

Bear Markets: Indonesia

A summary of the findings of '*The Illegal Trade In Bear Products, Bear Parts, And Live Malayan Sun Bears In Indonesia*', published by Animal Conservation for Life (KSBK), October 2002

Authors: **Dedi Kurniawan, Rosek Nursahid**

KSBK, funded by WSPA, investigated the trade in Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) containing bear bile and bear gall, and the hunting and trade in live Malayan sun bears and their parts, during November 2000 until January 2001, and October 2001 until February 2002, in 29 areas in Indonesia, including Kalimantan Island (Borneo), Sumatra and Java.

The investigations were divided into two general categories: 1) the hunting and trade in Malayan sun bears; and 2) the trade in bear products in Indonesia. Information to identify areas where hunting was occurring was obtained from: researchers; the Customs Office; the Forestry Department; local people who live in the habitat of the Malayan sun bear; and animal traders.

The trade in bear products was investigated by targeting several large cities. In each, ten or more drug stores, including at least two located in the city's China Town, were randomly selected and visited. Investigators also visited drug stores in areas where hunting and trade in Malayan sun bears was being investigated. The following data was collected: whether the store sold bear parts or products; what types of bear product were sold; the price of the bear product; the function, whether the product needed a license; and where the product was from.

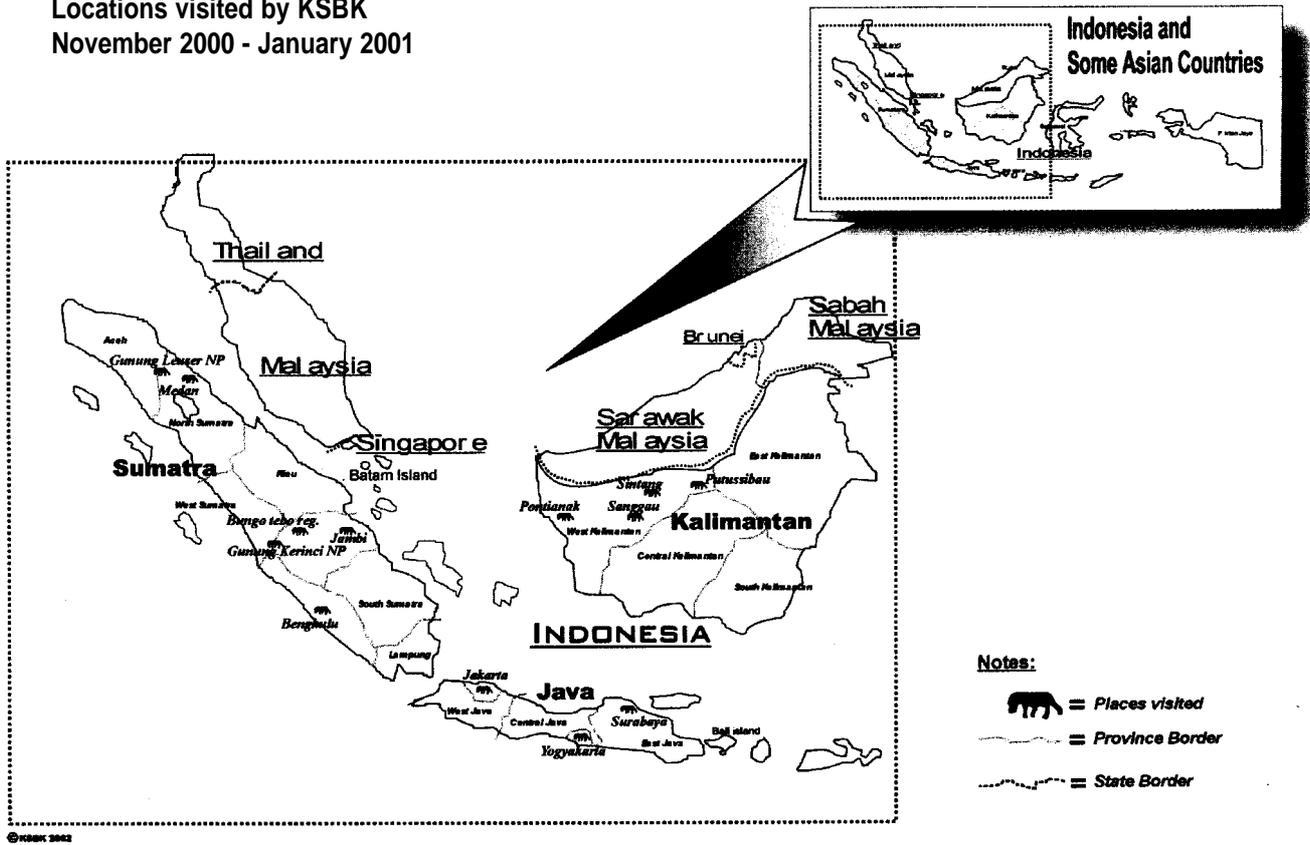
During November 2000 to January 2001, KSBK visited the following locations, to investigate the trade in Malayan bears and bear products:

1. Pontianak Port, West Kalimantan
2. Sintang Region, West Kalimantan
3. Putussibau Region, West Kalimantan
4. Sanggau Region, West Kalimantan
5. Bengkulu, Sumatra
6. Jambi City, Sumatra
7. BungoTebo Region, Jambi Province, Sumatra
8. Kerinci Seblat National Park, Jambi Province, Sumatra
9. Gunung Leuser National Park, North Sumatra
10. Medan City, North Sumatra
11. Jakarta, Java
12. Yogyakarta, Central Java
13. Surabaya, East Java

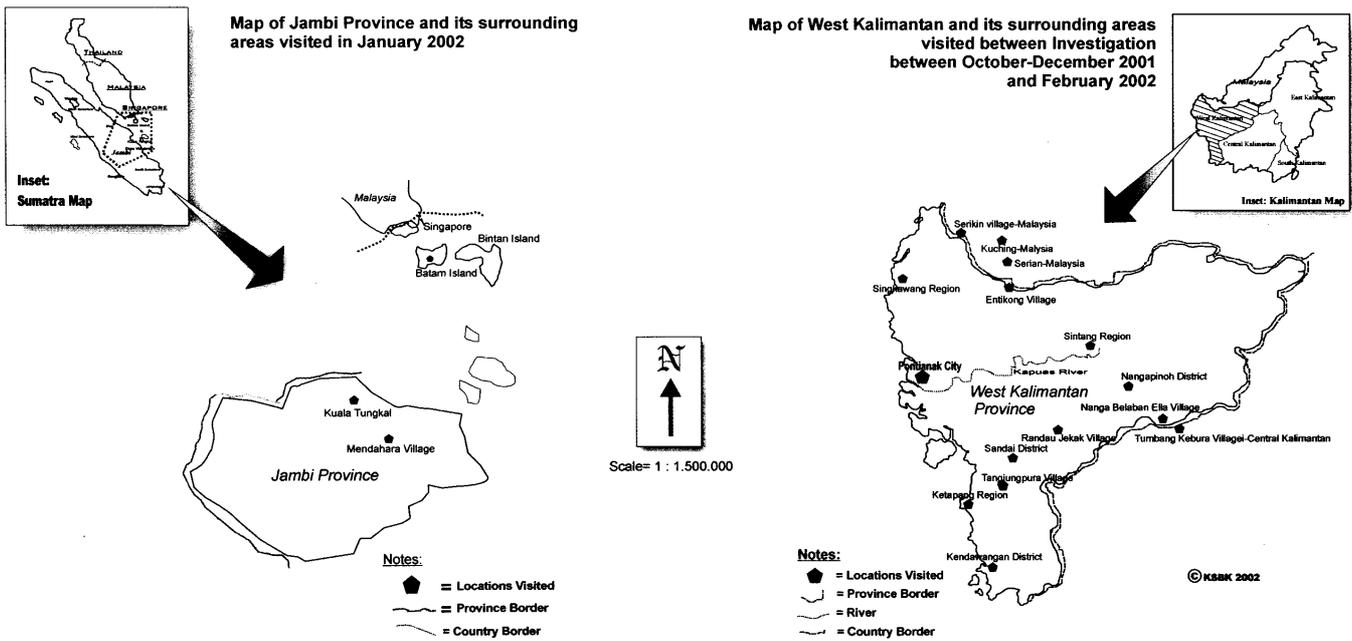
During October 2001 to February 2002, the investigators visited the following locations to investigate hunting and trade in Malayan sun bears:

1. Pontianak city and port, West Kalimantan
2. Singkawang Region, West Kalimantan
3. Ketapang Region, West Kalimantan
4. Tanjungpura Village, Ketapang Region, West Kalimantan

Locations visited by KSBK
November 2000 - January 2001



Locations visited by KSBK
October 2001 - February 2002



5. Sandai District, Ketapang Region, West Kalimantan
6. Kendawangan District, West Kalimantan
7. Randau Jekak Village, Sandai District, Ketapang Region, West Kalimantan
8. Sintang Region, West Kalimantan
9. Nangapinoh District, Sintang Region
10. Nanga Belaban Ella Village, Nangapinoh District, West Kalimantan
11. Tumbang Keburai Village, Central Kalimantan
12. Entikong Village, West Kalimantan
13. Serian city, Sarawak, Malaysia
14. Kuching city, Sarawak, Malaysia
15. Serikin village, Sarawak, Malaysia
16. Kuala Tungkal Region, Jambi, Sumatra
17. Mendahara Tengah village, Jambi, Sumatra
18. Pulau Batam (island)

Summary

After visits to several areas of Indonesia, KSBK found strong evidence to suggest that the Malayan sun bear is still widely hunted and traded alive, dead (stuffed), and for its parts. KSBK found 14 live bears kept as pets and also traded in bird markets. They found bear skins, gall bladders, canine teeth, skulls, claws and stuffed bears. Items in trade included 110 bear claws (US\$ 1.10-6.70), 47 canines (US\$ 2.20-11.10), around 10 other bear teeth, 4 bear paws (max. US\$ 11.10) and 37 bear gall bladders (US\$ 5.60-111.10). Some information stated that Malayan sun bears were also illegally exported to countries such as Singapore, Korea and Malaysia. However, when the KSBK investigators carried out checks in target areas, such as Pontianak Port or border areas between Malaysia and West Kalimantan, they did not find any direct evidence to indicate exports.

