

Harimau Untuk Selamanya

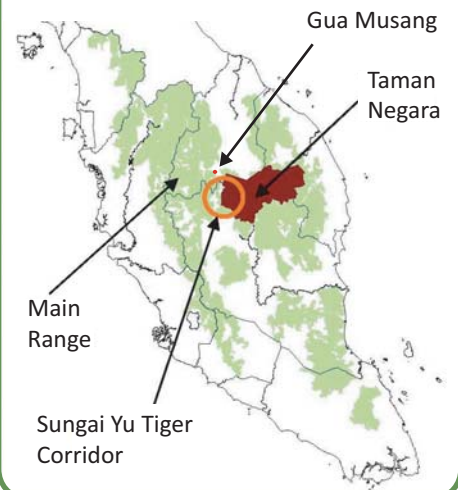


Working with the local community in Gua Musang, Kelantan
MYCAT Outreach Programme, 12th to 16th July 2012

Text by Wong Pui May. Layout by Suzalinur Manja Bidin.



Tiger Landscapes and Taman Negara



Gua Musang is located in the state of Kelantan, about 30 minutes from the western entrance to Taman Negara National Park at Sungai Relau, Merapoh. Its proximity to this priority conservation area for tigers as well as the Main Range forests has made it a major hotspot for poaching and trade. It is also located close to the porous national border, which facilitates smuggling activities.

As part of a campaign to reduce local trade and consumption of tigers and other wildlife, MYCAT outreach programmes were held from 12th to 16th July 2012 in the Gua Musang town.

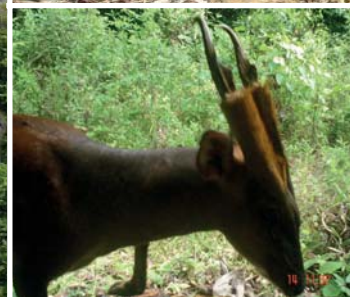
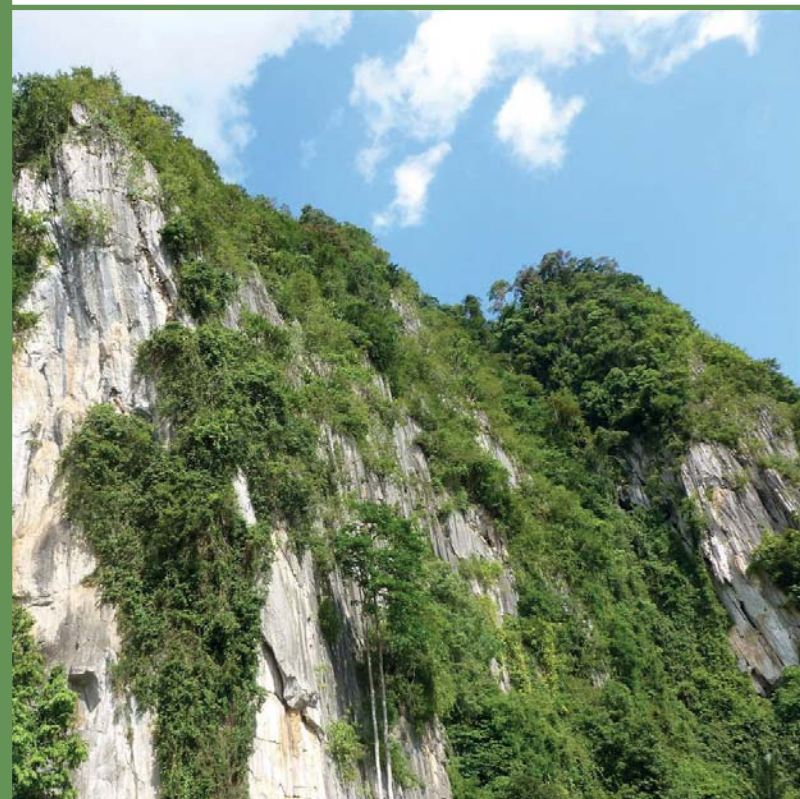
The MYCAT team, aided by 11 volunteers, went from shop to shop in Gua Musang, speaking to shop owners and passersby, distributing materials to promote the Wildlife Crime Hotline (019 356 4194) and putting up posters publicising the freeze on deer hunting. The volunteers also publicised the new Wildlife Conservation Act 2010, which allows for much stiffer penalties to be meted out to wildlife criminals.

