

# Malaysian Parks



## NEWSLETTER

Issue #1/11 (Free distribution) • APR 2011

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Ministry of  
Natural Resources  
and Environment  
(NRE)



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

Comments and suggestions on the newsletter are welcome. Please email: [zamzurina@nre.gov.my](mailto:zamzurina@nre.gov.my)

**INSIDE:** Special feature on the Talang Satang National Park and its turtles.



**TRIVIA :** What are among the world's longest-lived creatures? Find out on Page 5!



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Tree planting by Menteri Besar Johor accompanied by Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (centre), in conjunction with World Forestry Day and International Year of Forest.

### International Year of Forests (IYF) and World Forestry Day

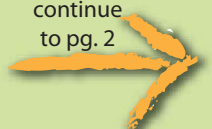
The World Forestry Day is celebrated on 21st March every year following the recommendation of the European Agriculture Association and endorsed by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the United Nations.

The first celebration was held on 21st March 1972, with the historic date chosen in conjunction with the first day of transition from autumn to spring in the northern hemisphere. The national level celebration this year, was held at Taman Wilayah Nusajaya, Johor.

This celebration is aimed at raising public awareness, particularly on the importance of trees and forests for humans. In tandem with the society's role in conserving the environment, the chosen theme for this year's celebration is Forests for Community Livelihood.

This year has also been declared the International Year of Forests 2011 with the theme Forests for People. Its official launch was held on 2nd Feb 2011 at the General Assembly hall of the UN in New York, in conjunction with the ministerial meeting of the ninth session of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF9).

continue  
to pg. 2







This was one of the efforts taken to introduce and promote the various aspects of sustainable forests management and the important role of forest in development all over the world. Last April 2010, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment launched a campaign to plant 26 million trees themed One Citizen, One Tree in Putrajaya. The campaign was carried out nationwide with cooperation from the Forestry Department, corporate bodies, non-governmental organisations and the public. A year later and in conjunction with the celebration of the 40th World Forestry Day and the International Year of Forests 2011, the eighth million tree was planted at the launching site in Nusajaya, Johor, by the state's Menteri Besar.

The government has also developed plans and programmes to connect fragmented forested areas through establishing ecological corridors. This effort is being implemented through the Central Forest Spine (CFS) project in Peninsular Malaysia and the Heart of Borneo (HoB) project in Sabah and Sarawak (together with Brunei and Indonesia).

For the CFS project, the government hopes to connect the four main forest complexes in Peninsular Malaysia. Looking at a bigger picture, the CFS area covers 5.3 million hectares, with 80 per cent of them being Permanent Forest Reserve (PRF). The government is currently conducting a study to build several wildlife crossings in areas identified as ecological corridors.

At the moment, more than 1.6 billion people from all over the world depend on the forests. At the same time, forests have become a permanent shelter for more than 300 million people. Hence, it is vital to educate the people on the value of forests as a national heritage and the importance of sustainable forest management.

About 31 per cent of the earth's surface is covered with forests, with Malaysia having 18.4 million hectares or 56.4 percent forest cover. An appropriate amount of forested areas is important to make sure that the country's biodiversity is conserved while stabilising the climate.

Malaysia's achievement in maintaining its natural forest is significant towards reaching the goals which were set during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) or Earth Summit, in Brazil in 1992. Malaysia had then pledged to maintain at least 50 per cent of its land under tree and forest cover. The country's commitment was reiterated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak at the 15th Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009.

## The 10th Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Malaysia and 192 Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) as well as other stakeholders attended the 10th Conference of Parties (COP 10) in Nagoya, Japan from the 18th-29th October 2010. There were participation of 122 ministers including the Hon. Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas, Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia and five Heads of States and other Government representatives. Governments agreed on a package of measures that will ensure that the ecosystems of the planet will continue to sustain human well-being into the future.

The meeting achieved its three inter-linked goals: adoption of a new ten-year Strategic Plan to guide international and national efforts to save biodiversity through enhanced action to meet the objectives of the CBD, a resource mobilisation strategy that provides the way forward to a substantial increase to current levels of official development assistance in support of biodiversity; and a new international protocol on access to and sharing of the benefits from the use of genetic resources.