However, the Malayan sun bear is a protected animal in Indonesia, which forbids trade and is listed on Appendix I of CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) prohibiting international commercial trade. Data on the existence of the Malayan sun bear as well as information about its population distribution in the wild is very limited. The IUCN, The World Conservation Union, categorises this species as 'Data Deficient'.

KSBK investigators randomly selected 124 drug stores in 8 large cities and areas in Indonesia in order to investigate the trade in drugs containing bear bile or gall, classed as bear products. They found that 78 drug stores (62.9%) sold bear products, the majority of which had been illegally imported direct from China. Generally, the bear drug products found in Indonesia can be divided into three categories: (1) manufactured bile medicines; (2) farmed bear bile; and (3) intact bear gall. Most manufactured and farmed products were illegally imported from bear farms and factories in China. These farms use several Asian bear species, including the Asiatic black bear, the Asian brown bear, and also the Malayan sun bear. The bear galls were usually sold in pieces (per gram) or as whole intact galls. Almost all the bear galls found were from the indigenous species, the Malayan sun bear.

The Indonesian authorities need to take action to effectively enforce national legislation to prevent the illegal hunting of wild bears, as well as to stop the illegal importation of bear products from China. Public awareness campaigns are needed to encourage the use of synthetic and herbal alternatives to the use of bear products in TCM.

The status of the Malayan sun bear

Previously, the distribution of the Malayan sun bear comprised India, China, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Today in Indonesia, the Malayan sun bear can only be found in Kalimantan and Sumatra, two islands among the Indonesian archipelago. According to the 1994 IUCN-Red List of Threatened Animals, the Malayan sun bear is an Endangered Species, categorised as Vulnerable. This means that the species is facing a high probability of extinction in the wild in the medium-term future¹. It is now listed as a Data Deficient (DD) species.

Nationally, since 1973 the Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) has been included in the list of protected species by the Decree of Ministry of Agriculture No. 66/Kpts/Um/2/1973. Thus the trade of Malayan sun bears, either dead or alive, including trade in its parts, is forbidden. Act No. 5 1990², which covers the 'Conservation of Natural Resources and the Ecosystem', article 21 (see Appendix 1.1 for details). The protection status of the Malayan sun bear is emphasised in the Government Regulation No. 7/1999, which concerns 'The Preservation of Plants and Animals', as listed in 'Enclosures of protected animals' in the regulation.

The Malayan sun bear is also listed on Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) which means that international commercial trade in live bears, their parts or derivatives is prohibited – Indonesia ratified CITES in 1978.

Anecdotal information from wildlife researchers, local people and government officers, indicates that there are many cases of the catching and trading of Malayan sun bears in areas of Indonesia.

Other information states that there are still numbers of Malayan sun bears hunted and traded in several areas of Indonesia but there is insufficient data. However, Erik Meijaard³ states that the Malayan sun bear is also hunted and consumed by indigenous people and is liked by Chinese ethnic groups. In several areas in Kalimantan, such as in East Kalimantan, West Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan and South Kalimantan, bear parts are also traded as souvenirs, in addition to being used for traditional medicines.

The hunting of and the illegal trade in live Malayan sun bears

The hunting of bears is closely related to logging activities with the Malayan sun bear being one of several animals hunted by people involved in logging in their spare time. The indigenous people, such as the Dayak tribe, also hunt the bear in Kalimantan. However, such traditional hunting only has relatively a small negative impact on the Malayan sun bear population³. More significant in decreasing bear populations is modern hunting, using rifles.

The Malayan sun bear is hunted in order to be traded either alive or as bear parts which are processed as traditional medicines, souvenirs and other purposes. In Pramuka bird market, in Jakarta, the Malayan sun bear is often sold openly. In May 2001, KSBK recorded two Malayan sun bears being sold at Pramuka bird market. In other bird markets, such as Medan, the Malayan sun bear is not traded openly but buyers can order it from the trader.

West Kalimantan

The Malayan sun bear trade not only fulfils domestic demand but also illegal exports. KSBK investigators visited Pontianak port several times to collect information about the Malayan sun bear trade. Based on the information gathered, there were always overseas shipments of Malayan sun bears from Pontianak port to Thailand, Singapore and China, passing through Vietnam. Approximately 3-5 live Malayan sun bears were shipped out of Indonesia everyday. These bears



Illegally captured Malay sun bear. The three year old bear was being kept by a villager in the Sintang Region, West Kalimantan.

were caught in villages next to the forest of West Kalimantan, which is crossed by Kapuas River. The hunters bring the bears either along the river or across land. The trader usually buys the bear from the hunter for Rp 100,000-300,000 (US\$11.00-33.00) per bear. Later the trader sells the bear to people who come by ship for Rp 600,000 (US\$ 67).

The KSBK investigators conducted an investigation at Pontianak port in early November 2000 and also investigations from October 2001 until February 2002, and found no evidence of shipments of Malayan sun bears. A few ship crews who were approached mentioned that recently such shipments are rare. However, one of them said that some weeks ago a baby Malayan sun bear had been offered for Rp 100,000 (\$11). They suggested the investigators visit villages near the forest, next to the Kapuas River, in order to see a bear shipment.

The investigators also visited the office of the Conservation Unit of Natural Resources (BKSDA) of West Kalimantan, but the officer of BKSDA, in Pontianak, could not provide any information about the bear trade. The officer of the Customs Office in Supandio Airport, Pontianak, stated that there was no record of any smuggling cases involving a Malayan sun bear.

During the investigation in Pontianak city, the capital of West Kalimantan Province, in November 2000, it was revealed that bears were caught in the Sintang region, specifically in the forest area next to Kapuas River, downstream. The Sintang region is about 400 km to the east of Pontianak.

Besides the trade, bears were also kept as pets in Kalimantan. Four local people in the Sintang region were keeping Malayan sun bears in their houses. One of the bear 'keepers' even suckled two of her bears herself. A welder who owned a bear said that the local people living at the edges of the forest in West Kalimantan caught bears from the forest, brought them to Sintang and sold them. It happened at least once a month. The bears cost Rp 100,000-300,000 (US\$ 11.00-33.00).

Many people buy young Malayan sun bears because they look very appealing, but as a bear grows older the owner will often kill the bear and remove the gall bladder for medicinal purposes. One owner explained that he had permission from the local Forestry Department officer to keep a bear.

According to the Staff of Sintang Sub BKSDA, Mr. Heru Budiantoro, there was overseas trading of Malayan sun bears from Indonesia, through West Kalimantan. He mentioned that there was a Chinese collector who offered money to people (especially the Dayak tribe) to catch and bring him

live Malayan sun bears. He would even pay for parts of dead bears, such as canine teeth which usually cost at least Rp 10,000 (\$1.10) each. Mr. Heru stated that if several bears were gathered, the Chinese collector would transport them to the next collector in Pontianak City. From this city, the bears would be transported, by ship, from Indonesia to neighbouring countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. Transportation could also be over land, usually through an area called Entikong, on the border between Indonesia and Malaysia, and then directly to Kuching City in Malaysia.

Mr. Heru added that, particularly in West Kalimantan, the hunting of Malayan sun bears usually occurs in Bukit Baka National Park. Unfortunately, there was no official report of this hunting. Also, it seemed very difficult to control it, because of the local situation. There were so few forestry officers (rangers) to patrol hundreds of thousands of acres of protected areas. Mr. Heru stated that there were only 3 Forestry Department officers to protect thousands of acres in the Sintang Region.

Further research revealed that some rangers of the Conservation Unit of the Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya National Park admitted to seeing people with a hunted Malayan sun bear, but they had let them go free on the assumption that they had not hunted the bear in the national park protected areas.

In the Sanggau Regency, situated approximately 100 km to the west of the Sintang Regency, investigators found 1 Malayan sun bear cub, kept by the owner a restaurant and hotel. According to the owner, it would be possible for the investigators to buy a bear from villagers who had recently been in the jungle.

