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# MALAYSIAN PARKS NEWSLETTER

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March 2008

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

## Sabah Parks' Sea Turtle Conservation Effort

A workshop titled "An Assessment of Legislation Enforcement to Conserve Sea Turtle and Turtle Eggs in Sabah" was held on 4 October 2007 at the Le Meridien Hotel, Kota Kinabalu. Organised by Sabah Parks, a total of 26 participants from 11 agencies, federal and state government departments attended the said workshop.

The workshop was officiated by the Director of Sabah Parks, Mr. Paul Basintal, and in his speech, he highlighted the aims of the workshop: to gather information from various agencies and departments on legislation concerning turtles and turtle eggs in Sabah; to discuss and evaluate the enforcement of these existing laws and regulations; to identify the problems and come up with practical and effective ways to enforce these laws; and to propose a mechanism to prohibit the sale of turtle eggs or any turtle product in the market.

Six papers from Sabah Parks, the Sabah Wildlife Department, Sandakan Municipal Council, Customs & Excise Department, Malaysia Maritime Enforcement Agency and Royal Malaysian Police were presented during the morning session. For the next session, the participants were divided into three groups to discuss law enforcement pertaining to conservation of turtles and turtle eggs in Sabah and recommend possible action plans to be taken by the agencies or departments.



Discussion among the participants during the group breakout session

Five main points resulted from the group discussions : legislation issues; the current status of enforcement operations; preventive measures at sea to stop turtle egg smuggling into Sabah; limited information on turtle eggs' smuggling syndicates; and public awareness campaigns on turtle conservation. Several recommendations to improve the situation were proposed and all agencies and departments agreed to enhance cooperation in the effort to conserve turtle eggs in Sabah.

At the end of the workshop session, Sabah Parks was given the responsibility to gather information pertaining to the status of law enforcement and relevant legislation on marine turtle conservation in Sabah. The resolution from the workshop will be presented at the upcoming Joint Management Committee of TIHPA (Turtle Islands Heritage Protected Area) meeting which will be held in Sabah.

For more details, please contact Rodzan of Sabah Parks at (+6) 088-211-881 or RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my.

**INSIDE : Special Feature on Pulau Payar Marine Park and the Black-tip reef shark**



## News Flash!!

Datu Haji Len Talif Salleh has been appointed as the Managing Director/CEO of SARAWAK FORESTRY and also the new Director/Controller of Sarawak Forest Department.



## IN BRIEF

### GSSP progresses with Technical Committee meeting

The final draft of the Gunung Stong State Park (GSSP) Preliminary Management Plan was presented at the GSSP Technical Committee meeting on 18 December 2007. Chaired by the Kelantan State Forestry Department, the committee discussed the main issues of the document, which included proposed budgets, staffing and management zones.

The committee has been tasked to review the document and revert with final comments by the end of January 2008. Once it has been finalised and endorsed, the Kelantan State Forestry Department will use the GSSP Preliminary Management Plan as a guide to manage GSSP.

### "Trees for Life" kick-starts 2008

Jointly organised by the Malaysian Nature Society and SARAWAK FORESTRY, the Trees for Life event was held at the Samajaya Nature Reserve on 19 January 2008.

Themed "Biodiversity in the Forest" the objective of the one-year community based project is to raise awareness about the vital roles of trees in safeguarding the environment and reducing the impact of global warming. It is also aimed at establishing a model for community participation in the conservation of Samajaya Nature Reserve. Activities led by local botanists and scientists from Malaysian Nature Society and SARAWAK FORESTRY included tree identification and a demonstration on how to prepare plant specimens.

## Majlis Perasmian Taman Negara Pulau Pinang

Majlis perasmian Taman Negara Pulau Pinang (TNPP) telah pun berlangsung pada 5hb Januari 2008 bertempat di Taman Negara Pulau Pinang, Teluk Bahang, Pulau Pinang. Majlis telah disempurnakan oleh Tuan Yang Terutama, Tun Dato' Seri Utama (Dr) Hj. Abdul Rahman Hj. Abbas, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang. Hadir sama, Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Dato' Seri Utama Hajjah Majimor Shariff; Yang Amat Berhormat Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Ketua Menteri Pulau Pinang; Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Azmi Khalid, Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar; Datuk Suboh Mohd Yassin, Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar; Encik Abd Rasid Samsudin, Ketua Pengarah PERHILITAN Semenanjung Malaysia, dan En. Noor Alif Wira Osman, Penguasa Taman Negara Pulau Pinang.



Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato' Seri Utama (Dr) Haji Abdul Rahman bin Haji Abbas, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Pulau Pinang dan ditemani oleh Menteri Besar, Y.A.B. Tan Sri Dr. Koh Tsu Koo and Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Y.B. Dato' Seri Azmi Khalid

Menteri Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, YB Dato' Seri Azmi Khalid berkata kementerianya memperuntukkan sebanyak RM42 juta bagi membangunkan infrastruktur dan kemudahan pelawat di Taman Negara Pulau Pinang seperti bangunan pejabat, jeti, wakaf dan kemudahan tapak perkhemahan. Adalah diharapkan dengan adanya kemudahan berkenaan, pelawat akan dapat menikmati keadaan semula jadi dengan lebih selesa. Sila layari laman web Taman Negara Pulau Pinang untuk maklumat selanjutnya:

[www.wildlife.gov.my/tnpp/index.htm](http://www.wildlife.gov.my/tnpp/index.htm)

*Untuk maklumat tentang perasmian Taman Negara Pulau Pinang 2008, sila hubungi En. Burhanuddin (+6) 03-90752872 atau emel [burhan@wildlife.gov.my](mailto:burhan@wildlife.gov.my)*

Dengan perasmian tersebut, TNPP kini menjadi produk pelancongan terbaru di Pulau Pinang yang bakal menjadi tarikan utama kepada para pelancong yang meminati aktiviti ekopelancongan. Ia mampu menampung kapasiti sebanyak 3,000 pelawat sehari. Terletak di sebelah Barat Laut dan Barat Daya negeri, ia mempunyai keluasan sebanyak 1,181ha serta mempunyai lebih 1,000 spesies flora dan 300 spesies fauna. Juga terdapat tasik meromiktik (tasik campuran air tawar dan air masin) yang merupakan salah satu tarikan utama di situ.

## FACT BOX

TNPP diwartakan sebagai Taman Negara Pulau Pinang pada 10hb April 2003 mengikut Akta Taman Negara 1980.

*Sila rujuk kepada Malaysian Parks Newsletter Bil.04/Dis 2007.*

Layari laman web NRE untuk muat turun edisi Malaysian Parks Newsletter:

<http://www.nre.gov.my/opencms/opencms/NRE/BM/Favourite/ePublications/index.html>.

## Research Centre launched in Pulau Banding

The Pulau Banding Rainforest Research Centre was launched in January 2008 by the Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid. An initiative under the Pulau Banding Charter, which is aimed at conserving the 130-million-year-old Belum-Temengor rainforest, the centre has received its first donation of RM1 million by the Emkay Foundation for the construction of a laboratory and maintenance. The research centre, which will be operational in March 2008, is intended to provide opportunities for scientists to research and discover the biodiversity of the Belum-Temengor forest complex.

Located at Tasik Temengor, Perak, Pulau Banding is part of the Belum-Temengor forest complex. A portion of the Belum-Temengor forest complex, the Royal Belum State Park which covers an area of 117,500ha, was gazetted under the Perak State Parks Corporation Enactment in May 2007. It is currently managed by the Perak State Park Corporation. For more information on the Royal Belum State Park, please visit [www.perakparks.com](http://www.perakparks.com).

*Please contact Iylia from Perak State Parks Corporation (+6) 05-7914543 or email [i\\_yilia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:i_yilia@yahoo.co.uk) for further details.*



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

30 March -

4 April

Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia is organising a scientific expedition that will explore all the eight forest reserves in Melaka. For participation and more information, please contact Mr. Koh Hock Lye at (+6) 03-2616-4488 or email at koh@forestry.gov.my.

18-20 April

The Department of Marine Park Malaysia will be co-organising 'Pesta Laut', an awareness outreach programme, with Coral Malaysia, ReefCheck, Malaysian Nature Society and Tioman Dive Center at Pulau Tioman. Activities lined up for the 3-day programme include a clean-up of Crown-of-Thorns, a day with the local villagers and the 'Say No to Styrofoam' campaign. For more details, please contact En. Nizam at (+6) 03-8886-1416 or email him at nizamis@nre.gov.my.

