



Ministry of
Natural Resources
and Environment
(NRE)

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SECRETARIAT:

CEMD, NRE & WWF-Malaysia

Conservation & Environmental

Management Division

Level 6, Wisma Sumber Asli

No. 25, Persiaran Perdana

Precinct 4, 62574

Putrajaya

Tel: (+6) 03-8886 1111

Fax: (+6) 03-8888 4473

www.nre.gov.my

For more information on the
Malaysian Parks Newsletter,
please contact
khairus@nre.gov.my or
eliew@wwf.org.my



MALAYSIAN PARKS NEWSLETTER

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The Malaysian Parks Newsletter is a quarterly publication by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) in collaboration with WWF-Malaysia.

A Master List of Protected Areas Workshop

Protected areas have long been established in Malaysia (beginning with the Chior Wildlife Reserve in 1903) and since then, the number of protected areas has grown with some established and managed by the Federal government while others are administered by the individual states. This growth has also led to an increase in the different legal instruments used for establishing protected areas, resulting in an increasingly complex collection of different protected areas with different management objectives, management authorities and legal instruments.

With the adoption of the CBD Programme of Work for Protected Areas in 2005, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE) is increasingly seen as the government body that could provide the much needed coordination for protected areas. In order to fulfil this role and to coordinate the implementation of the Programme of Work, NRE needs to have the necessary planning tools, and one of them is the Master List of Protected Areas.

Supported by DANIDA and WWF-Malaysia, NRE organised the first workshop on compiling the Master List of Protected Areas in Corus Hotel Kuala Lumpur from 7 to 8 April 2008.

The objectives of the workshop were to form a consensus on what constitutes a protected area in Malaysia; compile crucial data on protected areas and to come to a consensus on a system for habitat classification for overall biodiversity planning and management.

This will be the first attempt to compile an official national list for all categories of terrestrial and marine protected areas in Malaysia. The Master List will provide crucial information on the size, location and management objectives of protected areas, the date it was established, the management authority as well as the habitat types that are represented within the individual protected areas as some parks can have more than one habitat type (e.g. Bako National Park in Sarawak alone has seven vegetation types).

INSIDE : Special Feature on Sugud Island Marine Conservation Area and the Hawksbill Turtle



WWF-Malaysia/E.Liew



Participants of Group 1 sharing their views during the break-out session

The workshop was attended by 70 participants from various government agencies and protected area management authorities, NGOs, tour operators and environmental consulting firms. The master list of protected areas is now being compiled and a second stakeholder workshop is planned during which the draft list will be presented and refined. The proceedings of the workshop are also currently being compiled and will be disseminated to all participants as well as stakeholders of the workshop.

For more information on the First National Workshop on The Master List of Protected Areas in Malaysia, please contact Mr. Surin Suksuwan at (+6) 03-7803 3772 ext. 6411 or ssuksuwan@wwf.org.my.

IN BRIEF

'Trek and Treat' at Salt Trail

A second 'Trek and Treat' programme jointly organised by Sabah Parks, MERCY Malaysia Sabah Chapter and Partners of Community Organisation (PACOS TRUST) was held from 25 to 29 March 2008 at the Salt Trail, Crocker Range Park, Sabah.

Twenty-four participants including medical doctors, park rangers, nurses, volunteers, guides and porters were involved and 300 patients from Kg. Tikolod, Kg. Kionop, Kg. Buayan and Kg. Terian were treated during the programme.

The closing ceremony was held at Inobong Substation, Crocker Range Park, Penampang during which the Director of Sabah Parks, Mr. Paul Basintal, presented certificates to participants and officially closed the programme.

Research centre for Royal Belum State Park

Source NST 19 Feb 2008

Royal Belum State Park will soon have its own rainforest research centre when the Pulau Banding Rainforest Research Centre on Pulau Banding, Grik begins operating in June 2008.

Emkay Group contributed RM1 million in February 2008 for the construction of the research centre. An initiative under the Pulau Banding Charter to facilitate local and international research on the rainforest ecosystems, both terrestrial and aquatic, the centre requires approximately RM4 million a year over the next five years for operations, research and infrastructure.

Elephant Survey in Endau-Rompin

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in collaboration with Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC) is conducting an elephant survey in the 48,905ha Endau-Rompin Johor National Park. The survey, which commenced in August 2007 and will end in 2012, is part of a 5-year project to develop a 'holistic elephant conservation plan' for Peninsular Malaysia. A major component of the project is to build the capacity of relevant government agency staff in implementing an effective elephant management plan and surveying elephants using the appropriate monitoring and management methods. Survey sites over the five years will include Taman Negara National Park, Endau-Rompin state parks (covering both Johor and Pahang), the Royal Belum State Park and the Temengor Forest Reserve.

