

**Conservation Division Report covering the period of 1 -28 February 2021 (MCO Period)**

<b>1. Division Updates:</b>	
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 &amp; 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 &amp; 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 &amp; TAT-KM Flyways, Migratory bird, otters &amp; firefly; Urban Community Forest &amp; UCF Network.</p> <p><b>Current Projects:-</b></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); FIN Firefly CEPA (RM4K); NCSC Otter project supported by CI-MSIG (RM30K) and CFHF (USD30K).</p> <p>c. Tree planting activities; UCF Resource Centre &amp; 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). Recently secured RM20k/year funding from Cooling Matrix (4-year project; 2021-2024).</p>
Terrestrial Conservation Programme	<p><u>Managers:</u> Balu Perumal &amp; 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 &amp; large mammal conservation, forest policy work related to biodiversity &amp; climate change; Important Bird &amp; Biodiversity Areas (IBA) and MNS-BirdLife Partnership Programme.</p> <p><b>Current Projects:-</b></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 wildlife (sun bear, gibbon &amp; pangolin) 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) 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.</p>
<p><b>3. Project Activities Updates</b> Projects activities are on track with proposed timeline with no major issues.</p>	
<p>Marine &amp; Wetlands Conservation Programme</p>	<p><u>General:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> </ul> <p><u>NCSC Project and migratory bird initiatives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Still on-going: Preparation of Bird Check List (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) by BCC.</li> <li>AWC 2021 kicked start on 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan and will last till end of Feb. CV is currently following up with bird counters, and will prepare the assessment report.</li> <li>19 Feb: Having discussion with BL Asia, Dr. Ding Li on the preparation of water bird study in Sabah.</li> </ul> <p><u>Mangrove and Firefly Initiative</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 Feb: Had a preparatory meeting with Jabatan Landskap Negara re. firefly project at Bukit Kiara. In this project, we have an agreement to train FoBK members as firefly volunteer.</li> <li>8 Feb: Firefly Specialist Group activity; Sonny to write proposal to organise KBA workshop on SEA regional coordinator to introduce to SEA countries on fireflies and KBA workshop for 2021-2024; Sonny attended SCC Invertebrate Group meeting with all invertebrate Specialist Groups</li> <li>10 Feb: Participated in the “State of the River Report for Sg. Selangor and Sg. Langat river basin” with nominated consultant by LUAS; Attended KeTSA organised Tanah Lembap 2021 webinar - Tanah Lembap cabaran dan halatuju.</li> <li>24 Feb: IUCN SSC Invertebrate Group – Sonny attended Sergio Henriques (new chair) and Monikha (freshwater SG) meeting with FSG co-chairs; discussion focussed on the needs and challenges faced by the respective SGs; FIN secured Asahi Kasei, Japan sponsorship of USD15K for 3 years CEPA activities. MNS will benefit on capacity building training and regional travel. Funds from FIN (RM4K) transferred to MNS.</li> <li>24 &amp; 28 Feb: FoBK Bukit Kiara firefly study – join recce with the science team (FRIM); observed <i>Lamprigera</i> maternal care behaviour and nest in the wild, new record of a <i>Pygolucliola</i> semi aquatic larva</li> </ul> <p><u>MNS Otter Project (wetland small mammal programme)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Feb: World Wetlands Day 2021 - Online Panel Discussion: Wetlands: Securing Freshwater for All organised by the World Secretariat of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Attended by Sonny &amp; Woo.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 Feb: MNS Otter Workshop organised under CI-MSIG project. It was conducted in two parts; virtually with general presentation on otter survival in oil palm plantations; and physically with plantation owners at KSNP. About 150 people participated in the event.</li> <li>• 8 - 9 Feb: Woo and Raffi rescued a smooth-coated otter cub and handed it over to PERHILITAN.</li> <li>• 20 Feb: Site recce for reported sighting of hairy-nosed otter in Valencia, Sg Buloh. Confirmed that the animal use the waterbody around the golf course as its habitat.</li> <li>• 20 Feb: Submitted two proposals to DBKL for MNS-DBKL Urban Otter Project</li> <li>• 20-28 Feb: Woo conducted fieldwork in NCSC. Wrote progress report for CFH Foundation at the same time.</li> <li>• 26-28 Feb: Eurasian Otter Workshop organized by IUCN SSC Otter Specialist Group. Attended by Woo and Annabel as part of MON activity</li> <li>• IOSF created a donation page for MNS Otter Project, i.e. part of partnership between the two organisations. IOSF also submitted a proposal to Ocean Park Conservation Foundation (Hong Kong) to organizing an International Otter Workshop in Malaysia with MNS as local collaborator</li> <li>• Writing a paper on the hairy-nosed otter records in Kuala Selangor and Sabak Bernam to IOSF. Targeted completion in March 2021.</li> </ul> <p><u>Tree planting and Urban Community Forest initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Feb: Hari Wilayah Urban Forest Day – organized Tapir talk 8.0 Public Forum ‘Communities and Urban Forest. Managed to attract ca. 150 participants for the online event.</li> <li>• 2 Feb: Meeting with Nestle re. Q1/2021 tree planting in Kedah &amp; Perak.</li> <li>• 8 Feb: Facilitated Mr. Simone Lassauw with information for his MSc Thesis on Sustainable Development. Helped him with analysing the precondition for successful community based ecotourism by taking a case study; MNS Ulu Geroh Project.</li> <li>• 22 Feb: Sold merbau seeds worth RM3K to Nestle. Being informed that it will be used for their tree planting campaign.</li> <li>• 24-25 Feb: Sonny and Balu attended the Malaysian Green List Mentor Training organised by WWFM.</li> <li>• 24-26 Feb: Sonny attended Kew Garden organised webinar, “Reforestation for biodiversity carbon capture and livelihood”.</li> <li>• 26 Feb: Last day for University Monash student intern, Ms. Zahira Khattab. She worked on producing a tree profile booklet focussing local livelihood.</li> <li>• 27 Feb: Book review: Batu Caves Malaysia majestic limestone icon seconded. By Malaysian Cave and Karst Conservation for MN.</li> </ul>
Terrestrial Conservation Programme	<p><u>FGV Sun Bear (tiger &amp; other mammals) Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing: Developing volunteer packages for Kenong Rimba Park &amp; Sun Bear Education Module</li> <li>• Received news from PERHILITAN that our proposal for Tiger Awareness Day 2021 celebration with SRR, has been approved (RM10K).</li> <li>• 5 Feb: Virtual meeting with Sun bear project team members re. continuation of the project. FGV confirmed their intention to continue with Phase 2 project (2020-2023) with the same yearly budget.</li> <li>• 9 Feb: Annual MYCAT meeting with DG Perhilitan attended by Balu &amp; Mr. Shan; Sonny and Woo attended the webinar on “Bearcat Study Program” organised by UPLB, which is part of MNH Biodiversity seminar series.</li> </ul>

