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SARAWAK FORESTRY

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, you can also
contact khairus@nre.gov.my or
eliew@wwf.org.my.

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Park Guide Training and Licensing System

Under Regulation 8 of the National Parks and Nature Reserves Regulations, 1999, a park guide must possess a licence issued by the Controller of National Parks and Nature Reserves to provide guiding service in a national park or nature reserve.

It also stipulates that no licence for a park guide shall be issued unless the Controller is satisfied that the person applying for such licence has undergone and successfully completed such courses and training as may be prescribed or approved by the Controller, and that he is a person of good character, physically and medically fit to perform the duties of a park guide. In accordance with this statutory requirement, the office of the Controller has given approval to Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) to implement a park guide training and licensing system with effect from 1st April 2007.

The full Park Guide Licence is valid for 3 years. In order to obtain this licence, a park guide must have obtained a 'Certificate in Park Guiding Course' or pass the general examinations or assessment organised by SFC. He or she must pass at least one competency assessment of one of the products in at least one national park or nature reserve organised by SFC, and in conjunction with this, a 'Park Products and Services Course' will be organised in order for a park guide to qualify for guiding in specific parks.

The training programme under the Certificate Course is aimed at enhancing the professionalism of park guides, enabling park guides to understand conservation and enhancing the skill of park guides. It also hopes to inculcate best practice standards among park guides in relation to safety, interpretation, customer service, product promotion and park guide's own leadership and presentation. The course also includes assisting tour operators in identifying park guides possessing the relevant training and qualifications to conduct guiding services in national parks and nature reserves.

The core syllabuses for the 'Certificate in Park Guiding Course' are theoretical knowledge on tourism and ecotourism, Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) and biodiversity conservation, national parks and nature reserves as tourism products, risk management in national park and nature reserves and principle of thematic interpretation. Those keen in taking up park guiding as a career must undergo and complete this intensive skill-training programme. The curriculum is specially tailored to meet the demands of providing guiding services in our national parks and nature reserves.



Group photo of the first batch of park guides at the launching of the Park Guiding and Licensing System in Mulu National Park, Sarawak

INSIDE: A special feature on Tawau Hills Park in Sabah and the Rhinoceros Hornbill

SARAWAK FORESTRY'S Park Guiding Course highlights for 2007

- 9 Nov - 15 Nov 2007
Certificate in Park Guiding Course, Niah National Park
- 11 Nov - 29 Nov 2007
Certificate in Park Guiding Course, Gunung Mulu National Park
- 17 Dec - 20 Dec 2007
Certificate in Park Guiding Course, Bako National Park



IN BRIEF

Updates from Phase II of the Gunung Stong State Park (Proposed) Project

WWF-Malaysia has completed the Draft Preliminary Management Plan for the park and while awaiting its presentation and endorsement by the State Parks Technical Committee, has progressed to Phase II which is aimed at developing a capacity building programme for guides and locals in the Dabong and Jelawang area. The training programmes are also open to stakeholder agencies as well.

Training programmes conducted since June include compass and map reading, kayaking, basic entrepreneurship, rescue & high-rope techniques and a study visit to the rafflesia conservation area in Ulu Geroh, Perak.

Those interested to participate in training programmes can contact En. Nik Maseri at (+6) 013 350 3405 or email him at nikmohdm@yahoo.com

Pengawasan Sepenuh Masa di Taman Negara

Sepanjang bulan Jun, program ini telah dijalankan dua kali iaitu di Taman Negara Terengganu dan Pahang.

Kesan-kesan pencerobohan yang direkodkan kebanyakannya seperti takikan dan tulisan Siam serta khemah adalah kesan lama. Laluan ini merupakan salah satu laluan aktif penceroboh pada akhir tahun 2006.

Kesan spesies mamalia besar yang direkodkan adalah seperti harimau belang, beruang, gajah, ungka tangan putih dan kijang. Spesies enggang yang dapat direkodkan adalah seperti enggang badak, kelingking dan tebang mentua.

