

MYCAT

TRACKS

2006 - 2007

Since its formation in 2003 MYCAT has been chaired by the Director General of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), also the agency that hosts the coalition's Secretariat's Office (MYCAT SO). The remaining MYCAT partners are the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (TSEA), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and WWF-Malaysia.

MYCAT's vision is a Malaysia in which tigers thrive in perpetuity. To achieve this vision MYCAT provides a platform for dialogue, collaboration and resource consolidation among partners. MYCAT SO facilitates communication among the partners and coordinates joint projects.

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MYCAT's objectives

1. Secure the Central Forest Spine (51,000km² of contiguous forests) with protected core areas linked within the greater landscape by ecological corridors.
2. Provide effective protection for tigers and their prey from poaching and trade.
3. Promote the practice of ecologically sound land-use, compatible with tiger conservation.
4. Apply sound science in monitoring the efficacy of conservation actions and improving the knowledge of tiger ecology.

This newsletter highlights the milestones achieved under the various MYCAT joint projects as well as those achieved by individual MYCAT partners in various tiger-focused conservation efforts in 2006 and 2007.

In November 2006, DWNP in collaboration with other MYCAT partners organised a workshop involving many government agencies, NGOs and individual contributors. The aim of the workshop was to develop a *National Tiger Action Plan for Malaysia* that would consolidate current knowledge and conservation strategies relevant to the Malayan tiger.

The plan identifies specific actions to be carried out between 2008 - 2015 as a foundation for achieving the 2020 target of 1,000 wild tigers living, with sufficient wild prey, in the Central Forest Spine, which is the backbone of Peninsular Malaysia's environmentally sensitive area network.

Following extensive work by the MYCAT drafting team in consultation with the wider MYCAT community, the plan is currently awaiting its final endorsement by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Once ratified, it will be officially launched in 2008.

To cultivate and nurture conservation-minded Malaysians, MYCAT SO conducted 11 extension programmes involving presentations, activities and interactive booths. The programmes, which reached out to almost 3,000 adults and children, were produced based on information consolidated from MYCAT partners.

During the course of these programmes, volunteer opportunities were provided to 200 individuals, many of whom have since indicated either their intention to continue

volunteering for conservation or their keenness to explore the potential of pursuing careers in conservation. MYCAT hopes to expand this programme to provide them and others with more opportunities and training.

To raise greater consciousness and encourage the public to take positive action for the tiger, MYCAT works closely with the media and continues to use the MYCAT e-group at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat/ to keep subscribers updated on global and local tiger-related news. The e-group also provides a platform to engage subscribers and partners alike in active discussions on tiger issues such as China's controversial attempts to legalise their domestic tiger trade. The monthly average e-traffic increased from 44 in 2005 to 75 in 2007.

Important issues continue to be highlighted in the MYCAT *Watch* column provided by MNS in their monthly national newsletter, *Pencinta Alam*, and quarterly magazine, *Malaysian Naturalist*. A number of educational materials were produced and used in extension programmes and distributed for conservation education purposes.



The Campaign

The early months of 2007 saw the start of MYCAT's campaign to reduce local consumption of trade in tigers and tigers' prey. By mid-2007 outreach programmes were conducted in two well-known wildmeat trade hotspots; Kampung Punan and Kahang in Johor.

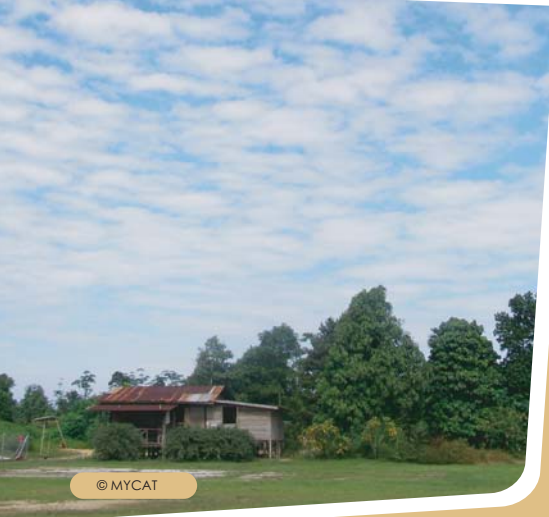
> Reports on pages 3 & 4.