- 15 Feb: Sonny attended a webinar organised by Alliance Francais de Kuala Lumpur, titled “Protecting wildlife in the Malaysian Forest - a community based solution by HUTAN”.

#### BTFC Forest/Hornbill Conservation Work

- 2 Feb: Yeap conducted a public talk (HabiTalk) for The Habitat Foundation on hornbills. The recording can be accessed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fXiWH940Crc>
- 21 Feb-5 Mar: Conducted fieldwork under the BT hornbill conservation work. Others involve time spend on developing hornbill training modules and preparation of project reports.
- Preparing quarterly and final reports (July-Aug/Sep-Oct/Nov-Dec 2020) for Bursa Malaysia.
- Finalised (with Shan) and submitted reports on food aid deliveries to Kg Peta Orang Asli village for Malaysian Care/Coca-Cola (funder). Project is now officially closed with submission of all food air delivery reports. [NOTE: The Coca-Cola fund here is not related to Coca-Cola-MNS funds.)
- Agreement with Habitat Foundation for Kg Chuweh community nursery project finalized and awaiting transfer of fund (RM25K). Habibun Najar made site visit to establish new tree nursery on 27-28 Feb.
- Secured funding from Full Circle Foundation (USD50K) for 1-year project, which will start in March 2021.
- Agreement with Avifauna Sweden (via BirdLife Asia) being finalized to support rapid survey of hornbills in Ulu Muda. This is a small project (RM20K) to be implemented in 2021.
- Restructuring the remaining BT hornbill project activities/expenses under the National Conservation Trust Fund (RM50K), with guidance from KeTSA.

#### PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS/PAPERS

- Preparing a Plain-pouched Hornbill Hornbill Triangle Monitoring Report for 2018, 2019 and 2020 (MNS Conservation Publication Series). 2019 Report currently 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](http://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
- 1 Feb: MY forest team organized the Tapir Talks 8.0 – Communities and Urban Forest.
- 3 Feb: Ee Ling attended Parti Socialist Malaysia’s ‘3 Steps For Carbon Neutral Malaysia For 2023’ consultative meeting. The resulting document will form part of the review of Malaysia’s Third Biennial Update Report to the UNFCCC.
- 4 Feb: Balu (and Surin from Proforest) on air with Ms. Juliet Jacobs & Law Yao Hua (Macaranga) at BFM 89.9 discussing the issues related to deforestation in Malaysia.
- 5 Feb: Discussion on forming Palm Oil NGO Caucus mediated by WWFM. The meeting was attended by 6 different NGOs, including those based in Sabah & Sarawak.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 &amp; 24 Feb: Zaid attended the TORAC meeting on “Proposed Development of Oil Palm Plantation on 3,438.087 ha of land at Mukim Jemaluang, Daerah Mersing, Johor Darul Takzim. Our feedback was submitted in the latter date.</li> <li>• 10 &amp; 15 Feb: Submitted MNS feedbacks to DOE on the EIA for “Proposed Development of a permanent disposal facility for the water leach purification facility at Mukim Kuala Kuantan, Daerah Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur. The EIATRC meeting was attended by Zaid.</li> <li>• 15 Feb: Submitted MNS feedbacks on the EIA for Development of Transmission Line 132KV From Pencawang Masuk Utama (PMU) Bintang To PMU Blue Valley, Mukim Tanah Rata, District of Cameron Highlands, Pahang Darul Makmur.</li> <li>• 17 Feb: Zaid attended the TORAC meeting on Proposed Iron Mining Operation in 54.23 hectares at Kg. Macang Setahun, Mukim Tebak, District Of Kemaman, Terengganu Darul Iman.</li> <li>• 18 Feb: ICCC 2021 in Colombo, Sri Lanka. MNS was featured as organizing partner; Sashi attended the EIATRC on RAPID Transit System Link (RTS Link) Antara Johor Bahru Dan Singapura Oleh Malaysia Rapid Transit System Sdn Bhd.</li> <li>• 19 Feb: MY forest weekly meeting – discussion on finalizing 2020 report. The EU-BL Project report was submitted on 22 Feb 2021.</li> <li>• 22 Feb: Balu attended the Perak Sustainability Blueprint stakeholder meeting organized by Yayasan Hasanah, in joint collaboration with Perak Forestry Department; Ee Ling submitted MNS feedbacks to ERE Consulting Group on the Survey on the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016 – 2025.</li> <li>• 24 Feb - 26 Feb: Ee Ling participated in CV4C Webinar Series, Day 3 (Strength in numbers: the power of networks and coalitions of interest), Day 4 (Closing the circle: Engagement with law enforcement agencies, the judiciary and the media) and Day 5 (‘A tale of two illegalities’: Synergies between wildlife protection and forest governance).</li> <li>• 25 Feb: TC MSPO meeting 1/2021 conducted via. zoom meet; Ee Ling attended the Kajian Awal Draf Pelan Tempatan Kuala Lumpur 2040 (PTKL 2040) – Sesi Maklumbalas Pihak Berkepentingan Focus Group Discussion with MNS Selangor Branch; MY forest staffs participated in Project Checkpoint Webinar Series; ‘Essentials for project set up’ and ‘Grant preparation’; Balu attended late night meeting arranged by BirdLife with Google Forest Watch team.</li> <li>• 26 Feb: Project zoom meet with Lea &amp; Dr. Hum – got to know that the former i.e. project officer will be leaving by 15 March 2021; Submitted MNS feedbacks on “EIA for Proposed Integrated Tourism And Resort Center at Mukim Tanjung Dua Belas, Daerah Kuala Langat, Selangor Darul Ehsan.</li> </ul>
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Prepared by: Balu Perumal, HOD Conservation; 24 March 2021