

Shifa the Sumatran Tiger

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Published by Especially Yours Ltd

Picton

New Zealand

ISBN: 978-0-473-37445-7 (EPUB)

ISBN: 978-0-473-37446-4 (Kindle)

ISBN: 978-0-473-37447-1 (iBook)

Excerpt from Chapter One – The Problem

It was a beautiful and warm afternoon. Colin Coconut was having a nap on the beach in the shade of his favourite tree, a coconut palm of course. Suddenly the peace was broken from a raucous group of Colin's friends. They had just heard some terrible news.

"Colin wake up" they yelled, "You have to come quickly".

Colin woke with a fright. "What is it?" he asked.



"It's our friend Paula Palm. She has just discovered what is happening to her family and the effects it is having on the tigers. She wants us to go to Sumatra straight away and help her", said Timothy Tamanu.

"I'll radio for the gang to meet at Mission Control at once" replied Colin. Colin zipped to Mission Control on Coconut Way and on his radio he commanded "All Superheroes are required at once at Mission Control". He was quickly followed by Jo Joba and Bella Bumblebee. Paula Palm climbed onto Timothy's back and they flew to Mission Control.

Sammy Shea, Cody Cocoa and Olly Olive all heard the broadcast on their antennas and headed straight to base.



When they had all arrived, they took their places around the large oval table. Colin gave Paula the chair to take charge of the meeting and she began to fill the SmotherMe Superheroes in on the trouble.

“It all began it seems”, started Paula, and she continued to explain how humans first discovered how wonderful palm oil is. It is an excellent cooking oil, it is solid at room temperature and a cheap substitute for butter in pastries and many other cooked items. In fact, most items that are on supermarket shelves have used palm oil in favour of any other oils available to them.

And it appears that humans can’t get enough of this oil and are using it for everything from noodles to soap, lipstick, margarine, chocolate, bread, biscuits and even ice-cream!

“So what is the problem?” Colin asked. “It is great that they have found such a versatile product that can be produced so cheaply”, he added.

“That is **exactly** what the problem is!” Paula exclaimed. “In order for such a widespread use they need to grow lots and lots of it”, Paula explained. Paula presented us some pictures of Sumatra.

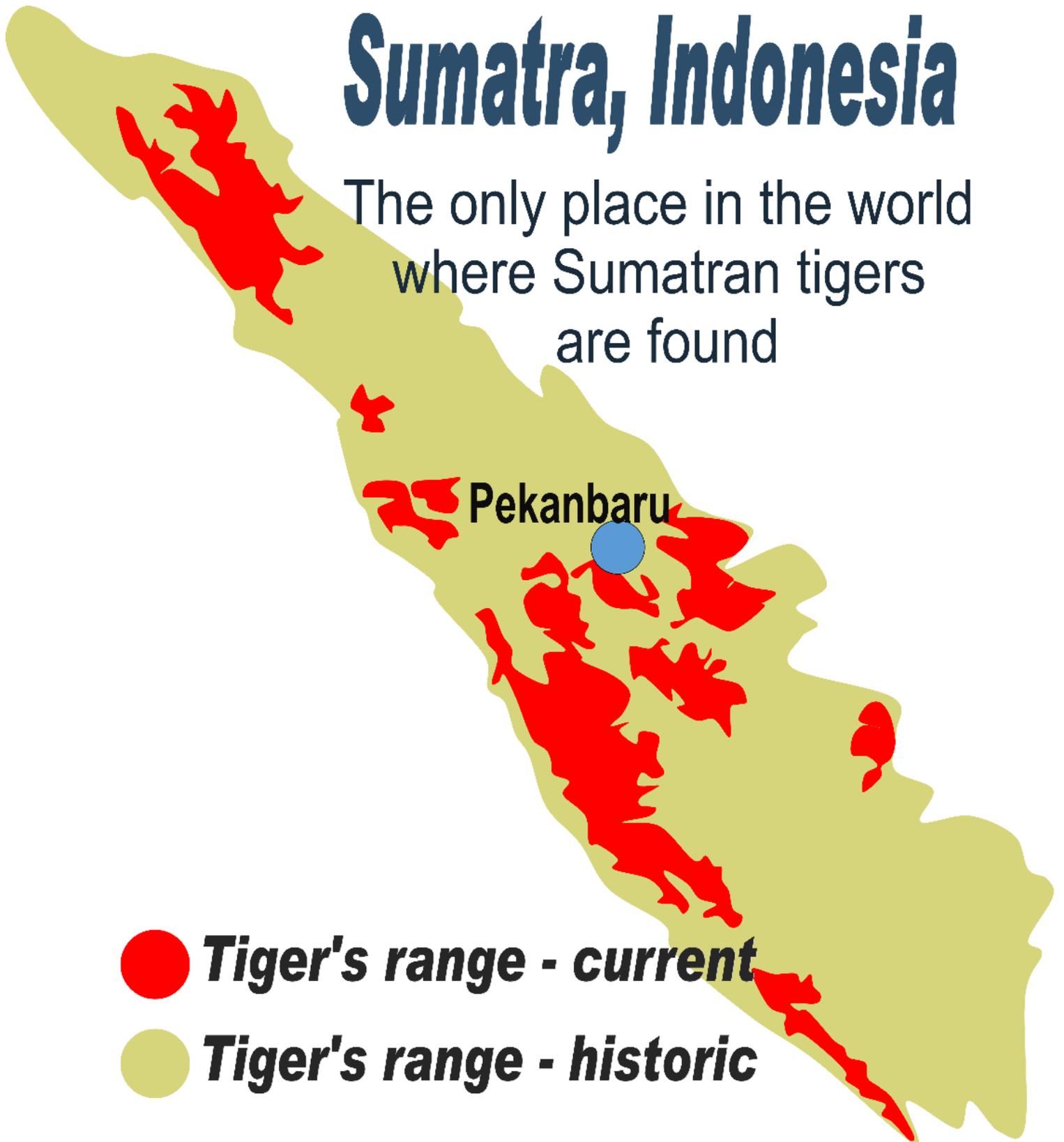
“Sumatra is why my heart is crying”, continued Paula. She showed us on the map where Sumatra is and the areas tigers now have to live.

