

MYCAT



TRACKS

Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers

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



best foot forward

21st Century Conservation Partnership for the Malayan Tiger

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

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

spread the word!



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

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC AWARENESS THROUGH VARIOUS MEDIA

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



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

TAMAN NEGARA COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAMME

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



KAE KAWANISHI

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

MYCAT NEWS AND UPDATES

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

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

TUMPAT TIGER

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



DWNP

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