The Strategic Plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2011-2020) or the "Aichi Target", includes 20 headline targets under five strategic goals that address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, reduce the pressures on biodiversity, safeguard biodiversity at all levels, enhance the benefits provided by biodiversity, and provide for capacity-building.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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## IN BRIEF

The meeting of the parties to the Biosafety Protocol prior to the CBD's COP 10 (COP-MOP5) saw the world community adopting the Nagoya-Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which was adopted after six years of negotiations.

The adoption of this Protocol is a clear recognition to Malaysia for the leadership role in biosafety negotiations under the UN process. It was Malaysia that introduced biosafety provisions in the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. In 2004, Malaysia hosted the first meeting of parties (MOP1) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety in Kuala Lumpur. At MOP1, the process to discuss the Liability Redress Supplementary Protocol started and went through 6 years of hard negotiations. The new supplementary Protocol provides international rules and procedure on liability and redress for damage to biodiversity resulting from living modified organisms (LMO).

For further info visit: [www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

## IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION ACT 2010 (ACT 716)

The Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act 716) which was passed by the Parliament in August 2010 came into force beginning 28th December 2010. The new Act applies to Peninsular Malaysia and the Federal Territory of Labuan.

The Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 replaces the Protection of Wildlife Act 1972 (Act 76). This new law has a wider scope and jurisdiction which allows for protection of more wildlife species and activities related to wildlife. Wildlife related activities such as zoological parks, circus, wildlife exhibitions, commercial breeding, and research on protected species are now subjected to the provisions under the Act to address issues such as animal welfare and cruelty. Besides that, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) will have better control on all wildlife species, wildlife derivatives, hybrid species and invasive alien species.

One of the key features of this new law is that it will be more deterrent in providing stringent penalties and punishment for poaching and other wildlife crimes. This Act ensures stiffer penalties which include increase penalties of up to RM500,000 with jail term of not more than five years. The minimum penalty imposed for several offenses is not less than RM5,000. The new Act also provides mandatory jail sentence for a term not exceeding five years and a fine not less than RM100,000 and not more than RM500,000 for offences involving totally protected wildlife such as the tiger, rhinoceros, serow, gaur, leopard, clouded leopard or false gharial.

In the effort to strengthen enforcement, the Director General of DWNP is authorised to appoint any public officer to exercise the powers of enforcement under this Act. Enacting the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 is a critical step towards reducing species loss and managing our biodiversity holistically while being guided by the National Policy on Biological Diversity.

The Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 [Act 716] is available at [www.wildlife.gov.my](http://www.wildlife.gov.my)

## CORRIDOR OF LIFE FOR SABAH'S ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

(Adapted from: -- BERNAMA, <http://bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=518121>)

The Sabah state government will be introducing the 'corridor of life' for the protected wildlife in Sabah. This programme would involve rehabilitation of the riparian reserve to open up a passage way for wild animals. Riparian forest is a forested area adjacent to a body of water or canal that allows fragmented forests to be connected.

At the moment the focus will be in the Kinabatangan district, which will see the attainment of a vast area to create the riparian reserve. Land is being bought up little by little and the plan is to encourage NGO's to raise funds and share the ownership of the land. Implementation of the programme would be carried out by the two departments with enforcement powers – State Wildlife Dept. and the Land and Survey Dept.

The corridor of life provides the means for animals to move from one place to another to look for food and creates opportunities to propagate and hopefully they won't encroach into plantations and become targets of planters and poachers. The state's most significant conservation programme dedicated for the wild animals is the Malua Forest Reserve with an area of 33,969 hectares followed by the Danum Valley and the Wild Animal Sanctuary at Sepilok covering 5,000-6,000 hectares. The government's long term objective is to make sure 55 per cent of the state remains covered with forest. In order to do that the state government will increase the number of forest reserves.

According to the Sabah's Wildlife Department, the endangered species are mostly found in the Tabin Wildlife Reserve in Lahad Datu and Ulu Segama. Others wander in various parts of the state. The rhinoceros is currently the most critically endangered species and is in need for a wildlife corridor. Under the State's Wildlife and Conservation Enactment 1997, wildlife sanctuaries are the strongest conservation category for fauna, flora and genetic resources and habitat.

