

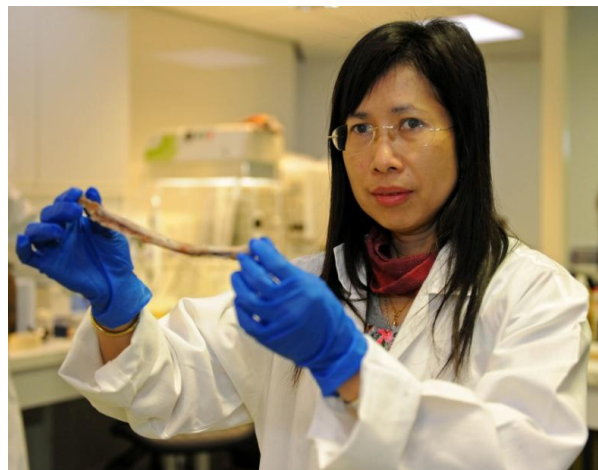
ASEAN Wildlife Forensics Network Newsletter 1 October 2011

Dear Members of the ASEAN WFN,

Welcome to our first newsletter which contains information on the activities of ASEAN WFN members. We hope that you find this update informative and inspirational. If you have any comments, please feel free to use the website (www.asean-wfn.org) to comment on our [news post](#). We are particularly interested in hearing about the cases you have investigated using forensic techniques, and hope that the next newsletter can contain input from each of the ASEAN countries.

1. UK training completed

In June 2011, four scientists from ASEAN WFN were trained by Drs Ross McEwing and Rob Ogden of TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network at their laboratory in Edinburgh, UK. The four scientists received training in the development of DNA profiling systems for individual identification of rhino and tigers. Rhino poaching is currently on the rise again in Africa. The ASEAN region can expect to see the horns from the poached animals in the coming months. The UK is currently leading a crackdown on rhino poaching and horn trade, and the evidence generated by qualified laboratory scientists will be a vital part of the fight in decreasing poaching. The illegal trade in tiger parts continues to be a threat to the survival of the wild population, and establishing where tiger parts are from is a critical aspect of any thorough investigation.



Dr Ouitavon holding a tiger rib bone prior to DNA extraction

The scientists trained were Jeffrine Ryan Japning and Frankie Thomas Sitam from Malaysia's DWNP (Perhilitan); Kanitha Ouitavon from Thailand's DNP; and Ms Wulansari from The Eijkman Institute for Molecular Biology of Indonesia. Both Indonesia and Malaysia generously paid for one scientist each, signifying further their commitment to tackling the illegal wildlife trade.

2. Paper published on the analysis of tiger DNA

The scientists who took part in the UK training co-authored a paper which has been published in the journal Conservation Genetic Resources describing a technique for genetic sex determination in tigers. The paper signifies a great success in cross-country collaboration, and demonstrates how combined expertise can lead to high quality scientific outputs. A copy of the paper can be found on our website www.asean-wfn.org

3. Forensic experts to visit the ASEAN region in October 2011

The Directors of TRACE Wildlife Forensics Network, Drs Rob Ogden and Ross McEwing will visit the ASEAN region in October 2011. They plan to spend time with laboratory scientists in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam to help develop further tests which are needed to aid wildlife investigations. They will meet with key personnel from the ASEAN-WEN PCU, TRAFFIC South East Asia and Freeland to



discuss the future of wildlife forensics in the region. If you have a specific request for laboratory-based training in genetic techniques; standard operating procedures or in results interpretation, please contact us through the website or directly by email.

White rhino (*Ceratotherium simum*)
© C. Beastall, TRAFFIC South East Asia.

4. ASEAN Wildlife Forensics Network Project Management

We are pleased to announce that after one year away from the project, Dr. Jen Mailley has returned to South East Asia to manage the network for another 12 months. She will be based at the TRAFFIC office in Kuala Lumpur and will be the main point of contact for the activities during this time (jen.mailley@tracenetwork.org).

5. Call for case examples

This newsletter is for all of the ASEAN Wildlife Forensics Network. We would be delighted to hear about any cases which you have been involved in, and which have used forensic techniques to investigate the illegal trade. Please tell us about these cases using the website or through email. We hope that the next newsletter can contain examples of good practice and of prosecution success.