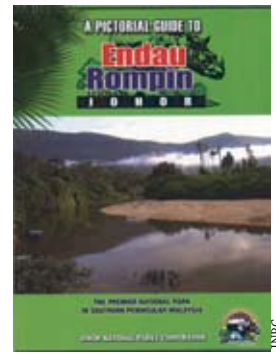
Sejumlah 10 jerat simbat telah dijumpai dan dimusnahkan di laluan Taman Negara Pahang. Di samping itu bekas perkhemahan pendatang haram Thailand (PHT) juga telah dijumpai dengan kekuatan seramai 20 orang. Kedua-dua kesan tersebut dianggarkan berusia kurang dari dua minggu. Satu penemuan yang menakutkan adalah pokok gaharu sebesar dua pemeluk telah dijumpai dan telahpun dirosakkan.

New Publications from JNPC

A Pictorial Guide to Endau-Rompin Johor

Published by Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC), 'A Pictorial Guide to Endau-Rompin Johor' is the official guidebook for Endau-Rompin Johor National Park. The book highlights both the gateways at Kg Peta (Mersing district) and Kg Selai (Segamat district) and provides useful information to Park visitors including general topics such as landscape, plant life, animal life, physical elements, local people, trip preparations, activities, facilities, destinations, Park regulations and also includes location maps.

This handy book is generously furnished with pictures which capture the beauty and diversity of life in Endau-Rompin Johor National Park. Written, documented and researched by JNPC officer, Chew Keng Lin, the guidebook is priced RM30 and available at JNPC headquarters as well as the respective JNPC parks.



The Forests and Biodiversity of Selai Endau-Rompin



In 1985-1986, the Malaysian Nature Society, with the cooperation of the Johor state government, conducted the first scientific expedition to the Endau-Rompin area in Johor. After significant findings from the expedition, the state government of Johor established the Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC) in 1989, and subsequently the Endau-Rompin Johor National Park was gazetted in 1993. However, 20 years after the 1st scientific expedition, the biodiversity in a vast area of the Park remains undiscovered.

In 2003, the Chief Minister of Johor, Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani Bin Othman launched the 2nd scientific expedition which explored the south western part of the Endau-Rompin Johor National Park through the Kg. Selai gateway. The expedition was organised by JNPC in collaboration with the

Institute of Biological Sciences of the University of Malaya, which provided research grants for the expedition. 'The Forest and Diversity of Selai Endau-Rompin' is the result of that expedition.

Edited by H. Mohamed and M. Zakaria-Ismail of the University of Malaya, this book documents the interesting geology, vegetation, environment and biodiversity of Selai Endau-Rompin. Researchers and research institutions alike will find this book a useful reference on the diversity of the Endau-Rompin Johor area. The book is priced at RM80 and available at JNPC headquarters as well as the respective JNPC Parks.

Translocation of Bekok to Taman Negara

Since its creation in 1939, Taman Negara National Park has been an important conservation site in this region. With an area of about 434,351ha straddling across the states of Pahang, Kelantan and Terengganu, it is considered a major site for the conservation of many endangered large mammals in Peninsular Malaysia. Since 1984, following the construction of the Kenyir Dam adjacent to Taman Negara National Park Terengganu, the park has been the main destination for the relocation of hundreds of affected elephants from other parts of Peninsular Malaysia.

Recently, on 7-15 June 2007, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) carried out a translocation exercise that ended up with the relocation of a male elephant, Bekok, from Johor to Taman Negara National Park Terengganu. The elephant from Bekok (from which its name is derived), Segamat had to be captured as a last resort after repeated attempts to manage it *in situ* failed as Bekok continued to cause extensive damage to crops of the surrounding villagers.

Since Bekok was a lonely bull the DWNP made a decision to translocate to Taman Negara Terengganu. The translocation exercise was carried out by DWNP's National Elephant Conservation Centre's capture team from Kuala Gandah, Pahang, DWNP Johor and Taman Negara Terengganu.

