

Elang Siwan

to Janariah Reza

cc Carmen Jang; Christopher Wong; Shariff Mohamad

Fri, Feb 7 4:09 PM

Re:

Greetings,

I'm Elan from the Wildlife Monitoring Unit of WWF-Malaysia. Thanks for contacting us, we have received the set of questions. Happy to see such an interest on Malaysian wildlife among students, we will be more than happy to answer those questions.

Chris (my colleague) and I will answer the questions. Please give us sometime. We will try to get back to you by tomorrow. Is it possible to skip the Skype session. I'm afraid we couldn't do that. If you want, you can send us more questions pertaining to Wildlife Conservation in Malaysia.

Regards,  
Elan

On Fri, Feb 7, 2014 at 3:49 PM, Carmen Jang <[cjang@wwf.org.my](mailto:cjang@wwf.org.my)> wrote:

Dear Navinder,

Good day and thanks a lot for your email. So sorry for my delayed response for this as I was away for Chinese New Year.

After going through the questions with some discussion, I would like to introduce to you my colleagues from the conservation team, Christopher and Elan (cc-ed in this email). They will be the best person to assist you in this.

Dear Chris and Elan,

Do let me know if you require any assistance from our side.

Thanks again and have a great weekend ahead! :)

—

Warmest Regards,  
Jang Carmen  
Brand Activation Executive (Youth Outreach)  
Brand Activation Unit  
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## Wildlife questions

### 1. What do you think of the Raja Zarith Sofea's Wildlife Defenders Challenge?

On the internet, activities/competitions that are listed are actually very interesting! It is definitely one of the ways to approach the students in school to be more proactive in getting involved in conservation issues. Not to mention, the things the students are learning along the way will make positive impacts towards the conservation of wildlife and forest of Malaysia. Products developed in the competition can also be used to spread the awareness in the future.

### 2. How can we increase Malaysians, and maybe people around the world awareness about our endangered wildlife?

Around the world, successful conservation involved community living close to nature. The awareness actually blend in well with their culture and religion. Thus, cultural and religious activity does influence on the awareness to take care of the wildlife, regardless endangered or not.

Early education to the school children seems to be important in creating awareness. The continuity of the awareness from lower education level up to tertiary level could instill the mind set to care for, and save the endangered wildlife in Malaysia.

Apart from the awareness programs, proactive approach is also important. Taking initiatives by individuals themselves to learn more about wildlife, involving in conservation campaigns, volunteering, reporting wildlife crimes, spreading the importance of wildlife conservation and creating awareness among family members and friends are crucial in ensuring more people are involved in the conservation works. To bring about this mindset, awareness modules should be embedded in all level of Malaysian education system.

Not to forget the use of social media in spreading conservation messages across to the networkers. With more and more people having the luxury to social networks, such as facebook and tweeters, sharing of information can be faster and more précised.

### 3. What is the population of tigers in Johor generally? Or maybe in Malaysia?

Currently, Wildlife Conservation Society is working on the ground in an attempt to obtain the density of tigers in Endau Rompin State Park.

### 4. Is there really a zero population of Rhinoceros in Malaysia?

No. There are still Rhinos in the Sabah, but the numbers are very low. So, the 'zero population' for Rhinoceros in whole Malaysia is false. However, the status of Rhinoceros in Peninsular Malaysia is not promising. It is believed that the rhinoceros in Peninsular Malaysia is functionally extinct. For one species to be declared extinct in the wild, the animal has to be of high certainty that it no longer exist. Last record of Sumatran rhino in Peninsular Malaysia was in 2007, where PERHILITAN manage to capture a partial part of the Sumatran rhino using camera trap. There are also parts of forest in Peninsular Malaysia that hasn't been searched for Rhinoceros.

Among the areas that once thought to be the few last strongholds for Rhinos in Peninsular Malaysia are the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, Taman Negara and Endau-Rompin National Park. Camera trapping conducted by both Government and NGOs thus far, hasn't revealed any solid information on the presence of Rhino in these areas. Although the chances are slim, we are keeping our fingers crossed that there are still few left.

5. Are monkey species counted as endangered species?

Apart from proboscis monkey, which is listed as Endangered by IUCN red list, the rest of the monkey species are either in the Least Concerned category or Data Deficient. The Orang Utan, the largest ape species is also in the Endangered category.

