

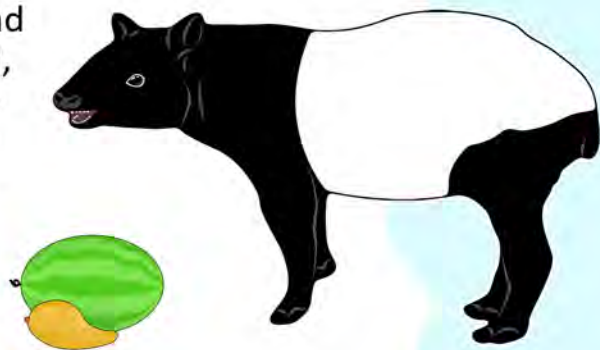


MALAYSIA'S BLACK & WHITE

Everyone knows of at least a couple of animals that are both black and white in colour. Some are so famous that they even become movie celebrities! Pandas, zebras, lemurs and even the stinky skunk share the prestigious limelight. Sadly however, our four-legged, half black and white, elephant-like snouted tapir is hardly ever mentioned.

The Malayan Tapir or *Tapirus indicus* is one of four species of tapirs around the world. The rest include the mountain, lowland, baird, and small black tapir. They all belong to the family Tapiridae. The Malayan Tapir however is by far the largest and most unique of all the other species as they are the only tapirs which possess a black and white coat. This species is found from southern Thailand and Myanmar (Burma), throughout the Malayan Peninsular and on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. It was initially thought that this creature belonged to the pig family as they share almost the same physical characteristics, but researchers recently have proven that they in fact belong to the same order as horses and rhinos. Rhinos, horses, and tapirs are all perissodactyls. Plainly, that means that they're all hoofed mammals that stand on an odd number of toes.

CONSERVATION MESSAGE
Save the forest, these animals need their home to live for the next generation. They too have feelings like we humans do and they need to take care of their families too.



Their main diet consists of plants, fruits and aquatic plants. Their long nose is called a snout or proboscis and is used as a snorkel when they are submerged underwater. During the day the snout is an effective tool to detect odours while foraging through the dense forests. Tapirs depend greatly on their keen sense of smell because their day vision is rather weak. That's also another reason why tapirs are active during the night. The trunk also doubles up as a useful tool to grab, strip off leaves and putting food directly in their mouth. This adds to the mystery and the speciality of the tapir at the first glance.

QUOTE
It's not whether animals will survive but whether man has the will to save them



Tapirs are becoming more endangered each day and this is mostly because of the increasing habitat loss due to human activity such as illegal logging and deforestation. Many do not realise that tapirs play a major role in forest regeneration. As they roam the forests and defecate, they unintentionally deposit the seeds they have consumed throughout the forest floor which results in the increase of 'tree-planting' throughout the forests. That's one reason why the conservation of the tapirs should be given full attention by the relevant authorities.



ZOO NEGARA CELEBRATES WORLD TAPIR DAY

World Tapir Day occurs every 27th of April to highlight tapirs and to gain awareness about the importance of conserving this unique species. Recently Zoo Negara celebrated World Tapir day on 28th of April in which reporters from TV3 were invited to interview the keepers in charge of taking care of this magnificent creatures.

One of them, Mr. Mohd Taufik bin Yazid Bustami, 32 said, he quit his job at two years ago to work at Zoo Negara because of his passion and love towards animals. One of the tapirs under his care is Muharram, a friendly male tapir which has been at Zoo Negara since 2009.

As tapirs are decreasing each year, Taufik really hopes that everyone could do their part in conserving the forests and wildlife for future generations.

Taufik was born on September 20th, 1983 in Perak. His life motto is "Work hard for the love of his family and country". He also added that in the future, he doesn't mind working somewhere else just as long as he could work with animals and be passionate with his job.

SCAN HERE to make DONATION



Our Malayan Tapirs named Muharam, Tuah, Tissy, Jessy and Tuffy are ready for adoption.

Please contact Public Relations & Marketing Department at:
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HIGHLIGHTS

OF THE MONTH



Special thanks to UMW Corporation Sdn Bhd for the sponsorship of three giraffes



Outreach programme for promoting zoo packages & conveying conservation message at MITA Fair, KLCC



Children colouring contest activity during AmBank Family Day at Dataran Dato Ismail Hutson



AIA Insurance Berhad tree planting activity during CSR programme