The whole translocation exercise was supported by the DWNP's two tame elephants. In addition to attracting visitors from all over the world, Taman Negara has been playing an important role in providing a safe refuge for the nation's endangered elephant in Peninsular Malaysia. However, DWNP, which is mandated to manage wildlife in Peninsular Malaysia and Taman Negara, has been cautious in relocating more elephants so as not to exceed the carrying capacity within the park. As part of the ongoing efforts to determine the status of biodiversity, including elephants at Taman Negara Terengganu, DWNP would be conducting a biodiversity inventory in August 2007 with the participation of some 60 external researchers.



Bekok being relocated to Taman Negara Terengganu, using a barga to cross the Kenyir Lake

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

4-6 Sept

Johor

National Parks Corporation

is jointly organising the 'International Seminar on Wetlands and Sustainability' with International (IIUM), University of Kyoto and JSPS-VCC at Puteri Pan Pacific Hotel, Johor Bahru.

For more details, please contact Assistant Prof Dr Maheran Yaman at maheran@iiu.edu.my or (+6) 03-6196 5260.

7-9 Sept

An inception workshop, titled 'Conserving Marine Biodiversity Through Enhanced Marine Park Management and Inclusive Sustainable Island Development', will be held at Berjaya Tioman Beach Golf & Spa Resort in Pulau Tioman, Pahang. This Marine Park Project is a collaboration between the Government of Malaysia, UNDP and Global Environment Facilities (based in New York). For more details, please contact En. Maznor Aznor B. Maznan at (+6) 03-88861399 or email him at maznor@nre.gov.my

Jul-Oct

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Bako National Park SARAWAK FORESTRY is organising ongoing activities to commemorate the event including conservation talks and education and awareness programmes for schools and the public. For more details, please call Shirley Gias of SARAWAK FORESTRY at (+6) 082-348001 or email shirley@sarawakforestry.com.

Nov (date to be confirmed)

The Technical Working Committee for Penang National Park has scheduled a meeting in Nov. Exact date and venue details have not been confirmed, but for more information, please contact En. Yusoff Shariff at (+6) 03-90752872 ext. 244.



Featured Park: Tawau Hills Park

Tawau Hills Park is located in south-eastern Sabah, about 20 km north of Tawau town and it is the sole terrestrial park in the east coast of Sabah. The primary objectives of its gazettment are to protect the water catchment for the people of Tawau town and Semporna Peninsula, to preserve the forest for wildlife sanctuary and to preserve areas of scenic beauty for amenity and recreational purposes.

The terrain within the Park is quite rugged and hilly, with altitudes ranging from 30m to 1,312m at its highest point. There are three main peaks in the form of extinct volcanoes which were last active about 27,000 years ago. These are Mt. Magdalena (1,312m), Mt. Lucia (1,202m) and Mt. Maria (1,083m). Trails to climb Mt. Magdalena and Mt. Lucia were recently completed in 2006 and will soon be opened to visitors.



Elephant's ear orchid

Flora and Fauna

The dominant original vegetation is the lowland dipterocarp forest. With increasing altitude, above 1,000m, a thick and damp mossy forest takes over. Lowland orchids, epiphytes and forest herbs are abundant. About 150 orchid species have been recorded and the most spectacular is the elephant's ear orchid. Here and there, a 'mengaris' (or tualang) tree stands tall above the forest canopy. It was recorded by Dr. Roman Dial from Anchorage Alaska University, USA that 10 of the world's tallest tropical trees are in Tawau Hills Park.

Wildlife such as Long-tailed Macaques and Red-Leaf Monkeys are common. Those who are lucky may catch a glimpse of a Forest Tortoise along the trail or the beautiful Giant Tree Squirrel. Civets, Leopard Cats and even a Clouded Leopard have been spotted. Hornbills, pheasants and other forest birds are abundant in the Park.

