

# Malaysian Parks



## NEWSLETTER

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Ministry of  
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and Environment  
(NRE)

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

WWF-Malaysia/Rahana



*The Malayan Tiger*

### Hunting Ban in Johor

Source: Johor National Parks Corporation and Utusan Malaysia

Johor has become the first state to ban all commercial hunting as a move to increase the prey in the state parks to eventually aid the tiger population. The state's long term aim is to increase the population of tigers by 50 per cent over the next decade.

According to the Johor National Parks Corporation director, Abu Bakar Mohamed Salleh, no hunting or harvesting licenses have been issued by Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan) since April 2008. Abu Bakar also said that since the state began lobbying for the ban last year, the corporation has confiscated and surrendered to Perhilitan 92 snares that were found in the forest reserves near the park.

Anyone caught hunting illegally and found guilty under the Johor National Parks Corporation Enactment 1989 can be fined up to RM5, 000 and imprisoned for six months. The corporation suggested that the Enactment should be revised back as the penalty given was quite low compare to the profits the hunters receive from selling the bones and internal organs of the tigers, which could reach RM160, 000 to RM200, 000.

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**TRIVIA:** What is the biggest wild cattle in the world?

Department of  
Wildlife and Natural Parks



JOINT RESEARCH BY INTERNATIONAL BODIES AND UiTM IN TAMAN NEGARA

Source NST 31 December 2008



Entrance to Taman Negara

International bodies such as Denmark's Copenhagen Zoo, University of Canterbury, New Zealand and University of California, Santa Cruz, USA have indicated their interest in joining Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) in its research activities and studies on the biodiversity of Taman Negara National Park in Kuala Keniam, Pahang.

Copenhagen Zoo has indicated its willingness to conduct a joint research on the Malayan tapir, and it plans to offer scholarships for masters and doctorate courses on studies of the park. The research projects were initiated by UiTM in March 2007 following the approval of a research grant of RM1.5 million under the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme. The funds have been utilised to carry out 45 research projects which involved 200 UiTM lecturers and researchers. Some of these researchers have received local and international awards for their work. A research station known as the UiTM-Perhilitan Research Station at Kuala Keniam has been set up for this project to provide facilities for the researchers.

IN BRIEF

SOFT OPENING OF PAYA INDAH WETLANDS.

The relaunch of the Paya Indah Wetlands was held on 20 October 2008 and was officiated by Y.B Datuk Douglas Uggah Embas, the Minister of Natural Resources and the Environment. The event was held in conjunction with the launching of National Environmental Week 2008 which was from 21 to 27 October 2008.

As part of the celebrations for the National Environment Week, students from 26 schools in Dengkil, Cyberjaya, Putrajaya, Sepang, Kajang and Banting participated in a tree-planting activity during the launch of an environment awareness campaign, themed Environmental Conservation, Our Shared Responsibility.



School students planting trees during the launch of an environment awareness campaign.

The Paya Indah Wetlands is an important site for biodiversity conservation as it is a home to numerous species of birds, fishes, mammals, reptiles, aquatic and terrestrial plants. Rehabilitation work has been done on the park to restore the degraded areas and to conserve the natural habitats. It has a lot of potential to become an excellent ecotourism spot because it is located less than 50km away from Kuala Lumpur, Petaling Jaya, Shah Alam and Klang, and thus is easily accessible.

“TREK AND TREAT” AT SALT TRAIL, CROCKER RANGE PARK

A third jointly-organised ‘Trek and Treat’ programme by Sabah Parks, MERCY Malaysia Sabah Chapter and Partners of Community Organization (PACOS TRUST) was held from 28 April to 2 May 2009 along the Salt Trail at the Crocker Range Park. Forty-six participants including medical doctors, parks rangers, nurse, volunteers, guides and porters were involved in this programme.

The programme was organised to promote responsible ecotourism, to promote recreational activities, create awareness on the importance of the environment, provide health screening for women, and provide basic medical and dental care to villagers along the trail.



Villagers registering with MERCY Malaysia before undergoing medical check-up

Sabah Parks

The Salt Trail is the main trail for trekkers at the Crocker Range Park. The trail has been used by villagers and was improved in 2003 by volunteers from Raleigh International. The total length of the trail is about 40km and it took five days and five nights for the participants to complete the said trip.

The closing ceremony was held at the Inobong Substation, Crocker Range Park, Penampang and the Chairman of the Sabah Parks Board of Trustees, Y. Berhormat Dr. Joachim Gunsalam, was invited to present the certificate to participants and to officially close the programme.

