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Man fined RM10,000 for owning Sunda clouded leopard skin

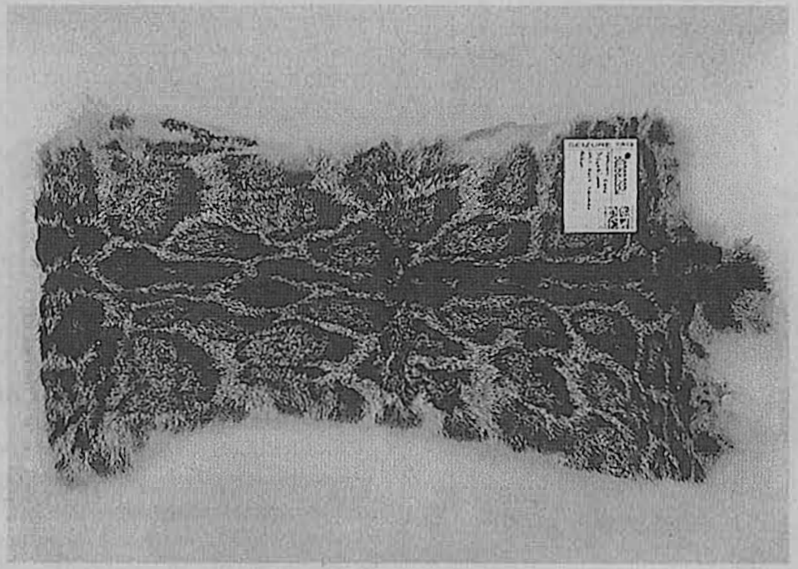


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SIBU: A 45-year-old man was fined RM10,000 in default five months' imprisonment by the Sessions Court here yesterday for possessing a Sunda clouded leopard skin without a permit.

Judge Musyiri Peet convicted Tang Sing Kiong on his own guilty plea to a charge under Section 37(1) of the Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998, punishable under Section 37(2)(a) read together with Section 29(1)(c) of the same Ordinance.

Tang was charged with possessing the skin of a Sunda clouded leopard (Neofelis diardi), which is a derivative of a totally protected animal under the Ordinance, without a licence.



The Sunda clouded leopard skin seized from the accused. – SFC photo

The offence was committed at about 10.07am on June 5, 2024 at a house on Jalan Cempaka here.

According to the case facts, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) wildlife officers, together with officers from the Marine Police, conducted an 'Op Bersepadu Khazanah' operation at the premises.

During the raid, the team found the clouded leopard skin in Tang's possession and seized it.

He was also found in possession of more than 60 arowana fish without a licence and was issued a compound in relation to the fish.

In mitigation, the accused told the court that he was the sole breadwinner of his family and was now caring for his elderly parents, both of whom had just been discharged from hospital on Nov 18.

Prosecuting officer Leonard Baring appeared for SFC. Tang, who was unrepresented, paid the fine.