The survey teams are collecting elephant distribution data using three methods: dung-count based survey, 'recce' and line transect surveys. These methods have been used by WCS in other South-east Asian countries and are compatible with the CITES' Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) programme activities in Peninsular Malaysia.

The dung-count based method involves counting dung-piles along line transects to estimate dung-pile density. Data on dung-pile decay rates and elephant defecation rates will also be used to estimate elephant density in the park. The survey would provide an estimate of the size and distribution of elephant population in the Endau-Rompin Johor National Park and determine the threats to the elephants and their habitat, as well as the extent of those threats.

For more details on the Elephant Survey please contact Anne Majanil of Johor National Parks Corporation at (+6) 07-696 9712 or email anne.johorparks@gmail.com. You can also visit the WCS website www.wcs.org to check out the latest project updates.



JNPC staff given practical training by WCS staff on counting elephant dung piles at Endau-Rompin Johor National Park

Launch of Turtle Adoption Programme

The Sarawak Minister of Urban Development and Tourism, YB Dato' Sri Wong Soon Koh, launched the Sea Turtle Adoption programme on 30 April 2008 at Talang Besar Island in Talang-Satang National Park. Also present during the launching were SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC) Wildlife Controller Datu Len Talif Salleh who is also SFC general manager and CEO; Assistant Youth and Tourism Minister Hamden Ahmad; Sarawak Tourism Board CEO Gracie Geikie; Sarawak Tourism Federation Wee Hong Seng, SFC Chief Park Warden Wilfred Landong and SFC Marine Biologist James Bali.



Datu Len (fourth from left) hands over an adoption certificate to YB Dato' Sri Wong (left) while (from left) Wilfred, Hamden, and Gracie look on.

The Sea Turtle Adoption Programme is a conservation initiative by SARAWAK FORESTRY which allows the public to actively participate in turtle conservation efforts by spending four days at the turtle conservation station at Pulau Talang-Talang Besar. The programme offers hands-on experience in turtle conservation, where participants will join a team of dedicated professionals whose mission is to carry out sea turtle conservation programmes on the island thus helping to conserve one of the world's most endangered species.

For more details, please contact Shirley Michael of SARAWAK FORESTRY (+6) 082-348-001 or email shirleyl@sarawakforestry.com.

Kursus Asas Kemahiran Landskap

Kursus Asas Kemahiran Landskap telah dianjurkan oleh Bahagian Latihan Taman-Taman Sabah dengan kerjasama Bahagian Penyelidikan dan Pendidikan Taman-Taman Sabah di Taman Banjaran Crocker, Keningau dari 7 hingga 11 April 2008. Seramai 21 orang peserta dan 5 orang fasilitator yang terdiri dari warga Taman telah menyertai dan terlibat dalam kursus tersebut.

Objektif utama kursus ini dianjurkan adalah untuk melahirkan warga Taman-Taman Sabah yang mahir dalam merancang, merekabentuk, membina dan seterusnya menyelenggara landskap khususnya di dalam kawasan Taman-Taman Sabah. Sebanyak 12 kertas telah dibentangkan antaranya Fungsi dan Elemen Landskap, Prinsip dan Konsep Rekabentuk Landskap, Ciri-Ciri Tumbuhan Landskap dan Faktor Pemilihan Tumbuhan. Para peserta kursus juga telah diberikan pendedahan melalui lawatan ke Taman Pertanian Sabah yang terletak di Tenom.

Majlis penutupan kursus telah disempurnakan oleh Encik Daring Laban, Penolong Pengarah Taman-Taman Sabah pada 10 April 2008 dan antara lain beliau berharap agar lebih banyak kursus seperti ini dapat dianjurkan oleh pihak Taman dan berbangga dengan komitmen yang diberikan oleh para peserta serta fasilitator yang terlibat sepanjang kursus tersebut berlangsung.

Untuk maklumat lanjutan, sila hubungi Rodzan dari Sabah Parks (+6) 088-221-881 atau emel RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1-2 July

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) is organising a "Meet the Customers Day" at the Marine Park Centre in Tioman Island, Pahang. There will be two sessions:

1 July : 8.30am-5.30pm

2 July : 8.30am-1pm

For more information on this and other events organised by NRE, please contact NRE at (+6) 03-8886 1111 or fax at (+6) 03-8889 2672 or visit the website at www.nre.gov.my

21-22 July

Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia is organising a seminar on the scientific expedition to the montane forests of Cameron Highlands which was held last year. For more details, please contact En. Helmi Tariq at (+6) 09-573 2911.

3 August

The Department of Marine Park Malaysia (DMPM) is organising a clean-up of beaches in Terengganu in conjunction with the International Year of Reef 2008. Beach clean-ups for Johor and Kedah will be held on the 3rd of the subsequent month. To learn more about DMPM's conservation efforts, please contact En. Mohd Nizam at (+6) 03-8886 1416 or email nizamis@nre.gov.my.



