

PROPOSAL

Population Monitoring and Conservation Awareness of
Malayan Tapir (*Tapirus indicus*)
In Taratak Forest Reserve, Sumatra, Indonesia



By:
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Proposed to:
Tapir Club
Tapir Preservation Fund

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SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT: The Malayan tapir is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2004 Assessment). However, data and information currently available are still not enough to provide a clear view of the conservation measures that must be taken. To achieve this, population estimates are needed to demonstrate their current status. More quantitative data is needed in order to design appropriate conservation interventions. Between 1999 and 2005, a long term study on the effect of deforestation on Malayan tapir was taken in Taratak Forest reserve. Using the same methodology (camera trapping), we will continue our monitoring program for at least one year, and will encourage public awareness of Malayan tapir conservation.

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Background

The Malayan tapir (*Tapirus indicus*) is now under threat and its survival is at risk. Presently, the species is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, meaning that it is facing a high risk of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future. Furthermore, the species is listed on CITES Appendix 1, which largely bans their international trade.

The Malayan tapir occurs in the southern and central parts of Sumatra, Myanmar (south of latitude 18° N), Malaysia, and Thailand (along the western border and on the peninsula down to the Malaysian border, and in Huai Kha Khaeng Wildlife Sanctuary in northern Thailand). It is also thought to occur in southern parts of Cambodia and Vietnam (although reports from this area are unconfirmed), and possibly Laos (Meijaard & Strien, 2003).

Previous studies (Novarino 2000; Novarino 2001; Novarino *et al.* 2004; Novarino *et al.* 2005), have ascertained the importance of protecting the forest of Taratak for Malayan tapir and other endangered Sumatran wildlife such as the Sumatran tiger and serow (a dark, long-haired member of the goat family). This project is a continuation of studies that targeted the monitoring of populations of Malayan tapirs and improving the participation of local people in conservation programs.

Aims of Study

We will continue monitoring Malayan tapir population in a larger area to learn:

1. Seasonality of the occurrence of the Malayan tapir in the Taratak forest reserve
2. Discover their home range, which is still unconfirmed at this time
3. Conduct our study simultaneously with an environmental education program which we hope will enhance tapir conservation awareness.

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Public awareness and the encouragement of local people were listed as top priorities recommended during the Malayan Tapir Population Habitat Viability Assessment (PHVA) workshop in Malaysia (2003).

Methods

There are two main activities that will be conducted during this program. First, monitoring of the Malayan tapir and other wildlife that inhabit the study area; second, to improve local community participation in regard to wildlife conservation.

- Monitoring of the Malayan tapir will be conducted by using camera trapping techniques (remote cameras set to photograph animals by means of shutter-tripping devices). The identification of travel corridors between areas will be assessed by following and mapping their tracks.



- We will improve local community participation in tapir conservation by providing environmental education. This program will consist of:
 - A mobile library that will be used as a medium for environmental education. A team will visit elementary schools in Taratak village. Several children's books will be purchased that will teach the students

