

volume 4 2012

MYCAT TRACKS

Malaysia's progress towards 1000 wild tigers

Table of Contents

1	Foreword
3	The Malayan Tiger
4	National Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Malaysia
10	Belum-Temengor Forest Complex
15	Wildlife Crime Hotline
19	Taman Negara National Park and Sungai Yu Corridor
25	Endau-Rompin Landscape
30	MYCAT in Numbers
31	Thank You and Take Action

MYCAT TRACKS 2012 Production Team

Producer: Kae Kawanishi
Editor: Elizabeth John
Layout & Design: Olivier Caillabet
Communications: Wong Pui May

MYCAT Secretariat's Office

Unit 3, Ground Floor, Jalan SS 23/11, Taman SEA,
47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia

T: +6 (03) 7880 3940
F: +6 (03) 7882 0171
E: mycat.so@malayantiger.net

W: www.malayantiger.net

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malayan-tiger/>

<http://www.facebook.com/themalayantiger>

Front Cover Background: Abraham Matthew/MYCAT

Front Cover Tiger Image: Chris R. Shepherd/TSEA

Front Cover Design: Suzalinur Manja Bidin/MYCAT

Back Cover Background: Suzalinur Manja Bidin/MYCAT

Acronyms

BTFC	Belum-Temengor Forest Complex
CAT	Citizen Action for Tigers
CFS	Central Forest Spine
DWNP	Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia
ERL	Endau-Rompin Landscape
FD	Forestry Department
HTC	Human-Tiger Conflict
MIST	Management Information System
MNS	Malaysian Nature Society
MYCAT	Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
NTCAP	National Tiger Conservation Action Plan
NRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
TSEA	TRAFFIC Southeast Asia
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia Programme
WWF	WWF-Malaysia



February 14th, 2010. A call from an informant in the Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor: “Ada bangkai harimau.” (There is a tiger carcass). That was how my Year of the Tiger began.

As it turned out, the carcass was that of a leopard – snared, skinned and paws chopped off before it was dumped into a river. The difference in species made no difference to the threat faced by wildlife. Snares are indiscriminate in their choice of victims. The proof lay in the carcasses of the clouded leopard and wild boars left to rot nearby; obviously none of these were the poacher’s intended target.

Twelve years prior to this sad incident, I was a student just starting my PhD study to estimate the tiger population in Taman Negara National Park. In the years that followed, I embarked on a frenzy of efforts with colleagues – efforts I sincerely believed would help wild tigers. But here I am, one full Lunar calendar cycle later, re-counting tigers in Taman Negara and wondering if all this work has made a difference.

Besides monitoring the tiger population in the park,

the current project at Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor allowed me a closer look at the threats faced by wildlife in the forests outside the protected area. Encroachment is a daily affair. Logging roads bring all kinds of people from near and far to a once remote area in search of opportunities and easy money.

Our bottom line is the number of wild tigers protected and increased, not the amount of money raised or the number of activities held. Despite the hailstorm of activities, overall, we may be failing (Page 6). In most cases, we don’t know enough to say if the wild tiger population has increased or decreased; and in the one case where we have the information – the western and southern regions of Malaysia’s most important protected area – there has been a drastic decline (Page 19). Meanwhile in the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, various government agencies at federal and state levels are still trying to find ways in which they can work together to effectively patrol the forest and enforce the law (Page 10). Only in Endau-Rompin in Johor, is the tiger population stable due to serious on-the-ground enforcement efforts coupled with biological monitoring (Page 25).

We approached 2010, the first Lunar Year of the Tiger in this millennium, with much hope for wild tigers. Leaders of the tiger range countries acknowledged that the endangered tiger represents Asia’s ecosystems in crisis and pledged commitment to their recovery at the Tiger Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia. Malaysia took its place on the pedestal as a country ahead of its time – the only range state where the Government and conservation NGOs had already committed to doubling the country’s tiger population by the year 2020, through the *National Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Malaysia* (NTCAP).

The NTCAP is a great plan, probably the best there is.

COMMITMENT

WHEN IT COMES TO COMMITMENT THERE ARE 4 TYPES OF PEOPLE:

COP-OUTS- PEOPLE WHO HAVE NO GOALS AND THUS DO NOT COMMIT

HOLD-OUTS- PEOPLE WHO DO NOT KNOW IF THEY CAN REACH THEIR GOALS, SO THEY ARE AFRAID TO COMMIT

DROP-OUTS- PEOPLE WHO START TOWARDS A GOAL BUT QUIT WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH

ALL-OUTS- PEOPLE WHO SET GOALS, COMMIT TO THEM, AND PAY THE PRICE TO REACH THEM

JOHN MAXWELL

Its only real weakness is that when the government and MYCAT developed the plan between 2006 and 2008, we envisioned the best-case scenario. In my speech at the NTCAP workshop in 2006, I spoke about four types of people with varying levels of commitment and how this plan needed people who were “all-outs”. Then we pledged the commitment which was later echoed by the Natural Resources and Environment Minister. The gap between the goal and reality, however, has widened despite the good efforts by some quarters. If we were truly committed in 2008, then some have become “drop-outs” or perhaps there were silent “hold-outs”.

Only three years remain until the mid-term assessment of the NTCAP and we don’t even know what proportion of presumed tiger habitats in Malaysia is still occupied by tigers, let alone the national tiger population size. We all feel that there are less than 500 wild tigers surviving but no one knows how much less. Not only do we lack such critical knowledge, Malaysia, as a whole, also failed to implement a majority of the actions required by the NTCAP during the two years that were assessed (Page 6).

There is no other plan but the NTCAP to save the Malayan tiger. Conservation of no other single species has received as much attention from policy makers

and the public as well as conservation resources as the tiger has in the recent past. If we can’t save the tiger, we probably can’t save anything else. After India, Malaysia has the second best chance of saving the tiger. India is home to about half the remaining wild tigers and while they exist in a much tougher social context, India has the best chance because it has the benefit of more committed conservationists in all sectors.

This volume of *MYCAT TRACKS* looks back at the last two years (2010-2011) of our collective progress towards, or retreat from, the goal of the NTCAP. It provides us

with the opportunity to celebrate the achievements. It also demands that we swallow a bitter pill – that we have run the “Save the Tiger” race at full speed, with ‘reality’ looking on from the sidelines. And this will be painful for those who have given so much to the plan and its purpose.

Blind optimism leads nowhere, which is exactly where we may find ourselves in the effort to recover the wild Malayan tiger population if nothing changes. It is up to each reader to carry-on with business as usual, or to re-strategise for bigger, and more grounded strides towards our destination.

In the midst of these uncertainties, there seems to be some hope as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, through the Cabinet, has adopted the implementation of the *Central Forest Spine* (CFS) *Master Plan* to secure a contiguous forest within which tiger habitats are found. However, the current dire state of wild tigers needs more than hope. It needs greater leadership, professionalism, public support and adequate resources in all sectors. Once these are committed, the impossible can be achieved.

Kae Kawanishi
General Manager, MYCAT Secretariat’s Office

The Malayan Tiger

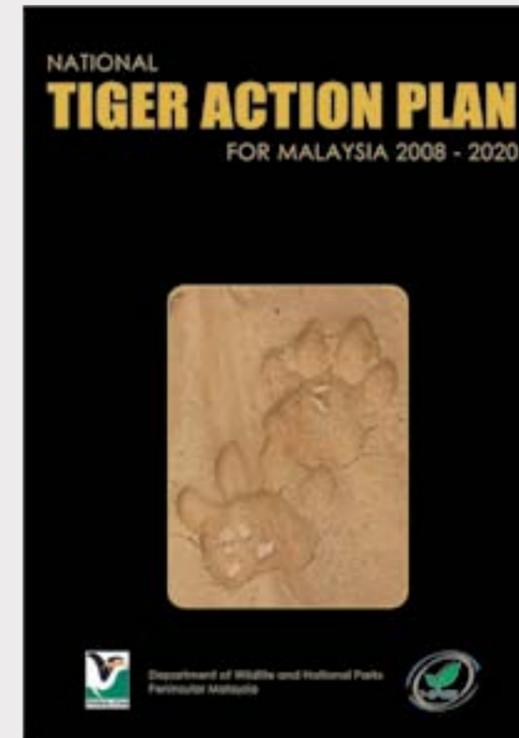
Malaysia is home to the Malayan tiger, a sub-species of the *Panthera tigris* unique to the Malay Peninsula. The tiger has been considered a totally protected species under Malaysia's wildlife legislation since 1976 and commercial trade is prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). Currently, once convicted, tiger poachers, traders and consumers are liable to a fine between RM100,000 and RM500,000 (USD33,333 and USD166,667) as well as a jail term of up to five years under the *Wildlife Conservation Act 2010*.

Despite the legal protection, the wild Malayan tiger population has declined from 3,000 to 500 since Malaysia's independence. The figure of 500 was based on the available tiger habitat up to the year 2003 and the expected average tiger density (number of tigers per 100 km²) in local forests. The main threats to the tiger's survival include habitat loss, forest fragmentation, poaching, illegal trade of tiger body parts and derivatives, depletion of prey species and conflict with people. Among these, targeted poaching is currently the most devastating threat that requires urgent action. Tigers are much sought after for: their bones, which are used in traditional medicine; meat, which is served as a delicacy in wild meat restaurants; and for other body parts such as the teeth, claws and skin, which are believed to have curative or "magical" powers.

Malaysia is one of the 12 mega-biodiversity countries. It is also home to the oldest rainforest in the world – some 130 million years old. As the largest cat species in the world, the tiger is at the top of the food chain in ecosystems where it is found. Using this most charismatic species in Asia as a flagship species, the MYCAT partners strive to save large expanses of living forests rich in biodiversity – which also happen to be the healthy ecosystem that our lives depend on.