Attractions and Activities

Besides the natural attractions such as crystal-clear rivers and spectacular waterfalls, visitors are provided with various facilities such as picnic areas, suspension bridges, jungle trails and accommodation. There is also the 'Lowland Garden', where various wild plants are cultivated for display. The Bird Breeding and video presentations are provided to visitors as part of Sabah Parks' educational programme.

How to Get There

Access to the Park from Tawau town is by an approximately 45 minute-drive via a sealed road which winds through the cocoa and oil-palm plantation. Drivers are advised to follow proper road signs placed along the route. Chartered taxis are available at the town area. For more details, please call Sabah Parks at (+6) 088 211 881.

FACTS & FIGURES

Year of gazettment : 1979

Area size : 27,972ha

Management authority:
Sabah Parks Board of Trustees

Species Watch : *Buceros rhinoceros*

The Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*) is one of the largest flying birds in the tropical rainforest. Locally known as the 'Enggang Badak', it is characterised by the presence of a uniquely-shaped casque on top of its head that resembles the horn of a rhinoceros, from which its name is derived. A resident of South Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo, distribution of this species spans across lowland and lower montane rainforests. Adult birds usually weigh an average of 2,655g with a wing span of 150cm. Although it mainly feeds on fruits, it also sometimes feeds on small animals from insects, snails to snakes and lizards.



Maklamin Lakim/Sabah Parks



Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)
KM 10, Jalan Cheras
56100 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: (+6) 03-9075-2872
Fax: (+6) 03-9075-2873
www.wildlife.gov.my



Forestry Department
Peninsular Malaysia
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50660 Kuala Lumpur
Tel: (+6) 03-2616-4488
Fax: (+6) 2693-5657
www.forestry.gov.my



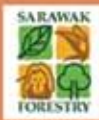
Johor National Parks Corporation
JKR 475, Bukit Timbalan
80000 Johor Bahru
Johor
Tel: (+6) 07-223-7471
Fax: (+6) 07-223-7472
www.johorparcs.com



Marine Park Section
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Level 11, Tower Block 4G3,
No. 25, Persiaran Perdana
Wisma Sumber Asli, Precinct 4
62574, Putrajaya
Tel: (+6) 03-8886-1365
Fax: (+6) 03-8888-0489
www.nre.gov.my



Sabah Parks
P.O. Box 10626
88806 Kota Kinabalu
Sabah
Tel: (+6) 088-211-881
Fax: (+6) 088-221-001
www.sabahparcs.org.my



SARAWAK FORESTRY
Level 12, Office Tower,
Hock Lee Centre
Jalan Datuk Abang Abdul Rahim
93450 Kuching
Sarawak
Tel: (+6) 082-348-001
Fax: (+6) 082-341-550
www.sarawakforestry.com



WWF-Malaysia
49, Jalan SS23/15
Taman SEA, 47400
Petaling Jaya, Selangor
Tel: (+6) 03-7803-3772
Fax: (+6) 03-7803-5157
www.wwf.org.my

News Updates

Expedisi 'Reef Clean Up 2007'

Ekspedisi 'Reef Clean Up 2007' telah diadakan pada 25-27 Mei 2007 di Taman Laut Pulau Aur dan Pemanggil, Mersing Johor. Program ini merupakan program tahunan Jabatan Taman Laut, Malaysia, dalam usaha meningkatkan kesedaran awam dan konservasi marin melalui aktiviti-aktiviti selaman seperti membersihkan dasar laut daripada sampah, mengutip pukat hanyut yang tersekat di batu karang dan memungut tapak sulaiman 'mahkota berduri' yang merupakan musuh semulajadi batu karang. Seramai 20 orang penyelam sukarela dan kakitangan Jabatan Taman Laut menyertai ekspedisi kali ini. Ekspedisi kali ini amat berjaya dengan pungutan 'mahkota berduri' melebihi 200 ekor. Pada tahun lepas, pungutan COT di Pulau Aur dan Pemanggil berjumlah 1,049 ekor manakala pungutan tahun 2007 berjumlah 1,163 ekor.



