

Vol. 3 | 2010

MYCAT tracks

Highlights of the implementation of the
National Tiger Conservation Action Plan
in 2008 and 2009



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www.traffic.org



www.wcsmalaysia.org



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Printed by: Percetakan Imprint (M) Sdn Bhd

Citation: Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers. 2010. MYCAT TRACKS Vol.3. Petaling Jaya, Malaysia.



Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers

Prologue

In 2010, the lunar Year of the Tiger, we are standing at the crossroads. One path will lead us to securing the future of the Malayan tiger in the wild, while the other will lead us to losing it from our forests forever.

Tigers have been threatened by many factors for years, but 2010 represents hope for concerted intervention, hope that right actions will lead the tiger away from the path to extinction, and instead, to recovery.

Saving this apex charismatic species requires all of us to work together to get the job done. And this means cooperation and collaboration backed by political will and public support. It can no longer be business as usual for all of us – and that includes you, members of society, as well as the conservation community.

We made this decision in 2003 and so the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) was created.

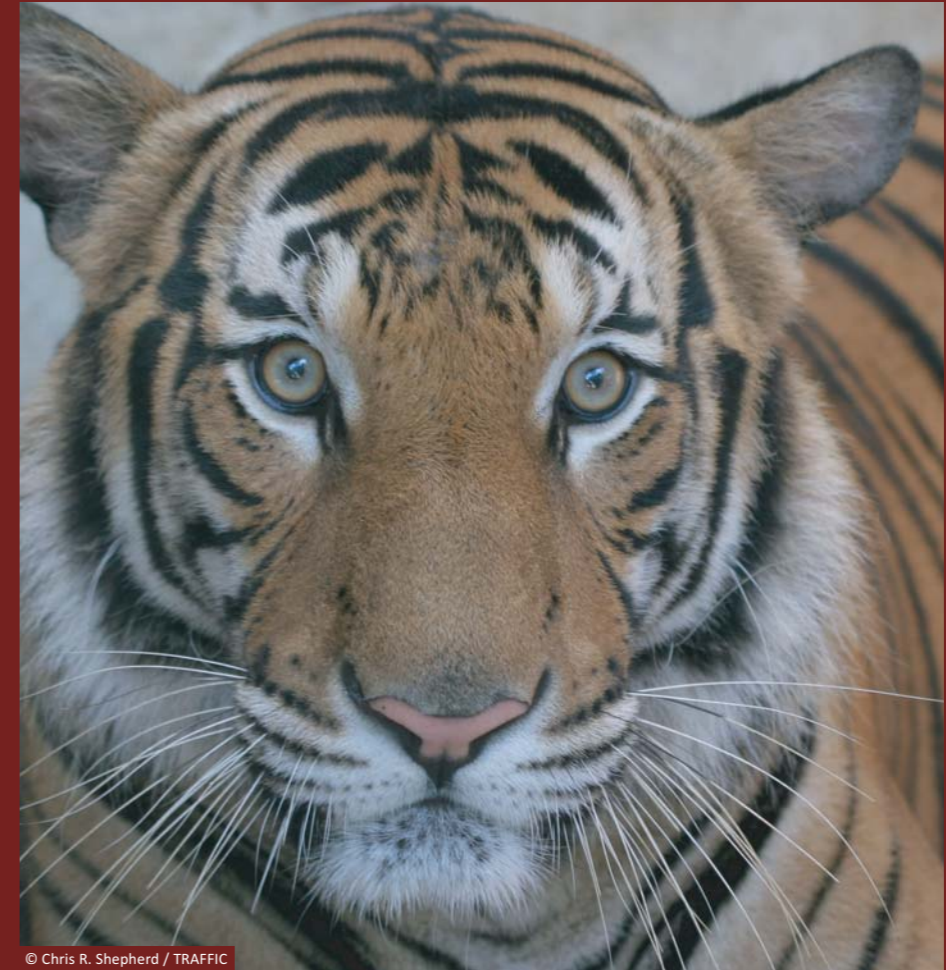
MYCAT is a joint programme of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (TRAFFIC), Wildlife Conservation Society - Malaysia Programme (WCS) and WWF-Malaysia (WWF), supported by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (DWNP). United by a common vision of a Malaysia where wild tigers thrive in the 22nd Century and beyond, MYCAT provides an excellent platform for communication, collaboration and resource consolidation on tiger conservation issues.

Using this platform, the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan for Malaysia (hereafter referred to as the Action Plan) was developed by DWNP, MYCAT and other relevant government agencies in line with existing development plans and policies.

MYCAT TRACKS is the newsletter produced by the MYCAT Secretariat's Office based on inputs by the partner organisations. It is published once every two years to highlight collective accomplishments for tiger conservation in Malaysia.



The Malayan Tiger



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Globally, having lost 93% of its habitat to humans in the past century, the tiger is on the verge of extinction across 13 range countries.

Malaysia is home to the Malayan tiger, a sub-species unique to the Malay Peninsula. The tiger is a totally protected species under the Protection of Wild Life Act 1972 and commercial trade is prohibited by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Yet, the wild Malayan tiger population has declined from 3,000 to 500 in the last 50 years due to habitat loss, forest fragmentation, poaching, illegal trade of tiger parts and derivatives, depletion of prey species and conflict with people. Targeted poaching is one of the main threats that need to be addressed urgently. Tigers are sought after for their meat, which is served as a delicacy in wild-meat restaurants and for other body parts such as the teeth, claws and skin, which allegedly having curative or 'magical' powers.