© Christopher Wong/WWF-Malaysia

National Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Malaysia



The Malaysian government in collaboration with conservation NGOs developed the *National Tiger Conservation Action Plan* (NTCAP) in 2008 with a vision of a 22nd century Malaysia in which tigers thrive in the wild. It's ultimate performance index is 1,000 wild tigers by 2020. In Malaysia's *Vision 2020*, the nation is also striving towards becoming a developed nation by the same year.

The nature of a country's development is demonstrated by the policies it implements. Securing the continued existence of the tiger and its habitat while managing the forests in a sustainable manner is an indication of our ongoing effort to achieve a sustainable society. The presence of healthy tiger populations in large contiguous forests will signify the balanced progression of the country's ecological, societal, cultural and economic well-being and, ultimately, an enhancement of the quality of life of Malaysians, which is the essence of *Vision 2020*.

The NTCAP was developed around existing policies on environment, forest, biodiversity and land use. Peninsular Malaysia's blueprint for spatial planning, the *National Physical Plan*, provides the backbone for the NTCAP's aspiration to secure a large expanse of interconnected tiger habitat – an area which the *National Physical Plan* identifies as the Central Forest Spine (CFS).

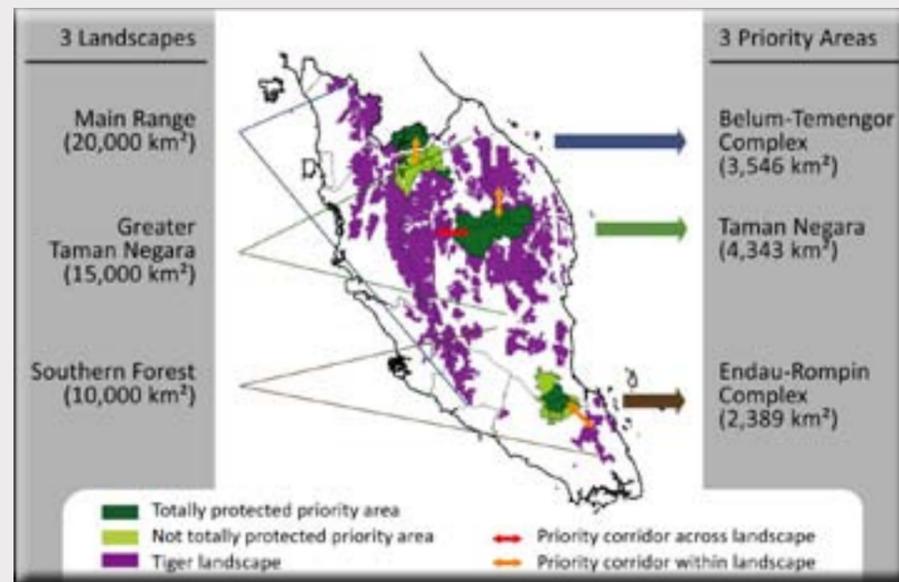


Source: Department of Town and Country Planning

Envisioned for realisation by 2020, the CFS is a network of separate forest complexes that will be connected by green linkages. Together they will form 51,000 km² of contiguous forest along the length of Peninsular Malaysia, much like a long green spine.

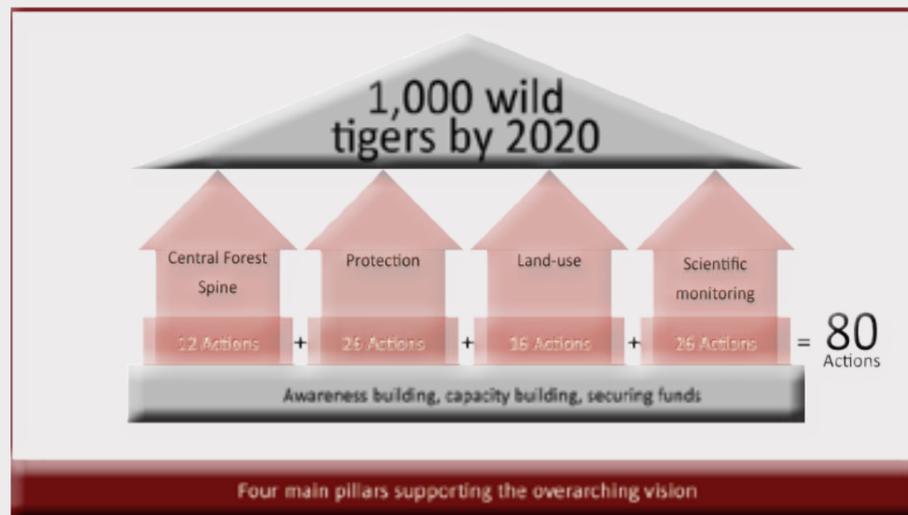
The NTCAP identifies three priority areas and four priority corridors for tigers (Fig. 1). It also lays out 80

Figure 1. Landscapes and priority areas laid out in the NTCAP.



Source: DWNP

Figure 2. Key actions underpinning the four objectives which support the NTCAP's vision.



key actions underpinning the four objectives which in turn support the overarching vision (Fig. 2).

Implementing the NTCAP is a collaborative effort involving over 40 agencies. As the government agency responsible for wildlife management, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP) takes the leadership for implementing a majority of the actions. The Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment hosts Stakeholder Meetings annually to take stock of accomplishments, share lessons learnt and revise plans. Transparency and accountability are built into the monitoring system. Acting as an independent and neutral entity, the MYCAT Secretariat's Office compiles an overall progress report for the Stakeholder Meeting, based on submissions by the agencies leading each action.

In this section, we report the overall progress of NTCAP implementation in 2010. The report for 2011 is not yet available as the assessment will take place in 2012. Readers will also find here, a summary of achievements and challenges for the period of 2010-2011. Detailed reports for each of the three priority areas can be found in the subsequent sections.

Out of the 80 actions in NTCAP, 76 were scheduled to be implemented in 2010. However, many of these actions are meant to be implemented continuously every year, for example, 'increase anti-poaching patrols'. Based on voluntary reporting by the agencies involved, only 18 of the 76 actions (24%) were fully implemented/completed in 2010. Although this was a small improvement as compared to 2009 when only 20% of actions were completed, it is clear that Malaysia, as a whole, is failing to implement the majority of the actions outlined and committed to in the plan.

The Department of Town and Country Planning under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government was the only agency that successfully completed all the actions that it was tasked to lead, specifically in engaging relevant authorities to identify important tiger habitats and corridors as well as actions necessary to secure the CFS. The *CFS Master Plan* was subsequently tabled to the Cabinet and was accepted in April 2011 (see Box 1). Despite highways bisecting the landscape, the forest continuity at the two critical corridors that connect Taman Negara to greater forest landscapes to the north and west of the park have been maintained by means of green infrastructure development.

Whilst this report does not attempt to discuss the challenges that led to every incomplete action, a major reason for the overall poor performance becomes clear when the overall performance is broken down into the agencies that are tasked to lead the respective actions (Table 1).

Overall Performance

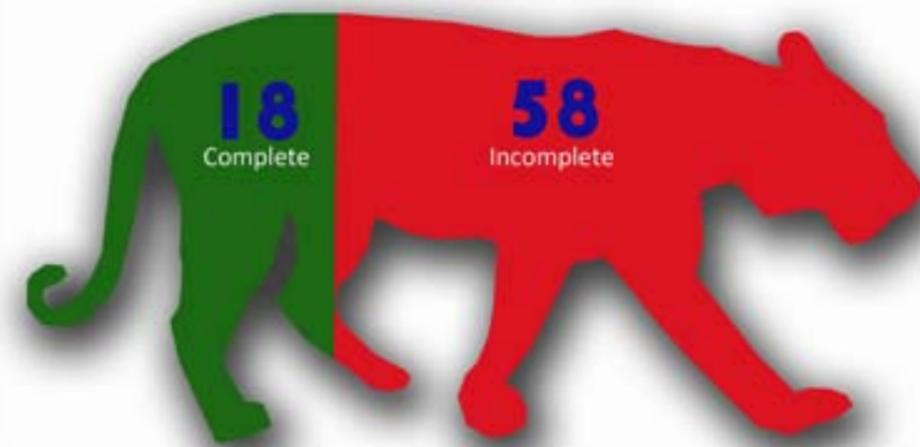
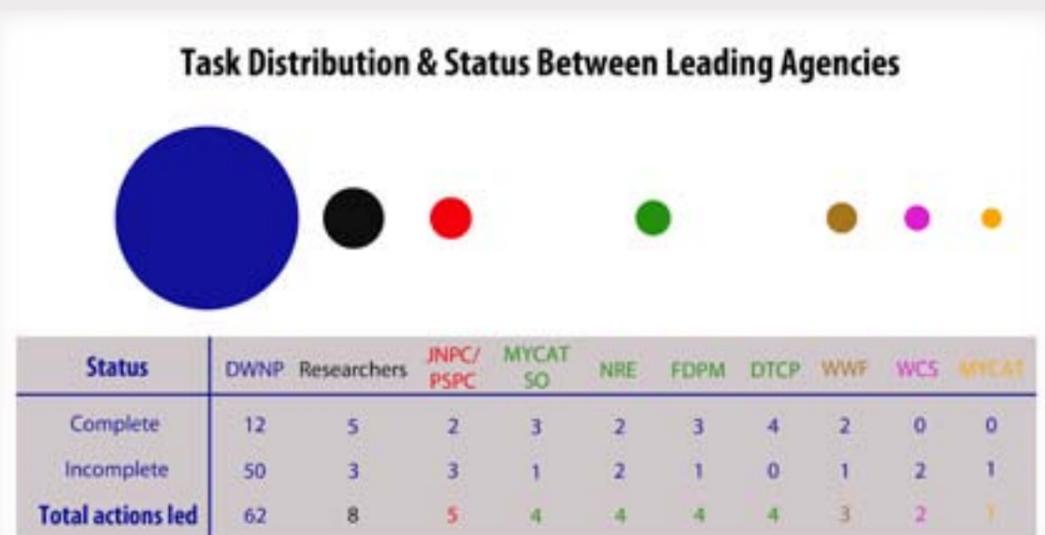


Table 1. The leading agencies for actions in 2010, some actions are co-led by several agencies. DWNP – Department of Wildlife and National Parks; JNPC/PSPC – Johor National Parks Corporation, Perak State Park Corporation; MYCATSO – MYCAT Secretariat’s Office; NRE – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; FDPM – Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia; DTCP – Department of Town and Country Planning; WWF – WWF-Malaysia; WCS – Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia Programme.