Other information stated that the wild caught bears usually come from the Putussibau Regency. This Regency is situated approximately 700 km to the east of Pontianak. However, when investigators reached this Regency, not enough information about the trade in Malayan sun bears could be gathered. People only stated that it was the Dayak people who usually hunted the bears and sold them to city people. They usually hunted the bears in the villages of Nangabolan and Curuk. These villages are situated approximately 250 km from Putussibau. According to one of the workers, who worked for one of the logging companies in Curuk, the workers usually hunt wild animals while working in the jungle. The animals hunted included deer, wild pig, gibbon, and sometimes Malayan sun bear. According to the worker, bears rarely appear now.

Sumatra

KSBK investigators visited several areas, which are the habitat of the Malayan Sun bear in Sumatra. These included: the Bengkulu Province; Jambi, in the Jambi Province; Medan, in the North Sumatra Province; and Leuser National Park, in the North Sumatera Province.

Bengkulu is well known for its Provincial mascot, the Malayan sun bear. However, during the visit to this province in mid January 2001, only limited information about the hunting of the Malayan sun bear could be found. One of the reasons for this is the decreasing Malayan sun bear population. Some people said that the Malayan sun bear still existed in Gunung Seblat (Seblat Mountain) in North Bengkulu. The investigators found a Malayan sun bear kept by the owner of the Rio Asri Hotel. The bear had reportedly been taken from Padang, in West Sumatra, 6 years ago.

Based on data from the Conservation Unit of the Forestry Department of Jambi Province, (the Inventory List of people who own protected Species in 3 Regencies around Jambi Province), there were still many people who kept Malayan sun bears, both live bears and stuffed dead bears, in the Bungo Tebo Regency, in Jambi Province. One of the owners of a stuffed bear said that 20 years ago there were many Malayan sun bears living around the Regency. However, they were now rare because of the high level of hunting activity and habitat destruction.

Generally, information about the hunting of Malayan sun bear in the Jambi Province was limited. In fact, the Inventory list from the officer showed 15 stuffed bears and 3 live bears owned by the people living in the Jambi Province. Many officers had information on sightings of Malayan sun bears in the wild but not on the trade. Meanwhile, The Head of Information and Inventory, in the Customs Office in Jambi, stated that there had been no case involving the trade in Malayan sun bears, or any other protected species in the Jambi Province for at least the last 5 years.

The investigators also visited Merangin village in the Gunung Kerinci National Park, as one of the habitats of the Malayan sun bear in the Jambi Province. Some local people said that there were still many Malayan sun bears inhabiting the area, but that the trade was extremely rare.

Further information, provided by local people, revealed that there were shipments of Malayan sun bears from Kuala Tungkal, in the Jambi Province, to other countries outside Indonesia, via Batam Island. Local people said that usually a bear is shipped once a month. It was stated that Kuala Tungkal is the central place where people carry out transactions on import-export goods, and the trade goes on despite the law. When the investigators checked the information in Kuala Tungkal Port and

its surrounding areas in January 2002, no evidence of the trade and overseas shipment of live Malayan sun bears was found. Local people revealed that about a year ago Malayan sun bear cubs were sometimes brought to foreign freighters at the port, but they had not seen this recently. Evidence of the bear trade and overseas shipment at this port was difficult to find. This can be explained by the fact that the port was more strictly guarded than previously and the Malayan sun bear more difficult to find in the wild.

In Gunung Leuser National Park, there was no record of Malayan sun bear hunting. Unit Manajemen Leuser (UML), the institution that helps to manage Gunung Leuser National Park, had no information of Malayan sun bear hunting in the area. There were some killings of Malayan sun bears, but these were because of claimed bear damage to villagers' plantations. There was no hunting of bears specifically to catch and sell the bears.

Meanwhile, investigators were offered Malayan sun bears in Medan bird market, in North Sumatra. The price of a Malayan sun bear was Rp.1,500,000 (US\$166.00). However, an order had to be placed, and the bear would arrive 3 days later.

Poaching sun bears

Most poaching of Malayan sun bears used hand made guns called "Lantak", according to information gathered and the results of following hunters in Desa Randau Jekak, in the Ketapang Region of West Kalimantan, during October and November 2001. The hunters would be in a group,



Malayan sun bear caged on a Chinese bear farm. Even though the most common bears are Asiatic black bears, Asiatic brown bears and Malayan sun bears are also used.

usually consisting of 3-4 hunters. In a group, the hunters could guard each other if they came into contact with a sun bear. Once they had seen a bear, they would try to shoot it in the head to kill the bear immediately. However, if the bear was still alive and tried to cause them any harm, then the other hunters would shoot at it. This is because the Lantak is a 'one-load, one-shot' gun and needs time to be reloaded.

Trapping using a modified lasso, usually made of rattan or plastic rope, tied to a bent tree was another way to poach Malayan sun bears. If a sun bear entered the trap and 'tripped' the lasso, it would be pulled upwards. This was used when the tracks of a Malayan sun bear were identified, for example the faeces, claw-marks when looking for termites, climbing marks on trees, etc. After being trapped, the bear would be shot and killed using the Lantak.

A student of the Faculty of Forestry, at Tanjungpura University, informed the investigators that if hunters found a Malayan sun bear cub, left by its mother among the aerial roots of large trees, then the hunters would tie up the cub in order to lure the mother to the site. When the mother appeared, the concealed hunters, usually in the tree, would shoot her.

Some poaching methods were to capture bear cubs. So that while the hunters could kill the mother, eat the meat, and take the body parts (including the gall bladder), they could also take the live cub, which could be sold at a high price.

Generally, the hunters would be equipped with large knives, in order to cut branches, guard themselves from attack and also to cut up the hunted animals.

If the bear were large enough, the hunters would kill the animal, cut it up and skin it, in order to make it easier to carry in rattan baskets back to their village. A smaller bear would be carried whole on the back of a hunters. If a cub had been caught, it would be placed in a rattan basket.

Uses of live Malayan sun bears

Most live Malayan sun were kept as pets. The people who kept Malayan sun bears, which were still cubs or young bears, did so because the bears were cute and attractive. However, they did not appreciate these cuddly cubs would grow into large and dangerous animals. Between October 2001 to December 2001, the investigators found 6 Malayan sun bears being held captive as pets in Kota Pontianak, Kabupaten Sintang, Kabupaten Ketapang, Kabupaten Singkawang and Kabupaten Nangapinoh. Three of the bears were still young (around 4-12 months). There was only one big bear and this bear had been kept as a pet, since being a cub 3 years ago.

Some sources of information, for example from people who used to carry out logging work in the border areas between Indonesia and Malaysia, stated that live Malayan sun bears were also often sent abroad to be kept as pets. A few Singaporeans and other researchers also stated that Malayan sun bears were also destined for consumption, usually for bear paw soup, which is consumed in Singapore for example. In China, the Malayan sun bear is one of the bear species held captive and 'milked' for its bile. The bear bile is then processed into Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), either on the bear bile farm itself or by a separate pharmaceutical company.

Some indigenous people said that they also capture the bear in order to have a 'stock', in case a family member has a serious immediate injury.

The investigators found two Malayan sun bears kept as mascots by Battalion 641 in the Singkawang Region, in West Kalimantan. This Battalion is called "Batalyon Beruang Hitam" (Black Bear Battalion). In an interview with an IMO (Indonesia-Malaysia Officer) who previously worked for this Battalion, he said that Battalion 641 has 4 branch military companies (Kompi), which are located around this region in Kolor, Sambas, Bengkayang and Pemangkat. Each branch company

had a sun bear as their mascot. According to this officer, the sun bears are often changed; if a bear dies then they try to find a new one.

The price of live Malayan sun bears

Prices of live Malayan sun bears varied greatly. The cheapest was US\$ 11.10 per animal, directly from the bear hunter. The highest price was US\$ 222, in Jakarta.

Table 1. Price variation for live Malayan sun bears

Location	Price
1. Hunter in West Kalimantan	US\$ 11.00-33.00
2. Sintang Region in West Kalimantan	US\$ 11.00-33.00
3. Pontianak Port in West Kalimantan	US\$ 67.00
4. Medan Bird Market in North Sumatra	US\$ 66.00
5. Pramuka Bird Market, in Jakarta	US\$ 222.00

Note: US\$ 1 = Rp 9,000

Trade routes of live Malayan sun bears

As a cub, the Malayan sun bear is very attractive, then when it becomes an adult, people can use its gall bladder, which is believed to be an effective medicinal treatment for internal injuries and other serious illnesses. There is also demand for other Malayan sun bear parts, such as the claws, canine teeth, and the skin, which are used for decoration, in collections, as souvenirs and also as spiritual (magical) tools. In general, there are two live trading categories: domestic and exports.

Domestic trade in live Malayan sun bears

It was found that most of the sun bears involved were usually young (3-24 months). Even if a villager unintentionally found a cub or young bear, he would usually take it to nearest village or region to sell it, this happened in the Sintang region and Nangapinoh district. Based on the information gathered, a villager would often bring a bear cub from surrounding villages to this region and district in order to sell it. The price for a young sun bear here was found to be approximately Rp 100.000-300.000 (US\$ 10.00-30.00).

