KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

SURAT KHABAR	:	NST			
TARIKH	:	27/9/2021 (ISNIN)	MUKA SURAT	:	13
JABATAN	:	PERHILITAN			

NST, 27 Sept
2021_13

Sun bears encroaching on Setiu village

PERMAISURI: Villagers in Kampung Rahmat, Chalok, Setiu, have been living in fear since sun bears began encroaching on their compounds and eating their fruit and domestic animals.

Resident Zaini Said, 39, said he suffered losses when jackfruit that he gathered in front of his home and which he intended to sell were eaten, most likely by sun bears.

Resident Che Azharuddin Che Othman, 39, said a sun bear encroached on his compound and ate 20 pigeons that he was rearing to be sold.

"I believe the pigeons were eaten by the sun bear because when I discovered what happened, I saw that my fence was damaged."

Terengganu Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) director Dr Abdul Malek Mohd Yusof said the department was aware of two sun bears that were entering human settlements in the area.

"One of the bears had been caught in a trap that the department laid in Kampung Rahmat.

"Residents were the first to notice the trapped bear about 6am on Saturday. The trap was laid on Sept 22 following a complaint we received on Sept 20.

"The trap was laid after villagers told us they saw two bears roaming in the village and damaging fruit and livestock."

He said one of the two sun bears, a male weighing 65kg, entered the trap after it was moved 100m away from its initial spot near a villager's house.

"Sun bears are dangerous and can hurt people if they feel threatened. They have sharp claws and villagers are worried about their safety.

"We will conduct health checks on the sun bear that was caught. Once it has been given a clean bill of health, it will be released in a wildlife release area in Sungai Deka, Hulu Terengganu."