'Mahkota berduri' (crown of thorns)

Marine Park, NRE

Untuk maklumat lanjutan COT, sila hubungi Nizam Ismail (+6) 03-8886-1416 atau emel nizamis@nre.gov.my

Trees for Life Community Project

The Trees For Life Community Project was jointly organised by SARAWAK FORESTRY and Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Kuching Branch to commemorate the global "7.7.07 Live Earth".



SARAWAK FORESTRY staff and MNS member join hands in planting a tree seedling

SARAWAK FORESTRY

The event hoped to raise awareness about the vital role of trees in safeguarding our environment and reducing the impacts of global warming, and marked the launch of a joint project by MNS Kuching and SARAWAK FORESTRY to restore degraded habitats in the Sama Jaya Nature Reserve in Kuching.

The highlight of the event was the sale of seedlings of native Sarawak trees and tree planting. At RM20 per seedling, this event offered an opportunity for members of the Kuching community to support a vital conservation effort. Extra seedlings were also sold for planting in home gardens and certificates of sponsorship were given out. Fun activities including body painting, music presentation and sales of food and drinks were organised to generate funds in support of a conservation fund for future further tree-planting efforts in the Sama Jaya Nature Reserve.

The tree planting activity will be carried out every 3 months. For more details, please visit www.sarawakforestry.com or email Shirley Michael at shirleyl@sarawakforestry.com.

Taklimat di Taman Tun Mustapha (cadangan)

Satu taklimat mengenai status pewartaan taman cadangan Taman Tun Mustapha telah dianjurkan oleh Taman-Taman Sabah dan WWF-Malaysia pada 12 Jun 2007 di Ruang Legar Rumah Rehat, Karakit, Pulau Banggi, Kudat. Seramai 30 orang ketua-ketua dan penduduk kampung di Pulau Banggi menghadiri majlis ini. Taman cadangan ini akan melibatkan kawasan seluas 1,100,000ha meliputi kawasan daratan dan lautan yang merentangi kawasan pesisir pantai daerah Kudat, Kota Marudu dan Pitas serta lebih kurang 50 buah pulau termasuk dalam kawasan ini.

Antara tujuan taklimat ini diadakan adalah untuk menyalurkan maklumat tentang objektif dan kepentingan serta proses penubuhan Taman Tun Mustapha dan, maklumat mengenai gambaran kajian komuniti dan sosioekonomi di taman cadangan tersebut. Majlis ini dimulakan dengan sesi taklimat oleh Encik Paul Basintal, Penolong Pengarah (Bahagian Penguurusan Taman, Penguatkuasaan dan Pembangunan) dan diikuti oleh pembentangan mengenai gambaran keseluruhan tentang kajian lapangan komuniti di kawasan cadangan Taman Tun Mustapha oleh pasukan CEPA (Taman-Taman Sabah/WWF-Malaysia) dan sesi taklimat oleh WWF-Malaysia mengenai Cadangan Maliangin Sanctuary.



Sesi lawatan ke kawasan cadangan Maliangin Sanctuary

Sabah Parks

Salah satu program yang dianjurkan pada sesi taklimat ini adalah lawatan ke kawasan cadangan Maliangin Sanctuary oleh pihak WWF-Malaysia. Lokasi ini dijadikan sebagai tapak contoh dimana cara-cara pengurusan bersama boleh dicuba oleh penduduk dan kerajaan.

Untuk maklumat lanjutan, sila hubungi Rodzan Pg. Dahlan dari Sabah Parks 088-211-881 atau emel RodzanPg.Dahlan@Sabah.gov.my, ataupun Lee Yoke Lee dari WWF-Malaysia at (+6) 088-612339 dan yilee@wwf.org.my.