Villagers would sometimes sell a cub directly to city people, whilst arranging transport for logs or other items. The bear would be taken with the timber, from the villages to the city. During the investigation in Nangapinoh District, in West Kalimantan, the investigators found a cub with a timber trader who said that he had bought it a few days earlier. It was still in the box that it had been transported; a wooden box, 40cm tall x 50cm wide x 30 cm deep, covered with wire mesh.

It was stated that the Malayan sun bear trade from Kalimantan also utilised seafaring freight ships, since there were fewer officials and it was also easier to carry animals, including the sun bear. This type of ship mainly transported timber and other basic materials from the island of Kalimantan.

Export of live Malayan sun bears

The information obtained, mostly from other researchers, stated that the Malayan sun bear was also exported from Indonesia for several purposes, including the pet industry or for food consumption. One trade route involved Pontianak Port, the biggest port for both international and domestic trade routes in Kalimantan – although this could not be confirmed. This may have been due to there simply being no shipments at the time of the investigators' visit, or that the investigators had difficulty in entering the exporting freighters.

However, the Pontianak Post newspaper, Radar Ketapang (6/10/01) published an article entitled "Diburu Cukong, Satwa Langka Terancam Punah" ("Hunted by Cukong, the rare animals become threatened") by Darwin, S.Hut. This stated that Gunung Palong National Park, situated in the Ketapang Region of West Kalimantan, had become the hunting ground for wild animals such as orangutan, proboscis monkey, barking deer, binturong, and also Malayan sun bear. This hunting was carried out by efficient hunters, who sold the pre-ordered animals to foreigners. Destinations included Singapore, Malaysia, and Australia. The modus operandi involved using local people, living around Gunung Palong National Park, to hunt the animals, which were then smuggled by sea – this was assumed to be the safest way to avoid customs checks.

In addition to using sea routes, the investigators also received information, from loggers and ex-loggers working at logging locations around the border area between Indonesia and Sarawak Malaysia, about some land trade routes, which were usually used to smuggle goods abroad, including the Malayan sun bear, via Sungai Beruang and Desa Malenggang. The area is situated around the border with Sarawak, Malaysia. These alternative border routes between West Kalimantan and Malaysia had minimum, or no customs controls because they are difficult to pass.

The investigators also visited some legal border areas, including Desa Entikong and Seluas, which connect West Kalimantan and Sarawak, Malaysia. The investigators did not find any evidence of the Malayan sun bear trade along these trade routes, but some trade in wild animals, such as birds, did occur in areas such as Entikong.

The Malayan sun bear is not only traded alive, but also dead, as bear parts. The gall bladder is the most well known part of the Malayan Sun bear, which is often sold. People use the bear gall as a medicine, as it is believed to have certain medicinal properties. The claws and canine teeth are commonly sold as souvenirs.

Pontianak city, in West Kalimantan, has become one of the trade centres for the Malayan sun bear. It was found that many Malayan sun bear parts, such as claws, canine teeth, and also bear gall bladders, were openly traded. During the investigation from November 2000 to January 2001, the investigators found 64 bear claws and 35 canine teeth in approximately 15 souvenir shops in Patimura Road, in Pontianak. Several shops in the same location also sold the canine teeth of the

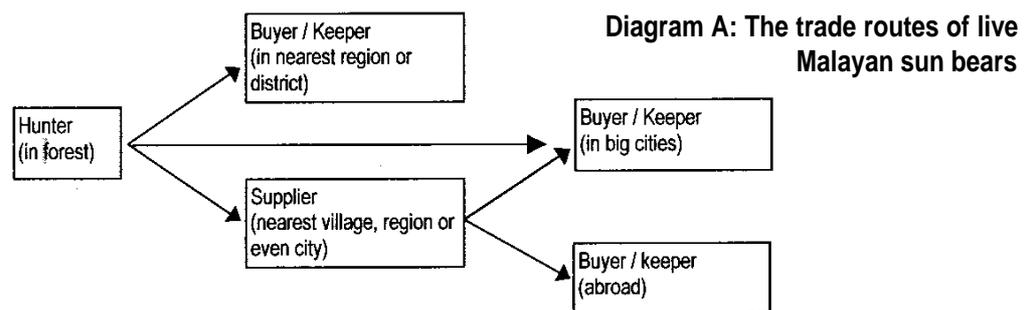


Table 2: List of live Malayan sun bears found being kept and traded during the investigation (November 2000 - February 2002)

No	Place	Number	Age	Time Found	Information
1	Kerinci Region, Jambi, Sumatra	1	?	December 1998	Based on the Confiscation Record of Illegally Owned Protected Species in Jambi Province, Sumatera, by SBKSDA Jambi, March 1999
2	Tanjung Jabung Region, Jambi, Sumatra	1	?	December 1998	Based on the Confiscation Record of Illegally Owned Protected Species in Jambi Province, Sumatera, by SBKSDA Jambi, March 1999
3	Rio Asri Hotel, Bengkulu, Sumatra	1	± 6 years old	2001 and 2002	Bought from Padang city, West Sumatra Province.
4	Jakarta	2	Around 5 months and 2 years old	May 2001	On sale in Pramuka Bird Market, Jakarta
5	Sungai Durian Village, Sintang Region, West Kalimantan	1	4 years old	November 2000 and November 2001	According to the owner, he got the cub from a villager who brought it directly to his welding shop.
6	Dusun Merano, Sintang Region, West Kalimantan.	2	1 year old and 3 years old	December 2000	The owner bought the sun bears when they were still cubs from a villager living near the jungle. He bought them in Sungai Durian traditional market, Sintang.
7	Sanggau Region, West Kalimantan	1	3 months old	December 2000	The owner said that he bought the cub from a villager who had just come out of the jungle around Sanggau.
8	Singkawang Region, West Kalimantan	2	Around 3 years old and 1 year old	November 2001 and December 2001	Kept as mascots by "Batalyon Beruang Hitam" 641
9	Ketapang Region, West Kalimantan	1	Around 1.5 years old	November 2001	The owner said that he got the bear from his friend who had just come out from hunting in the jungle.
10	Pontianak City, West Kalimantan	1	Around 1 year old	November 2001	The house keeper just said that the owner had bought the bear from someone
11	Nangapinoh District, West Kalimantan	1	Around 1 year old	November 2001	The owner said that he had bought the bear when a villager had accidentally offered the cub of a bear, in front of his house.
	Total Number	14			

Sumatran tiger. In addition, the investigators found 25 Malayan sun bear claws and 10 canine teeth for sale in one of the traditional Indonesian antique artifact shops in Tanjung Pura Road. The claws and the canine teeth of the bear are used as souvenirs, especially as liontin (beautiful/precious small objects attached to the middle of a necklace).

Table 3: Numbers of Malayan sun bear parts found traded during the investigation (November 2000 - January 2001)

Location	Claw	Canine teeth	Other teeth	Paw	Gall Bladder
Pontianak	89	45	0	1	13
Sintang	0	0	0	1	2
Jakarta	8	0	0	0	6
Jambi	5	2	>10	0	0
Medan	6	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	108	47	>10	2	23

(NB In addition, a further 15 gall bladders were found being traded during the second investigation period between October 2001 and February 2002)

The trade in bear gall bladders is common in Pontianak, with people strongly believing that the bear gall can be an effective medicine to heal serious injuries such as swellings, sprains, bone fractures, concussion, etc. The investigators found 4 locations selling intact bear galls in this town. There were at least 13 bear galls found in these 4 locations. The price of a whole intact bear gall varied greatly. In one of the drug stores in Tanjung Pura Road, in Pontianak, a whole intact bear gall would sell for Rp 600,000 (US\$67.00). The trader would also sell it in pieces (priced per gram). In another place, one trader of traditional Indonesian antique artifacts sold intact bear gall for only Rp 50,000 (US\$5.60). Commonly, the price could be bargained. In other places, the price of intact bear gall ranged between Rp 100,000 and Rp 150,000 (US\$11.10 - US\$16.70). A villager in one store said to be careful about buying fake bear gall. He confessed that he was originally from Putussibau Regency, in West Kalimantan Province, and that there were some villagers in this Regency who kept Malayan sun bears. He stated that the bear is kept for preventative purposes, in case a member of the family becomes seriously ill.

However, it was surprising to find a Malayan sun bear paw (with its claws) for sale at a souvenir store in Supadio Airport, Pontianak. During the investigation between October 2001 and February 2002, the investigators found 5 Malayan sun bear gall bladders in “Kios Cinder Mata and Souvenir” (Souvenir and Handicraft Shop) in Supadio Airport Pontianak, which is ironic because the shop is owned by one of the airport officers. The Malayan bear gall bladders in Airport were for sold Rp100.000 (US\$ 11.10) each intact gall. The investigators also found 6 claws in Polonia Airport, in Medan-North Sumatera, priced at US\$ 6.60 for each claw. One would have expected effective enforcement by Customs officers at such locations, yet, parts of the protected Malayan sun bear were openly sold here.

Some traders stated that it was easy to get the paws and claws in the city. Villagers would catch a bear and take its gall bladder, and then they would sell the other body parts to the (nearest) city.