6. What is your next goal to achieve awareness from the community?

Conservation can only work if people care. That's why community engagement and awareness component is very important to increase awareness and understanding of communities including rural 'orang kampung', Orang Asli and urban communities from all walks of life on conservation issues. When community well-informed and is shown how species conservation/conservation issue is linked towards the generation of local (their) benefits, they will become actively engaged, give strong support and participate in community-based initiatives or conservation-related campaigns to protect and help reduce the loss of biodiversity and even protect flagship species within the specific areas in Malaysia.

7.. How can the young generation, like us, increase the awareness of wildlife in our community?

- Turn off your televisions, computers and stereos when not in use. That little red standby light means they're still using power - and that means a contribution to global warming.
- Save water: turn off the tap when brushing your teeth.
- Recycle your paper, glass, plastics and other waste.
- Help reduce the world's rubbish - avoid "throw-away" products like paper plates and napkins, plastic knives, forks, and cups. Stop using Styrofoam products – bring your own container to food stalls and restaurants for takeaways.
- Bring your own bags to the shops to carry home your groceries and shopping.
- Buy energy-efficient household appliances you can afford.
- Use recycled paper. Check out our WWF Stone Notebook, it's tree-free!
- Make sustainable seafood choices when ordering your dish, refer to the S.O.S Guide.
- Report Wildlife Crimes to 019-356 4194
- Do not buy products made from endangered species, such as "tortoiseshell jewellery" (Hawksbill turtle shell) or ivory.
- Do not eat dishes that include parts of endangered species, such as sharks fin soup or turtle eggs.
- Do not buy medicines which claim to contain parts of endangered species, such as pangolin scales, tiger bone or bear bile.

**\*\*All the above are the least of what WWF-Malaysia has listed out for the public to do to help in our conservation efforts. Some of them might not be related directly to wildlife, but the idea of all the above is to prevent over extraction of resources from the environment. The lesser the amount of unnecessary resources being extracted from the environment, the better and healthier the environment will be. Thus, more forest can be preserved, which translate into more/better habitat for the wildlife. Every little bit counts.**

It is also important for individuals to start knowledge multiplication effect by keeping up with recent news on our wildlife and environment, and spreading them to their family and friends.

[\(http://www.wwf.org.my/how\\_you\\_can\\_help/how\\_you\\_live\\_your\\_life/\)](http://www.wwf.org.my/how_you_can_help/how_you_live_your_life/)

8. What are the endangered species of birds in Johore?

For ornithological studies, it is best to refer to MNS whose do focuses on birds. Wildlife Conservation Society is one of the NGOs that carry out their research in Johor, and might be able to help in this field too.

9. What kinds of alligators/crocodiles that are still exist in Malaysia?

Estuarine crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), Falsegharial (*Tomistomaschlegelii*) and Siamese crocodile (*Crocodylus siamensis*).

10. What animals, in Malaysia are on the verge of extinction?

The one most species that is at its verge of extinction is the Sumatran Rhino. As mentioned, it is believed that Sumatran Rhino is functionally extinct in Peninsular, while there's only very low number of this species left in Sabah. Listed as Critically Endangered under the 'Red List for Mammals of Peninsular Malaysia', various effort have been tried to reverse the effect towards the declining number of the Sumatran Rhino. Up to date, the results are depressing; with another individual rhino died of old age in early 2014.

11. Is there any endangered animals that are slowly increasing in number?

In Malaysia, we haven't gathered sufficient information of any particular species that is slowly increasing in number; although, there is a possibility of it happening. Most of the animals observe in our project sites shows the decline in few species; e.g. Sambar deer. The main threats that lead to this are habitat loss and poaching. PERHILITAN has announced a temporary banned in hunting for this species, in letting the population of this species to recover, but the above two activities are still a challenge for the species to increase in number, as the reproduction rate of the Sambar deer is relatively low.

12. If you were given the opportunity to meet an extinct animal, what would it be and why (special features)

In Malaysia? There are two. **Green Peafowl and Javan Rhino**. Green Peafowl are like Blue Peafowl or commonly known as Indian Peafowl. The main difference is in their colour; green and blue. These beautiful bird used to fly in our forest. Now it is extinct.

### Blue Peafowl Green Peafowl

