

Harimau Untuk Selamanya

Reinforcing conservation messages to help protect wildlife of Belum-Temengor, Perak
MYCAT Outreach Programme, 17th to 20th August 2010

Text by Wong Pui May and Loretta Ann Shepherd. Layout by Suzalinur Manja Bidin.

For the third year running, the MYCAT Outreach Programme returns to Gerik, the nearest town to the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex in Perak.

Belum-Temengor is one of three priority areas for tiger conservation in the country. Poaching and illegal trade are both major threats to tigers and their prey.

As part of a nationwide campaign initiated in 2007 to reduce the threats, MYCAT Tiger Roadshows have been held at 6 poaching/trade hotspots. Long-term outreach programmes are especially important to reinforce conservation messages amongst the local community. The proximity to Belum-Temengor makes Gerik residents a key ally in the fight to protect wild tigers.



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The Wildlife Crime Hotline (WCH) is promoted heavily during the programme to inspire the locals to continue being the eyes and ears of authorities.

A team of twenty, comprising volunteers, staff of WWF-Malaysia and the MYCAT Secretariat's Office conducted programmes in Gerik and small villages nearby. Through volunteer programmes, MYCAT aims to cultivate conservation-minded Malaysians empowered to take part in tiger conservation efforts. This roadshow saw volunteers from all over Malaysia, from Perak to Johor, and even one from Sarawak!

All in all, the team reached out to 387 students through the school programmes conducted both in Mandarin and Bahasa Malaysia, and 897 members of the public through programmes at the night markets. Additionally, the volunteers also visited 92 shops and homes in nearby villages and 69 shops in town.

It was particularly encouraging as many locals remembered programmes from the previous years and some still carried with them WCH promotional items distributed two years ago.



Young rangers

The students of SK Basia Lama and SK RKT Bersia, where the predominant language spoken is Bahasa Malaysia, as well as a Chinese vernacular school, SJK (C) Chung Wa were enraptured by the drama staged by the MYCAT volunteers.

Through the drama, which focused on the illegality and cruelty of poaching, and through the use of conservation education games, the children learned how people's actions threaten wildlife in competing for natural resources and how extinction may cause the intricate web of life to collapse.

Knock! Knock! Is anyone home?

The team visited Kampung Basia and Kampung Batu Dua, knocking on the doors of shops and houses. The villages were selected because there are wildmeat restaurants, poachers and traders in both.

Braving heavy rain and the scorching sun, volunteers gamely went to the ground to talk to the local villagers about how they can play a part in protecting our threatened wildlife by reporting crimes to the WCH and getting rewarded for it.



"If the number of an animal decreases, other animals will decrease too. Animals need water, food and habitat to survive. But we have destroyed their basic needs. They are facing extinction, because humans poach them for wealth. We should protect our animals. I've learned a lot from this programme"

**Wang Khang Jeck, Age 11
SJK (C) Chung Wa**



WCH Car Sticker



The tiger people are in town! And in the bank too?

The yellow wave of the MYCAT team elicited curious stares from the townfolk. Members of the local community were roped in to help spread the message, from shop owners displaying MYCAT posters to bank tellers distributing WCH car stickers and flyers at the local Maybank.



The wave even reached the bank too as bank tellers sported the yellow T-shirt promoting the WCH! The flyers were also inserted in the China Press, Sin Chew Daily, Berita Harian and Harian Metro, which are Malay and Chinese newspapers.

Tiger in the market

Two night market programmes were held, in Kampung Bandariang and in Gerik town.

The MYCAT 'tiger' caused a stir brandishing a sign that said "Save me from poachers!". To find out how to do that, people were directed to the MYCAT booth, which had a display of snares, tiger parts, wildlife-based medicines and other WCH materials. Videos of television personalities expressing support for wildlife caught the attention of many.

Of special note was that several children from the school programmes brought their parents to the booth. It was a great morale booster for the MYCAT volunteers as it showed that the children had learned something and wanted their parents to learn the same.



WCH Flyers



Acknowledgements

This MYCAT joint project was financially supported by Maybank, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Save the Tiger Fund.



Additional thanks to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia, Gerik District Office and Zoo Negara for in-kind contributions, SJK (C) Chung Wa, SK Basia Lama, SK RKT Bersia and Maybank Gerik Branch for their participation, Mr Toh Chee Chong for his assistance and the Gerik District Education Office for helping to make this programme a success.

Special thanks to Elizabeth John, Farid Ibrahim, Hamsiah Abu Bakar, Hwang Shiang Lin and Loretta Ann Shepherd for all photographs used in this report.



To the incredible team of MYCAT volunteers - David Lim Chan Foo, Farid Ibrahim, Hasmaniah Saidina Abas, Hia Pei Gyn, Hwang Shiang Lin, Jennifer Ubung Nawan, Junaidi Omar, Kevin Lim Keong Chye, Leong Suet Yin, Lim Zh Biao, Nor Safiqah Haris, Nurainadawiah Md Ataras, Rabiatul Adawiah Abdullah, Subasni Munusamy, Toh Ruoh Yuan and Yeoh Chooi Keen - and staff from WWF-Malaysia - Goh Suz Suz and Umi A'Zuhrah Abdul Rahman - thank you for coming from all over the country to help make a difference for our Malayan tiger!

About MYCAT

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 (NTCAP).

The NTCAP was developed by DWNP in collaboration with the MYCAT partners and published by the Malaysian Government in 2008 as the national tiger conservation strategy for Malaysia.

Saving tigers together



MYCAT Secretariat's Office
Unit 3-2, 2nd Floor, Jalan SS 23/11,
Taman SEA, 47400 Petaling Jaya, Selangor.
T: +6 03 7880 3940 F: +6 03 7882 0171
E: mycat.so@malayantiger.net
Facebook: www.fbook.me/MYCAT

Check out www.malayantiger.net for information on the Malayan tiger and to download your copy of the NTCAP.

Take action!

- Report crimes involving tigers and tiger prey to the Wildlife Crime Hotline at 019.356.4194 or report@malayantiger.net
- Learn about tigers and tiger prey from reliable sources and share this with your friends and family
- Request legal herbal alternatives to traditional medicines which can contain endangered species
- Boycott all wildmeat restaurants
- Do not eat the meat of tigers, other endangered species and tiger prey (wild deer and wild pig)
- Voice your opinion on issues like indiscriminate development, illegal logging and poaching
- Do not support zoos or theme parks with illegally acquired wildlife
- Pay more for wildlife-friendly products
- Support conservation organisations