In the Sintang region, in West Kalimantan, investigators found a villager carrying a bear gall costing US\$22 and also a bear paw, complete with claws, which was offered for US\$11. According to him, he had caught the bear in the jungle near his home. He said that there were only a few people who catch and sell Malayan sun bears as a profession. Besides the work being too dangerous, he stated that the bears were now difficult to find in the jungle. However, he admitted that people still hunt the Malayan sun bear at least once a year, depending on how often people find a bear. He said that people kill the Malayan sun bear in order to take the gall for traditional medicine.

Further information, mostly from local people and workers from a logging company, revealed that bears were also usually caught by people from forest villages, such as Bai-Betung village, in the



Bear gall bladder and Tieh Ta Wan, a product containing bear bile, found on sale in Indonesia. The pen gives an idea of the size of the organ.

Nobal District, situated about 30 km from Sintang, and also in the Putussibau Regency, situated about 300 km to the east of the Sintang Regency, in West Kalimantan. This hunting is usually carried out once in a month.

In Jambi, in Sumatra, the investigators found a trader of traditional Indonesian antique artifacts who sold 5 bear claws for a maximum of Rp 30.000 (US\$ 3.30) per claw, 2 canine teeth for a maximum of Rp 100.000 (US\$11.10) each, and more than 10 other types of teeth.

The investigation revealed evidence that people also consume bear parts. The investigators found two hotels that serve bear-paw soup in Medan, where the majority of the citizens are Chinese. One hotel offered the investigators bear-paw soup for Rp 2,000,000 (US\$222.20) per portion, for a maximum of 10 people. According to the head of the restaurant, they had to order the bear-paw soup at least 15 days in advance, because the bear would be delivered directly from China (i.e. not a local bear). People usually ordered bear-paw soup in order to strengthen or to increase a man's sexual virility. In the other hotel, bear-paw soup had become a 'Very Special Dish' that was only served to special guests or at special events. The restaurant of this hotel was an exclusive venue, with a membership system.

The price of Malayan sun bear parts

Several different parts of the Malayan sun bear were found being traded during the investigation between November 2000 and January 2001. These were: claws; canine teeth; paws; and gall bladders. The prices of the different parts are shown in table ⁴.

Table 4: Price variation for Malayan sun bear parts found during the investigation (November 2000 - January 2001) (US\$)

Bear Parts	Locations				
	Pontianak	Sintang	Jakarta	Jambi	Medan
1. Claws	1.40 - 3.90	0	5.50	3.90	6.60
2. Canine teeth	2.20 - 3.80	0	0	11.00	0
3. Paws	?	11.10	0	0	0
4. Gall Bladders	6.60 - 16.70 and 66.70 per gall	22.00 and 55.60 per gall	55.50 - 111.00 per gall	0	6.30 per 0.37 gram

The price of the Malayan sun bear gall bladder varied depending on its stage in the supply chain. In Desa Belaban Ella, in Central Kalimantan, 'supplier 1' paid Rp 75.000 (US\$8.30) for a gall bladder, directly from the hunter, who had taken it from the forest. Then the first supplier sold it to a supplier at a higher level ('supplier 2') in Kecamatan Nangapinoh for Rp 100.000 (US\$11.10). The second supplier then sold it for Rp 125.000 (US\$13.90) to traders at the city or district level.

In addition to the information in Table 3, during the investigation carried out between October 2001 and December 2001, the investigators found 10 gall bladders in only one Chinese drug store in Pontianak city. The galls in this big city were sold for Rp 100.000 (US\$11.10) each. According to the owner of the store, he obtained the gall bladders direct from 'first supplier' who collected them from the villagers living around the forest. Therefore, the price is still cheap. In some other drug stores, the price for an intact gall bladder could be up to Rp 600.000 (US\$66.70).

Govind, V and Ho, S.⁴ reported finding bear galls in Singapore, some of which, according to the shop owners, were from Indonesia (Malayan sun bears). The price of Malayan sun bear gall in Singapore could be as high as Sg\$100 - Sg\$800 (US\$55.60 - US\$444.40). Meanwhile, Malayan sun bear galls in Kuching city, Sarawak Malaysia, were found to cost RM 1,000.00 (US\$ 277.80).

Table 5: Price variation for Malayan sun bear gall bladder in several areas in West Kalimantan and its surrounds.

Price from hunter	Price from supplier 1	Price from supplier 2	Price in drug stores in city (Pontianak)	Price in Singapore	Price in Sarawak, Malaysia
Rp 75.000 (US\$ 8.30)	Rp 100.000 (US\$ 11.10)	Rp 125.000 (US\$ 13.90)	Rp 100.000-600.000 (US\$ 11.10-66.70)	Sg\$100-800 (US\$55.60-444.40) (Rp 500.000-4.000.000)	RM 1,000.00 (US\$ 277.80) (Rp 2.500.000)

Note: US\$ 1.00 = Rp 9.000

The trade route of Malayan sun bear parts

Generally, the trade route for Malayan sun bear parts is as follows: From the hunters, the parts were sold to supplier 1 who usually lived in the same village. The first supplier sold the parts to supplier 2 in the nearest town, region or district; then the second supplier sold the parts to a main supplier who lived in a big city. This main supplier would distribute the bear parts to various shops around the city, to other cities and also to other countries. An alternative route involved the hunters selling the parts directly to supplier 2 or the main supplier in order to get a higher price.

When the investigators were in the village of Belaban Ella, in the Nangapinoh district, they met a 'first stage' supplier, who supplied bear galls and other bear parts. In addition, he also collected other forest products, such as Gaharu wood, and other wild animal parts, such as pangolin scales,



The ports in Ponianak, West Kalimantan.

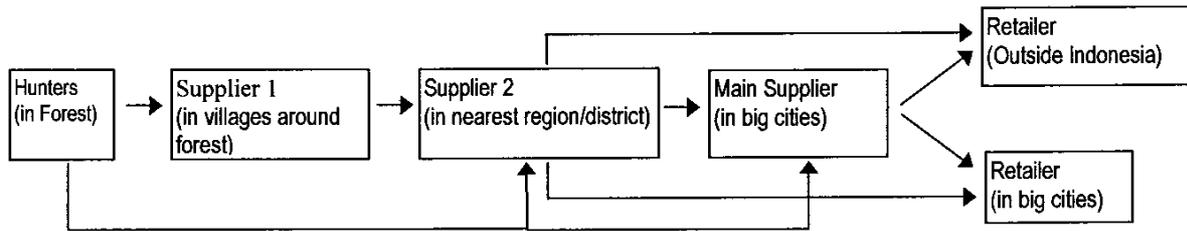
snake skin, etc. He stated that the parts would be sold to second suppliers in the Nangapinoh district. There were two 'second stage' suppliers in this district.

The 'first stage' supplier brought the animal parts to the village border by public transport: a truck owned by a local company. This journey took about 1 hour. The company's trucks had become the only means of transportation, used by the villagers, to go from place to place. The supplier would then spend 1 hour on a speedboat to get to the Nangapinoh District. The cost of the speedboat was Rp 30.000 (US\$ 3.00). He admitted that he usually sold his goods at Nangapinoh at the same time he needed to buy items for his family and his stall (he had a stall selling villagers' basic needs).

The investigators found approximately 5 kg of pangolin scales, which were ready to be exported to Malaysia, when they visited a 'second stage' supplier's house in the Nangapinoh District. However, he denied that he often bought sun bear gall bladders from the villagers, and then sold them on. The investigators also visited the other 'second stage' supplier's house. He also denied that he transported sun bear gall bladders to the city or exported them outside the country. However, a member of his staff, who usually helped him to transport his goods, claimed that the supplier also delivered his goods, including sun bear gall bladders, to Malaysia. The supplier finally showed the investigators two bear paws, which he had bought the previous week from a villager. He also kept Kalimantan gibbon (*Hylobates muelleri*) in his garden.

These two 'second stage' suppliers were suppliers of various forest products, such as Gaharu wood, pangolin scales, snake skin, and other animal parts, including sun bear parts. From the suppliers in Nangapinoh, the sun bear gall bladders are transported to Pontianak City or are directly exported to countries such as Malaysia and Singapore. In a telephone conversation with a 'second stage' supplier, he stated that he sold forest products, and sometimes bear galls, to a person who also exported Gaharu wood. However, this exporter stated that he never sold any bear gall bladders, when the investigators tried to crosscheck this information.

Diagram B: The trade route of Malayan sun bear parts



Threats from the logging industry

Gabriella Fredriksson⁵, who has been researching Malayan sun bears for the past 4 years in East Kalimantan, informed the investigators that she had been offered sun bear gall bladders many times in the areas where she worked. The traders stated that the bear galls are most often bought by workers of several Korean plywood companies around Balikpapan, in Kalimantan Timur. She added that the loggers often came into contact with Malayan sun bears in their working areas. They would then kill the adult bear for its gall bladder and take the cub to be sold as a pet. Erik Meijaard³ states that activities in timber concession are often accompanied by a significant increase in hunting pressure by logging crews, who hunt the bears for food, or sell the bears alive, or dead as bear parts. The impact on available food sources is another effect of logging which is likely to affect the bear population.