Featured Park: Sugud Island Marine Conservation Area

The Sugud Island Marine Conservation Area (SIMCA), comprising three islands (Lankayan, Billean and Tegaipil), was initially established as a conservation area under the Sabah Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997 Section 21 (1). On 3 December 2001, the Sabah State Government established SIMCA under Category II Marine Protected Area following the IUCN classification of protected areas.

SIMCA, located at the north-eastern coastal region of Sabah, encompasses approximately 46,000ha, including the land area on the three islands and open sea, shallow coastal reef and sea grass beds. Managed by Sabah Wildlife Department with assistance from Reef Guardian Sdn Bhd, the main management objectives of SIMCA are to conserve and protect marine habitats such as coral reefs and sea grass beds and to protect endangered marine species such as sea turtles.



Beautiful coral reefs in the SIMCA region



Whale Sharks can be spotted in SIMCA

Flora and Fauna

SIMCA is one of the best spots for Whale Shark sighting. The location of the Whale Sharks is usually indicated by flocks of seabirds screeching above the placid surface. During the day you can witness Black-tip Sharks swimming by the beach. At night, the Green Turtle and the Hawksbill Turtle can be spotted coming to shore to lay eggs. The average number of annual nesting for Green Turtle is 102 nests while for the Hawksbill Turtle it is 46 nests on Lankayan Island from 2000 to 2007.

Lankayan Island is a true marine paradise. Large stretches of beautiful hard and soft corals belonging to numerous genera are protected, including colourful juvenile fishes. It is possible that some of the species found here have yet to be identified. Pelagic fishes are also abundant here, from large schools of Scads to Yellow-tail Barracudas and Jacks. The many schools of medium to large Humphead parrotfish are always exciting to encounter. Sometimes, the diver is lucky enough to meet large Rays, Guitarfish and even Manatees.

Attractions and Activities

Visitors can indulge in diving, snorkeling and turtle-watching activities and see unbelievably colourful macro fauna, in season from March to May. Among the 40 dive sites is the Lankayan Wreck, where the remains of an ocean-going fishing boat now host many different species of fish from small Glassfish, Harlequin Ghost Pipefish, Painted Frogfish to Giant Grouper and Marbled Stingray.

Accommodation comprises a handful of wooden and seafront double-occupancy chalets on Lankayan Island. Meals are informally served at the central open building, which boasts an amazingly beautiful open-air wooden terrace, the ideal spot for relaxing and chatting after dinner while admiring the dozens of juvenile Blacktip Sharks swimming leisurely a few feet beneath.

How to Get There

There are two ways to reach Lankayan Island at SIMCA. Visitors can catch a morning flight from Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan, and from there, choose between a boat or helicopter ride. By sea, speedboat transfer from the Sandakan Yacht Club to Lankayan Island takes about an hour and a half. If visitors choose to go to SIMCA directly by air, a helicopter has to be chartered. For more details please contact Miss Nur'ain Acheh at (+6) 088-215353 or nurain.acheh@sabah.gov.my.

FACTS & FIGURES

Year of gazettelement : 2001

Area size : 46,000ha of open sea, shallow reef coast and 3 islands

Management authority :
Sabah Wildlife Department

Species Watch : *Eretmochelys imbricata*



Hawksbill Turtles are found in tropical waters associated with coral reef ecosystem in several states including Johor, Pahang, Melaka, Terengganu and Sarawak and Sabah. In 2006, the major nesting site, Gulisan Island in Sabah, recorded 514 nests followed by Melaka's beaches with 388. The Hawksbill Turtle, named after its sharp and pointed beak, is omnivorous, feeding on both invertebrates and algae. Hawksbills have beautiful, translucent shells that have been used in tortoiseshell jewellery for centuries – a form of consumption that has contributed to their sharp population decline in the past century.



Department of Marine Park
Malaysia
Tel: (+6) 03-8886-1365
Fax: (+6) 03-8888-0489
www.dmpm.nre.gov.my



Department of Wildlife and
National Parks
Tel: (+6) 03-9075-2872
Fax: (+6) 03-9075-2873
www.wildlife.gov.my



Forestry Department
Peninsular Malaysia
Tel: (+6) 03-2616-4488
Fax: (+6) 03-2693-5657
www.forestry.gov.my



Johor National Parks Corporation
Tel: (+6) 07-223-7471
Fax: (+6) 07-223-7472



Perak State Parks Corporation
Tel: (+6) 05-791-4543
Fax: (+6) 05-791-2641
www.perakparks.com



Sabah Parks
Tel: (+6) 088-211-881
Fax: (+6) 088-221-001
www.sabahparks.org.my



Sabah Wildlife Department
Tel: (+6) 088-215-353
Fax: (+6) 088-222-476
www.sabah.gov.my/jhl