For further information please contact: Sabah Parks - [sabahparks@sabah.gov.my](mailto:sabahparks@sabah.gov.my) / [sabahparks@gmail.com](mailto:sabahparks@gmail.com)



The Malaysian delegation to the COP10 in Nagoya, Japan.  
Dato Sri Douglas Uggah Embas (on screen) - NRE

## FEATURED PARK



Talang Besar and Talang Kecil



Pulau Tukong Ara

## Talang Satang National Park INTRODUCTION

Sarawak's first marine national park, Talang-Satang National Park was established with the primary aim of conserving Sarawak's marine turtle population. The park comprises the coastline and sea surrounding four islands of the southwest coast of Sarawak; Pulau Talang Besar and Pulau Talang Kecil off Sematan, and Pulau Satang Besar and Pulau Satang Kecil off Santubong, near Kuching. These four "Turtle Islands" are responsible for 95% of all the turtle landings in Sarawak. The park also includes the Pulau Tukong Ara-Banun Wildlife Sanctuary, two tiny islets which are important nesting sites for colonies of Bridled Terns and Black-Naped Terns.

Talang-Satang National Park covers a total area of approximately 19,400 hectares (19.4 sq km), and comprises all lands below the high tide marks on the respective islands, and the surrounding seas for a radius of 4.8 km from the highest point on each island. Beautiful shallow reef areas surround all the four islands. The reefs generally consist of several species of hard coral and colonies of soft coral. They provide shelter and resting grounds for sea turtles, and are also important fish breeding areas.

## VISITING THE ISLANDS

Because of the extreme sensitivity of the habitats, visitors are only allowed within 2.8km of Pulau Talang Besar, Pulau Talang Kecil, Pulau Satang Kecil or the Pulau Tukong Ara-Banun Wildlife Sanctuary by special arrangement with Sarawak Forestry. Such permission is normally only granted to *bona fide* researchers, students, conservation organisations, and people participating in the Sea Turtle Volunteer Programme (see next page).

Pulau Satang Besar, the largest of the islands, is open to visitors, but conservation takes priority over tourism. Parts of both the island and the surrounding sea are off-limits to visitors, who must remain within the designated area and be accompanied by Sarawak Forestry wardens at all times. Despite these very necessary restrictions, Pulau Satang Besar is a fascinating and beautiful place to visit.

The island itself is steep and thickly forested, and unsuitable for trekking. However a white sand beach stretches across the entire southern side of the island. The sea-bed slopes gradually to a depth of about 12 metres, with some attractive hard coral formations, soft corals, gorgonian sea fans and feather stars, surrounded by their attendant small fish. The colours can be fantastic, but visibility is frequently limited to between 3 and 10 metres, so only serious snorkellers and divers will see the corals at their best. Large pelagic fish are rare, but Green Turtles can occasionally be seen gliding gracefully through the water.

A conservation programme is under way on Talang-Satang's three larger islands, and in Tanjung Datu and Similajau National Parks on the Sarawak mainland. Eggs are either removed from nests and placed in guarded hatcheries, or left in place and guarded round the clock by Sarawak Forestry wardens. Some hatchlings are tagged with miniaturized radio tracking devices to learn more about their ecology and life cycle.



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The programme appears to be working well, as the number of landings has stabilised at between 1,500 to 3,000 per year over a 10 year period. Apart from that, over 2000 concrete reef-balls have been placed in the waters of the national park which not only provides a ready made habitat for coral species but also provide inter-nesting shelters for turtles; The reef balls' rough and heavy concrete construction will rip fishing nets to shreds, and therefore prevents encroachment by trawlers.