21-23 May 2008

Sabah Wildlife Department is jointly organising the 1st International Workshop on the Conservation of Borneo Pygmy Elephants in Sabah with Cardiff University, HUTAN, WWF-Malaysia and University Malaysia Sabah. The workshop will be a forum for discussions on Borneo Elephant ecology, distribution, population genetics, movement and habitat use and human-elephant conflicts. Venue has not been confirmed. For more details, please contact Nur'ain Acheh of Sabah Wildlife Department (+6) 088-215353 or email at sitinurain.ampuanacheh@sabah.gov.my



## Featured Park: Pulau Payar Marine Park

Pulau Payar (Payar Island) Marine Park consists of four islands, Pulau Payar, Pulau Lembu, Pulau Kaca and Pulau Segantang. Pulau Payar Marine Park is located about 19 nautical miles (nm) south of Pulau Langkawi, 32nm north of Penang and 15nm west of Kuala Kedah. The islands were gazetted as a marine park in 1994 under the Fisheries Act 1985 (Amended 1991).

Pulau Payar is the largest of the Pulau Payar group of islands, with an area of 31.2ha and an approximate length of 1.75km and about 500m wide. Two of the longest beaches (around 100m) are located in front of the marine park information centre and commercial tourist platform. Pulau Payar and Pulau Lembu are covered with dense vegetation while Pulau Kaca and Pulau Segantang (which is made up of two rocky outcrops joined together underwater) only has sparse vegetation.



One of the most common species of damselfish, *Neopomacentrus anabantoides* that can be found at Pulau Payar Marine Park

### Flora and Fauna

A total of 234 species from 50 families of coral reef fishes are found in the coral reefs of Pulau Payar Marine Park and the number of species observed is the second highest compared to other marine parks in Peninsular Malaysia.

The damselfishes (Family Pomacentridae) has the highest number of species diversity with 32 species, followed by wrasse (Family Labridae) with 25 species. Other families with high species diversity are butterflyfish (Family Chaetodontidae), snapper (Family Lutjanidae), groupers (Family Serranidae), gobies (Family Gobiidae), cardinalfishes (Family Apogonidae), parrotfishes (Family Scaridae), seabream (Family Nemipteridae), jack and travellys (Family Carangidae) and rabbitfishes (Family Siganidae).

### Attractions and Activities

The park provides a variety of outdoor opportunities for both land and underwater enthusiasts. There are a number of designated walking trails, and wildlife that can be spotted include the Island Flying Fox, Monitor Lizard and Shore Pit Viper. Bird-watching is also a popular activity as there are 21 species of birds found in the park, from the White-bellied Sea Eagle and Crested Serpent Eagle to the Imperial Pigeon. Scuba diving and snorkeling are the main activities for most of the visitors to Pulau Payar Marine Park.

One of the most interesting things to do is marine mammal- and fish-watching because the park is part of the migration route of these amazing marine life. Lucky divers and visitors will be able to get a glimpse of sailfish, dolphins, whales and the iconic whale shark from October till February.

### How to Get There

There are three main entry points to Pulau Payar Marine Park with Kuala Kedah being the nearest point of departure. There are also travel agencies and hotels in Pulau Langkawi which provide boat rental and ferry services to the park as well as arrangements for scuba-diving activities. It takes about 30 minutes by boat from Kuala Kedah, an hour from Pulau Langkawi and two hours from Pulau Pinang. Ferry services from Pulau Langkawi and Pulau Pinang depart on a daily basis. For more details, please contact En. Zakaria at (+6) 04-733 9086 or zakaria@nre.gov.my.

### FACTS & FIGURES

Year of gazettelement : 1994

Area size : 187.73 km sq

Management authority :  
Department of Marine Park  
Malaysia

### Species Watch : *Carcharhinus melanopterus*



Department of Marine Park Malaysia

The blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, is one of the most commonly found sharks in the shallow waters of the Indo-Pacific. The top half of its body is brownish while the tips of its pectoral fins and dorsal fin are black with a white underside. It feeds mainly on fishes, squids, octopuses and small sharks. Reproduction of the shark is viviparous (giving birth to live young), with two to four pups in a litter, measuring anywhere between 33 to 52cm at birth. Adults have been recorded up to 190cm (6 ft) in length. Blacktip reef sharks are often accidentally caught by fishermen and this has led to a gradual decline in their population.