For more details, please contact Rodzan of Sabah Parks at (+6) 088-221-881 or email at RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my

ROYAL BELUM STATE PARK

The Royal Belum State Park was officially gazetted under the Perak State Parks Corporation Enactment 2001 by the Perak State Government on 3 May 2007. The Royal Belum State Park covers an area of 117,500ha of pristine ancient rainforest in Hulu Perak which corresponds to almost 90% of the total Belum Forest Reserve (132,000ha).

It is now the third largest park in Malaysia (overtaking the recently gazetted Selangor Heritage Park – see issue 01/2007 of the Malaysian Parks Newsletter) after the Taman Negara National Park and Crocker Range Park which cover 434,351ha and 139,919ha respectively. It is identified as an Environmentally Sensitive Area, Level 1 under Malaysia's National Physical Plan 2005, and it is listed as one of the ten special places for ecotourism in the National Ecotourism Plan.

The northern boundary of the Royal Belum State Park coincides with the international border between Malaysia and Thailand while its eastern boundary follows the Perak-Kelatan state boundary. To the south of the state park is the East-West Highway while to the west is the Gerik Forest Reserve. The Royal Belum State Park protects the water catchment for the Temengor Dam, whose power station generates the third largest amount of hydro-generated electricity in the Peninsula.



The largest flower in the world, Rafflesia, can be found in Royal Belum State Park

FLORA AND FAUNA

The Royal Belum State Park is home to large mammals such as the Asian elephant and the Malayan tiger, which makes this state park an important conservation area for these threatened species. Among other large-sized terrestrial animals that occur in the state park are the seladang or gaur, sambar deer, serow, Malayan tapir, Malayan sun bear, wild pig and several species of primates. Belum-Temengor is the only forest in Malaysia with all ten species of Malaysian hornbills, including large flocks of the plain-pouched hornbill, are found.

WWF-Malaysia/Ahmad Zafir



Orang asli settlement in Kampung Kejar

Rafflesia cantleyi, a species endemic to Perak, Pahang and Terengganu, is one of the flora highlights of the Royal Belum. There are at least two other rafflesia species that occur in the state park, namely Rafflesia kerrii and Rafflesia azlani. Rafflesias have the largest flowers in the world but they are increasingly threatened due to habitat loss and forest disturbance.

FACTS & FIGURES

Date of gazettelement: 2007

Area size: 117,500ha

Management Authority: Perak State Parks Corporation

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WWF-Malaysia / S. Suksuwan

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Conservation & Environmental  
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SECRETARIAT:  
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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  
haslin@nre.gov.my or  
ssuksuwan@wwf.org.my

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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) 07-266-1301  
Fax: (+6) 07-266-1302



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/jhi



SARAWAK FORESTRY  
Tel: (+6) 082-610 088  
Fax: (+6) 082-341-550  
www.sarawakforestry.com



WWF-Malaysia  
Tel: (+6) 03-7803-3772  
Fax: (+6) 03-7803-5157  
www.wwf.org.my

For more details, please contact Anne Majanil at (+6) 07-696 9712 or email anne.johorparks@gmail.com

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## ATTRACTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Belum forest offers a host of adventure activities such as trekking and wildlife watching usually at saltlicks, with Kejar River and Papan River being the main destinations. More leisurely activities, include swimming at designated spots such as the Ruok Waterfalls, Semelians Waterfall, Mes Waterfall, Kejar River and Selantan River.

Other places of interest include Belum Lama, an abandoned Malay village whose inhabitants were relocated during the communist insurgency and the Orang Asli settlement at Sungai Tiang. The Orang Asli here are of the Jahai tribe, who are the oldest people in the Peninsula.

## HOW TO GET THERE

The Royal Belum State Park is approximately 170km north-east of Perak's capital town, Ipoh. From Ipoh, take the North-South Expressway to Kuala Kangsar and after exiting the toll look out for the sign to Gerik. Banding Island is the gateway to Royal Belum and easily accessible by road from Gerik (45 minutes), Ipoh (3 hours), Penang (2 hours) and Kota Bharu (4 hours). Jeti Awam Pengkalan Aman is one of the boat departure points to the state park. However, to enter Royal Belum, tourist should apply permit from Perak State Parks Corporation (PSPC).

For more information, please contact PSPC at (+6) 03-791 4543.

## SPECIES WATCH

WWF-Malaysia/M.Kavanagh



### BOS FRONTALIS (SELADANG)

The gaur or locally known as seladang is a large and muscular dark-coated wild cattle with a high ridge on the back and white or yellow stockings on all four legs. The gaur is the second largest terrestrial animal after the elephant. Its natural distribution is from south-east Asia to India and extreme south China. According to the IUCN, the global conservation status for this species is Vulnerable. The gaur can be found in forested areas where it may enter grasslands to feed but returns to forest for shelter. This nocturnal animal feeds on various grasses including bamboo as well as leaves. The gaur stays in herds of six to 20 or more and regularly visits salt licks for its health.