In December, the Tiger Crime Hotline was launched by celebrity Tiger Ambassadors during an urban outreach event - *Race Against Time*. The purpose of the 24-hour hotline is to encourage the public to report accurate and timely information on suspected tiger-related crimes. Reports received are instantly channelled to DWNP's Law and Enforcement division for action. The Tiger Ambassadors also launched a signature petition campaign to push for improved wildlife legislation.

> Report on page 5.

Sehari Mengenal Harimau

SK Punan Outreach Programme, 19 June 2007



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Comprising about 300 villagers, Kampung Punan is one of several Orang Asli villages in the surrounding area of Endau-Rompin.

A conservation outreach programme was held in SK Kampung Punan, the school in Kampung Punan, an Orang Asli (aboriginal) village in Johor. It was a site-specific component of MYCAT's campaign to reduce local wildmeat consumption and trade.

Village leaders were consulted with prior to the programme to ensure the most suitable and effective methods were employed. A joint project with DWNP and Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC), the aim was to enhance Kampung Punan's appreciation for wildlife in their backyard - the Endau-Rompin National Park. The programme was devised based on adaptations from WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* and WWF-Malaysia's *Pengembaraan Si Belang*, amongst others. The day-long programme involved 49 students, aged between 6 and 12, and eight school staff. Shy and anxious at first, the children soon warmed up, and actively participated in the interactive sessions. The day drew to a close with the students making pledges to protect the wildlife in Endau-Rompin. They wrote their oaths on cut-outs of various animals and stuck them on a banner, now displayed in the school as a reminder of their commitment to the wildlife of Endau-Rompin.



© MYCAT

Students mapping their own territory in their village, to better understand the importance of a tiger's territory.



© MYCAT

Tiger Origami. This step-by-step craft exercise was a little challenging, but all managed to produce attractive cats with various patterns!



© Julia Ng / TSEA

Eagerly, most of the students attempted to answer the quiz questions. Even the pre-school kids didn't want to be left out!



© MYCAT



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Pledge by Adie Bin Nordin to protect wildlife in Endau-Rompin.

Sehari Mengenal Harimau

SRJK (C) Kahang Outreach Programme, 12 August 2007



With the programme in SRJK (C) Kahang, Johor, MYCAT, DWNP and JNPC made history as it was the first Mandarin-language tiger conservation outreach programme held in Malaysia.

The event, a site-specific component of MYCAT's campaign to reduce local wildmeat consumption and trade, aimed to enhance appreciation for wildlife in the Endau-Rompin National Park among locals. Kahang is the town nearest to the Park.

Interactive activities and games based on WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* manual were conducted by 10 volunteer facilitators, aided by MYCAT partners' staff and members. The volunteer facilitators were specially trained by WCS conservation educators, to ensure they were fully equipped to deliver a fun but effective programme to the upper primary students.

Towards the end of the session, students wrote down their pledge to help tigers and other wildlife in Endau-Rompin on animal cut-outs and stuck on a banner, now displayed in the school as a reminder of their commitment.

The 300 students joined parents, as well as 200 lower primary students in the school hall, where they learned more about tigers in culture and the importance of saving the tiger.



The students' creative artwork was displayed in the school hall for all to appreciate. Some parents were seen keenly reading tiger conservation messages created by their children.

The interactive booth, which featured real tiger body parts, also drew many parents, inquisitive to learn more about the use of tigers in traditional medicines, and other threats. The outreach programme ended on a high note, with 18 students rewarded for their creative artwork in the art competition held in conjunction with the programme.

Selected pieces were used to produce an awareness-raising desktop calendar.



© Lee Hwee Jing (李惠晶), Age 10



© MYCAT



© MYCAT



© MYCAT

The students actively participated in all the sessions, asking questions and attempting all the exercises unabashedly.

Comparing human teeth to the tiger's, to learn more about the tools which make the tiger the ultimate predator.

Students attempting to stalk and ambush prey, just like a wild tiger would.

Race Against Time

Tiger Day at Zoo Negara, 16 December 2007



© Chris R. Shepherd / TSEA

"Did you know that tigers are in trouble? Only about 500 tigers are left in Malaysian jungles, and less than 3,000 tigers left in the world! Hundreds of tigers are killed and traded every year for their parts. Tigers and

The event was a component of MYCAT's nationwide awareness campaign to reduce the incidence of people consuming tigers and tigers' prey in all forms, targeting the urban crowd.