Tiger Roadshow Counter

Number of people reached:

- in Gua Musang **00618**

- since 2005 **31651**



The MYCAT booth at the local night and morning markets promoted the same key messages, while roving teams of volunteers scoured the markets, talking to traders and visitors alike. All were invited to visit the booth which displayed educational posters and examples of illegal wildlife products and snares. Over 85% of the 382 individuals who visited the booth

saved the hotline number on the spot. Over the course of the programmes in town and at the markets, flyers promoting the hotline number were distributed. The Wildlife Crime Hotline is a tool for members of the public to contribute directly towards saving wildlife by acting as the eyes and ears of the authorities and reporting illegal activities.



Deer meat is a traditional delicacy during Hari Raya which was only weeks away, so there was an urgent need to publicise the moratorium on hunting Sambar and Barking deer. The freeze on hunting was enforced in 2009 by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia.



Our biggest fan here visited the MYCAT booth repeatedly throughout the evening, bringing different friends with him each time.



Some traders and visitors remembered the MYCAT booth from two years ago and still had the hotline number in their mobile phones! Perhaps they were the people who called us.

An education programme was also conducted at a local primary school, SK Gua Musang. The 11-year-old students were educated on the importance of maintaining the delicate balance of the food web as well as the need to share life-giving resources between humans and wildlife through fun-filled games such as the 'Web of Life' and 'Resource Roundup'.

Over the weekend, the MYCAT volunteers also participated in a Citizen Action for Tigers (CAT) Walk, which was conducted at the Sungai Yu Tiger Corridor. Initiated in 2010, the wildlife-friendly presence of CAT Walk volunteers aim to deter poaching and encroachment in the corridor.



A ripple of excitement spread through the school as the special appearance of TJ, MYCAT's furry mascot, broke the monotony of a school day. The children eagerly stood in line to meet TJ and to receive a button badge, which will remind them of the day they learnt about saving tigers. The school's Assistant Headmaster also invited us to return for future programmes.



The volunteers' hard work at passing on conservation messages was rewarded by the children's heartfelt pledges to protect wildlife.



Take action!

- Report crimes involving tigers and tiger prey to the Wildlife Crime Hotline at 019.356.4194
- 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
- Do not eat the meat of tigers, other endangered species and tiger prey (wild deer and wild pig)
- Boycott all wildmeat restaurants
- 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

Acknowledgements

Financial support was provided by the Maybank Foundation for the outreach programme and Save Our Species* for the Citizen Action for Tigers programme.



** Save Our Species is a joint initiative of the Global Environment Facility, IUCN and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure the long-term survival and well being of threatened species and their critical habitats for biodiversity conservation.*

Thanks are also due to Maybank for providing activity books for the students and to the staff of the Gua Musang branch for joining the programme as volunteers. Generous in-kind contributions from the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP), Gua Musang District Council, Persatuan Belia Kampung Lembaga (PEKA) and SK Gua Musang are also appreciated.

Credits for the photographs used in this report are due to Azwan Roslan, Suzalinur Manja Bidin, Wong Pui May and Kae Kawanishi.



The enthusiastic MYCAT team who stood up when it counted and made this programme a success were Aziezan Jaafar, Azwan Roslan, Bashtiah Nahrul Khair, Maisarah Izzah Tajaruddin, Lavaniadevi G., Mohd Nordin Abd Rahim, Mohd Rosalin Awang, Mohd Shah Rizuan Kamaruddin, Mohd Shazmir Roslan, Norisal Nasai, and Siti Mariah Abd Wahid, aided by WWF-Malaysia outreach specialist Umi A'Zuhrah Abdul Rahman. See you all again in Gua Musang!

About MYCAT

MYCAT is an alliance of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), 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



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Check out www.malayantiger.net for information on the Malayan tiger and to download your copy of the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan.