



**WORKSHOP ON REPORTING WILDLIFE CRIME AND MALAYSIA'S ROLE
IN THE GLOBAL WILDLIFE TRADE
5 – 6 SEPTEMBER 2016
MPI, Kuala Lumpur**

INTRODUCTION:

TRAFFIC has been receiving a growing number of inquiries from press about poaching, smuggling and illegal trade. This proposed workshop is designed largely to address the common questions press asks. It is set up to equip journalists and editors with the basic knowledge and context necessary to understand existing and emerging issues concerning wildlife trade in the country and globally. The proposed course is one that has been tested. A similar workshop organised by TRAFFIC for media in Viet Nam in 2012, stood journalists in good stead when the country came under international scrutiny in 2013 for its involvement in the consumption and trafficking of Rhino horns; providing them with the historical context of the trade, its changing face, current debates and access to facts, figures and experts. A similar workshop with media in Myanmar in 2014 has enabled local media to call attention to pervasive but unrecognized problem and highlight the massive scale of cross border trade in wildlife in the region. Thus, for the first time, Malaysian Press Institute (MPI) in partnership with TRAFFIC in Southeast Asia and The Body Shop Malaysia, proposed the **Wildlife Crime Reporting Workshop** which will provide a solid grounding in wildlife trade and trafficking, Malaysian species in trade, the laws that apply, practical experience of the trade, as well as help them develop ideas, content and contacts for future reporting on this topic.

OBJECTIVES:

- To help journalists better understand the issues, Malaysia's unique wildlife species and the role the country plays in wildlife trade in Southeast Asia, and worldwide,
- To educate print, online and broadcast journalist with information, data and comments on these issues. Many of them realize the growing importance of wildlife trade and trafficking, but are usually at a loss about where to start.
- To raise awareness on wildlife trade and the impacts of wildlife trafficking on species and people

TARGET GROUP:

Print, TV, Radio and News Portal/Online journalists



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SPEAKER'S BIO

Ms Claire Beastall

Training and Capacity Building Coordinator SEA

Claire Beastall has been involved in the design and delivery of training for over 1,000 enforcement officers on wildlife trade issues throughout Southeast Asia in the past five years. Her extensive experience working with wild animals and her qualifications as a Zoologist informed the creation of exclusive manuals that help enforcement officers on the frontlines identify the species they see in trade and take action with confidence. She is currently directing the creation of E-learning materials that can be incorporated into the training systems of transport and logistics industry players who are helping to fight illegal wildlife trade. Originally from the UK, she has been working in Southeast Asia since 1996.

Ms Kanitha Krishnasamy

Senior Programme Manager

Leading TRAFFIC's technical programme on the region's most critically threatened species, Kanitha Krishnasamy's wealth of knowledge on wildlife, trade and regional environmental policy informs not only the organisation's work but its advice to agencies on monitoring and tackling wildlife trafficking. She designs, develops and implements TRAFFIC's research and survey projects and is point person policy on regional ivory trade issues and enforcement in Malaysia. She also surveys Southeast Asia's markets documenting wildlife trade in its physical form and monitors and reports on illegal wildlife trade in various parts of Southeast Asia, including in Malaysia's first report on the issue, "Trading Faces: A Rapid Assessment on the use of Facebook to Trade Wildlife in Peninsular Malaysia."

Ms Renee Yee Oi Yen**Training and Capacity Building Officer**

Renee Yee has planned, implemented and realised countless of TRAFFIC's signature wildlife trade, prosecution, judicial and regulation workshops in the region. From course content to finance and logistics, she directs TRAFFIC's efforts to bring together government officials working on wildlife from across all 10 ASEAN nations. She designs the capacity building materials used in all the organisation's courses and supports the implementation of TRAFFIC's activities under a global project to reduce the unlawful transportation of Endangered Species. She is also involved in training activities related to cross-continent illegal wildlife trade.

Ms Elizabeth John**Senior Communications Officer**

Former award-winning environmental journalist, Elizabeth John now directs TRAFFIC's plans and programmes to reach out of the region's millions about wildlife trade and the crises caused by poaching and trafficking. She shapes messaging on the organisation's work, wildlife issues in the region and efforts to change attitudes towards wildlife use. In her current capacity she writes all press releases and other media responses and manages social media at the regional level while contributing news, opinion, videos and photos from Southeast Asia to TRAFFIC's international website and publications. She manages TRAFFIC's engagement with the public, corporations and is also often the first point of contact between the organisation and government agencies or international institutions. She has a Bachelor of Communications Degree, a Masters in Modern International Relations and 12 years' experience covering the news in Malaysia and abroad.

