



rimau

G L O B A L
T I G E R
D A Y

ROYAL BELUM
STATE PARK

20TH AUGUST 2020

ROYAL BELUM STATE PARK



Royal Belum State Park in the state of Perak is one of the oldest rainforests in the world, at around 130 million years old. It is the second largest terrestrial protected area in Peninsular Malaysia and is part of the Titiwangsa Range landscape. This 1,175 square kilometre landscape is an important site for wildlife conservation, especially for large mammals which include the elephant, tiger, gaur, tapir sun bear and sambar deer.

Royal Belum State Park is managed by Perak State Parks Corporation (PSPC), formed in 2003 under the Perak State Parks Corporation Enactment 2001.

THE MALAYAN TIGER



The Malayan Tiger is the country's national icon. Found only in Peninsular Malaysia and southern Thailand, the Malayan tiger is its own subspecies and is found nowhere else in the world. In the 1950s it was estimated that 3,000 roamed in our rainforests but the latest National Tiger Survey results indicate there are less than 150 in the wild. While the loss of habitat contributed to the decreasing numbers, the biggest threat to tigers today is poaching.

The Malayan tiger is in high demand - its bones, blood and sexual organs for their perceived medicinal qualities, their skin, skull, claws and canine teeth are traded as trophies and talismans, while their meat is consumed as an exotic treat. The rising affluence of Asian countries, especially China and Vietnam, has made the tiger more affordable thus increasing the demand for this critically endangered animal.

THE MALAYAN TIGER IN ROYAL BELUM



In 2011, the Malayan Tiger density in the park was 1.92 / 100 square kilometres, the highest record in Peninsular Malaysia. However, the figure has reduced to around 0.8 / 100 square kilometres in 2018, a reduction of 60% in just seven years. The reduction was caused by an influx of professional Indochinese poaching syndicates mainly from Vietnam, whose modus operandi is to set large wire snares in the interior of the park and stay up to several months during each trip. At the peak of the poaching wave from 2016 to 2017, WWF-Malaysia recorded 218 cable snares in Royal Belum, most of which were suspected to be set by Indochinese poaching syndicates.

LOCAL COMMUNITY - THE JAHAI



The Jahai tribe of Orang Asli have been living in Royal Belum for generations. They are one of 18 tribes of indigenous peoples of Malaysia and it has been postulated that the Orang Asli settled in the country some 25,000 years ago.

The Jahai are part of the Negrito ethnic group, who are the oldest indigenous people in the Peninsula. With the exception of the more developed Sungai Tiang and Sungai Kejar villages, the other villagers still retain their nomadic forest-based lifestyle. Their income is mainly from harvesting non-timber forest products such as agarwood, herbs, honey, frogs, and fish. Sometimes they will work as porters for houseboats and tour-operators in the area. Based on a study carried out in 2013, more than 93.3% of the orang asli living in Belum Temengor earn below RM800 per household per month.

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION - MENRAQ



*Community support
is crucial for successful conservation
efforts in the long term.*

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION - MENRAQ



To supplement the PSPC Rangers in anti-poaching patrol, PSPC together with RIMAU has developed and activated a new community-based wildlife protection patrol unit called MENRAQ. This unit is a specialised wildlife patrol outfit that is made up entirely of the local indigenous Jahai community.

*The word Menraq means **People** in the Jahai language.*

The creation of the Menraq Patrol Unit is to nurture a sense of ownership in wildlife conservation amongst the local Jahai living in Royal Belum State Park. This community patrolling project will not only raise their awareness on the plight of the Malayan tiger and its habitat but also provide an alternative livelihood to the members and their village as a whole.

GLOBAL TIGER DAY 2020



Global Tiger Day, often called International Tiger Day, is an annual celebration to raise awareness for tiger conservation, held annually on 29 July. It was created in 2010 at the Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit.

In 2020, RIMAU celebrated Global Tiger Day with the community of Kampung Tanhain, in Royal Belum.

KAMPUNG TANHAIN



Kampung Tanhain is a small breakaway village of the larger village of Sungai Kejar. There are 22 families here - a total of 100 people, 33 of them are children between the ages of 2-12. PSPC chose this village specifically to start the Menraq programme because of its small size and the lack of any community projects there.







Welcome to Tanhain

*Due to Covid-19, all visitors to the village had to follow a strict protocol of wearing a mask, checking of temperature and keeping a safe distance from the community.
The villagers welcomed all the visitors with specially woven head gear.*

Shah Redza - Director of PSPC giving a welcome address to the community and RIMAU.

