



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Is Malaysia a haven for wildlife – or hell?

THE January edition of the prestigious *National Geographic* highlighted the enormous scale of wildlife trafficking, both legal and blatantly illegal, perpetuated in and transited through Malaysia.

The Malaysian Government clearly needs to decide if it wish-

es to retain its popular and lucrative wildlife dependant eco-tourism industry employing many thousands, or permit a relatively few unscrupulous wildlife traders and officials to tarnish the country's image irrevocably.

Malaysia has undeniably become the entry and exit point

for millions of animals, some legally, many not. The Government needs quickly to decide if it wants Malaysia to be seen as a haven for wildlife – or hell. It cannot be both.

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