In 2010 the DWNP was the lead for many actions. A decision was made at the NTCAP stakeholders meeting in March 2011 to re-assign some of the actions allotted to them. Other agencies with adequate authority and capacity were appointed to assist with carrying out actions that had not been completed between 2008 and 2010. In turn, NRE and DWNP took over sustainable financing issues from WWF. To address this new responsibility, the government organised several workshops in 2011 to secure a Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded project.

While acknowledging the setbacks, this Report Card recognises some triumphs. A major one was the passage of the *Wildlife Conservation Act 2010* in both Houses of Parliament and its subsequent gazette that sealed many of the loopholes which had plagued its predecessor, the *Protection of Wild Life Act 1976*. It also substantially increased the severity of penalties for wildlife offences. While the improved legislation for wildlife was 13 years in the making, there wasn't a more significant year than the Year of the Tiger to pass this new Act. The new law carries a minimum fine of RM100,000 (USD33,333) and a jail term of up to five years for convicted tiger poachers, traders and consumers. The Act also classified one of the primary

tiger prey species in southern Peninsular Malaysia, the bearded pig, as a totally protected species. This new legislation also complements the CITES-related legislation, the *International Trade in Endangered Species Act*, passed in 2008.

The main enforcement agency, DWNP, chalked up more than 3,600 cases in 2010 throughout the Peninsula, including at major sea and airports (DWNP 2010). Of these, 50 serious cases were successfully prosecuted in the courts. DWNP began to enforce the new law in 2011 with retraining given to Arresting, Investigating and Prosecuting Officers. To date, it has already brought 41 cases to the Sessions Court, six of which resulted in jail terms for the offenders. Of these, one case involved illegal possession of a tiger claw, for which the offenders were sentenced to four months in jail. A dozen other court cases involved tiger prey, with offenders in two cases given jail terms. Five more cases involving illegal possession of tiger parts are still under investigation.

DWNP has also instituted a six-year moratorium on deer hunting to provide much-needed protection to key tiger prey species, the sambar and barking deer. Encroachment into Malaysian forests, especially for

the illegal harvest of agarwood, is a major concern for the authorities. Hundreds of wire snares have been removed by DWNP enforcement teams in the priority areas and other parts of Peninsular Malaysia; but the exact number is unknown. Emulating the successful systematic anti-poaching patrols in the Johor Endau-Rompin Landscape, DWNP is in the process of enhancing law enforcement in the rest of Peninsular Malaysia's protected areas with greater accountability and efficiency using a data collection and management system called MIST (Management Information System).

NTCAP's third objective of Human-Tiger Conflict (HTC) resolution met with the greatest hurdles. Any HTC case, no matter how minor it may be, demands a quick and firm response by the government – a duty which ultimately falls on the DWNP's shoulders. The DWNP has long established mechanisms, right up to the district level, to respond rapidly to HTC complaints, and together with NRE monitors the complaints. To further mitigate the problem of human-wildlife conflicts, despite budget cuts, the DWNP managed to conduct at least 34 community outreach programmes throughout Peninsular Malaysia, some in collaboration with NGOs.

However, none of the priority actions specified in the NTCAP were completed, specifically on establishing: community-based best management practices; effective HTC specific public awareness programmes; and a sustainable financing mechanism for HTC management.

As tiger numbers decline, so do reports on HTC cases. Incidences of tiger attacks on humans are rare in Malaysia, with one possible case in the last two years when a tiger injured a man who was allegedly hunting squirrels with a blowpipe in the Belum Forest in Perak. There was only one other case where a tiger attacked a man, but clearly in self-defense, right before it died from multiple injuries inflicted by poachers in Sungkai, Perak. The men were later charged for tiger poaching. During the same period, only three tigers that were known to have regularly killed livestock were captured by DWNP.

At the moment, HTC is not a major social issue in Malaysia, as compared to other countries where hundreds of people are attacked by tigers annually. As such, the first two objectives to secure the CFS and to protect tigers and tiger prey have taken precedence over HTC resolution. The implementation of the *CFS Master Plan* is expected to alleviate the problem by providing safe passages for tigers between forest blocks.

As for the fourth objective of conservation science, the *Guidelines for the National Survey of Malayan Tigers* were finally established in 2011 after three years of delay. The challenge to conducting a nationwide survey in a scientifically defensible manner is primarily the lack of strong leadership and trained personnel to undertake such a task on a national scale. Malaysia is probably one of the few developing mega-biodiversity countries that still lacks a home grown degree programme to produce its



own wildlife biologists. This is partially because the federal government has only about 100 such positions for the whole of Peninsular Malaysia. Furthermore, local universities, which are funded mainly by federal funds, often do not have research grants for ecological research on large mammals. A handful of local tiger biologists with degrees from universities overseas are, therefore, over-committed to conservation work, including research, in their respective priority areas. Consequently, funds for conservation research are invested only in the priority areas. Nevertheless, our understanding of tiger ecology at the priority areas has gained much benefit from their focus. Field

research to estimate tiger prey occupancies and tiger populations in Belum-Temengor, Endau-Rompin Johor, Taman Negara Merapoh and Sungai Yu Corridor have all been completed. The DWNP, which has undertaken numerous wildlife inventories across the tiger landscape, also received federal funds in 2011 to undertake tiger ecological studies in other parts of Taman Negara.

It is an anxious wait for the 2011 assessment, due to be ready in the first quarter of 2012, as it will show whether or not the overall performance of NTCAP implementation has made significant improvement.

Box 1. Central Forest Spine Master Plan: Establishment of Ecological Linkages

The *CFS Master Plan* was jointly tabled to the Cabinet for adoption by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) and Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 2011. The Cabinet appointed NRE as the main implementing agency, supported by the Forestry Department (FD) and Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP). The Cabinet also acknowledged the ongoing pilot wildlife corridor efforts at Sungai Deka, Terengganu and at Sungai Yu, Pahang and decided to construct another wildlife corridor at Belum in Perak, with an initial allocation of RM60 million (USD20 million). A taskforce comprising NRE, FD and DWNP was formed to make an initial assessment of the three recommended viaducts at Belum.

To assist NRE in the implementation of the *CFS Master Plan*, a CFS Steering Committee was formed comprising representatives from state governments, agencies and NGOs. At its inaugural meeting in November 2011, the CFS Steering Committee agreed to the formation of a CFS Technical Committee headed by the FD Director-General and state technical committees that would address land and other technical issues pertaining to the CFS. The Steering Committee also requested that the Johor State Government reconsider some of the development projects within ecological corridors that had been approved prior to the adoption of the *CFS Master Plan*.

To compliment the government's initiative, NRE held a number of consultative workshops to seek the United Nations Development Programme - Global Environment Facility technical assistance funding for the implementation of the *CFS Master Plan*, which coincides with the first objective of the NTCAP.

Reported by Sivananthan Elagupillay, DWNP

Reference:

DWNP 2010. Annual Report. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Available at www.wildlife.gov.my.

The donations from the students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Bukit Damansara and International School of Kuala Lumpur supported the MYCAT Secretariat's role in assisting the government with the 2010 assessment of NTCAP implementation.

Great riches, greater threats



© KH Khoo/MNS

Sprawled across 3,546 km² of verdant green forests in northern Peninsular Malaysia, the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex (BTFC) is one of the most challenging landscapes for the conservation of wild tigers.

This landscape has to contend with an international border, a highway that slices through the length of the landscape, a massive lake and a maze of waterways that snake through it (Fig. 3).

For poachers and encroachers, all of these features increase access into the wildlife-rich forests, providing ample hideaways, and countless escape routes. Adding to this problematic mix is the overlap in jurisdiction and lack of ownership which results from having a

multitude of agencies governing disparately.

This is the only landscape in which three of the four MYCAT partners are working together to realise the goals of the *National Tiger Conservation Action Plan* (NTCAP). WWF, TSEA and MNS' focus in the BTFC has been four-fold: managing the habitat and securing better protection for the forest complex, improving enforcement, improving knowledge of the species as well as engaging and empowering local communities to address threats and challenges.

Overall, the partners have achieved some success, but they continue to face tremendous obstacles in this highly threatened landscape. While the NTCAP lists a