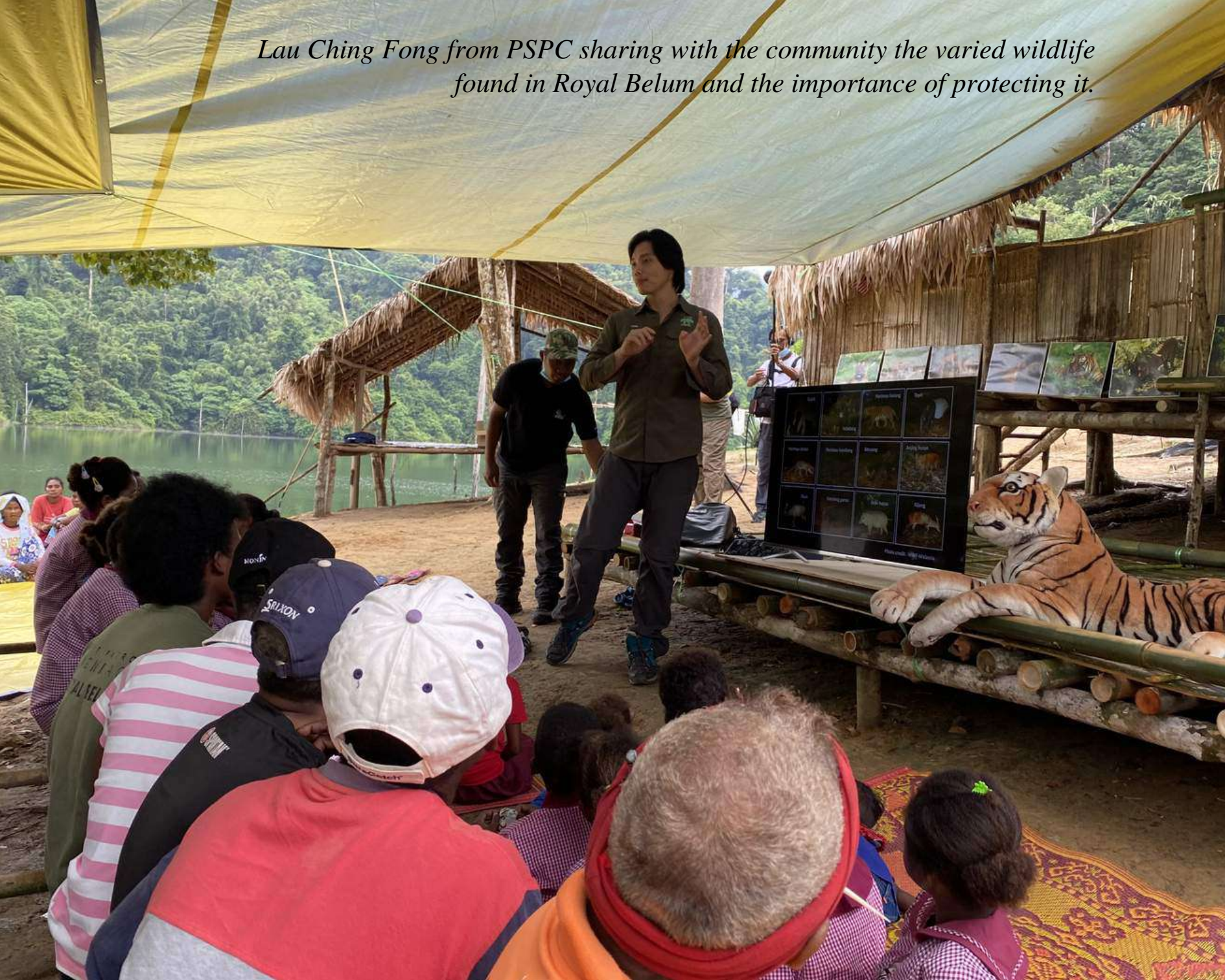




SIRIAN
IT'S YOUR EXCUSE!
NO CUSES

SAJOF

Lau Ching Fong from PSPC sharing with the community the varied wildlife found in Royal Belum and the importance of protecting it.





Gajah



Seladang



Harimau belang



Tapir



Harimau dahan



Harimau kumbang



Beruang



Anjing hutan



Rusa



Kambing gurun



Babi hutan



Kijang

Photo credit: WWF-Malaysia





Junior Menraq Rangers

One month prior to Global Tiger Day, Lau Ching Fong took the older children from the village to set up camera traps in a nearby area to see what lives in their forest. On Global Tiger Day they went to collect the cameras and the results were shared with the community. This is the beginning of RIMAU's Junior Menraq Team which will be developed further in the future.