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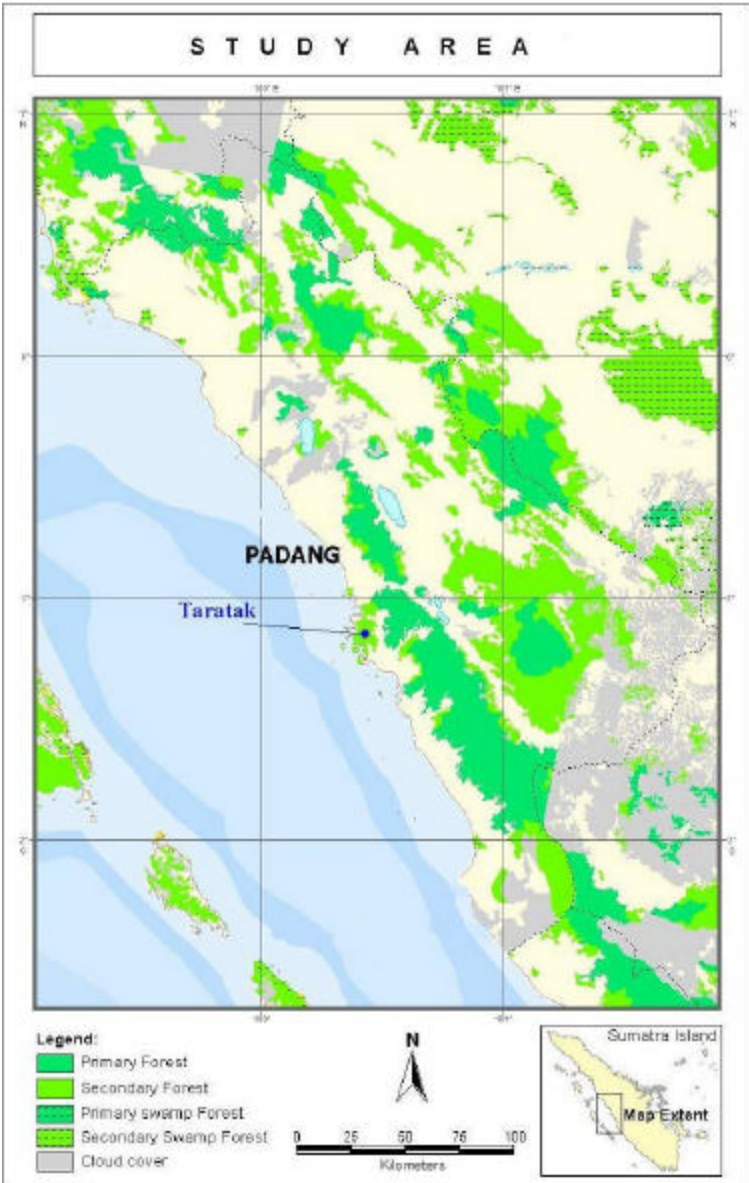
about nature and conservation. Interactive games will also be used to introduce and reinforce these themes.

- A youth conservation club will be promoted during the project. Members of the club will be informed about basic conservation issues and trained in simple field techniques. They will also be taught to check our cameras.
- Reforestation activities will be focused on the salt lick area and the corridor between forest patches along the stream. Native tree species that have been identified as food for the Malayan tapir will be planted during the course of this project.

Project Location

This project will be conducted around Taratak village, Kecamatan Sungai Lundang, Pesisir Selatan district, West Sumatra province, Indonesia (\pm 20 km southern Padang, the capital city of West Sumatran Province), the geographic coordinates of which are 100°30'55" E and 01°04'26" N.

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Project schedule

Activities	Month											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Monitoring population	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Moving libraries			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Promoting youth conservation club					x	x						
Training and research experience						x	x	x	x	x	x	x
reforestation							x	x			x	x

Team Members

1. M. Syafrie, SSi. (Male, 24), Mammalogist, was participated as co author on previous studies conducted. Full time.
2. M. Silmi: (Male, 24). Mammalogist. Has been participated as co author on previous studies conducted. Full time
3. Hendri: (Male, 22). Mammalogist. Has been trained and participated in previous studies conducted. Full time

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Budget Proposed

No	Item	Own contribution \$	RSG \$	TC/TPF \$
I.	Monitoring Program			
	Field Equipment			
	1. Camera trap	4500		
	2. Batteries & Films, processing		3000	
	3. GPS		500	
	4. Tents, jungle unit	200		
	Field Expense			
	1. Transportation		2000	200
	2. Meals		1000	
	3. Miscellaneous		100	
II.	Improving Local Community Participation			
	1. Moving Library			
	- purchasing story books for children		500	100
	- educational kit		200	100
	2. Promoting youth conservation club			
	- purchasing field guide books		200	200
	- purchasing binoculars		250	100
	- training & research experience		250	100
	3. Reforestation initiating program			
	- socialization, plantlet, nurseries, planting		250	100
	4. General outreach program			
	- Drawing competition		250	100
III	Reporting			
	1. Computer	300		
	2. Report production		250	
IV	Contingency			
			250	
Total		5000	9000	1000

Note: The proposal to Rufford small grant has been approved, and we are seeking for accompanying funds.