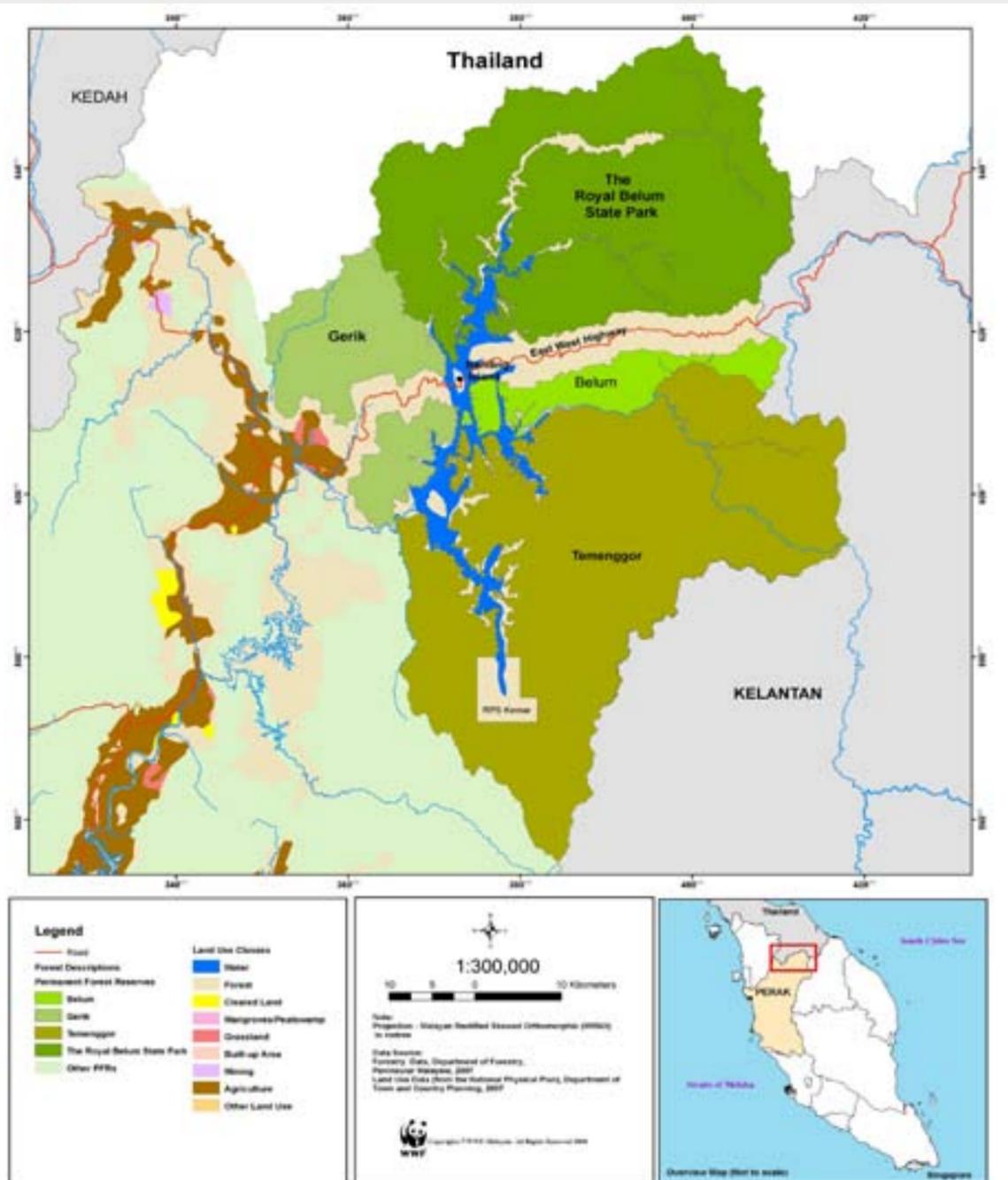


Figure 3. The Belum-Temengor Forest Complex is physically divided into two by the 125 km East-West Highway between Gerik in Perak and Jeli in Kelantan. To its north, adjacent to the Thai border, lies the Royal Belum State Park. The Highway is a primary reason tigers and other wildlife in BTFC are at risk – it provides easy access for poachers into both Belum and Temenggor.

Area	Size (km ²)
Royal Belum State Park	1,175
Belum Forest Reserve (south of the highway)	160
Temenggor Forest Reserve	1,480
Temenggor Lake/ Hydroelectric Dam	152
State land forest along the East-West highway	595

series of goals that should be achieved within a set period of time, the partners have found that the depth and breadth of problems here call for action at a far more basic level.

The greatest of these problems has been a history of dismal enforcement efforts. This has, over the long term, allowed the BTFC to develop into a hub of illegal hunting and trade. The situation also created the need for the NGOs to conduct many months of patrols to ascertain just what they were dealing with. Information gathered by WWF and TSEA on poaching and illegal wildlife trade indicate that since 2008, at least 480 wild animals have been poached in the area, with 230 between 2010 and 2011. Poachers' targets included tigers, elephants, sambar deer and gaur.



In the last two years, 25 active wire snares and three mist nets were also uncovered and de-activated by WWF's wildlife monitoring team. Based on the thickness of the cables and the tree size that the cables were tied to, many snares were clearly intended for large mammals such as the tiger. These snares were also placed at locations where tigers had previously been recorded. At least 50 access points along the highway that are frequently used

by poachers to access the forest were identified. These figures not only validated the seriousness of the problem, it also provided the NGO teams and enforcement authorities with a record of hotspots that had to be continuously monitored and a wealth of knowledge that should be used to strengthen enforcement.

The NGOs also found themselves spending a great deal of time and energy on getting official acknowledgement of these problems, trying to build the political will to address them, and on pushing for action.

Continued advocacy by WWF and TSEA resulted in the formation of the Belum-Temengor Joint Enforcement Taskforce* in August 2010 – the first of its kind in the state of Perak. The taskforce, which consists of ten enforcement agencies, is tasked with conducting joint anti-poaching patrols in four designated zones: the Royal Belum State Park, Belum and Temenggor Permanent Reserved Forests, Gerik-Jeli Highway and the state land forest on both sides of the Highway. WWF and TSEA have observer status in this taskforce. In its first operation in August 2010, members of the taskforce seized two tonnes of agarwood and 31 mahseer fish. Six other joint patrols and some roadblocks were carried out in 2011 at the Sungai Lebey checkpoint which is situated along the Gerik-Jeli Highway, 15 km from Gerik town. These operations resulted in the seizures of pangolins and birds, which, though encouraging, were miniscule compared to the scale of the threat facing BTFC as suggested by the overwhelming evidence of rampant poaching (as mentioned earlier).

In addition, in 2011 both groups began lodging police reports on wildlife crime – an approach deemed necessary to ensure such crimes are officially recorded and acted upon in accordance with the

*The Belum-Temengor Joint Enforcement Taskforce comprises the following agencies: Perak State Park Corporation, DWNP, Royal Malaysian Police, Perak FD, RELA (People's Volunteer Corps), Anti Smuggling Unit, Customs Department, Fisheries Department, Marine Police, and Immigration Department. It is chaired by the Hulu Perak District Officer.

Wildlife Conservation Act 2010. A total of eight such reports have been lodged so far. However, the size of the forested landscape and the lack of follow-up on the police reports render BTFC vulnerable to more poaching of high-profile species such as the tiger.

MNS meanwhile, continued its overarching call to have Temengor declared a protected area. Its "Save Temengor Campaign 2010" carried out in partnership with The Body Shop saw a petition bearing 82,715 signatures handed over to the Perak State Government in June 2011. The Perak State Tourism Committee Chairperson, YB. Datuk Hamidah Osman, received the signatures and promised to bring the campaign message to the State Executive Council, its highest decision making body, at its forthcoming meeting. With no further positive response to date, the advocacy for securing the State's commitment for the conservation of BTFC continues.

To lend these efforts more weight and generate support within communities in and around BTFC, communications and outreach initiatives were high on the agenda for 2011. 'On Borrowed Time', a 9-minute documentary launched by WWF and TSEA in conjunction with World Tiger Day 2011, was used to renew attention towards the threats faced by tigers in the BTFC and to put the poaching crisis on the national agenda.

In terms of community engagement and education, over 30 religious leaders drafted a Friday sermon urging Muslims not to exploit the forest and to show support for conservation.



© WWF-Malaysia
Community engagement with religious leaders

Furthermore, billboards and signage describing the penalties for violating the *Wildlife Conservation Act 2010*, on totally protected species and protected species, were set up in November 2011 at five sites in and around the landscape.



© Sara Sukor/WWF-Malaysia

One of the many issues the NTCAP addresses is that of Human-Tiger Conflict – sometimes an impetus for tiger killings. Following a tiger attack on an Orang Asli in February 2011, the NGOs in the BTFC focused some of their education efforts in this area. WWF held two dialogue sessions at Kampung Sungai Tiang in Belum and the Banun Orang Asli village to understand the true situation on the ground, and to educate communities about the *Wildlife Conservation Act 2010*, particularly its penalties. The outcome in this case was that the Orang Asli did not pursue a retaliatory killing of the tiger. This engagement with the Orang Asli was augmented with a larger educational dialogue to promote the MYCAT Wildlife Crime Hotline and to increase awareness about the Act later in the year.

The one area with clear progress was the increased knowledge base on tiger ecology in this priority area, validating BTFC as a healthy and significant breeding site for tigers.

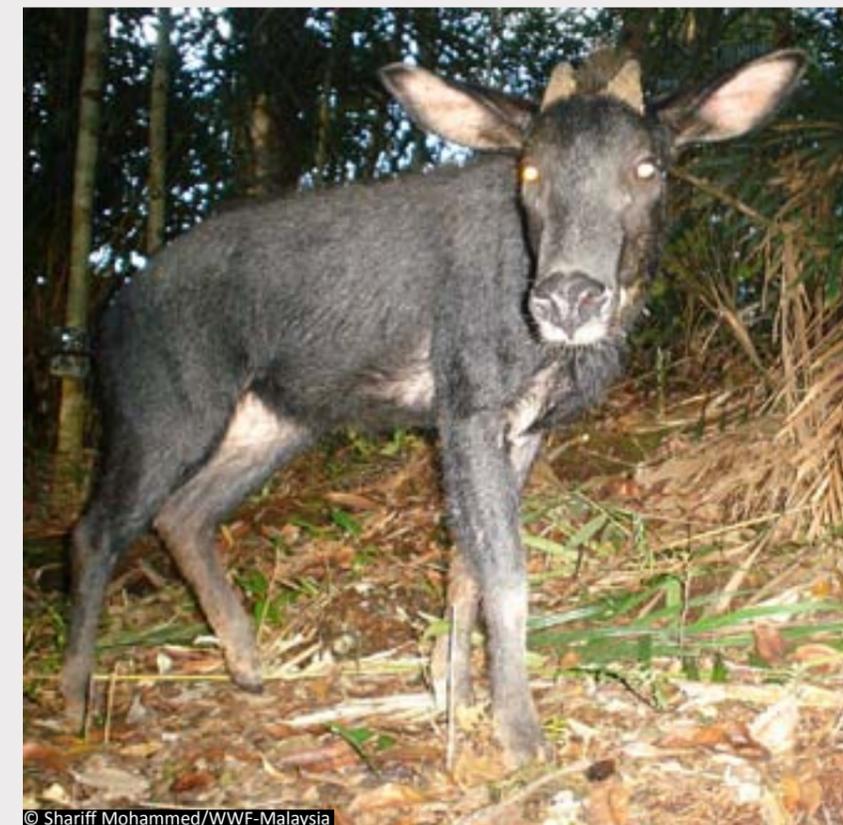
WWF completed a two-year scientific research on tiger ecology in Temengor Forest Reserve and the Royal Belum State Park, together encompassing about 3,000 km². Nine adult tigers were photographed in Temengor whilst 22 adult tigers were photographed in Royal Belum over a period of about nine months

in each study site. Preliminary results suggest that the estimated tiger densities are 0.61 – 1.98 adult animals/100 km². The estimated tiger population sizes for Temengor and Royal Belum are around 9 and 24 adult tigers, respectively. If these are considered two separate populations, neither may be viable in the long run. The good news is that on more than one occasion, cubs were photographed in both areas, indicating that BTFC is a breeding site for the tiger.

