



KERATAN AKHBAR

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Elephant poaching suspect arrested, tusks seized

KUALA LUMPUR: A 51-year-old suspected elephant killer was arrested for illegal possession of a shotgun and elephant tusks at his house in Kampung Sugi in Gua Musang, Kelantan.

Villagers had heard gunshots and later found a dead elephant in the forest on Tuesday. They alerted a team which was patrolling the area under Ops Bersepadu Khazanah, a joint operation against wildlife poaching by the police, Forestry Department and the Wildlife and National Parks Department.

After recovering the mutilated carcass of the elephant at about 6pm, the team raided a house before arresting the orang asli suspect.

The raiding party seized a pair of elephant tusks, a shotgun, 31 rounds of ammunition and a chainsaw, that the man allegedly used to cut off the elephant's tusks and limbs.

Kelantan police chief Comm Datuk Hassanuddin Hassan confirmed the arrest when contacted yesterday.

Ops Bersepadu Khazanah, which was launched more than two weeks ago, has been effective in clamping down on poachers of wildlife in Malaysian forests.

About 50 people comprising both locals and foreigners have been arrested and large seizures of protected flora and fauna were made since the operation began.