Law Enforcement Needed

The quantity of illegal trade in Malayan sun bear parts showed clearly that law enforcement was still inadequate. During the survey, all the government officials that were met with and contacted, including the officers of the Customs Office and the Local Forestry Department, who have the authority to protect wildlife especially the protected species, said that there was no problem with regard to the trade in Malayan sun bear parts. They did not have any data about it, although sometimes the crimes were taking place 'right in front of them', as had happened in Polonia Airport, in Medan, and Supadio Airport, in Pontianak. They even tended to let the trade go on. However, Erik Meijaard³ states that in several cases, bear parts were seized in shops selling souvenirs and antique items. This had happened a few years ago in Balikpapan, Samarinda and also Pontianak, the three major towns in West and East Kalimantan. Nevertheless, it appears that in other parts of Kalimantan, most breaches of the law concerning Malayan sun bears did not result in law enforcement or prosecutions.

The illegal trade in bear products

During the period from November 2000 to January 2001, KSBK investigators visited 124 drug stores in several major cities, and certain regions associated with bear hunting and trade, in Indonesia, in order to investigate the trade in drugs containing bear products. The cities and regions investigated were:

1. Jakarta
2. Yogyakarta, Central Java
3. Surabaya, East Java
4. Pontianak, West Kalimantan



Bear products on display in Jakarta.

5. Sintang Region, West Kalimantan
6. Bengkulu, Sumatra
7. Jambi, Sumatra
8. Medan, North Sumatra

It was found that 78 of the 124 stores (62.9%) sold bear parts or products (see table 6 for further details).

The drug stores in Indonesia can be classified into several different categories:

1. Common drug store - this type of store only sells common/local drugs, such as Decolgen, Bodrex, Vicks, etc. A few of these shops also sell Chinese drugs.

2. Chinese drug store - this type of drug store sells many kinds of Chinese drugs, which are made in China and are commonly known as Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). They can be easily recognised from the Chinese writing on the packaging. The Chinese drug store sometimes accepts prescriptions from Chinese physicians.

3. Drug stall - these are usually found on the edge of the street and are not permanent (can be moved at anytime). Some common drugs are usually sold on these stalls. Some drug stalls also sell drugs that are unregistered by Department of Health.

4. Street druggist - they usually sell alternative drugs, which are made using traditional methods. They also sometimes sell traditional Indonesian antique artifacts. Many animal parts are also sold in these places, both for medical use and as souvenirs. The street druggist does not have a permanent shop but has a 'claimed' place for selling products, such as in front of certain hotels, in certain areas of traditional markets, etc.

5. Chemist's Store (Apotek: Ind.) - this type of store only sells common drugs, which are mostly registered with the Department of Health. The Apotek has a real Pharmacist and usually accepts Doctor's prescription to issue certain drugs.

KSBK investigators visited almost every kind of drug stores, but focused on the stores or places, expected to sell drugs from China and also some animal parts. These included Chinese drug stores, Common drug stores, and also the street druggist.

Most of the traders, and also the owners of the drug stores, were Chinese, but they were also Indonesian citizens. They mostly spoke Chinese, especially whilst serving the customers, who were also Chinese. Some traders seemed to have difficulty in speaking Indonesian, whilst serving customers who spoke Indonesian.

Generally, the types of bear drug products found in Indonesia can be divided into three categories:

1. Manufactured bile medicines - these products contain bear bile mixed with other Chinese herbal medicine. The medicines take various forms, such as pills, tablets, capsules, creams, ointments, and plasters.

2. Farmed bear bile powder - these products are manufactured and packaged on bear farms in China. The product is pure bear bile in the form of flakes or crystals, usually packaged in small vials.

3. Intact bear gall - the bear gall is usually sold in pieces (per gram) or as a whole gall. The gall can be used as the main ingredient of a medicine and mixed with other traditional herbal medicines, or 'directly drunk mixed with warm water' (this can involve two methods. Firstly, if new, wet and fresh, the gall is squeezed in order to obtain the bile and this is mixed with warm water in a spoon or a cup, and then drunk. The second method, if the gall is no longer fresh, is to cut it up into smaller pieces and knead them, then each piece, usually 0.37 gr per use, is dissolved into warm water, then the patient drinks the water. The term "directly drunk" means that the gall does not need to be mixed with other traditional (herbal) medicine.)

Table 6: Numbers of drug stores visited in each city

No.	City/Location	Total number of stores visited	Number of stores selling bear bile medicine (and %)	Number of stores selling bear bile powder (and %)	Number of stores selling bear gall bladders (and %)	Total number of stores selling bear parts or products (and %)
1	Jakarta, Java	35	15 (42.9%)	1 (2.9%)	5 (14.3%)	20 (57.1%)
2	Yogyakarta, Central Java	13	10 (76.9%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	10 (76.9%)
3	Surabaya, East Java	12	8 (66.7%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	8 (66.7%)
4	Pontianak, West Kalimantan	20	11 (55.0%)	0 (0.0%)	4 (20.0%)	14 (70.0%)
5	Sintang, West Kalimantan	5	4 (80.0%)	0 (0.0%)	1 (20.0%)	5 (100.0%)
6	Bengkulu, Sumatra	13	2 (15.4%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (15.4%)
7	Jambi, Sumatra	14	9 (64.3%)	0 (0.0%)	0 (0.0%)	9 (64.3%)
8	Medan, North Sumatra	12	10 (83.3%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (16.7%)	10 (83.3%)
	Totals	124	69 (55.65%)	1 (0.8%)	12 (9.7%)	78 (62.9%)

NB 1) Percentages calculated from the total number of stores, relevant to that category.
2) Some stores sold more than one type of product.

Information about the bear parts and products found at the 8 locations follows.

Jakarta

Jakarta is the capital city of Indonesia. It has a multi-ethnic population including Chinese. In this, the largest city in Indonesia, the investigators visited 35 drug stores in 7 locations:

1. Blok M-South Jakarta,
2. Glodok-West Jakarta,
3. Ambassador Mall-South Jakarta,
4. Mangga Dua ITC-North Jakarta,
5. Jelambar-West Jakarta,
6. Jembatan dua-West Jakarta, and
7. Pancoran-South Jakarta.

Of the 35 stores visited, 20 of them were found to be selling bear parts or products. Almost all the stores surveyed were located in China town except for several street druggists.

The bear parts and products found in Jakarta were:

- a. Pien Tze Huang.
- b. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan).
- c. Pien Tze Huang Bleaching Cream.
- d. Pien Tze Huang Hemorrhoid Ointment.
- e. Musk Hemorrhoid Ointment.
- f. Fel Ursi Hemorrhoid.
- g. Fargelin for piles (high Strength).
- h. Musk bear bile.
- i. Zhongbuo Moschus Fel Ursi, produksi Guangzhou-bai yun.
- j. Chui Fong Tou Ku Koo: rheumatic pill, costing between Rp 15,000-17,500.
- k. Bear bile powder (Crystallized bear bile).
- l. Malayan sun bear gall (both whole and cut up in pieces).

The investigator also found trade in bear claws in a souvenir centre in Pasar Seni Taman Impian Jaya Ancol, Jakarta. They each cost between Rp 50,000-100,000 (US\$ 5.50-11.10).

Yogyakarta, Central Java

In contrast to Jakarta, Yogyakarta did not have many drug stores. There were only 13 stores located by the investigators. Of these 13, 10 of them were found to be selling bear products.

The bear products found in Yogyakarta were:

- a. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan).
- b. Pien Tze Huang, can be bought as individual capsules or in a pack.
- c. Yunnan Paiyao Capsule.
- d. Diedayaowang - Musk and Bear Bile Preparation (Revival Pill)

The investigation into the trade in bear products conducted in Yogyakarta focused on 'Pecinan' (the China town). The stores are located in the centre of the town, on the streets of Jl. Malioboro and Jl. A. Yani.

Surabaya, East Java

As with Yogyakarta, there were fewer drug stores available in Surabaya. The investigators found 12 drug stores, 8 of which sold drugs containing bear gall or bear bile. (There were no live bears traded in Surabaya during the investigation).

The bear products found in Surabaya were:

- a. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan).
- b. Yunnan Paiyao, 'brown pack', costing Rp 7,500.
- c. Yunnan Baiyao, 'green pack', costing Rp 16,000.

Most of the stores were found in the China town of Surabaya.

Pontianak, West Kalimantan

Pontianak is the capital of West Kalimantan Province. There are many Chinese people living in this city and many Traditional Chinese Medicine drug stores, some of which sold bear parts or products. Of the 20 stores visited, 14 of them were found to sell bear products. Some stores sold medicines containing bear gall, and others also sold whole bear gall.

The bear products found in Pontianak were:

- a. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan), costing between Rp 4,000-Rp 5,500 per pack.
- b. Pien Tze Huang, costing Rp 100,000 per pack (contains one pill).
- c. Yunnan Paiyao 'brown pack', costing Rp 6,000.
- d. Intact bear gall (there were 4 stores selling bear galls).