Another key threat is the ongoing development and land conversion in the state land forest along the highway. Such land use change in this important wildlife corridor is very likely to disrupt the habitat use of tigers and other wildlife. A few individual

tigers were photographed in both Royal Belum and Temengor, indicating that they are still moving across the highway. If there is inadequate forest cover or protection along the highway, tigers may no longer safely cross the road to the adjacent forest. Therefore, enhancing the connectivity and protection of the existing forest patches along the highway is critical to ensure the continued movement of tigers and other wildlife between Temengor and Royal Belum and to maintain the wildlife in BTFC as a single population.

These findings increase the urgency to act now and effect the change that NTCAP is seeking to bring about in this challenging landscape. The situation must get better – otherwise there is much to lose.



© Shariff Mohammed/WWF-Malaysia

Reported by: Chong Ai Lyn¹, Elizabeth John², Han Kwai Hin¹, Kanitha Krishnasamy², Mark Rayan Darmaraj¹, Or Oi Ching², Shariff Mohamad¹, Yeap Chin Aik³

Partners: ¹WWF, ²TSEA, ³MNS, Novista, Perak State Government

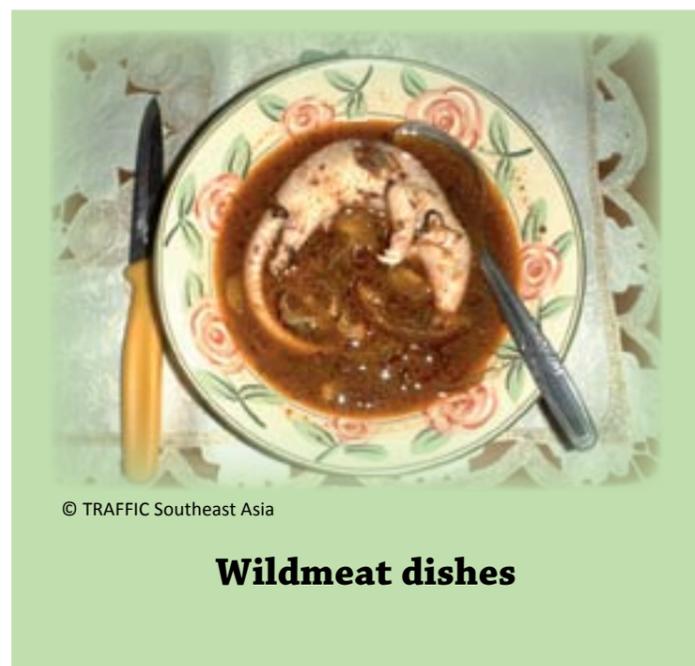
Donors: Belum Rainforest Resort, Factorie Australia, Lee Foundation of Singapore, Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, Sime Darby Plantation Sdn Bhd, Schmidt Marketing (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, The Body Shop, The Grey Worldwide, University of Malaya undergraduates, US Fish and Wildlife Service, WWF-Malaysia (to TSEA), WWF-Netherlands

Wildlife Crime Hotline

019 356 4194
report@malayantiger.net

Information needed

- 1 What crimes
- 2 Where
Name of shop, address,
brief directions, landmarks,
websites.
- 3 When
Date and time of incident.



**BEWARE
POACHERS!**



© ahmedfani

**The Wildlife Conservation
Act 2010**

Convicted tiger poachers / traders / consumers will be fined minimum RM100,000 and jailed up to 5 years .	Anyone convicted of snare possession will be fined up to RM100,000 and/or jailed up to 3 years.
---	---



do the crime

do the time

MYCAT established the *Wildlife Crime Hotline* (019 356 4194) in 2007 to assist in enforcement efforts by soliciting information from members of the public on crimes involving wildlife and their habitats. This complements the hotline recently initiated by NRE for DWNP, and other existing complaint mechanisms managed by DWNP*. The MTCAT 24-hour hotline is managed by the MYCAT Secretariat's Office, which channels the reports to the relevant authorities, follows up on the outcome, and updates the database with information on the actions taken. The source of information is kept confidential.

Thanks to these tip-offs, poachers and illegal traders were arrested and many snares were found and deactivated by DWNP to save wildlife. Table 2 details a few successful cases.

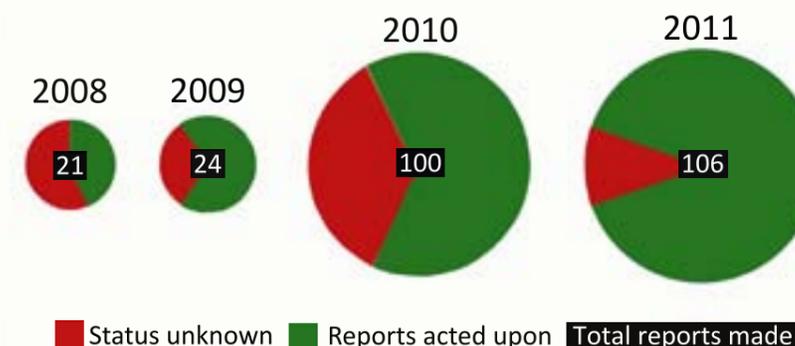
Table 2. Notable reports and follow-up actions.

Report	Action
Gunshots were heard at night, from the direction of the Sungai Yu Forest Reserve.	DWNP Pahang raided a farmhouse in the vicinity and discovered a wild boar carcass and a few snares. Two foreign nationals and one local were arrested. The foreign nationals have since been jailed for six months, while the local pleaded not guilty in court and was acquitted.
Gunshots were heard in the afternoon, from the direction of the Sungai Yu Forest Reserve.	DWNP Pahang conducted investigations on the day of the report and found nothing but old spent bullet shells. DWNP Pahang continued monitoring the area, and a subsequent patrol team uncovered and destroyed three snares and a tree stand (hunting platform secured to a tree).
Locals were hunting barking deer near Sungai Yu using artificial salt licks as bait and snares to trap them.	DWNP Pahang conducted a week-long Snare Removal Operation in the area within the same month. They uncovered and destroyed 19 snares and traps.
A wild boar was found dead in a wire snare at the edge of an oil palm plantation bordering Krau Wildlife Reserve.	DWNP Pahang deployed a team of rangers to conduct a detailed survey of the area. The staff found an additional 10 snares.
A local man was seen selling ivory products, trophies from barking deer and pieces of tiger skin at a flea market in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.	DWNP HQ deployed a team of rangers to the stall and confiscated several trophies suspected to have been made of wildlife parts. Investigations are ongoing.
A restaurant in a Gopeng, Perak was found serving wild boar, snake, flying fox and other wild meat dishes.	DWNP Perak deployed a team of rangers to the restaurant, confiscated 1.6kg of unlicensed wild boar meat and arrested the restaurant owner. Investigations are ongoing.

Compared to the previous two years, 2010 and 2011 saw a big increase in the number of quality reports received – defined as information containing relevant and actionable information (Fig. 4).

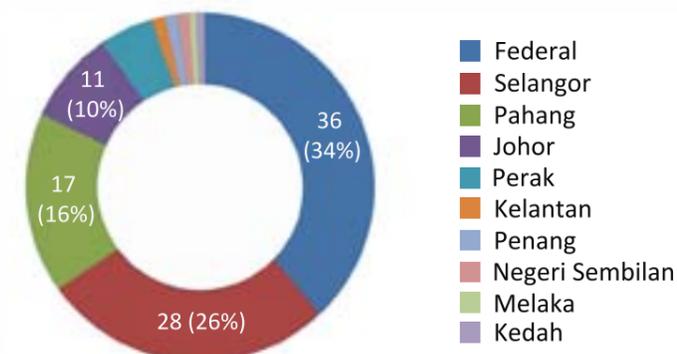
*Of 940 public reports received directly by the DWNP in 2010, 140 were related to law enforcement (see page 44, DWNP 2010). Almost all of these reports were investigated within 24 hours and action taken within three working days under DWNP procedures.

Figure 4. Number of relevant and actionable reports sent to the enforcement authorities and the status of action taken between 2008 and 2011.



This is a positive result reflecting the active usage of the hotline by the Citizen Action for Tigers volunteers in Pahang (Pages 21-22) and the intensive promotion of the hotline through a series of projects as follows: 1) 45 MYCAT Tiger Roadshows conducted in urban and rural trade/poaching hotspots that reached out to 13,504 people over the two years; 2) "Where's My Mama?" public awareness campaign conducted by TSEA and The Body Shop; and 3) media materials such as posters and booklets made by WWF and distributed during their outreach programmes in Perak and MYCAT Roadshows elsewhere. WWF also erected billboards and signboards promoting the new *Wildlife Conservation Act 2010* and the hotline in the town of Gerik, a wildlife crime hotspot in Perak (Page 13).

Figure 5. Wildlife Crime Hotline reports sent to DWNP by states in 2011. Federal refers to the DWNP Headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.