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# News Updates

## Kursus Induksi Malim Gunung

Pada 10 hingga 13 Disember 2007, Taman-Taman Sabah telah menganjurkan satu Kursus Induksi Malim Gunung (Mountain Guide) bertempat di Taman Kinabalu. Seramai 70 orang malim gunung yang telah terpilih melalui proses temuduga untuk bertugas di Taman Kinabalu hadir pada kursus tersebut. Kursus ini juga telah dihadiri oleh renjer-renjer Taman yang bertugas di Taman-Taman Sabah.

Antara tujuan kursus ini diadakan adalah untuk memberikan input serba sedikit tentang cara tugas sebenar malim dan pendedahan asas mengenai pemanduan pelancong, memberikan pendedahan kepada para peserta mengenai Taman-Taman Sabah dan memberikan pengetahuan kepada para peserta mengenai bantuan kecemasan.



Sabah Parks

Malim gunung cuba 'menyelamatkan' nyawa dengan CPR

Antara pengisian program dalam kursus tersebut termasuklah taklimat oleh para pegawai Taman-Taman Sabah (Enakmen dan Peraturan Taman, Prosedur Kerja Malim Gunung, Asas Pemanduan Pelancong, Perjalanan Berpandu dan Kepimpinan) dan penceramah luar (Mountain Rescue). Para peserta juga didedahkan kepada teori dan praktikal pertolongan cemas oleh wakil dari Paramedik Yayasan Sabah.

Adalah diharapkan agar kursus ini dapat memberikan pengetahuan dan pendedahan serta maklumat persediaan mengenai tugas-tugas yang akan dihadapi dan dialami oleh para peserta kelak. Ini amat penting bagi mereka untuk bertugas dengan penuh persediaan dan menjaga imej Taman-Taman Sabah dikalangan pelancong. Untuk maklumat lanjutan, sila hubungi Rodzan dari Sabah Parks (+6) 088-211-881 atau emel [RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my](mailto:RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my).

## Mangrove planting in Tanjung Piai National Park

Forty students from several schools in Johor set out to learn about the ecosystem of mangrove forests at Tanjung Piai Johor National Park near Pontian, Johor. The children were taught the importance of mangrove forests, ways to preserve them and eventually given a hands on experience on planting mangrove saplings during their three-day nature Awareness Campaign: "Treasure the Mangroves" programme on 2 November 2007. The event was organised by Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia in collaboration with Johor National Parks Corporation. A total of 217 mangrove saplings were planted on that day. Tanjung Piai Johor National Park, covering an area of 926ha, was declared a Ramsar Site on 31 January 2003. For more details on Tanjung Piai National Park, please contact Anne at (+6) 07-696 9712 or email [anne.johorparks@gmail.com](mailto:anne.johorparks@gmail.com).

## World Wetlands Day celebrated in High Spirits

The Forest Department of Sarawak, the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF), SARAWAK FORESTRY, and federal and state governments jointly organised a World Wetlands Day at Rumah Panjang Hillary Jungang Ak Libi at Long Ajo, Tinjar, Baram. The ceremony was launched by YB Jacob Dungau Sagan, Baram constituency Parliamentary Member. YB Jacob reminded the community to partake responsibilities in the management of the park as it should be their concern as well – relying on authorities alone is inadequate.

To commemorate the official launch of World Wetlands Day, Hj Sapuan Ahmad, Senior Assistant Director, Forest Department of Sarawak handed over the Loagan Bunut National Park Integrated Management Plan to Wilfred S. Landong, General Manager, Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation Unit of SARAWAK FORESTRY. In his welcoming speech, Datu Hj. Len Talif Salleh, Director of Forest cum Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SARAWAK FORESTRY explained that a 5-year project "Conservation and Sustainable Use of Tropical Peat Swamp Forests and Associated Wetland Ecosystems" has been implemented at three selected locations: Loagan Bunut National Park in Sarawak, the Klias Peninsula in Sabah and south-east peat swamp in Pahang in Peninsular Malaysia.

He added that the Integrated Management Plan comprises 14 strategies, and one of the initiatives is to develop a few community based projects such as fish culture and fruit trees farming at areas surrounding the park.

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