GUEST SPEAKER**Ms Loretta Ann Shepherd****Communications and Conservation Consultant**

Currently Senior Conservation Officer with Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT) Secretariat's Office, Loretta Ann Shepherd is a former New Straits Times journalist (2000-2004) and a columnist for the Malay Mail (2002-2005). She covered a range of issues, but investigating wildlife issues and conservation were of special interest, which led her to becoming joining the tiger conservation arena in 2004 as MYCAT coordinator. Over the years, she has also assisted the wildlife authorities in providing rehabilitative care for an assortment of orphaned and rescued wildlife. She has spoken widely on communicating conservation, is the co-author of the Naturalist Guide to the Mammals of Southeast Asia. She strongly believes that the media is key to motivating positive action for conservation from the public, beyond merely raising awareness.

GUEST SPEAKER

Mr Khaung Htet Linn

Writer, Myanmar Now

*A persistent, passionate and outspoken journalist with over a decade of experience writing in one of Asia's most challenging landscapes, Htet Linn first began his journey at the Ecovision Weekly Journal covering politics, the economy and social changes in Myanmar. Working his way through several editor positions in emerging journal publications at the time, Htet Linn eventually found himself contributing to a wide variety of media from the BBC Media Action programme to publications of exile media outlets such as The Irrawaddy Magazine, one of the foremost journalistic publications dealing with political, social, economic and cultural developments in Myanmar. In 2014, Htet Linn's investigative report "Unsafe Myanmar Elephants" published in The Irrawaddy news website won the British Embassy-TRAFFIC Wildlife Crime Writing prize. This was followed in 2016 by the European Commission's prestigious **Lorenzo Natali Media Prize** in the professional category for his article "Poverty drives Myanmar girls into underage sex". Htet Linn currently writes for Myanmar Now, focusing on the socio-political changes and the environmental issues impacting his rapidly changing home country.*



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TENTATIVE AGENDA

Day 1 (5 September 2016, Monday)

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| 9am | : | <i>Registration</i> |
| 9.30am – 10.30am | : | Introduction to Wildlife Trade
Facts and figures on wildlife trade globally and in Malaysia, and what drives this. Also explains what wildlife crime is and why it is a matter of concern internationally.
Speaker:
Ms Claire Beastall,
Training and Capacity Building Coordinator SEA |
| 10.30am - 10.50am | : | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 10.50 am – 12.00pm | : | CITES and national wildlife laws
Introduction to the convention that governs the international trade in endangered species of wild plants and animals and the upcoming meeting of member nations. Introduction to wildlife laws applicable in Malaysia, prosecution of wildlife crime and issues arising from weak implementation of domestic laws and international obligations.
Speaker:
Ms Kanitha Krishnasamy
Senior Programme Manager |
| 12:00 – 1.00pm | : | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 1.00pm – 2.00pm | : | Smuggling techniques and review of recent seizure cases
How wildlife is smuggled, the means and routes used to conceal and avoid detection by enforcement agencies, to be illustrated with case studies.
Speaker:
Ms Renee Yee Oi Yen
Training and Capacity Building Officer |

- 2.00pm – 3.00pm : **Myths and misconceptions about wildlife trade**
The session addresses questions such as: Aren't wildlife traders poor people? Can Tokay Gecko's really cure HIV/Aids? If it's in a shop it must be legal?
Speaker:
Ms Elizabeth John
Senior Communications Officer
- 3.00 – 3.15 pm : **Briefing on assignments. Dismissed for the day**

Day 2 (6 September 2016, Tuesday)

- 9.00am – 2.00pm : Completion of assignment
- 2.00pm – 3.30pm : Presentation of assignment findings/ discussion
- 3.30pm – 4.00pm : Tea break
- 4.00pm – 5.00pm : Sourcing / Finding content
Guest speaker:
Ms Loretta Ann Shepherd,
Communications and Conservation Consultant
- 5.00pm – 6.00pm : Investigating wildlife trade
Guest speaker:
Mr Khaung Htet Linn
Writer, Myanmar Now
- 6.00pm – 6.30pm : Final Q & A and closing

END

**The organizer reserves the right to amend the program due to unforeseen circumstances.*