



Ministry of  
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(NRE)

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# MALAYSIAN PARKS NEWSLETTER

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## CEPA National Plan of Action



Dr Teddy Lian Kok Fei (right) presenting the  
Malaysian Parks Newsletter to Dr. Loh of MNS (left)

The Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) workshop was held from 12-16 December 2006 at Institut Kepelbagaian Biologi, Bukit Rengit, Pahang.

Dr Teddy Lian Kok Fei, Undersecretary of the Conservation & Environmental Management Division of NRE, representing Dato' Suboh Md Yasin, Secretary-General of NRE, officiated the four-day workshop and also launched the first issue of the Malaysian Parks Newsletter.

Thirty representatives from environment and biodiversity related government agencies such as NRE, Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia, the Johor National Parks Corporation and Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) participated in the

workshop. Environmental NGOs Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and WWF-Malaysia also contributed to the brainstorming sessions, which were divided into four groups following the targets – Resources and Materials, Assessment and Monitoring, Networking and Developing Partnerships and Target Groups.

The final result was a detailed draft of the National Action Plan for CEPA which should be finalised by February.

### INSIDE: A special feature on Tanjung Datu National Park in Sarawak and *Rafflesia hasseltii*



Tanjung Datu National Park



A brainstorming session at the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary

**TRIVIA : Which is the most recently gazetted park in Malaysia? Look for answer inside!**

## IN BRIEF

### GSSP : A new kid on the block

The proposed Gunung Stong State Park (GSSP) in the State of Kelantan is well on its way towards formal establishment.

WWF-Malaysia has prepared a draft preliminary management plan and submitted it to the Technical Committee of GSSP in December 2006.

The committee is currently reviewing the plan and it is hoped that once the draft has been approved, the plan will be implemented, leading to its gazettement as a protected area in Kelantan.

### 'Spring Cleaning' at Wind Caves and Fairy Caves Nature Reserves

SARAWAK FORESTRY initiated a 'spring cleaning' activity at Wind Caves and Fairy Caves Nature Reserves on 30 November 2006. Aimed at encouraging interpersonal interaction among staff and other stakeholders, over 40 SARAWAK FORESTRY staff participated in the activity.

Kicking off the event was Wilfred Landong, the Chief Park Warden of SARAWAK FORESTRY. The 'gotong royong' cleaning activity began early in the morning and by the afternoon, the nature reserve was given a 'face lift'.

Activities included picking up litter along the trails and streets of the two sites, removing lichens, algae and mosses at the concrete structure of the entrance tower at Fairy Caves, carrying out maintenance work on the plank walk outside the cave system and grass cutting.

## Selangor Heritage Park (SHP) Gazettement

A portion of the Selangor Heritage Park covering an area of 91,144.519ha was gazetted on 24 January in 2007. The opening of the park was declared by the Menteri Besar of Selangor YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mohammed Khir bin Toyo in August 2005.

Spanning across three districts in Selangor, namely Hulu Selangor, Gombak and Hulu Langat, the park covers an area bigger than the size of Perlis.



An aerial of the Selangor Heritage Park

SHP was gazetted under the National Forestry Act 1984 (which has since been adopted and amended by the State government) and will be managed by the Selangor State Forestry Department. This is the first park gazetted under the National Forestry Act.

SHP protects the water catchment areas for five major dams supplying water to the Klang Valley – the Batu, Klang Gates, Semenyih, Langat and Sg. Selangor dams.

### Timeline of the Establishment of SHP

4 July 2002

First Technical Committee Meeting among stakeholders for the establishment of the SHP.

2002 - 2004

Series of workshops and technical meetings coordinated by the Selangor State Town and Country Planning Department to finalise the framework for the establishment of SHP.

1 August 2005

National Forestry Act (Adoption) (Amendment) Enactment 2005 passed by the Selangor State Legislative Assembly allowing for the establishment of state parks in Selangor.

28 August 2005

Official opening of SHP by the Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

24 January 2007

Gazettement of 91,144ha of Selangor Heritage Park – the first portion to be gazetted out of 4 areas totaling 107,000ha.

