

Conservation Division Report covering the period of 1 - 31 January 2021 (MCO Period)

1. Division Updates:	
2 programme areas i.e. the Marine & Terrestrial programmes which supported MNS Strategic Plan 2018–2030 implementation.	
Marine & Wetlands Conservation Programme	<p><u>Managers:</u> Sonny Wong & Balu Perumal <u>Staffs:</u> Ng Wai Pak hired as senior wetlands officer, Habibun as conservation centre and community officer, Shahril Kamarulzaman and Azelan Zakaria are hired-hand placed under UCF & GM centers. EE staffs – Maichal (wetlands) and Zaid (marine/ education) assist on part time basis. <u>Activity focus:</u> KSNP for Ramsar, North Central Selangor Coast & TAT-KM Flyways, Migratory bird, otters & firefly; Urban Community Forest & UCF Network.</p> <p>Current Projects:-</p> <p>a. NCSC and migratory bird initiatives Current work related to AWC 2021 is funded by TKC MF (RM10K). New funding for NCSC secured from Full Circle Foundation (USD30K).</p> <p>b. Mangrove initiatives, Firefly and Otter projects; Firefly directory work supported by FRIM (RM21K); GEF-SGP for community firefly study by FoBK (RM10K); NCSC Otter project supported by CI-MSIG (RM30K) and CFHF (USD30K).</p> <p>c. Tree planting activities; UCF Resource Centre & Gua Musang Centre activities are supported by self-funding activities related to tree planting and merchandise sales. At the moment there are planting stocks worth RM50K in the nurseries. Habitat Foundation provided fund for BTFC, Kg. Chuweh tree nursery (RM25K).</p>
Terrestrial Conservation Programme	<p><u>Managers:</u> Balu Perumal & Yeap Chin Aik <u>Staffs:</u> Lee Ee Ling contracted as policy officer. Woo Chee Yoong co-opted as new staff. Syamimi Makbul, Wan Rodiah, Mohd Fahirul (all attached to EU-BL project) and Nur Syuhada hired as RAs. EE staffs – Shashi (Certification/ EIA) and Adha (KPA/ education) assist on part time basis.</p> <p><u>Activity focus:</u> Hornbill & large mammal conservation, forest policy work related to biodiversity & climate change; Important Bird & Biodiversity Areas (IBA) and MNS-BirdLife Partnership Programme.</p> <p>Current Projects:-</p> <p>d. Sun bear Conservation Programme with FGV, Perhilitan and UKM Project extended for 4-years period (2020-2023); Value of sponsorship RM100K/year. Project supports the CEPA outreach programme for sun bear conservation, plus establishment of local community action groups.</p> <p>e. Hornbill Survey in BTFC NCTF project support worth RM50K for 2021, Malaysia Wildlife Conservation Fund (RM15K), Full Circle Foundation (USD20K) and Foundation Segre/ BL support for 3-years (2021-2023) valued at USD30K/year; and Avifauna Sweden (RM20K) support Ulu Muda work.</p> <p>f. EU-BL Forest Governance project (MY forest Project)</p>

	Value of sponsorship Euro100K/year for period of 5 years (2017 -2021). Main trust of this multi country project will be on capacity building of non-state actors in forest governance including REDD+ and FLEGT-VPA.
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3. Project Activities Updates

Projects activities are on track with proposed timeline with no major issues.

