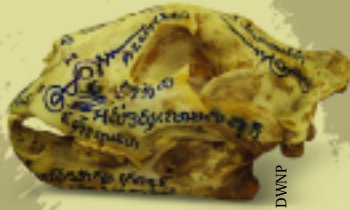
DWNP

kept the attention on to the issue by sending letters to the press, the Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment (MONRE) and the judiciary. Personal appeals for support were sent to the MYCAT e-group, friends, and members of the local and international conservation community to do the same. MNS members gathered petitions and wrote to the press and judiciary. WWF-Malaysia and TRAFFIC held a joint press conference to address this issue. As a direct result of the attention, an appeal was filed.



2005

partner
milestones



DWNP Habitat protection and law enforcement activities form a major component of DWNP's tiger conservation effort.

In January, the Wildlife Crime Unit was established to further intensify anti-wildlife crime efforts. Last year, there were 36 cases of wildlife smuggling and 42 cases of illegal hunting detected. There were also 12 Thai and three Cambodian men apprehended for illegal encroachment and poaching. The DWNP also began efforts to amend the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972, and among the expected changes are increased penalties, mandatory custodial sentences and wider species protection. DWNP held a workshop in August with government agencies, higher institutions and NGOs, to discuss and review the current status of wildlife conservation, species population and addition of certain species and provisions to the law for improved protection of threatened species.



MNS MNS initiated work towards the campaign to conserve the Belum-Temengor forest complex in Perak. Spanning 3000 km²

of the Main Range, it is Malaysia's largest remaining block of unprotected forest and the largest tiger landscape, making it a high priority conservation area for the tiger. MNS recommends that the Temengor Forest Reserve be protected in entirety. MNS also calls for the protection of the natural forest stretch flanking the East-West highway from conversion to plantation and gazettelement of the Royal Belum State Park. This campaign is part of the MNS Belum-Temengor Conservation Initiative. MNS also used WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* in more than 25 schools and Taman Negara Tiger posters were distributed to 257 schools nationwide, under the MNS *Kelab Pencinta Alam* (KPA) banner.

> Sign up for the petition to save Belum-Temengor at <http://64.91.240.155/bt/sign.htm>



KAE KAWANISHI

TRAFFIC

SOUTHEAST ASIA

TSEA In December, TSEA held media workshops for the Malaysian and Singaporean media, entitled *Media Tigers*. The objective of the workshops was to increase media understanding and interest in conservation issues, especially the illegal wildlife trade. It also provided an opportunity to introduce MYCAT to the media, and to the zoo communities of Malaysia and Singapore. All MYCAT partners gave presentations at the workshop on related topics. TSEA also commenced projects examining the trade of tigers in Malaysia and Indonesia.



CHRIS F. SHEPHERD/TSEA



WCS In January, WCS held the first workshop to train the trainers for the *Teachers for Tigers*

programme in Malaysia at the Institute for Biodiversity in Pahang. Forty 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, WCS held a Zoo Educators Training Course for DWNP staff of Zoo Melaka.



WWF-MALAYSIA 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 with stories of

tigers encircling the paddock at night, unable to get in despite many attempts. Villagers hear the roars of tigers from the direction of the paddock and upon checking, only find startled cows. WWF-Malaysia also obtained amazing camera-trap photos, including one which proved that there are still breeding tigers in our forests: a picture of a tigress, named Emmelia, and her cubs, Hope, Faith and Love (pic).



MARK RAYAN/WWF-MALAYSIA

ROAR

Join the tiger movement!

The global tiger count was **100,000** in the **1900s**. Latest statistics indicate there are now less than **5,000** tigers worldwide. Take action now.

- Sign up for MYCAT e-news at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat/
- Learn about tigers from reliable sources and share with others
- Support MYCAT partners' efforts for tiger conservation
- Join membership-based MYCAT partner organizations such as MNS and WWF-Malaysia
- Protect habitat by opposing indiscriminate development and illegal logging of forests
- Be a responsible consumer and pay more for forest and wildlife-friendly products
- Do not buy tiger parts or products claiming to contain tiger parts or derivatives
- Do not patronize restaurants serving tiger meat or meat from illegally acquired species
- Do not support zoos or private collections or exhibitions that display illegally acquired animals
- Look out for tiger news and issues in the press and voice your opinion by writing letters to the editors
- Notify the DWNP at **03-9075 2872** if you have any information on anyone selling or trapping tigers and other protected species, or trading in their parts and products

Pass it on!



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