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Press release

A special ceremony for our rare cubs

Newly-named tiger babies explore the outdoors

The Tierpark's four young tigers swipe and snarl at one another as they romp about their rocky habitat. This is the first public appearance of the adorable quadruplets since their birth on 4 August, and sometimes it's hard even for mother Mayang to work out which stripes are whose in the excited hustle and bustle. The four extremely rare Sumatran tigers now have names, which are being officially announced at a ceremony this Thursday.

The two male tigers have been dubbed Willi and Oscar, while the two females are Seri and Kiara. As they leave their birthing den for the first time, tripping clumsily over their own paws, any timidity they may have felt vanishes immediately. The four youngsters spar playfully with one another, squabbling over the bite-sized chunks of meat especially prepared for them.

The names were announced by Indonesian Ambassador Arif Havas Oegroseno in the company of Zoo and Tierpark Director Dr Andreas Knieriem and Hans Jürgen Kulartz of Berliner Sparkasse's management board. His Excellency had the following to say: "The arrival of these Sumatran tigers, a species threatened with extinction, is a great achievement. I am delighted that Tierpark Berlin has been able to make this important contribution to the conservation of these big cats. The cubs also symbolise the many years of close cooperation between Germany and Indonesia. I am looking forward to intensifying and expanding the partnership between Indonesian zoos and Berlin's zoos as well as with other zoos in Germany." Tierpark Berlin has been committed to species conservation for many years now, with a great deal of success. It works with zoos all over the world to establish stable reserve populations of threatened animal species.

Young tigers are dependent on their mothers until they reach around two years of age, so the foursome will stay together at Tierpark Berlin until that time is up. However, next year they are set to move into the Tierpark's new Rainforest House in the renovated Alfred Brehm building. "This lush green setting with its jungle atmosphere will give visitors a new perspective on the animals and provide fascinating facts about rainforest inhabitants," promises Knieriem. The new facility will also focus on informing visitors about species protection.

Hans Jürgen Kulartz of Berliner Sparkasse, the tigers' sponsor, talked about how pleased his bank is to support the striped cats. "It will be a delight to watch these beautiful animals grow up," he said. Berliner Sparkasse staff members collected almost 400 suggestions for names before making their final choice.



Background: The four tiger cubs were born at Tierpark Berlin on 4 August 2018. Father Harfan (10) and mother Mayang (7) came to Tierpark Berlin from Indonesian zoos in 2013. The quadruplets are the couple's first-ever offspring. The Sumatran tiger is one of the most threatened big cats on the planet. Experts estimate that only 350 to 450 tigers are now living in the rainforests of Sumatra.