## 'Trek and Treat' at Salt Trail, Crocker Range Park

A jointly organised 'Trek and Treat' programme by Sabah Parks, MERCY Malaysia Sabah Chapter and Partners of Community Organisation (PACOS TRUST) was held from 23-27 January 2007 at Salt Trail, Crocker Range Park. This programme attracted a total number of 33 participants including eleven medical doctors from various departments, five secretariats, five guides, eight porters and four members of the press. Participants were accompanied by Dr. Jamili Nais, the Assistant Director of Sabah Parks (Research and Education Division).

The programme was organised mainly to promote responsible eco-tourism, recreational activities and create awareness on the importance of environment. Apart from that, the organisers also provided health screening for women, and basic medical and dental care to villagers along the trail. Salt Trail is a main trail for trekkers of Crocker Range Park. The trail has long been used by villagers and was improved in 2003 by volunteers from Raleigh International.



YB Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Deputy Chief Minister/Minister of Rural Development flagging off the participants



Group photo of the participants

The total length of the trail is about 40km and it took five days and five nights for the participants to complete the mentioned trip.

The closing ceremony was held at Inobong Substation, Crocker Range Park, Penampang. YB Philip Benedict Lasimbang (Sabah State Assemblyman of N.20 Moyog) was invited to present the certificates to participants and to conclude the programme.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

20-21 March

Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia is organising a National Conference on Management and Conservation of Forestry Diversity in Malaysia themed 'Forest for a Better Life' at the Marriott Hotel, Putrajaya. For more details, please contact Dr. Yunus at (+6) 03-2616 4488.

21-25 March

In conjunction with Visit Malaysia Year 2007, Pahang Tourism Action Council is organising the annual Taman Negara Eco-Challenge. For registration and enquiries, please contact En. Zahari at (+6) 09-515 7562 or visit [www.tamannegaraecochallenge.com](http://www.tamannegaraecochallenge.com)

1-6 April

Selangor State Forestry Department is organising a biodiversity expedition to the Selangor State Park. For more details please contact En. Samsu at (+6) 03- 5544 7493 or fax (+6) 03-5511 9961 or email at [pssp@selangor.gov.my](mailto:pssp@selangor.gov.my).

23-27 April

The 2nd Conference on ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHP) and 4th Regional Conference on Protected Areas in Southeast Asia will be held in Sabah. For more details, please contact Dr. Monina Uriarte at [m.uriarte@aseanbiodiversity.org](mailto:m.uriarte@aseanbiodiversity.org).

# Featured Park: Tanjung Datu National Park

Covering almost 1,400 hectares, Tanjung Datu may be Sarawak's smallest National Park but it is without a doubt one of the most beautiful.

Located at the south-western tip of Sarawak on the Datu Peninsula, Tanjung Datu is one of Sarawak's least accessible natural parks. Despite being smaller and more remote than other parks, Tanjung Datu still attracts a steady number of tourists who prefer undisturbed beaches and unexplored trails.

The park comprises a narrow ridge of rugged forest-covered hills fringed by pristine white beaches, crystal clear waters and patches of coral reef. In some places, the rich mixed dipterocarp forest almost reaches the water's edge. It is this close proximity of rainforest and coral reef, the two most diverse natural communities on our planet, that make Tanjung Datu a very important reservoir of biodiversity.



Giant strangling fig

### FACTS & FIGURES

Year of gazettelement: 1994

Area size: 1,379 ha

Locality: Kuching Division

Management authority:

SARAWAK FORESTRY

### Attractions and Activities

The secluded nature of this park has helped preserve a wide range of unusual plant species, including the night-blooming Putat tree, umbrella palms, strangling figs and a rare *Rafflesia*.

Tanjung Datu's faunal biodiversity is also equally rich and varied. Notable amongst the hundreds of bird species are at least three species of hornbills, as well as the Argus pheasant. Mammals occasionally sighted include the

Bornean Gibbon, Pig-tailed Macaque, Bearded Pig, Sambar Deer, civets and various species of squirrel.

Tanjung Datu's greatest contribution to reptile conservation is its role as a marine turtle nesting site. Both the Green and Olive Ridley turtles which have been classified as endangered species, regularly lay their eggs on the park's beaches. Tanjung Datu National Park has since established a turtle-hatchery, where park staff constantly patrol the beaches.