Sumatra, Indonesia

The only place in the world where Sumatran tigers are found

 **Tiger's range - current**

 **Tiger's range - historic**



“And here is my friend Shifa. She is a Sumatran tiger. Her home was the rainforests, but the humans have burnt all the trees and cleared all the land”, sighed Paula.



Excerpt from Chapter Three

Colin explained to her that this is why it is so necessary to teach the humans about your plight. If humans understood how important it is to know what they are buying so more trees don't have to be planted to produce oil. Or if they look at the ingredients on the items they buy and don't purchase it if it contains palm oil then we can all help to save the Sumatran tigers. If enough humans made enough small steps, then we may just win the fight against deforestation of your habitat.

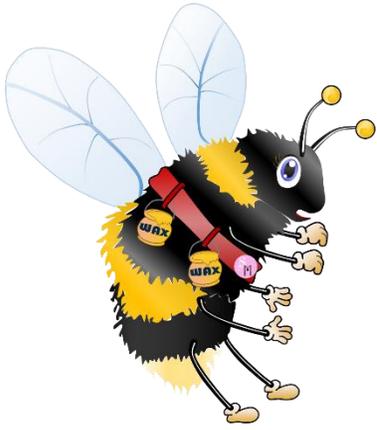
And so, after fond farewells, the Superheroes left the magical Sumatra and headed home to Mission Control.

THE END

Almost!

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[Meet the Superheroes](#)

*The
Smother Me
Superheroes*



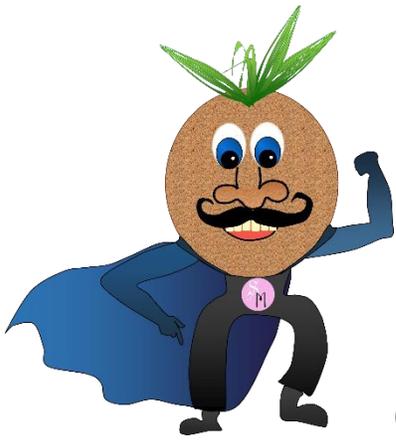
Bella Bumblebee

“Don’t make me mad or I’ll get fast and furious.”



Cody Cocoa

“I’m small, I’m quick. I’m a boy wonder.”



Colin Coconut

“I have a hard head and I’m not afraid to use it.”



Shifa is in trouble

She calls on
her friend Paula Palm to
help save her family.

Join the Superheroes on an
expedition across the world.