Marine & Wetlands Conservation Programme	<p><u>General:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going planning for Marine/ Wetlands Programme 2020/21 underway; identification of new projects for 2020/21 and sourcing for possible funding/ donors. Appointed En. Azli Abu Bakar as programme advisor for work with Marine Parks Department, Malaysia. Focus will be on the Marine Protected Areas at the Andaman Seas (Langkawi, Penang, and the coastline of Kedah and Perlis). <p><u>NCSC Project and migratory bird initiatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWC 2021 kicked start on 2nd Jan and will last till end of Feb. MCO declaration on restricting interstate movement is clearly a problem for the voluntary birders. Sabah Forestry Department pulled out from conducting the exercise at the last moment because of this. 15 Jan: Talk on the “Herons of Malaysia” conducted by Jacelyn See. She is the RA employed under AWC 2021 and represented MNS at the Have Hope Talk 22 Jan: Heron Ecology and Environmental Conservation, talk by Jacelyn See in Jungle Classroom Nature Explorer Series. On-going: Bird Check List (3rd edition) publication by BCC. <p><u>Mangrove and Firefly Initiative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 & 26 Jan: FoBK GEF-SGP firefly citizen science project – forth nightly meeting. Discussion on producing publicity poster and video on citizen science activities. 25 Jan: Yazid & Sonny involved in “Bengkel libat urus bersama pihak yang berkepentingan bagi cadangan pemuliharaan habitat kunang-kunang di Sg. Yakyah Kemaman, Terengganu”. 26 Jan: Sonny participated in “Reverse the Red 4” webinar organised by IUCN SSC. 28 Jan: FIN secured Asahi Kasei, Japan sponsorship of USD15K for 3 years CEPA activities. MNS will benefit on capacity building training and regional travel. 28 Jan: Worked on Air Itam Forest Reserve (education centre) proposal with Penang Branch. Publication: M.L., Sara, T. Anchana, CH, Wong, et al, 2021. Firefly Tourism: Moving A Global Phenomenon Towards a Brighter Future. Conservation Science and Practice <p><u>MNS Otter Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20-29 Jan: Woo conducting fieldwork at KSNP. 21 Jan: DBKL Otter project – internal meeting. Woo finalising proposals on Urban Otter project and Otter Interpretative Centre Preparing for MNS Otter Workshop on 6th Feb. <p><u>Tree planting initiatives and Urban Resource Centre, including Climate Change:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 Jan: CPS Global Ethnobotany - Plants and People webinar 10 Jan: Discussion with Beting Nature Society (MNS Flyway Community) to establish a mangrove nursery at Beting Beras Basah, Bagan Dato, Perak. 12 Jan: In discussion with Matrix Cooling potential CSR activity at UCF. Preparation for 1 Feb Tapir talk - ‘Communities and Urban Forestry’. 21 Jan: 1st site visit and discussion on nursery establishment for hornbill at Kg Chuweh with Yeap. Activity will be part of the new project supported by Habitat Foundation.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22 Jan: Google meet with Wai Leng (MNS Selangor Branch) re. bringing back the birds project for KL.
Terrestrial Conservation Programme	<p><u>FGV Sun Bear (tiger & other mammals) Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing: Developing volunteer packages for Kenong Rimba Park & Sun Bear Education Module Submitted proposal to Perhilitan on Tiger awareness day celebration with SRR. Ng Wai Pak accepted as member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission Bear Specialist Group. 5 Jan: Received RM160K from FGV/UKM for 2019 payment. 13 Jan: Balu attended the stakeholder discussion on “Malaysian Tiger Crisis Action Plan” organised by PERHILITAN. 16 Jan: Habibun giving talk on Lead to nature neglect? - the effect of covid 19 pandemic towards nature heritage. invitation from Park and Amenity Management Department, UiTM Shah Alam. 22 Jan: Habibun gave talk on Malayan Tapir at the invitation of Have Hope. 26 Jan: Shan attended MYCAT Head of Organisation meeting. 27 Jan: Wai Pak facilitated an online talk on “Rainforest mammals” in Jungle Classroom’s Nature Explorer Series organised by Negeri Sembilan/ Malacca Branch. <p><u>BTFC Forest/Hornbill Conservation Work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Jan: Meeting with Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia HQ and presented on hornbill conservation in Peninsular Malaysia. Meeting was chaired by Senior Director Forest Mangement Section, Dato Dr Hj Mohd Puat Bin Dahalan. Attended by Yeap and Balu. 5 Jan: Online meeting with Nestle Malaysia and KeTSA (and PERHILITAN and FDPM) on tree planting project. Attended by Yeap and Balu. 8 Jan: Yeap paid a courtesy visit to DWNP Wildlife Conservation Division Director to discuss hornbill conservation work/issues. 7, 9 & 19 Jan: Yeap involved in two dry run sessions and event day (Life on Land – Conservation Efforts in Malaysia), presenting on Hornbill Guardians and hornbills for the Climate Governance Malaysia. The recording can be assessed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ_6iSd2D1s 12-24 Jan: Yeap conducted fieldwork under the BT hornbill conservation work. Time is also spend on developing hornbill training modules and preparation of project reports. Prepared quarterly and final reports for Bursa Malaysia (July-Aug/Sep-Oct/Nov-Dec 2020). Finalised (with Balu) and submitted reports on food aid deliveries to Orang Asli villages (Kg Charokbus/Tebang/Sg Buloh) for Malaysian Care/Coca-Cola (funder). Final report on Kg Peta pending. [NOTE: The Coca-Cola fund here is <u>not related</u> to Coca-Cola-MNS funds.] Secured funding from Full Circle Foundation (HK grant-maker) (USD50,000/1 year/March 2021-Feb 2022) for NCSC and BTFC projects. Agreement with Habitat Foundation for Kg Chuweh community nursery project (RM25,000/1 year/2021) finalized. Project inception began on 21 Jan in the field/Kg Chuweh with OA staff and Habibun. Agreement for Fondation Segre-BirdLife helmeted hornbill project finalized and signed. This is 3-year project to start in Jan 2021. Agreement with Avifauna Sweden (via BirdLife Asia) being finalized to support rapid survey of hornbills in Ulu Muda. This is a small project (<RM20,000) to be implemented in 2021. Restructuring the remaining BT hornbill project activities/expenses under the National Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF), with guidance from KeTSA.