### THE SEA TURTLE VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The Sarawak Sea Turtle Volunteer Programme (SSTVP) is a unique eco-tourism initiative run by Sarawak Forestry. Open from May to September, this conservation-driven programme allows volunteers to actively participate in Sarawak's turtle conservation efforts by spending four days at the Turtle Conservation Station on Pulau Talang-Talang Besar. Duties include beach patrols to locate turtle arrivals, monitoring turtle nesting activity, tagging and measuring turtles, transferring eggs to the hatchery, releasing hatchlings and data recording. It's a great experience and a chance to learn more about turtle conservation. Participants will also gain the satisfaction of knowing that they are actually contributing to a valuable conservation project. For further details please contact Sarawak Forestry

#### Enquiries:

National Parks Booking Office, Visitors Information Centre,  
Jalan Tun Abang Haji Openg, 93000 Kuching Sarawak,  
Tel: (+6) 082 248088 Fax: (+6) 082 248087

## SPECIES WATCH

Sarawak Forestry



The Green Turtle

### MARINE TURTLES

**Life Span:** More than 100 years. It's amongst the world's longest-lived creatures.

**Mortality:** Poaching of turtles for meat and tortoiseshell; uncontrolled collecting of turtle eggs and entrapment in fishing nets. A female turtle may lay as many as 10,000 eggs in her lifetime but only as few as 10 hatchlings will survive to reach maturity.

**Critically endangered species:** The Green Turtle, Hawksbill, Olive Ridley, Leatherback and Loggerhead Turtles (nesting in Malaysia).

**Nesting season:** April - September

**Turtle Sanctuaries in Malaysia:** Sabah, Sarawak, Terengganu, Melaka, Pahang and Penang.

**Interesting Fact:** They do not lay their eggs on just any beach, but migrate back to their beach of birth.

### Johor Wildlife Conservation Project

It is with the support from DYMM Sultan Ibrahim Ismail Ibni Almarhum Sultan Iskandar as the patron of the project, and the keen interest of the State Government of Johor, that the Johor Wildlife Conservation Project (JWCP) was officially launched in June 2009. This is a 10-year project initiated by the State Government of Johor to protect and preserve wildlife and their habitat in Johor, with the focus species being the Asian Elephants and Malayan Tigers. The JWCP unites six agencies, including the Johor National Parks Corporation, State Forestry Department of Johor, Department of Wildlife and National Parks of Johor, Royal Malaysian Police, Kulim (Malaysia) Berhad, and Wildlife Conservation Society-Malaysia Program. In addition, Panthera, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Save the Tiger Fund are acknowledged as external donors supporting the JWCP. JWCP study site is a landscape covering 2,500 km<sup>2</sup> from the Endau Rompin (Johor) National Park to Ulu Sedili Forest Reserve, which is collectively known as the Johor Endau Rompin Landscape (JERL).

For the tiger component of the JWCP, an ambitious target of a 50% increase in tiger population in the project site over 10 years was set under the Tigers Forever initiative, which is a Panthera's Program, collaborating with WCS. In 2008, systematic surveys of tiger prey occupancy and elephant population was completed. In 2009, the Human-Elephant Conflict (HEC) component of the JWCP started the HEC assessment. Partners under the JWCP have started joint enforcement actions, such as foot patrol, static road block, vehicle patrol and mobile road block, and using the Management Information System (MIST) as a recording and reporting tool since 2009. In the second half of 2009, a formal camera trapping survey to estimate tiger population and density in the upper JERL started and was completed in 2010.

In 2010, other than HEC assessment work, HEC mitigation started to take place. Three villages, namely Kampung Peta, Kampung Selai and Kampung Kemidak were selected as the 'testing sites' for the mitigation work due to the high incidents of HEC. Different methods of mitigation, such as watch towers and siren fences, were used to prevent elephant from entering agricultural land for crop raiding. Furthermore, an *ad hoc* camera trapping on tigers was carried out in the lower JERL.

For more information contact: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). [www.wcsmalaysia.org](http://www.wcsmalaysia.org)



Song Horng Liang

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Name of Event:** Biodiversity Day

**Date:** 22 May 2011

**Venue of Event:** Lubok Antu, Batang Ai

**Organizers:** NRE and SFD

#### Details:

Various awareness programme were lined up for this celebration including the Green Wave 2011. The Green Wave is a global biodiversity campaign to educate children and youth about biodiversity. Each year, The Green Wave will contribute to worldwide celebrations of the International Day for Biological Diversity (IDB). It also supports other national, international and global tree planting initiatives such as the UNEP-led Billion Tree Campaign. In participating schools, students plant a locally important tree species in or near their school yard on 22 May - IDB.