The day-long event saw many getting their hands dirty making plaster casts of tiger footprints, learning about the cruelty of snares, playing wildlife games and much more. Thousands took their first step in saving wild tigers by signing the petition for improved legislation.

people share the same world. They were here before us but because of us, the King of the Jungle is about to disappear forever. Saving tigers means saving forests that give us clean air and water.

"Please stop eating tiger meat and stop buying medicine and ornaments made from tiger parts and stop destroying the tiger's home. We save our tigers and tigers will protect our forests. Tiger poachers should be ashamed and be sent to jail. Please help tigers and support our petition to the government to amend the law now!"

Tiger Junior Ranger Brandon Koh, 11, could not have put it better, as he spoke at MYCAT's Race Against Time, a joint project with Zoo Negara. He echoed MYCAT's aim to raise concern among the public on the critical status of tigers and urgent need for action.

Vital Statistics

Zoo visitors	8,257
Visitors who visited at least 1 interactive booth	4,015
Petition signatures collected	5,831*
Signatures by adults (18 years and above)	4,210
Signatures by youth (Below 18 years)	1,621
MYCAT volunteers + Tiger Junior & Senior Rangers	156

* Including signatures collected by the Tiger Junior Rangers prior to the event.



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© Shariff Wan Mohamad / WWF-Malaysia



© Shariff Wan Mohamad / WWF-Malaysia

Tiger Junior Rangers tirelessly collected signatures for the petition.

Signatures for the urgent amendment of the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972, which needs a major facelift to fight today's crime against wildlife.

Tiger Ambassadors Ning Baizura, Vince Chong, Rina Omar, Aishah Sinclair, Yasin, Susan Lankester, Xandria Ooi, Chelsia Ng, Maple Loo and Corinne Adrienne launched the Tiger Crime Hotline, the 24-hour hotline for SMS reports on crimes against tigers and tigers' prey.

PARTNER

MILESTONES



Between 2006 and 2007, DWNP conducted six biodiversity inventory programmes nationwide and 67 patrol trips in the Taman Negara National Park. Apart from collecting wildlife data, the inventories and patrols

tackle issues of encroachment and poaching in the park. In this time frame, 13 encroachers and poachers were apprehended.

In 2007, three wildlife underpasses were completed along the Second East-West Highway at a critical linkage in the Greater Taman Negara Landscape. This was as a result of advice provided by DWNP to the government's development agencies on wildlife mitigation measures. DWNP is also working with the Terengganu state government to establish a wildlife sanctuary in the area to secure the wildlife corridor.

In July 2007, immediately after the MYCAT community outreach in Kampung Punan and acting on information provided by TSEA, DWNP raided 10 restaurants in Kahang. More than 300kg of meat from several different species of wildlife (including tiger prey species) was seized and five individuals were charged with related offences.

In September 2007, DWNP checked 312 traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) outlets nationwide to assess the volume of trade in illegal wildlife products. Eight percent of the outlets had products with totally prohibited ingredients and the proprietors were charged under the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972. Among the totally prohibited items detected were tiger bone and pangolin scales.

In December 2007, Parliament passed the International Trade in Endangered Species Act. This new legislation allows Malaysia to fulfill its obligations to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and amongst others, permits fines of up to MYR 2,000,000 and maximum jail sentences of seven years to be imposed on offenders.



In April 2006, MNS launched the Belum-Temengor Campaign, a six month postcard campaign under the Belum-Temengor Conservation Initiative. Its objective was to secure this critical tiger habitat as a fully gazetted protected area comprising the Royal Belum State Park and the Temengor Forest Reserve. MNS also stipulated the importance of stopping the conversion of natural forest flanking the East-West Highway. The campaign culminated with the issuing of 80,000 postcards to the Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Perak, all signed by the public in open support of the campaign. In May 2007, the 1,170km² Royal Belum State Park was legally gazetted.

As a caveat, however, the Chief Minister of Perak stressed that, although the Belum-Temengor Complex is one of the state's priority conservation sites, the Temengor Forest Reserve is also a key source of timber. He called upon MNS to collaborate with the state to address this complex issue by working towards a balance between conservation and development; efforts in this direction are ongoing.

Finally, MNS' ongoing efforts to motivate and educate the Malaysian public through its *Kelab Pencinta Alam* camps and training sessions with active use of WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* manual as it reaches out to teachers and school children alike.