All the stores investigated in Pontianak City were located in the centre of 'Pecinan' (the China town). Most of the people in the centre of this city are Chinese. They mainly use Chinese for daily conversation, especially during transactions involving two Chinese people (as buyer and trader).

Sintang Region, West Kalimantan

Only 5 drug stores were visited in Sintang Regency. All of the stores sold bear products.

The bear products found in this small regency were:

- a. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan).
- b. Yunnan Paiyao, 'brown pack'.
- c. Intact bear gall.

Bengkulu, Sumatra

The investigators visited 13 drug stores in Bengkulu city. In contrast to the other cities, local people (Malay) owned all the drug stores, not Chinese. There were only 2 stores located in the China town, called 'Kampung Cina' (Chinese village), but the traders were still Malay. It was found that 2 of the 13 stores sold bear products.

The bear products sold in Bengkulu city were:

- a. Pien Tze Huang, costing Rp 300,000.
- b. Yunnan Paiyao, 'brown pack', costing Rp 11,000.



0.37 grammes of cut gall bladder is mixed with powder to stop it being sticky.

Jambi, Sumatra

Jambi Province is situated to the west of Bengkulu Province. The investigators visited 14 drug stores in Jambi City, which is the capital of Jambi Province. Of the 14 stores, 9 of them (64.3%) sold bear products. All the drug stores investigated were located in the China town of Jambi City.

The bear products found in Jambi City were:

- a. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan).
- b. Yunnan Paiyao, 'brown pack'.
- c. Pien Tze Huang.
- d. Diedayaowang-Musk and Bear Bile Preparation (Revival Pill) costing Rp 14,500.

Kota Medan, Sumatera Utara

Medan is the capital of North Sumatra Province. Of the 12 drug stores investigated, it was found that 10 stores sold bear products.

- a. Yunnan Paiyao 'brown pack'.
- b. Pien Tze Huang.
- c. Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan).
- d. One store sold a product titled 'Korean's Bear Gall' packaged in a 3x3x6 cm brown pack. It cost approximately Rp 150,000 (\$16.70) per pack. According to the trader, she obtained the product from her friend who had been to Singapore.
- e. Bear gall cut up into pieces.

Table 7. Bear parts and products found during the drug store investigation between November 2000-January 2001.

No.	Title	Type	Price	Functions	Places Found
1	Pien Tze Huang¹	Tablet and capsules	US\$11.10-26.10/pack.	Heart disease, hepatitis A and B and also non-A and non-B, prostate, sprains, burn injury, internal injury, healing wounds after surgery, etc.	Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Pontianak, Jambi and Medan
2	Pien Tze Huang "original"	Tablet and capsules	US\$33.30/ pack	Same as above	Bengkulu
3	Tieh Ta Wan Pharmaceutical Import & Export Corporation	Tablet/pill	US\$0.30-0.56/pack	bruises and sprain	Jakarta, Yogyakarta, Surabaya, Pontianak, Sintang
4	Pien Tze Huang	Bleaching Cream	-	?	Jakarta
5	Pianzhihuang Made in P.R. China Supervised by the China Chinese medicines institute for hemorrhoid	Hemorrhoid Ointment	US\$3.00	Hemorrhoid	Jakarta
6	Musk Hemorrhoid Ointment Wuhan MayingLong Pharmaceutical Co., LTD	Ointment	US\$1.20	same as above	Jakarta
7	Fel Ursi Hemorrhoid	Ointment	US\$0.70	Hemorrhoid, piles, swelling	Jakarta
8	Fargelin for Piles (High Strength) The United Pharmaceutical Manufactory. Kwangchow, China	Hemorrhoid pill	US\$0.61 (with a Chinese pack)	Hemorrhoid	Jakarta
9	Musk Bear Bile China National Chemical Imp. & Exp. Corp. Kwantung Branch. The People's Republic of China Inside leaflet: The People's Republic of China. Kwangchow First Chinese Medicine Factory	Capsule	US\$0.80-1.40	syphiloid, swelling, pink eyes, limpa, tuberculose, ophthalmitis, acute amygdalitis, sore-throat, acute ureteritis, bloody urine, and ureteralgia.	Jakarta
10	Zhongguo Moschus Fel Ursi Guangzhou Bai Yun Shan Yao Chang Chupin. Made in China	capsule	US\$1.70	Hemorrhoid	Jakarta
11	Mochus Fel Ursi-Chufeng T'oukuwan	Pill	US\$1.70-1.95	Rheumatism, inflammation, headache, limbs paralysis, etc.	Jakarta

	China National Medicine & Health Products Import & Export Corp., Guang Xi Wu Chow Branch				
12	Yunnan Paiyao (Brown pack) ² Yunnan Paiyao Factory China- Exported by Yunnan Medicines & Health Products-Imp & Exp Corp., China)	Capsule	US\$0.65/pack	internal injured, traumatic injury, fired wound, red swelling, etc.	Yogyakarta, Surabaya, Pontianak, Bengkulu
13	Yunnan Baiyao (Green Pack) ² Yunnan Baiyao Group Co., Ltd- Kunming, Yunnan, China	Capsule	US\$1.20-1.70/pack	As above	Surabaya.
14	Diedayaowang, Musk and bear bile Preparation Produced under the supervision of the United Pharmaceutical Manufactory, Kwangchow, China	Revival pill	US\$1.60	Serious injured, blood circulation, sprains, homeostasis and invigorate.	Yogyakarta & Jambi.
15	Crystallized bear bile	Crystals	US\$8.30/bottle	?	Jakarta
16	Malayan sun bear gall	Cut up into pieces or re-packaged in capsules	US\$1.10-4.40 per 0,04 until 2 grams	Difficulty in breathing, infection, internal injured, shock after fall, and bruises	Jakarta
17	Malayan sun bear gall	Cut up into pieces	US\$8.30 per 0.37gram	same as above	Medan
18	Malayan sun bear gall	Intact bear gall	US\$56.00 and 111.00	same as above	Jakarta and Sintang
19	13 Malayan sun bear galls	Intact bear gall	US\$5.60 & US\$11.00 and up to US\$67.00 each	same as above	Pontianak
20	1 Bear gall from Korea	Gall packed on 3x3x6 cm cover.	US\$16.70/pack	?	Medan

Notes:

1. There is no bear bile listed in the ingredients of the products, but some traders claimed that these products contained bear bile, while a few of them said that they did not. The traders that said they did not contain bear bile, said that the reason was because previously it was true, they did contain bear bile, but after bear bile/gall had become rare in the country where they were produced (China), they had changed the ingredients to snake gall.
2. Some traders said that both these products, in the brown packaging (Yunnan Paiyao/product no.12) and in the green packaging (Yunnan Baiyao/product no. 13) contained bear gall, but others said they did not or they did not know.
3. In addition to selling manufactured bear products and bear galls for medicinal purposes, some Indonesian stores also sold other bear parts such as bear claws.

The illegality of the bear products trade

Almost all the bear products found in the drug stores were from China. This was evident from the packaging and from the explanations given by the traders. The bear products are manufactured from bile produced in bear farms, taken mainly from Asiatic black bears, but also Asiatic brown bears and Malayan sun bears. These species are all listed on Appendix I of CITES (see pages 59 – 62), which prohibits international commercial trade in live or dead bears, their parts or derivatives. The trade in bear products identified during this investigation is obviously violating the international regulations established by CITES, which Indonesia has been a Party to since 1978.

Several of the drug stores identified in this study also sold bear galls. Apart from the gall bladder found in Medan, which was claimed to be from Korea (assumed to be from an Asiatic black bear), all the other bear galls found were stated to be galls from local bears, (Malayan sun bears – *Helarctos malayanus*). The species is listed as a nationally protected species, which means that the trade in live or dead bears, their parts or derivatives is prohibited (see Appendix 1.1). However, the traders did not seem to care about the regulation. The trade, which is obviously illegal, continues freely and widely, due to lack of law enforcement.

The suppliers of bear products

Several owners of the stores informed the investigators that most of the drugs containing bear bile are derived from China. The origin and the factory where the products were made are printed on the product packaging. The supplier distributes the products to drug stores throughout Indonesia. However, the owner of one drug store in Medan obtained a gall bladder directly from Singapore.

The most common product sold in all the drug stores visited was Tieh Ta Wan (Hsiung Tan). This product was claimed by some traders to be an effective drug, especially for healing serious internal injuries after a fall. On the packaging it is described as a treatment for bruises and sprains. The price is affordable at only Rp 3,750-5,000 (US\$0.41-0.56) per pack. One of the traders in Jakarta even stated that his customers usually bought the product by the dozen (12 packs) or in greater bulk.

Most of the products were labelled with the name of the importing company. One of the companies that imported bear bile products was PT. Saras Subur Ayoe, Jakarta. Almost all the products had been registered with the Department of Health, Republic of Indonesia. This was noted from the registration numbers printed on the product packaging. Based on the Head of the Department of Health in Malang, the registration means that the products have passed through laboratory health checks and do not contain dangerous materials, and that they can be sold in Indonesia.