A Seladang caught on the camera traps.



Shaq Koyok - The Artist

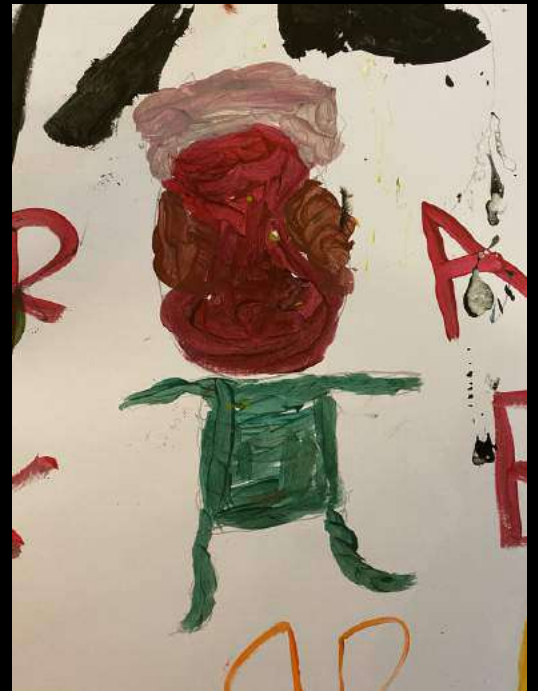
Shaq Koyok is a Temuan from Banting, Selangor.

He shared with the local community what it was like to live in an area where your forests have been destroyed and constantly threatened. He told them that "you must know your rights as an Orang Asli and as a Malaysian".



Art Workshop with Shaq Koyok

Draw yourself was the task set by the artist.





All the children in the village received a limited edition RIMAU t-shirt.







Face Painting with Syuhada Amdan

A novel experience for the children - to have their faces painted.













Children's Performance

With the help from volunteers from Roots & Shoots, the children learnt 3 songs and performed for the whole village.



Graduation Message from
HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah

The Menraq Patrol Unit were surprised by a congratulatory message from HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah. His Royal Highness applauded the members for their good work in protecting the Malayan tiger and its habitat. He recommended that the programme which benefits the whole community should be made a model programme for others to follow.





Graduation Certificates

*As of 20th August 2020, there were 14 members of the Menraq Team.
Each received a graduation ceremony from RIMAU's President, Lara Ariffin
after completing 8 months of training.*

They also received custom made parangs from MYParang and other items for patrolling.







UNIT FANRUA
VEI'IAO
ROYAL BELUM



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Ivy Wong Abdullah from Yayasan Hasanah presented the parangs to Shah Redza, Director of PSPC and Rani A/L Kembong, the Head of the Menraq Team.

YAYASAN HASANAH generously supported the RIMAU Menraq Global Tiger Day event.



UNIT PATROL
MENRAQ
ROYAL BELUM





Vice President of RIMAU, David Hashim, gave food parcels to every family in the village.



David Hashim handed a bag of clothes, one of many donated by the children from Jasmine Playschool to the Tok Batin (village head). Lululemon also donated eco-bags for the clothing.



David Hashim gave the Head of 'Rumah Baca' or 'Reading House' a workbook in three different languages - Jahai, Malay and English which was made by Roots & Shoots volunteers. RIMAU gave each child a workbook with colouring pencils.



RIMAU was pleased to welcome Datuk Vinod Sekhar and Datin Winy from the Sekhar Foundation. They are generous supporters of RIMAU and the Menraq project.



Left to Right - Shah Redza, Director of PSPC, Datin Winy and Dato Vinod and their daughter Tara Sekhar, Lara Ariffin, President of RIMAU and Farouk Nurish, Group CEO of Petra Group.



The day ended with a film screening of various documentaries on tigers and the environment.



Our Thanks

*RIMAU would like to thank HRH Sultan Nazrin Shah,
the Menraq team and the community of Kampung Tanhain,
Shah Redza, Lau Ching Fong and all those from Perak State Parks Corporation,
Datuk Vinod Sekhar and Datin Winy from Sekhar Foundation,
YAYASAN HASANAH,
MYParang and Jasmine Playschool,
Shaq Koyok, Syuhada Amdan and photographer Adibah Khalil,
the volunteers from RIMAU and Roots & Shoots,
the committee of RIMAU
and each and every contributor to RIMAU for helping to save the MALAYAN TIGER*





*We must continue to fight to save our Malayan Tiger
if not all that we have left is an image.*

*'Legacy' by Shaq Koyok - inspired by his journey to Royal Belum for RIMAU's Global Tiger Day 2020
celebrations.*