In mid-2007, WCS conducted a series of workshops designed to train Malaysia's tiger conservationists and biologists in the statistical methods needed to analyze data gained from occupancy surveys.

In August 2007, WCS education experts trained 10 Mandarin-speaking MYCAT volunteers to carry out the



Throughout 2006, TSEA conducted surveys of the illegal trade of tigers in Peninsular Malaysia, mapping the trade landscape within the peninsula and up to the border of Thailand as well as identifying key locations and issues for action. Surveys were also conducted across Peninsular Malaysia to assess the levels at which tiger prey species were hunted.

In November 2006, TSEA, together with JNPC and DWNP, organised the *Ending Tiger Trade in Johor* workshop. The objective of this event was to bring various government agencies together to identify specific actions for eradicating tiger poaching and trade in Johor. A secondary outcome of the workshop was an enhancement of inter-agency communication and collaborative enforcement efforts.

Three enforcement training workshops, involving a total of 158 participants, were held between 2006 and 2007, to increase capacity amongst airport-based enforcement personnel in their trade monitoring duties and in their role as enforcers of the regulations and laws relevant to them.

Regionally, TSEA supports the ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network, an inter-governmental enforcement network designed to combat illegal wildlife trade in Southeast Asia by providing technical inputs and trainings to ASEAN CITES management authorities.



In 2007, WWF-Malaysia successfully completed tiger surveys in Jeli and started a new round of surveys in the Temengor Forest Reserve. By continuing the camera-trapping programme in this new forest block, WWF-Malaysia hopes to increase understanding of tiger ecology within the Northern Forest Landscape, particularly on how this species adapts to logged forests. Initial results indicate a relatively high density of tigers in Temengor with four individuals detected within a 100km² area. In addition to conventional camera traps, WWF-Malaysia also experimented with the use of video traps as a means to observe wildlife behaviour. The video trap successfully recorded three clips of elusive Temengor tigers.

In December 2007, a draft document outlining important criteria for identifying ecological corridors within the Central Forest Spine was submitted to the relevant authorities for review and possible incorporation into the revised National Physical Plan. Ground-truthing of satellite and land-use maps were also carried out as part of a land-use analysis of potential ecological corridors.

Finally, an evaluation of the efficacy of Better Management Practices (BMPs) in reducing the frequency and severity of human-wildlife conflict events started in Jeli, Kelantan. The BMPs being tested include the regular application of community clean-ups, the construction and use of paddocks to hold cattle at night, and the use of air-horns to announce human presence in plantations.

community outreach programme in Kahang using skills outlined in the WCS' *Teachers for Tigers* manual. WCS also took part in the programme itself, giving an interactive presentation on tigers in culture to the students, their parents and teachers.

In November 2007, WCS held a workshop entitled *Talking about Tigers – Communicating Tiger Conservation to the Masses*; the first to be held under the WCS *Training-of-Trainers* programme. The objective was to train educators from DWNP, WWF-Malaysia and Zoo Negara in tiger conservation education methods and materials, to allow them to communicate to different audiences as well as evaluate the effectiveness of the methods they apply.

Take action!

Financial support for MYCAT SO and MYCAT joint projects (2006 - 2007) were provided by the **US Fish and Wildlife Service, 21st Century Tiger** and **ExxonMobil Malaysia**.

Additional support were provided by all the MYCAT partners as well as the following parties:

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Thank You!

- Learn about tigers and their prey from reliable sources and share with your friends and family.
- Join and support conservation organisations.
- Write to the media and the authorities on relevant issues such as indiscriminate development, illegal logging, poaching, etc.
- Ask for legal herbal alternatives instead of traditional medicines claiming to contain tiger or other endangered species.
- Do not eat the meat of tiger, wild deer or wild pig.
- Stay away from all wildmeat restaurants.
- Pay more for wildlife-friendly products.
- Do not support zoos, theme parks or private collections that display illegally acquired wildlife.
- SMS reports of any suspected crimes involving tigers and their prey to the Tiger Crime Hotline at 019 356 4194.

MYCAT Education Materials



Car sticker



Posters



Bookmarks

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Join the MYCAT e-group to find out more about:

- how to help
- local and global tiger news
- careers in wildlife conservation
- volunteer opportunities

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/malaysian_cat