**Name of Event:** MENGO Eco Hunt 2011

**Date:** 25th & 26th June 2011

**Venue of Event:** Klang Valley

**Organisers:** MENGO

#### Details:

MENGO GREEN HUNT is held annually every June in celebration of World Environment Month. It is the first big scale public treasure hunt event in Malaysia that promotes green living and low carbon footprint. It will be a 2-Day event in conjunction with MENGO's 10th anniversary celebration. This hunt will have a low impact on the environment and it promotes a low ecological footprint. It focused mainly on sustainable transport with a zero waste production (by foot, bus and rail). Members of the public who would like to participate in the MENGO Green Hunt can register at [www.mengo.org](http://www.mengo.org).

#### The Merdeka Conservation Dive 2011

In spirit with our nation's 54th Independence month, this is an event to expand the knowledge and increase the awareness, especially of scuba divers and the public with regards to the conservation of reefs and the restoration of the marine ecosystem in Malaysia. There will be a cleaning up of the surrounding areas of the beach and fringing forest too. The exact date of the event is yet to be decided.

## NEWS UPDATES

### KURSUS PEMANDU PELANCONG BERKEMAHIRAN ALAM SEMULAJADI

Contributed by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks

Kursus Pemandu Pelancong Berkemahiran Alam Semulajadi (Nature Guide) Setempat Tahap 2 telah dijalankan pada 22 Februari-10 Mac 2011 di Pusat Pendidikan Biodiversiti (PPBD) Wang Pinang, Perlis. Kursus peringkat zon utara ini dianjurkan dengan kerjasama Kementerian Pelancongan Malaysia dan Pejabat Pelancongan Negeri Perlis. Seramai 39 orang peserta terdiri daripada individu-individu yang terlibat secara langsung dengan aktiviti eko-pelancongan dari sekitar negeri Perlis, Kedah dan Pulau Pinang telah menghadiri kursus ini. Ia adalah kursus wajib dan perlu dihadiri oleh bakal pemandu pelancong alam semulajadi sebelum melayakkan mereka untuk mendapat Lesen Pemandu Pelancong Alam Semulajadi Setempat Tahap 2 daripada Kementerian Pelancongan Malaysia. Majlis perasmian penutup dan penyampaian sijil telah disempurnakan oleh Y.B. Tuan Ahmad Bakri @ Ahmad Zakri bin Dato' Ali, Exco Pelancongan, Kesihatan dan Pembangunan Luar Bandar Negeri Perlis.



DWNP

### KEM PENDIDIKAN MARIN JTLM BERSAMA PERSEKUTUAN PENGAKAP MALAYSIA

Contributed by Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia

Kem Pendidikan Marin ini merupakan program kerjasama antara kedua-dua organisasi ini yang julung kalinya diadakan pada tahun 2011. Kem ini bertujuan untuk memberi pendidikan dan kesedaran kepada para pelajar khususnya Pasukan Beruniform Pengakap Laut mengenai keunikan Taman Laut dan usaha-usaha pemeliharaan khazanah alam semula jadi marin.

Kem peringkat kebangsaan ini telah diadakan di Pulau Redang pada 8-10 April 2011 yang disertai oleh 100 orang ahli Pengakap Laut dari seluruh negara. Para peserta telah didedahkan dengan Modul Kit Pendidikan Marin Jabatan Taman Laut Malaysia. Para peserta Pengakap Laut yang menamatkan kursus ini telah menerima sijil penyertaan dan dianugerahkan 3 lencana oleh Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia, iaitu Lencana Pewaris Maritim, Lencana Ahli Snorkel dan Lencana Pemuliharaan Ekologi Laut. Majlis penutup pada 10 April 2011 telah disempurnakan oleh Y. Bhg. Datuk Aziyah Mohamed, Timbalan Ketua Setiausaha (Sumber Asli), Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar.



Peserta Kem Pendidikan Marin JTLM Bersama Persekutuan Pengakap Malaysia

JTLM

## NEWS UPDATES