When the investigators visited Kuching city in Sarawak in November 2001 and Pulau Batam, in Sumatra, in January 2002, in order to conduct further investigations into the trade of live Malayan sun bears and their gall bladders, they found the common bear product, Tieh Ta Wan, with a different appearance. According to the trader of one store in Kuching, in Sarawak, the product had previously contained bear bile/gall and this had been written directly on the pack as “Hsiung Tan” (bear gall in Chinese). However, after being banned the writing had been deleted and changed to “Yang Chen Brand”. Any reference to ‘bear bile’ could not be found listed in the ingredients, as there were no ingredients listed on the pack and these had been replaced with “Nutrition Facts”. However, the owner of the store himself was sure that the product still contained a little bear bile. The product had been imported by WELLMEX SDN BHD, of 23-26, Jalan Bidara 1-Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia. While in Batam, in Sumatra, the investigators also found the same product imported by another Malaysian company POHMAR SDN. BHD. K-163, Jalan Kentonmen, Kuala Lumpur, but still using “Hsiung Tan” and stating clearly that it contained bear bile (Fel ursi. 2%) on the packaging.



3 bear galls being sold on a street stall in front of the Central Hotel, Pontianak.

The consumers of bear products

Most of the traders and also the owners of the drug stores were Chinese, but they were also Indonesian citizens. Most of them spoke Chinese, especially when serving Chinese customers. Some traders seemed to have difficulty speaking Indonesian, whilst serving customers who only spoke Indonesian.

The use of bear gall in drug stores seems to be very common in cities where most of the population is Chinese, such as in Jakarta, Pontianak, and Medan. However, relative to the other products, bear gall is not used that much. A trader in Jakarta said that approximately only 1 person buys bear gall once a month. Consumers normally buy only some pieces (per gram) because the price of bear gall is so expensive. The traders, especially in Jakarta, said that they obtained the bear galls from a person who had returned to Java from a place such as Aceh, in Sumatra, and offered it to some drug stores in Jakarta. This person only came about once a year. While some traders in Pontianak, or other cities in Kalimantan and Sumatra, stated that they obtained the bear galls from villagers from the surrounding provinces, who had just returned from the jungle where they had hunted the sun bears.

Information about traders in bear products

Not all drug store traders knew that the products they sold contained bear gall or bile. If the investigators asked them whether they had any bear products, sometimes they said no, despite displaying such products in their shop windows. In contrast, when the investigators asked the same trader, who had previously denied selling bear products, if he had a certain brand product, then the trader would confirm this.

In fact, whether the traders did not know whether they sold any bear products or they pretended not to know, it is obvious that many Traditional Chinese Medicines containing bear bile were freely sold in the drug stores, despite the fact that this international trade is illegal.

The bear products were often openly displayed in shop windows. With regard to bear gall, the trader usually kept concealed, for example at the back of the store, in the house attached to the store. Some traders said that they had to keep the bear gall inside the house in order to keep it refrigerated. However, few traders said that they were worried, as they knew that bear gall was an illegal product. They did not seem to care about this, because they kept selling it.

Conclusion

Indonesia has become one of the few countries with the last remaining suitable habitat for Malayan sun bears. This species is now only found on two of the many thousands of islands of this country, Kalimantan and Sumatra. The KSBK investigation findings provide a strong indication that hunting and trade in Malayan sun bears, and their parts, still exists for many purposes. Some investigation information stated that Malayan sun bears were also exported outside Indonesia, although the investigators did not find any direct evidence when this was checked in the field.

The Malayan sun bear is included in the list of nationally protected species in Indonesia, forbidding trade in the Malayan sun bear, either alive or dead, including trade in its parts. Internationally, the Malayan sun bear is protected by CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora). It is listed on Appendix I, which prohibits commercial trade in live or dead bears, their parts or derivatives. In addition, data on the Malayan sun bear population in the wild is still very limited. Hunting and trade are very significant threats to the conservation of this endangered species.

The KSBK investigation findings from 124 drug stores across Indonesia show that there is an open and widespread illegal trade in bear gall and bile products, almost as if it were not illegal. In addition, the bear products are supported by permits on their packaging, which have been issued by the Department of Health.

Most of the bear products were derived from bear farms and drug manufacturers in China, which use several Asian bear species, including the Asiatic black bear, the brown bear and also the sun bear – all listed on Appendix I of CITES, making the export and import of these products illegal. The investigation results provide new data to show that Chinese bear products are indeed entering Indonesia in large quantities, after it had been previously reported that bear products have been distributed to other countries in the Asia region, including Japan, the Philippines, Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore. This is despite the fact that the Chinese government claims that currently neither bear parts or products containing bear bile are exported outside of mainland China^{6,7}.

The control of the trade in Malayan sun bears and their parts, as well as the trade in bear products, is still insufficient and it seems that there is no law enforcement by the relevant institutions.

Public awareness concerning the violation of laws covering the use of and trade in sun bears and their parts, as well as bear products, is still severely lacking.

Recommendations

- Several Forestry Department officers understand and know about the information regarding the hunting and trade in Malayan sun bears. However, when there is no law enforcement, so greater control and stricter, more effective, law enforcement is needed in order to stop the illegal hunting and trade in bears and their parts, and also the private keeping of bears, from becoming rampant.
- It is vital to increase the number of Forestry Department rangers in areas inhabited by the Malayan sun bear, as well as in the border regions between two countries so that control on the illegal trade can be maximised.
- The international trade in products containing the gall bladder or bile from Asian bear species violates the CITES agreement. The Indonesian government must not issue any permits to allow the trade and distribution of these products in Indonesia.
- There should be coordination between the relevant departments to stop the illegal trade in bear products. These include the Customs Office, the Department of Health, and the Forestry Department.
- Investigations conducted by government officers must be carried out, with the confiscation of bear products, as well as other illegal products.
- Public awareness concerning the violation of laws regarding the trade in bear products is greatly needed, as it can help to reduce the use of these illegal products.
- It is essential that the alternatives to bear gall and bear bile, are actively promoted. There are many synthetic and herbal alternatives, which can be substituted for bear bile and bear gall in Traditional Chinese Medicines. It is estimated that 100,000 kg of synthesised UDCA, the active constituent of bear bile, is already being consumed each year in China, Japan and South Korea⁷.

References

1. Groombridge, B (ed), 1993. 1994 IUCN Red Data List of Threatened Animals. IUCN Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.
2. MOF 1990. Act of the Republic of Indonesia No. 5/1990 concerning the conservation of living resources and their ecosystem. Ministry of Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia, Jakarta.
3. Meijaard, E. 1997. *Ursus (Helarctos) malayanus*, the neglected Malayan sun bear; a review of current status and literature with special emphasis on its conservation in Kalimantan Indonesia. The International MOF Tropenbos-WSPA.
4. Govind, V. and Ho, S. 2001. *The Trade in Bear Gall Bladder and Bile Products in Singapore*. Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), Singapore.
5. Fredricksson, G (2002), personal communication.
6. Watkins, V. and Hsieh, Y. (2000) Chinese bear farming: an assessment of Chinese bear farms and illegal bear bile trade. World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), UK.
7. Hsieh, Y. 2000. *From Cage to Consumer: An investigation into the illegal sale of Chinese bear bile and bear gall products in North America*. World Society for the Protection of Animal (WSPA), Canada & USA.

Appendix: Animal protection laws

1.1. Indonesian National legislation on Malayan sun bear protection

Nationally, the Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) has been included in the list of protected species since 1973 by the Decree of Ministry of Agriculture No. 66/Kpts/Um/2/1973. Thus, the trade of Malayan sun bears either dead or alive, including trade on its parts is forbidden. As it is stated in Act No. 5 1990 about Conservation of Natural Resources and its Ecosystem article 21 (2), the law states that any persons are prohibited to:

- a. Catch, injure, kill, keep, possess, care for, transport, and trade in a protected animal in a live condition.
- b. Keep, possess, care for, transport, and trade in a protected animal in a dead condition.
- c. Transfer a protected animal from one place to another, within- or outside Indonesia.
- d. Trade, keep or possess skin, bodies or other parts of a protected animal, or goods made of parts of the animal, or transfer from one place in Indonesia to another, within or outside Indonesia.
- e. Take, destroy, exterminate, trade, keep, or possess an egg and/or nest of a protected animal.

Article 22 states that:

- (1) Any exception from the prohibition pertaining to article 21 can only be permitted for purposes of research, science, and/or safeguarding those plants or animal.
- (2) Safeguarding efforts pertaining to paragraph (1) shall include delivering or exchanging a plant or animal species with foreign institutions, with permit from the Government.
- (3) An exception to the prohibition to catch, to injure, or to kill a protected animal can only be permitted in case the animal endangers human life.
- (4) The further provisions pertaining to paragraph (1), paragraph (2) and paragraph (3) shall be regulated by a Government Regulation.'

The provision of Criminal Punishment as stated on Article 40 (2): Whosoever intentionally violates the provisions pertaining to paragraph 1 and 2 of article 21 and paragraph (3) of article 33 shall be liable to punishment by imprisonment up to a maximum of 5 years and a fine up to a maximum of Rp 100,000,000.00.

The Protection status of Malayan sun bear is emphasised in the Government Regulation No. 7/1999 about The Preservation of Plants and Animal, as listed in Enclosure of protected animal in the regulation.