## NEWS UPDATES

### THE TALLEST TROPICAL TREE IN THE WORLD

Source: NST 26 Jan 2009

Seraya Kuning Siput or *Shorea faguetiana* Heim. is a centrepiece in Tawau Hills Park that deserves the attention of all the visitors at the park, as the 88.32m tree is the tallest tropical tree in the world. According to a research assistant, Evertius Andrew, it is not the only tree measured and recorded among the tallest by scientists from 2005 to 2007. There are seven other trees that stand above 80m that are listed in the top 10 of the tallest tropical trees in the world. Andrew, 26, who also guides visitors, said the trees are gradually attracting more attention since word spread about them in scientific journals or promotional materials.

The 28,000ha Tawau Hills National Park, managed by Sabah Parks, was established in 1979. Sungai Tawau in this park remains a popular picnic site among the locals. There is also an orchid park and a small aviary. This place is a sample of what the tropical forest is like and being located barely 20 minutes from town, it is hard for visitors to miss this even during a short visit. The tallest tree can be viewed after an uphill trek along a footpath after about 20 minutes and a few others are also within reach in minutes. Along the trail, guides will point out certain unique plants, insects or other wildlife in the park which boasts a 17km jungle trail and three mountain peaks.

For more details, please contact Rodzan of Sabah Parks at (+6) 088-221-881 or email RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### 16 – 22 June 2009

The Department of Marine Park Johor is organizing a "Coral Reef Camp 2009" at the Pulau Sibul and Pulau Tinggi in the State of Johor. This awareness programme on coral reef ecosystem will be launched by Tuan Haji Abdul Jamal bin Mydin, Chief Director, Department of Marine Park.

For more details, please contact Mr. Mohd. Nizam Ismail at (+6) 03-8886 1416 or email him at nizamis@nre.gov.my

### June 2009

The Department of Marine Park Labuan is organizing a beach clean-up in Pantai Pulau Kuran, Labuan. This activity involves secondary school students in Labuan areas, NRE agencies, JPA, Marine Department, Municipal Council Labuan and Labuan Tourism Action Council.

For more details, please contact Mr. Mohd. Nizam Ismail at (+6) 03-8886 1416 or email him at nizamis@nre.gov.my



### 07 July 2009

The Sabah Wildlife Department is organising an open day at the Lok Kawi Wildlife Park. The park will be open from 9 am until 5 pm with no admission fee. There will be fun activities such as competitions, lucky draws, elephant rides and animal shows during the open day

For more details, please contact Miss Siti Nur'ain Ampuan Acheh at (+6) 088-215353 or email nurain.acheh@sabah.gov.my

## NEWS UPDATES

### WORKSHOP COMMUNITY USE ZONE (CUZ) ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA AND PROPOSAL ON RESEARCH TOPICS FOR CUZ MANAGEMENT

A workshop on Community Use Zone (CUZ) Eligibility Criteria and Proposal on Research Topics for CUZ Management was held from 15 to 16 January 2009 at Hotel Jura, Keningau. Jointly organised by Sabah Parks and JICA-BBEC, the workshop was attended by 41 participants comprising representatives from various government departments and agencies which include District Offices (Penampang, Tambunan and Tenom), Land and Survey Department, Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Agriculture Department, Department of Irrigation and Drainage, Town and Planning Department and Universiti Malaysia Sabah. This workshop was officiated by the Chairman of Sabah Parks Board of Trustees, Y.B. Dr. Joachim Gunsalam.

CUZ is defined as an area or areas designated by the park authority where traditional human activities are allowed to continue under the supervision of Sabah Parks following agreement between the park authority and the local community. CUZ objectives are to balance the existing local community needs and conservation, to encourage participation and collaboration of the local communities in the park management and to preserve the cultures and traditional knowledge of the local communities.

Prior to the workshop, participants were taken on a one-day site visit to CUZ areas, Ulu Senagang and Mongool Baru at Tenom, to provide better understanding of the CUZ management.

11 research topics were submitted by participants during the workshop and these topics were further discussed in the following workshop which was held on 19 February 2009 at Le Meridien, Kota Kinabalu.

This workshop was officially closed by Mr. Motohiro Hasegawa, Chief Technical Advisor for JICA-BBEC Phase II.

For more details, please contact Rodzan of Sabah Parks at (+6) 088-221-881 or email RodzanPg.Dahlan@sabah.gov.my



Sabah Parks

YB.Dr. Joachim Gunsalam, The Chairman of Sabah Parks Board of Trustees and participants