About 95% of the reports were passed to the relevant DWNP offices. The majority of the reports were sent to the DWNP Headquarters and DWNP Selangor offices, followed by the three states where MYCAT partners are active in conservation projects (Fig. 5). Information on cases that came under other authorities (5%) was sent to the Forestry Department, the Department of Fisheries and the Department of Veterinary Services.

A marked improvement was seen in the number of actions taken by the authorities, mostly by DWNP, in 2011 (Fig. 4). However, beyond the initial action taken such as investigation of the reported premise or individual, it has been difficult to follow up on the final outcome of each case, which may be stretched out over months or years. We hope to streamline the communication and reporting mechanism with the respective DWNP state offices in 2012.

Reported by: Suzalinur Manja Bidin¹, Wong Pui May¹

¹MYCAT Secretariat's Office

Donors: Operation - MNS, TSEA, WCS and WWF; Promotion - Maybank, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Lejodi Foundation, John Hill, The Body Shop, WWF-Netherlands, Honda, Singapore Lee Foundation, University of Malaya Law Faculty undergraduates

Taman Negara National Park and Sungai Yu Corridor

Wildlife corridors are being secured but the largest National Park for the Malayan tiger is under threat



© Abraham Matthew/MYCAT

The Taman Negara National Park (4,343 km²) is the largest protected area in Malaysia. Between 2010 and 2011, the park received 90,000 visitors from 120 countries worldwide through four entry points. A decade ago, the park supported the largest, scientifically estimated, tiger population in the region with 70 to 112 tigers (Kawanishi and Sunquist 2004).

The Taman Negara – Main Range Tiger Corridor Project, a three-year joint research project between MYCAT and the DWNP was completed at the end of 2011. The ultimate goal of the project was to secure the most important tiger corridor that connects the largest tiger landscape in the country at the Sungai Yu area, near the western border of Taman Negara

in central Pahang. After a decade of agricultural expansion, the narrow stretch of remaining forest at Sungai Yu is the only link between the Greater Taman Negara (Taman Negara National Park and the surrounding Permanent Reserved Forests) and Main Range forest landscapes, which together constitute the fifth largest tiger landscape in the world (Dinerstein, *et al.* 2006). It is also Primary Linkage 1 of the 37 ecological linkages identified in the *Central Forest Spine (CFS) Master Plan*.

While the *CFS Master Plan* was being developed, the government revealed that the accident prone Federal Route 8, a two-lane highway which passes through the Sungai Yu Corridor, would be realigned and

widened with guard rails and dividers added on. The DWNP realised that without mitigation, the upgraded highway would forever sever the last forested area connecting the Main Range and Taman Negara. This prompted the DWNP to work closely with the Public Works Department, as well as to support the research project to determine the most important wildlife crossing sites along the highway, in the Corridor, that had to be maintained.



© Abraham Matthew/MYCAT

Forest clearing for road upgrade in Sg. Yu Corridor

Based on the research findings, recommendations were provided to the Public Works Department engineers and the East Coast Economic Region Development Corporation. These recommendations resulted in the construction of green infrastructure, specifically, three viaducts that allow wildlife to continue to cross the road underneath. The viaducts take the form of a kilometre-long flyover and two bridges up to 285 m long. Also, the main bridge over Tanum River, which is the main tributary in the area,



© Reuben Clements/RIMBA

Tiger prey using Sg. Deka viaduct

was further lengthened so that animals could continue to disperse along the river. Construction is currently underway and is scheduled to end in 2013.

Through its timely intervention at Sungai Yu, DWNP has once again secured an important dispersal corridor for Taman Negara wildlife by working closely with researchers and the Public Works Department, as it did in 2006 with the first green highway built around Taman Negara near Sungai Deka in Terengganu. The Terengganu State Government later expressed its intention to designate a 150 km² forest surrounding the Sungai Deka Corridor as a wildlife reserve under Permanent Reserved Forest. More details about the green development at these two corridors can be found in Kawanishi *et al.* (2011).



© Kae Kawanishi/MYCAT

Wild boar remains in a snare at Sg. Yu Corridor



© Kae Kawanishi/MYCAT

DWNP officer removing a snare in Sg. Yu Corridor

The second but more immediate threat to wildlife in the Sungai Yu Corridor is poaching. The researchers

found 83 snares and four victims of poaching in the state land forest and forest reserves at the Corridor. Furthermore, the sambar deer was not detected at all during 12 months of camera trapping in the forests outside Taman Negara at Sungai Yu, and the preliminary result suggests that the tiger population has drastically declined over the past decade in western Taman Negara, from seven animals to one. The ongoing study by DWNP in southern Taman Negara conforms to this pattern with its documentation of only one tiger, a decline from five tigers a decade ago. While this study in Pahang continues in 2012, a new survey will be conducted in Taman Negara Terengganu.

In response to the preliminary findings and information from law enforcement activities, DWNP stepped up its anti-poaching patrol efforts. The patrol teams removed 135 additional snares from areas not visited by the researchers at the Sungai Yu Corridor and arrested three poachers. The enhanced protection also includes the implementation of a tool called MIST (Management Information System), which is used to monitor the work performance and effectiveness of law enforcement activities. In 2011, WCS assisted DWNP by providing MIST patrol training to increase the capacity of DWNP Pahang and Taman Negara staff. More training is being planned for 2012. DWNP Taman Negara started MIST patrols in August 2011 and by the end of 2012, all the Taman Negara enforcement staff will implement MIST. In the meantime, the DWNP has enhanced ongoing patrols in Taman Negara by deploying more wildlife rangers from other states and mobilising Taman Negara staff at five outposts along the park border. With increased frequency and efficiency in patrols, the park and Sungai Yu Corridor will be much better protected in the near future.

To further increase the boots on the ground and watchful eyes at poaching hotspots and the park border, MYCAT initiated a conservation programme for the public, called Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT)*.



Anti-poaching enforcement action taken by DWNP in Taman Negara



© Abraham Matthew/MYCAT

Field training on research methods by WCS

* Members of MNS Selangor Branch took the lead in the pilot CAT programme in 2010. Due to legal and technical issues, WCS is not involved in the CAT programme.

Routes taken by the CAT Walkers in the Sungai Yu Corridor between 2010 and 2011



The aim is to deter poaching and encroachment by engaging ordinary people who want to contribute towards safeguarding Taman Negara's wildlife. CAT Walkers are volunteer naturalists hiking and bird watching in the state land forest at the Sungai Yu Corridor while keeping a lookout for illegal activities. These walks take place on weekends and public holidays when enforcement staff numbers are often low. Meanwhile, CAT Trailblazers are hardcore backpackers who help Taman Negara staff maintain the park border by clearing vegetation along park boundaries, posting signs and marking trees. The CAT volunteers are not patrolling the forest. Instead their mere presence in remote areas, where no one is otherwise watching, helps to deter unlawful activities.

Between 2010 and 2011, CAT Walkers found three snares and an artificial lure in the state land forest. Based on the information, DWNP uncovered 22 additional snares deeper into the forest reserves in the Sungai Yu Corridor. In 2011, CAT Walkers' information led to arrests of a trader and two poachers who were

later sentenced to jail, and alerted the state Forestry Department (FD) to illegal logging activities at the Corridor. Swift enforcement actions by both DWNP Pahang and FD Pahang were highly commendable. Meanwhile, Trailblazers documented the presence of a tiger in an area not visited by the researchers.

Through Tiger Roadshows (community outreach programmes), with the help of volunteers, MYCAT and DWNP reached out to 1,905 villagers and students in six villages at the Sungai Yu Corridor and Gua Musang, Kelantan. The latter is known as a major illegal wildlife trade hub located near the northwestern corner of Taman Negara. Armed with conservation messages and tools, they publicised recent changes in wildlife legislation and hunting regulations, and promoted the Wildlife Crime Hotline as an avenue for members of the public to report poaching and illegal wildlife trade activities. MYCAT's effort to support DWNP law enforcement and to engage members of the public in protecting Taman Negara and Sungai Yu Corridor will continue to expand in the coming years.

Box 2. Why are wildlife corridors important?



The world's wild tiger population of about 3,000 tigers is found in numerous pockets of forests ranging over 13 nations in Asia. Perched at the top of the food chain, tigers need large expanses of forests with plenty of prey and water as well as minimum human disturbance. When these conditions are met, tigers do well in large sustainably-managed production forests. In Peninsular Malaysia, tiger habitats are threatened by deforestation for rubber and oil palm plantations and forest fragmentation due to road construction. Roads not only create barriers to animal movement but also allow poachers into once-inaccessible forests. All else equal, a smaller population of tigers squeezed into a small forest faces a greater chance of extinction than those in a larger one. This is why connecting the fragmented forests within the Central Forest Spine is the first objective towards securing the long-term future of the Malayan tiger. Restoration and enhancement of such forest corridors enable surplus individuals from protected areas to disperse and colonise adjacent forests, thereby reducing the chance of local extinction and human-wildlife conflict.

being a larger one. This is why connecting the fragmented forests within the Central Forest Spine is the first objective towards securing the long-term future of the Malayan tiger. Restoration and enhancement of such forest corridors enable surplus individuals from protected areas to disperse and colonise adjacent forests, thereby reducing the chance of local extinction and human-wildlife conflict.

References:

Dinerstein, E., Loucks, C., Heydlauff, A., Wikramanayake, E., Bryja, G., Forrest, J., Ginsberg, J., Klenzendorf, S., Leimgruber, P., O'Brien, T., Sander-son, 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.

Kawanishi, K. and Sunquist, M. 2004. Conservation status of tigers in a primary rainforest of Peninsular Malaysia. *Biological Conservation* 120 (3): 329-344.

Kawanishi, K., C. A. Yeap, E. John, M. Gumal, and S. Sukor. 2011. Malaysia, a leading country for green infrastructure: a federal highway flies over wildlife at Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor. *Cat News* 55:38-40.