The undisturbed beaches of Tanjung Datu National Park

### How to Get There

There is no road access to Tanjung Datu. Access is by boat from the nearby village of Telok Melano (15 mins), or by foot via the Telok Melano-Telok Upas-Tanjung Datu HQ Trail (2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> hrs). Telok Melano itself is only accessible by boat from the town of Sematan, about a 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>hr drive from Kuching. Designated tour operators offer transport and guided tours to the park. Details are available from the Kuching National Parks Booking Office (+6) 082 248088. Please note that neither Tanjung Datu nor Telok Melano are accessible by boat during the monsoon season (October-February) due to high tides.

### Species of the Issue:

#### *Rafflesia hasseltii*

The *Rafflesia hasseltii* is a vulnerable species found in the forests of Sumatra, Peninsular Malaysia and Borneo. Commonly known as 'bunga pakma' to the locals, the distribution in Borneo is very limited to only a few places, one of which is the Tanjung Datu National Park. The best place to view this magnificent flower is at Gunung Erol and along Belian Trail of Tanjung Datu National Park.





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# News Updates

## Workshop Announcement: National Conference on Forestry



*Rana monjerai*, a new species of frog discovered in our tropical forest

Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia

In conjunction with World Forestry Day which falls on 21 March, Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia is organising a national conference on 'The Management & Conservation of Forest Biodiversity in Malaysia' which will be held in Putrajaya.

The conference, themed 'Forest Biodiversity for Better Life' aims to provide an interactive platform for participants to discuss management and conservation of forest biodiversity issues; networking opportunities for the exchange of ideas, information and new findings; and enhance scientific and technological knowledge in the management, conservation and utilisation of forest biological resources. (See Calendar of Events for contact details)

## 100-Year Flood Damages Johor's National Parks



A road that caved in at Peta, Endau-Rompin Johor National Park

Towards the end of December 2006, and again in January 2007, the State of Johor was inundated by floods of extraordinary severity, causing extensive damage to Endau-Rompin Johor National Park.

At Peta (the eastern side of the park), staff quarters, standard chalets and family chalets were flooded almost to the rooftops, completely destroying personal belongings, furniture, fixtures and fittings. Toilets and cooking facilities at the main campsites at Kuala Jasin, Temahang and Kuala Marong were also affected, with whole walls collapsing or roofs swept away by the force of the raging waters.

The recently-built viewing platform at Kuala Jasin was also washed away. Benches, tables, shelters and hanging bridges were not spared the wrath of Mother Nature. Soil erosion resulted in the collapse of certain sections of the road and bridges leading into the park.

At Selai, in the south-western part of the Park, the Kemidak bridge was swept away, cutting off the park and Orang Asli villagers from the nearest town of Bekok, in Segamat district. Trails were badly damaged by fallen trees and landslides. Landslides also occurred at Lubok Merekek, a favourite camp ground for visitors. In both places, large piles of debris and fallen trees had to be cleared. The damage at Endau-Rompin Johor National Park is estimated at RM 4.8 million.

Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC) estimates the total damage of all the parks to be approximately RM9.3 million, exceeding the damage caused by the flood of January 2003. Despite the devastation, JNPC looks forward to receiving visitors at its national parks during Visit Malaysia Year 2007. The parks are, once again, open to the public. However, areas and facilities that require repairs are temporarily closed until the much needed funds are approved and disbursed.



Landslide marring the beauty of Endau-Rompin Johor National Park

## Gerakan Pembersihan Taman Laut Pulau Perhentian

Program 'Gerakan Pembersihan Taman Laut dan Pantai' yang dianjurkan oleh Seksyen Taman Laut, Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, telah diadakan pada 16-18 Februari di Pulau Perhentian, Terengganu. Program tersebut dirasmikan oleh Setiausaha Parlimen Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, YB Dato Sazmi bin Miah.



Salah satu aktiviti pembersihan pantai - mengutip sampah di pantai Taman Laut Pulau Perhentian

Marine Parks Section, NRE

Seramai 139 orang belia Machang, Kelantan, didehkan kepada aktiviti-aktiviti konservasi seperti menyuap ikan, mengutip sampah di kawasan pantai, ceramah mengenai kepentingan pembersihan alam sekitar taman laut dan juga aktiviti praktikal seperti 'snorkeling'.

Gerakan pembersihan Taman Laut Pulau Perhentian merupakan sebahagian daripada program pendidikan alam sekitar dan pembersihan pantai.