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS/PAPERS

- Preparing a Plain-pouched Hornbill Triangle Monitoring Report for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (MNS Conservation Publication Series). 2019 Report being finalized.
- Preparing a MNS CV Publication on Malaysian wildlife food plants – a compilation of plants consumed by our wildlife which supports MNS’ tree planting and habitat rehabilitation work and guide to plant selection. Target completion is end December 2020, in time for the start of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030 (decadeonrestoration.org). Work progressing without interns for now.

EU Forest Governance Project

- Yeap, Woo and Syamimi continue to work on the revised/updated IBA directory after the MNS IBA 2.0 Second Workshop.
- 6 Jan: Internal discussions within MY forest team member (Balu, Yeap & Fadhil) on the GIS mapping work related to IBAs review.
- 8 Jan: Weekly MYforest team meeting.
- 13 Jan: Meeting with Eda & Zalikha on the preparation of Forest Module to facilitate Local Community Groups’ training and education.
- 15 Jan: Balu attended the UN-REDD programme webinar called by KeTSA. The REDD+ unit of the ministry shared on the framework for carbon finance that they have been working on, including the VCS mechanism.
- 18 Jan: Ee Ling submitted comments to DOE on EIA for The Proposed 3844.60 Hectares (9500 Acres) of Logging Activity In Bukit Ibam Forest Reserve In Mukim Kuala Keratong, District of Rompin, Pahang Darul Makmur.
- 19 Jan: Ee Ling, Zaid and Sean attended the EIATRC for The Proposed 3844.60 Hectares (9500 Acres) of Logging Activity In Bukit Ibam Forest Reserve In Mukim Kuala Keratong, District of Rompin, Pahang Darul Makmur; Balu attended NSC-CFS meeting (CFS 1/2020) and IC-CFS meeting via zoom platform called by KeTSA. IN the meeting, he also shared the newly published “CSO roundtable discussion on CFS” to the committee members.
- 20 Jan: Sashi attended the EIATRC for The Development of Transmission Line 132kv From Pencawang Masuk Utama (PMU) Bintang To PMU Blue Valley In Mukim Tanah Rata And Mukim Ulu Telom, District Of Cameron Highlands, Pahang Darul Makmur And In Mukim Kampar, District of Kampar, Perak Darul Ridzuan; Forest Governance Zonal Workshop – Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative Training Workshop (online) was conducted. The event was coordinated by MNS Sabah branch.
- 21 Jan: Ee Ling attended the Sesi Pendengaran Pandangan Awam Bagi Draft Perubahan 3 Pelan Bandar Raya Kuala Lumpur 2020 (PBRKL 2020) [online]; MNS Selangor Branch (as part of Coalition for the Protection of Selangor’s Forest) together with the Gabungan Pertahanan Hutan Simpan Kuala Langat Utara, submitted a letter, entitled ‘Tuntutan Pembatalan Cadangan Kerajaan Negeri Selangor untuk Menyahwartakan Hutan Simpan Kuala Langat Utara (HSKLU)’, to Y.A.B Dato’ MB Selangor and Ahli-Ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri Selangor.
- 22 Jan: Zaid submitted feedbacks on Draft Rancangan Tempatan Daerah Johor Bahru Dan Kulai 2025 (Pengubahan 3) to Majlis Bandaraya Iskandar Puteri.
- 26 Jan: Ee Ling submitted MNS Factsheet (Aug – Dec 2020) to BL; Balu attended EIATRC for Proposed Integrated Tourism, Daerah Kuala Langat with Ms. Pasu, Chair of MNS Selangor Branch.
- 29 Jan: MY forest team attended the FOGO Forest Loss Dashboard Webinar.