Reported by: Kae Kawanishi¹, Sivananthan Elagupillay², Abdul Kadir Abu Hashim²

Partners: ¹ MYCAT, ² DWNP

Donors: DWNP, Maybank, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save the Tiger Fund, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Panthera Foundation, Japan Tiger and Elephant Fund, and Mr. Murayama



Citizen Action for Tigers

Now anyone can help save wildlife!

Tiger habitats are threatened by poaching and encroachment. The presence of people in wildlife crime hotspots helps deter these activities, making them safe havens for wildlife.

Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) enables volunteers to have fun while keeping an eye out for illegal activities, which are reported to the Wildlife Crime Hotline at 019-356 4194.



Sg Yu Tiger Corridor CAT Walk

Keep the Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor safe while enjoying nature in Sungai Yu, near Merapoh, Pahang, over the weekend. Take moderate walks lasting 2-3 hours and enjoy leisure activities such as bird watching, picnicking and swimming. Fitness level normal.

moderate

Taman Negara CAT Trailblazer

Backpack Taman Negara border with park rangers for 5 days. Maintain the park border while deterring poaching and keeping eyes out for illegal activities and tiger signs. Fitness level high.

extreme

*Volunteers must be above 18 years old and in good physical condition.

Interested?
Contact us now!

MYCAT Secretariat's Office, Unit 3, Ground Floor,
Jln SS 23/11, Taman SEA, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
T: +603-7880 3940 E: mycat.so@malayantiger.net
www.malayantiger.net www.facebook.com/themalayantiger



**Due to technical and legal issues, WCS-Malaysia Programme is not part of this programme.

Winning small battles



© Johor Wildlife Conservation Project

In the Endau-Rompin Landscape (ERL), WCS and its partners have thrown everything into the battle to save wild tigers over the last 30 months and it may appear that there is reason for hope.

ERL covers 3,641 km² of forests spanning parts of the states of Johor and Pahang (Fig. 6). The battle philosophy at ERL has been that monitoring should inform conservation interventions, not simply fulfil academic curiosity. A simple example is this: data gathered from annual camera trapping determines whether an area needs repeated patrols or check points as these tiger-use areas or hotspots may be threatened. Annual monitoring of the tigers as indicators then helps measure success or failure of the conservation actions.

Though the fight is far from over, the result of this strategy has been that all WCS's deliverables under the NTCAP were completed. They include the following:

- Priority areas important to tigers are strictly protected, expanded, or sustainably managed;
- Critical areas for landscape connectivity acknowledged and managed at state and local levels;
- Marked improvement in focused and intelligence driven anti-poaching patrols of key forest sites and enforcement of wildlife and wildlife trade laws;
- Monitoring of tiger occupancy and their prey across landscapes, and tiger densities; and
- Enhanced knowledge and information base on tiger ecology and conservation.

In early 2010, WCS expanded its conservation work to cover an additional 158 km² in Lingiu in Johor; and a further 1,131 km² of forests on the Pahang side of Endau-Rompin (Pahang ERL) (Fig. 6).

Threats to tigers, prey and their habitat in the Pahang ERL in 2011 were identified through field assessments and interviews. Analysis of the information gathered helped pinpoint the hotspots where threats to tigers were greatest, and it formed the basis for a

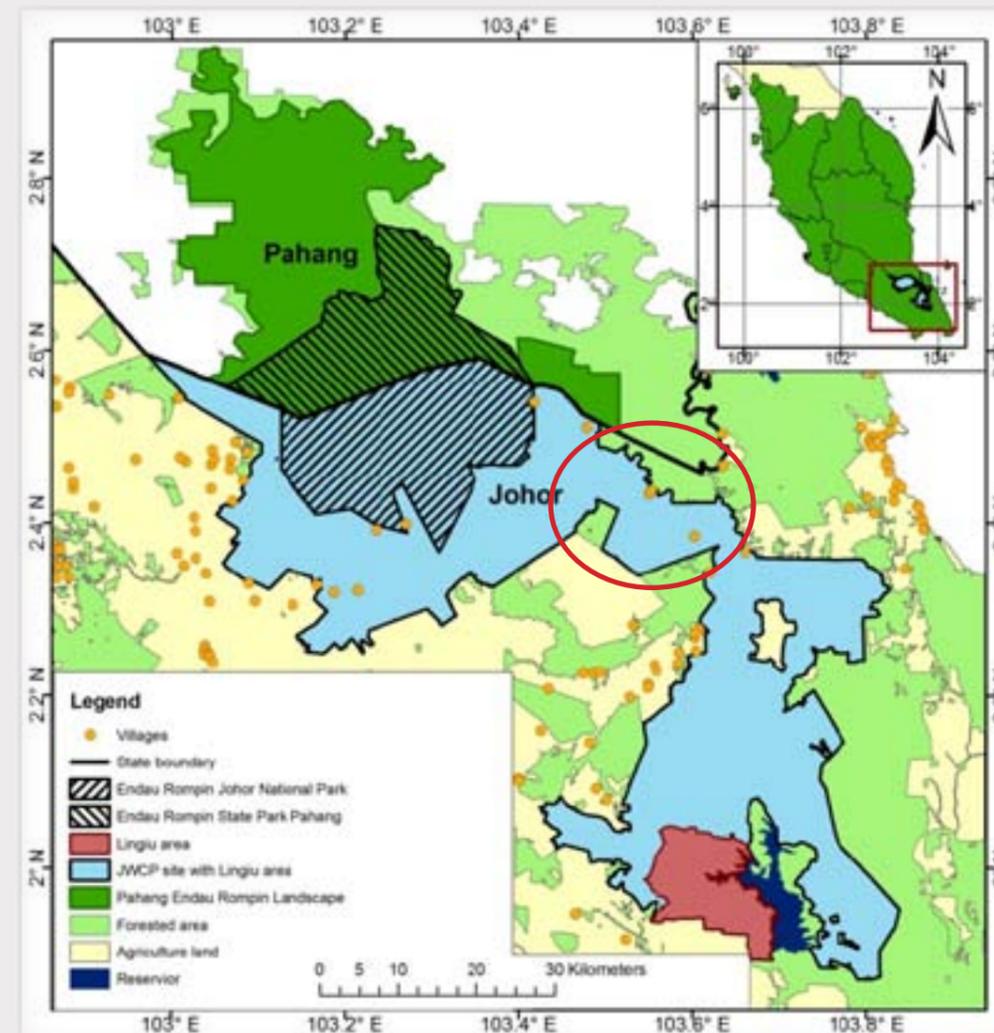


Figure 6.

Map of the Endau-Rompin Landscape (ERL). There are two parts to the ERL, i.e. Johor and Pahang. In the text, work in Johor and Pahang are indicated as efforts in Johor ERL and Pahang ERL, respectively. Within the state of Johor, the Johor National Parks Corporation administers the 489 km² Endau Rompin Johor National Park, whereas the State Forestry Department of Johor manages the Labis, Mersing, Kluang, Lenggong and Ulu Sedili Permanent Reserved Forests (about 2,021 km²). The national park is a totally protected area where official logging ended in its fringes in 1993 (Chew 2007).

Some logging continues in adjacent Permanent Reserved Forests certified under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (<http://www.mtcc.com.my/documents.asp>). The 1,131 km² landscape in Pahang has 402 km² gazetted as the Endau Rompin State Park, whereas the rest is under the Lesong, Sungai Pukin, Endau and Sungai Marong Permanent Reserved Forests. Both the State Park and the Permanent Reserved Forests are under the jurisdiction of the State Forestry Department of Pahang.

conceptual planning workshop for this newly included area. Officers from DWNP Pahang, FD Pahang, Johor National Parks Corporation and Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad (Kulim) who were involved in the process agreed that protection in these areas be strengthened through increased enforcement actions, such as foot and vehicle patrols.

Not only was conservation work expanded, but the first step to securing an important linkage between fragmented tiger habitats was also taken. A wildlife corridor was earmarked on the Johor side of the landscape (circled in red, Fig. 6). It will connect the southern and northern portions of the Johor Endau Rompin Landscape (Johor ERL). However, parts of the corridor have been cleared for Latex Timber Clone plantations, thus reducing the width of the corridor to less than six kilometers. The problem and possible solutions are being discussed by the steering committee that manages the Johor Wildlife Conservation Project.

In Johor and Pahang, the joint enforcement has been successful in combating some of the illegal human activities in the landscape (see Box 3). Patrols are conducted in the landscape at least once, if not twice, each month. Areas identified as hotspots within the Johor ERL were patrolled in several follow-up operations and so far the numbers of snares detected have increased as the patrols have now homed in on the hotspots, on top of expanding our patrol coverage. Vigilance is the key as current successes do not guarantee a future, snare-free landscape.

As part of its work in the area, WCS also tested the *Guidelines for the National Survey of Malayan Tigers*, which was approved in 2011, to examine whether its methods worked. The surveys were conducted through walks on a 5 km x 5 km grid and 10 km x 10 km grid, in search of tiger signs. The tests were conducted in an area that had tigers, and at a density of about 0.5 tigers/100 km². Signs of tigers were recorded in 85% of the smaller grids and in all of the larger grids.

Four out of six adult tigers camera trapped in 2009 in Endau Rompin Johor National Park and surrounding forest reserve totaling 590 km², survived into 2011. The fate of the remaining two tigers is unknown but they were replaced by new individuals; hence the total number detected remained stable over the years. In the Johor ERL, the research team recorded 16 tigers including two breeding females with three cubs each between 2010 and 2011. With adequate protection, it is hoped that some of those cubs will establish their own territories and reproduce.

The camera-trapping study in Johor ERL has further shown that the male tigers can travel at least 31 km whilst the females travel at least 12 km. The research also played a huge role in aiding enforcement activities where species other than tigers and their prey were concerned. More detailed analysis on the camera-trapping study will be conducted in 2012.



