

Tajuk : Endangered Bay Cat Recorded In Upper Baram



AN image of the rare Bay Cat captured by a camera trap.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HOSCAP BORNEO 2012

## Endangered Bay Cat recorded in Upper Baram

**KUCHING:** The **Bornean Bay Cat** (*Pardofelis badia*), **one of the rarest and most elusive cats in the world**, has been recorded **in the Sela'an Linau Forest Management Unit (FMU)**, a logging concession in Upper Baram.

The Bay Cat **was only previously recorded in Sarawak in Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary, Pulong Tau National Park, and last year, in Anap Muput Forest Management Unit.**

The Bay Cat **is classified as 'endangered' on the IUCN (World**

Conservation Union) Red List of Threatened Species

, and totally protected in Sarawak under the Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1998.

The Sela'an Linau FMU, which covers an area of approximately 56,000 hectares, is located north of the upper Baram River in the interior of northern Sarawak.

Due to its close proximity to Pulong Tau National Park and within the central spine of the greater "Heart of Borneo" initiative, the Sela'an Linau FMU is important for

many of Borneo's highland species by providing suitable habitat for dispersal, thereby ensuring genetic exchange between subdivided populations.

According to a press release from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) yesterday, photo images of the Bay Cat were obtained by researchers from the Hose's Civet and Small Carnivore Project, Borneo (HOSCAP Borneo), a research-based conservation project under the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation

(IBEC), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

Images of the species were obtained from two locations in the Murud Kecil mountain range in September and October this year.

This mountain range is set aside as 'Protected Zone' by the logging concessionaire, Samling, for conservation purposes, however, it is not gazetted under the state government and thus, has no legal protection.

» Continues on page 2

# Four wild cats species found in Sela'an Linau FMU

THE Director of IBEC, Professor Dr Andrew Alek Tuen, said "the records of the Bay Cat highlight the Sela'an Linau FMU, particularly the Murud Kecil mountain range, as an important area for wildlife.

"The Sela'an Linau FMU is one of the few places in Borneo which has four of the five wild cat species known to exist in Borneo. It also has the highest number of encounters of the rare Bornean endemic, the Hose's Civet *Diplogale hosei*, one of the world's least known carnivores."

"The HOSCAP Borneo team has also recorded six different species of hornbills there and at least three species listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List: the Bay Cat, Bornean Gibbon (both endemic

to Borneo) and the Pangolin," he said.

Other rare Bornean endemics recorded in the area include the Tufted Ground Squirrel and the Bulwer's Pheasant.

The HOSCAP Borneo team had released a video clip on YouTube of such footage from the wild, including rare footage of the Hose's Civet.

Professor Dr Alek said, "This is an excellent opportunity for all stakeholders to work together and show that we truly care about our environment and are able to manage Sarawak's forests sustainably for the conservation of its biodiversity."

He hoped the state government would continue in its efforts to promote high standards and good

timber harvesting practices in logging areas.

"With Unimas, Samling, Sarawak Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation working together with support from the public and corporate donors, we can make sustainable forest management a reality. If we all play our part, there is no reason why we cannot do this."

The Hose's Civet and Small Carnivore Project, Borneo (HOSCAP Borneo) is funded by The Care-For-Nature Trust Fund (administered by HSBC Trustee (Singapore) Limited) and Ocean Park Conservation Foundation, Hong Kong while logistical support is provided by Yaw Teck Seng Foundation.