

# 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Malay Tapir Symposium

**Time:** 3-4<sup>th</sup> April, 2008

**Venue:** Institute for Biodiversity, Bukit Rengit, Krau Wildlife Reserve

## Introduction

During the *First International Tapir Symposium* held in Costa Rica in November 2001 it became clear that one of the biggest concerns among tapir experts today is the Malay tapir conservation. Whereas, the past work of the Tapir Specialist Group was, and still is, heavily biased towards work on the three Latin American tapir species, mainly because each of these species were backed by a significant group of researchers and professional and amateur conservationists, the Malay tapir never managed to attract a similar level of attention, despite being the most conspicuous of the world's four tapir species.

Acknowledging the need to put more focus on the only Asian tapir species, the IUCN/SSC Tapir Specialist Group (TSG) decided to hold a Malay Tapir Conservation Workshop in Asia. The Malay Tapir Conservation Workshop was held 12 – 16 August 2003 at Bukit Renggit Training Center in Krau Wildlife Reserve, Malaysia, in collaboration with the Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Malaysia (DWNP) and Copenhagen Zoo, Denmark.

The outcome of the workshop concentrated on recommendations for the conservation of the species in the wild, but also with attention to captive breeding, education and extension, regional collaboration and research priorities, which primarily put focus on behavioural ecology and genetic studies.

Five years have passed since the workshop was held in 2003 and many important tapir *in-situ* and *ex-situ* conservation activities have taken place during this period. Whereas several studies indicate increased concern of the species' future conservation status, the Malay tapir remains listed as only Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. A review of its current status is important and coordinating future conservation and research activities must take place between, primarily, researcher and wildlife authorities from the Malay tapir range countries.

By holding the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Malay Tapir Symposium the DWNP hopes to update and pursue many of the recommended actions from the 2003 Workshop as well as promote, facilitate and strengthen the collaboration between regional scientists and wildlife managers.

## Expected symposium outputs

- 1) A review the 2003 Workshop action step and update these where necessary
- 2) Strengthen regional and international collaboration in relation to tapir conservation (and other wildlife management)
- 3) Dissemination of information and results from the past five years of tapir research and conservation
- 4) Establishing DNA extraction protocols and map the genetic diversity of Malay tapirs in each range country
- 5) Develop and/or update tapir conservation plan
- 6) Compilation of important research findings, which will be presented to the 4<sup>th</sup> International Tapir Symposium to be held in Mexico, April 2008.
- 7) Proceedings (will be in downloadable format at [www.malaytapir.org](http://www.malaytapir.org))

## **UPDATE:**

Due to National elections in Malaysia, the venue had to be shifted from Sungai Dusun Wildlife Reserve to Institute for Biodiversity, which is located in Krau Wildlife Reserve. The reserve was gazetted in 1923 and is one of Malaysia's oldest protected areas. It spans approximately 63,000ha over primarily lowland rainforest, but upper montane forest is found at Gunung Benom (2107m), Peninsular Malaysia's fourth highest mountain, on the northern border of the reserve.

The Department of Wildlife and National Park (DWNP) is responsible for the management of Krau Wildlife Reserve. Apart from the pristine reserve there are a number of conservation facilities associated with the reserve.

### **Elephant conservation**

In Pos Gandah is *Pusat Gajah* (elephant centre), where DWNP keeps and trains elephants used for translocation of rogue and/or displaced wild individuals. Furthermore, orphans are often kept here, and the centre operates tourist activities that focus on awareness raising and human/elephant interaction.

### **Gaur conservation**

At Jenderak Guar Station DWNP undertakes captive breeding and studies of guars. The objective is to develop a captive stock large enough to reintroduce individuals into the wild where and when this is deemed appropriate. Jenderak currently houses more than 40 guars.

The Institute for Biodiversity will be the venue for all presentations, plenary and discussion groups as well as accommodation and food.

### **Accommodation**

All delegates will be offered accommodation at the Institute for Biodiversity, which is situated at Bukit Rengit on the southern border of Krau Wildlife Reserve. The site offers several nearby attractions, such as small waterfalls, exiting jungle treks and the elephant centre.

Transportation to the Institute will be provided for all delegates.

### **Possible participants**

The participants are people engaged in Malay tapir research, conservation activities and husbandry. Financial support will primarily be offered to participants from Malay tapir range countries;

Malaysia  
Indonesia  
Thailand  
Myanmar  
Singapore

In order to ensure a high degree of information exchange the expected number of participants is limited to 20-30 people. The Symposium will offer travel grants to two (2) participants from Thailand, Sumatra/Indonesia and Myanmar. The grants will cover air travel (Airasia), necessary ground travel and accommodation during the Symposium. In addition, there will not be any registration fee and hotel and food expenses are provided to all participants.

## Symposium outline

The Symposium will take place over two (2) days. There will be paper presentations, small poster exhibition and discussion groups.

Each presentation is given a total of 20 minutes (15 minutes presentation and 5 minutes for questions).

<b>Day 1:</b>	
09:00 – 09:15	Opening speech
09:15 – 09:30	Welcome note (Malay Tapir Conservation Project)
09:30 – 09:50	Keynote 1
09:50 – 10:10	Keynote 2
10:10 – 10:30	Paper 3
10:30 – 10:50	Tea break
10:50 – 11:10	Paper 4
11:10 – 11:30	Paper 5
11:30 – 11:50	Paper 6
11:50 – 12:10	Paper 7
12:10 – 13:40	Lunch break
13:40 – 14:00	Paper 8
14:00 – 14:20	Paper 9
14:20 – 14:40	Paper 10
14:40 - 15:00	Paper 11
15:00 – 15:10	Tea break
15:10 – 15:30	Paper 12
15:30 – 15:50	Paper 13
15:50 – 16:10	Paper 14
16:10 - 16:30	Paper 15
16:30 – 18:00	Tea break and poster presentation
18:00 – 18:30	
<b>18:30</b>	
<b>19:00</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

<b>Day 2:</b>	
<b>07:00 – 08:30</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>08:30</b>	
09:00 - 09:30	Presentation of Malay Tapir Action Plan, 2003
09:30 - 10:30	Discussion groups (review Action Plan)
<b>10:30 – 10:50</b>	<b>Tea break</b>
10:50 – 12:10	Discussion groups (continued)
<b>12:10 – 14:00</b>	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:00 – 15:00	Group presentations
15:00 - 16:00	Formulation of new action plan (plenary)
16:00 – 16:20	Tea break
16:20 – 17:00	Wrapping up
<b>17:00</b>	
<b>18:30</b>	
<b>19:30</b>	<b>Dinner</b>

<b>Day 3:</b>	
<b>07:00 – 08:30</b>	<b>Breakfast</b>
<b>09:00</b>	<b>Excursion to Pusat Gajah</b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Departure of delegates</b>