© Johor Wildlife Conservation Project

Multi-agency joint enforcement team in action

One of the major outcomes has been the creation of Kulim Wildlife Defenders by Kulim, a leading plantation company that operates within the landscape. The

Defenders educate and take part in anti-poaching patrols. They also help man the checkpoints that prevent illegal wildlife trade through their access routes. In 2011, the Defenders reached out to 524 people through 15 conservation education programmes. They managed eight checkpoints, stopping or examining vehicles for wildlife and associated products as these areas border the ERL. In the same period, 56 out of their total of 260 security guards were directly involved in either foot or vehicle patrols, or checkpoints. In 2012, Johor Corporation (Kulim's holding corporation) intends to join the working partnership to protect wildlife. Thus, an extra 45 security guards will be directly involved in manning six additional checkpoints. These checkpoints also border the ERL.

Up to 2011, the project has trained in excess of 400 people in Johor and Pahang in various courses ranging from MIST to wildlife statistics and conceptual planning and modeling. These participants have taken part in 36 workshops since the project commenced in 2008 and this included overseas training. Several important outcomes have resulted from these training programmes, and these include self-generation of MIST reports, involvement of multi-agencies in the anti-poaching patrols and checkpoints, analyses of data by the agencies themselves as well as an approved conceptual and implementation plan by the state agencies.



© MYCAT Secretariat's Office

MIST training by WCS

WCS's efforts in Johor and Pahang, whilst large in Malaysia, are miniscule on the global scale. In places like India and Thailand, governments and conservationists are crossing swords with poachers under far fiercer circumstances. In these and other places, gunfights between rangers and poachers are a common occurrence. Poachers caught in Malaysia often indicate that they would rather poach here where there is no need to dodge bullets.

If the small successes in this one landscape teach us anything, it is that we cannot afford to let our guard down. We must take cognisance of what is to come – the likelihood that more poachers will traverse our forested landscapes as we are an easier prey for them. If that happens, all our efforts would have been for naught and the war is lost for the Malayan tiger.



© Johor Wildlife Conservation Project

Box 3. Stepping up anti-poaching enforcement efforts

In 2010 and 2011, the anti-poaching enforcement teams covered more than 9,185 km of foot trails, logging roads, plantation roads, streams and rivers. The yearly breakdown for the ERL is as follows.



After analysing the 2010 data, patrol teams increased their focus on the snare hotspots; hence an increased number of snares detected and removed in 2011. Meanwhile the spatial coverage had not slackened, as noted by the increase in distance patrolled. In the same period, 119 hunting signs such as cartridges were found in 2010 and 40 in 2011.



© Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation (LCAOF) /WCS-Malaysia Programme



© Liz Claiborne Art Ortenberg Foundation (LCAOF) /WCS-Malaysia Programme

Checkpoints initially prevented 217 people from entering the ERL as they did not have valid permits for entry into either the park or the Permanent Reserved Forests. Sixty-four people were later allowed entry after being warned to update their permits or having their fishing gear confiscated. As court cases are pending and investigations are ongoing and thus confidential, it is uncertain as to the total number of people arrested, compounded or in the process of being brought to court.

Reference:

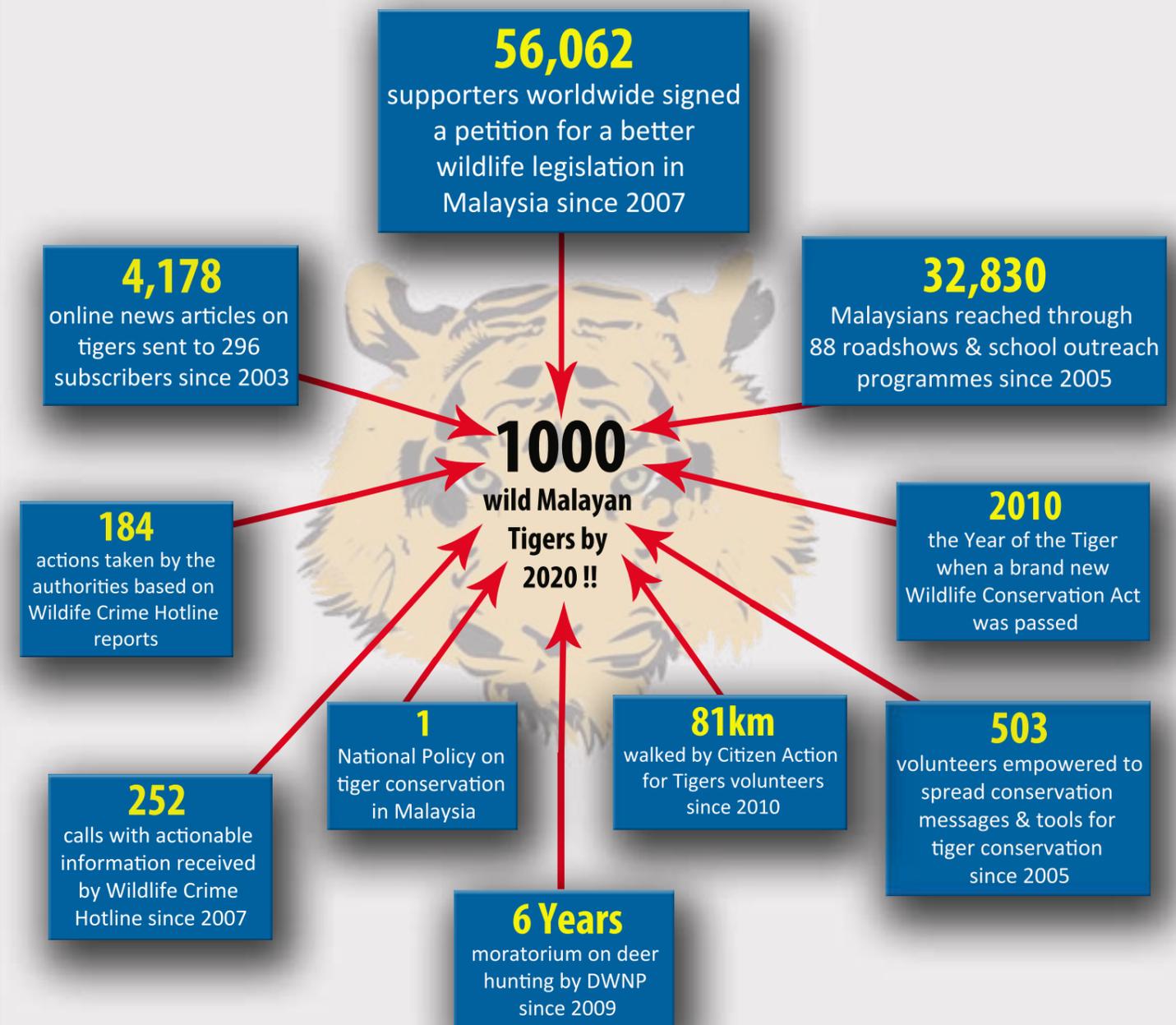
Chew, K.L. 2007. A pictorial guide to Endau Rompin Johor. Johor National Parks Corporation. Affa Trend Publication (Malaysia), 89 pp.

Reported by: Melvin Guma¹, Voon Mufeng¹, Liang Song Horng¹, Azima Azmi¹ and Azmariah Muhamed²

Partners: ¹ WCS, ² Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad, Johor National Parks Corporation, DWNP Johor and Pahang, FD Johor, FD Pahang, Royal Malaysia Police, and Panthera Foundation

Donors: Johor National Parks Corporation, DWNP, Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad, Panthera Foundation, Save the Tiger Fund, GEF-Small Grants Programme, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Robertson Fund and Wildlife Conservation Society

Stewardship. Understanding. Trust. Sense of unity. Not all the value of MYCAT is countable, but here are some numbers that we are proud of.....



Thank You

Take Action

The joint achievements outlined in this issue would not have been possible without both in-kind and financial support from various individuals, agencies and donors.

Aside from the donors listed in the preceding sections on specific projects, MYCAT also received financial support from Darryl MacKenzie, James Nichols, Margeret Eileen Hall, Matthew Linkie, Permanis Sandilands Sdn Bhd (with Hitz.fm), Sekolah Kebangsaan RKT Bersia, Tyra Filiz Couture, WWF Sweden (via WWF International) and members of the public in Malaysia and Japan for the 2010-2011 period. Financial reports can be found in the MYCAT Annual Reports, available at www.malayantiger.net.

Students of three educational institutions held events with an environmental theme in 2011 and raised funds for MYCAT. They are the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK), and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM).

A big thank you to MYCAT volunteers who contributed services and expertise to make our programmes a success. A complete list of volunteers can be found at www.malayantiger.net.

This publication is produced with financial support from Maybank.

Tigers suffer by the hand of man, but the same hand can reach out and save them. The acts of each individual counts. Step up to ensure that the next Year of the Tiger will find us reaching the benchmark of 1,000 wild tigers in Malaysia by:

- Reporting suspected crimes involving tigers and tiger prey to the Wildlife Crime Hotline at [019.356.4194](tel:019.356.4194)
- Volunteering your services and expertise for tiger conservation projects
- Learning about tigers and tiger prey from reliable sources and sharing this with your friends and family
- Raising awareness and funds for tiger conservation at your school or company
- Requesting legal herbal alternatives to traditional medicines which can contain endangered species
- Not eating the meat of tigers, other endangered species and tiger prey (wild deer and wild pig)
- Boycotting all wild meat restaurants
- Voicing your opinion on issues like indiscriminate development, illegal logging and poaching
- Not supporting zoos or theme parks which acquire wildlife illegally
- Conducting green business that reduce negative impacts on wildlife habitats
- Paying more for wildlife-friendly products
- Supporting conservation organisations



*Saving the tiger is a test.
If we pass, the planet will keep us.*

- Kae Kawanishi





MYCAT

Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers



www.mns.my



www.traffic.org



www.wcsmalaysia.org



www.wwf.org.my

The Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) is an alliance of the Malaysian Nature Society, TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia Programme and WWF-Malaysia, supported by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia, for joint implementation of the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Malaysia. MYCAT's goal and objectives focus on saving the Malayan tiger in the wild, ensuring that it will survive into the next century.