SARAWAK FORESTRY
Tel: (+6) 082-348-001
Fax: (+6) 082-341-550
www.sarawakforestry.com



WWF-Malaysia
Tel: (+6) 03-7803-7772
Fax: (+6) 03-7803-5157
www.wwf.org.my

News Updates

Kursus Warden Kehormat



Sabah Wildlife Department

Peserta-peserta yang menghadiri Kursus Warden Kehormat

Jabatan Hidupan Liar Sabah dengan kerjasama Reef Guardian dan WWF-Malaysia telah menganjurkan Kursus Warden Kehormat Hidupan Liar. Seramai 18 orang peserta menyertai kursus tersebut yang diadakan selama tiga hari. Pulau Lankayan merupakan salah satu pulau di dalam kawasan Sugud Islands Marine Conservation Area (SIMCA) yang diselia dan dikawal oleh Jabatan Hidupan Liar bersama-sama dengan Reef Guardian.

Warden Kehormat Hidupan Liar merupakan calon-calon yang dilantik untuk membantu aktiviti penguatkuasaan dan kawalan di kawasan perlindungan. Kursus ini diadakan khusus untuk melatih calon-calon Warden Kehormat Hidupan Liar menjalankan kuasa-kuasa yang diberikan di bawah Enakmen Pemuliharaan Hidupan Liar 1997. Antara objektif kursus ini adalah untuk membantu calon-calon warden mengenalpasti jenis-jenis kesalahan, menjalankan penguatkuasaan undang-undang secara berkesan mengikut peruntukan sepertimana yang terkandung dalam Enakmen Pemuliharaan Hidupan Liar 1997 dan memahami tugas dan tanggungjawab Warden Kehormat Hidupan Liar. *Untuk maklumat lanjut, sila hubungi Cik Nur'ain dari Jabatan Hidupan Liar Sabah (+6) 088-215-353 atau emel nurain.acheh@sabah.gov.my*

Coral Reef Camp in Tioman Island

The Department of Marine Park Malaysia (DMPM) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment organised a Coral Reef Camp programme for primary school students of Sekolah Kebangsaan Tekek in Tioman Island on 10-11 May 2008. Developed by Reef Check Malaysia, an international research based NGO, the programme was jointly implemented by DMPM, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Reef Check Malaysia.

The Coral Reef Camp programme, an initial phase of the 'Rainforest to Reef' programme, which was also developed by Reef Check Malaysia to raise awareness about island ecosystems and encourage people to act on protecting marine ecosystems. The programme will be carried out in schools situated within a marine park island. With 2008 being designated as the International Year of the Reef (IYOR 2008), the camp's main objective was to raise awareness specifically on reefs, why they are important and what we can do to protect them. The camp also aims to assess the resources available and the environmental education needs for each island.

The camp highlighted the key messages of marine conservation – corals are living things and contribute to coastline protection, fisheries resources, coastline protection and the tourism industry. The children were also taught what a marine park is and what is prohibited in the marine park area, as well as what they could do to protect coral reefs. Students were also asked to fill a feedback form and the response towards the programme was very positive. The majority of the students stated they were keen to participate in future camps. *To find out more about future camps organised by DMPM, please contact Nizam of DMPM at (+6) 03-8886-1416 or email nizamis@nre.gov.my.*

Department of Marine Park Malaysia



Students during the role-playing session as part of the Coral Reef Camp programme in Tioman Island

Wilderness First Aid Course in GSSP

As part of WWF-Malaysia's Gunung Stong State Park (GSSP) project to build the capacity of locals, WWF-Malaysia organised a First Aid and CPR course from 25 to 27 March 2008 in the nearby town of Dabong. Titled 'Wilderness First Aid & CPR', the course focused on giving first aid in remote areas such as forests or caves.

The guides were reminded that in remote areas, medical facilities and professional medical help are at least a day away, hence guides play a major role during medical emergencies. The course included an introduction to guiding ethics, where in an emergency, the guides should be the first to assist and the last to leave. They also practised creating bandages using available materials such as towels, shirts, shoes, pants and ponchos. In the rescue session where they were taught to carry a victim, they had to improvise stretchers using poles, tree barks, rattan, towels, shirts and ponchos to carry the victim out of the emergency.

On the final day, the participants were required to present on topics related to the training session and encouraged to voice their feedback. This compulsory component of every capacity building course conducted by WWF-Malaysia indirectly builds up their skills in presentation and public speaking which may be intimidating to some locals, but necessary if one is to do guiding. *To learn more about the capacity building courses organised by WWF-Malaysia, please contact Nik Maseri of WWF-Malaysia at (+6) 013-350-3405 or email nikmohdm@yahoo.com.*