



**Ministry of
Natural Resources
and Environment
(NRE)**

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MALAYSIAN PARKS NEWSLETTER

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December 2006

Message from the Secretary General Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment



Welcome to our inaugural issue of the Malaysian Parks Newsletter!

The Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE) is pleased to launch this first publication of the Malaysian Parks Newsletter. Malaysia is very fortunate to be one of the richest countries in the world in terms of biodiversity. Not only of flora and fauna, but also diversity of ecosystems. As a signatory of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Malaysia has always been committed in conserving and using its rich biodiversity sustainably while at the same time, striving for socioeconomic development.

One of the action plans of the National Policy on Biological Diversity is to expand the network of conservation areas to ensure full representation of ecosystems. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of national and state parks in Malaysia with State Governments playing an increasing role in protected areas. As the number of protected area management authorities increase, there is a need for better coordination and sharing of information and expertise among these authorities.

The publication of the Malaysian Parks Newsletters is one of the recommendations that emerged from the workshop on The Management Effectiveness of National and State Parks in Malaysia held on 3-4 May 2005 in Kuala Lumpur. This newsletter is one of the activities under NRE in enhancing communication, education and awareness programmes (CEPA) in particular, amongst stakeholders involved in park management and the public, in general.

Through this newsletter, NRE hopes it will further promote better cooperation and understanding among stakeholders in conserving our rich and unique biodiversity.

I hope that you find this newsletter both interesting and informative.

Thank you.

*Dato' Suboh bin Mohd Yassin,
Secretary-General of NRE*

INSIDE: A special feature on Endau Rompin Johor National Park and *Livistona endauensis*



Upeh Guling Waterfalls, Endau Rompin Johor National Park

IN BRIEF

Look to Eco-tourism

Taken from NST 30 July 2006

GRIK: Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Azmi Khalid officiated the three-day Tropical Rainforest Tourism Symposium 2006 in Banding on July 29. He supported the Malaysian Nature Society's suggestion to gazette the Royal Belum State Park and Temengor forest reserve as state parks and added that state governments should look to eco-tourism as their main source of revenue as the tourism industry generated over RM19.5 billion to the country in 2005.

Gunung Ledang Park sets up conservatory to save rare orchids

Taken from NST 13 June 2006

SEGAMAT: The Johor National Parks Corporation is setting up a conservatory on Gunung Ledang to help protect the rare orchids found there.

Orchids growing along the mountain pathways and those found scattered in the recreational forest between 600m and 800m above sea level will be replanted at the conservatory. Notable orchids at the conservatory include the *Paphiopedilum barbatum* (slipper orchid) and *Grammatophyllum speciosum* (tiger orchid).

Launch of Proceedings from the Gunung Stong Expedition

Contributed by Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia

BANGI: The proceedings of the seminar on the 2003 Gunung Stong expedition was launched by the Director-General of the Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department, Dato' Azhar Muda, on 14 September 2006 at the Danau Golf Club in UKM Bangi. The book contains findings on the physical environment, biology and socio-economics aspects of the proposed Gunung Stong State Park in Kelantan. The launch was attended by about 60 participants of the expedition including researchers from various universities such as UKM, UPM and USM, research institutions such as FRIM, IMR and SIRIM, Taman Botani Putrajaya and WWF-Malaysia.

National and State Parks in Malaysia

Our National Parks, State Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Wildlife Reserves and Marine Parks are collectively known as protected areas. A protected area is defined by the IUCN (World Conservation Union) as "an area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity and of natural and associated cultural resources and managed through legal or other effective means".

There are currently about 25 terrestrial National and State Parks, and 40 Marine Parks in Malaysia with several more being proposed. These parks are managed by the Federal Government through the Department of Wildlife and National Parks and the Marine Parks Section of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, as well as state governments through Sabah Parks, the Sabah Wildlife Department, the Sabah Foundation, Sarawak Parks Corporation, the Johor National Parks Corporation, the Perlis State Forestry Department and a few other newly-established state agencies. The coverage of terrestrial protected areas in Malaysia, including wildlife reserves and other types of protected areas, is estimated to be about 8% of the land area of the country. If protection forest reserves are included in the statistics, the total coverage of protected area is estimated to be more than 16%.

With almost 60% of Malaysia's land area still forested, there is much scope for the establishment of new protected areas. There is a growing interest among stakeholders to increase the coverage of protected areas in the country, particularly by including ecosystem types that are currently under-represented such as peat swamp forests, freshwater swamp forests, limestone habitats and mangrove forests.

Protected areas are crucial for the conservation of natural habitats, wildlife, plants and highly valuable natural resources. Apart from the range of ecological services they provide, from watershed protection, climate regulation to soil protection, protected areas also provide employment opportunities and livelihoods to the local community.

The effectiveness of the management of a park can be measured using several factors: legal security (through boundary demarcation and law enforcement), site design and planning (creating landscape linkages and wildlife corridors connecting to other protected areas), appropriate staffing, relevant interpretative materials and communication capabilities, adequate infrastructure and visitor facilities and most importantly sufficient funds to maintain the park.



Mount Kinabalu in Kinabalu Park, Sabah.

WWF-Malaysia/G. Baskin

Assessment of National and State Parks of Malaysia

An assessment of the management effectiveness of National and State Parks in Malaysia was conducted in 2005. This assessment, part of Malaysia's commitment to the Programme of Work for Protected Areas under the Convention for Biological Diversity, was commissioned by NRE and conducted by WWF-Malaysia.

The assessment was conducted using the Rapid Assessment and Prioritisation of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM) methodology developed by WWF International. A total of 18 terrestrial National and State Parks, covering a total area of 859,738 ha, were assessed including five in Peninsular Malaysia, three in Sabah and ten in Sarawak. Park management authorities involved in the assessment were the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Sabah Parks, the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, the Johor National Parks Corporation and the Perlis State Forestry Department.

A participatory stakeholders workshop, attended by representatives from protected area authorities and relevant government departments, university researchers, NGOs, environmental consultants and tour operators, was held on 3-4 May 2005 to present preliminary results of the assessment and to formulate recommendations. These recommendations cover issues related to protected area planning and design, law enforcement, research and monitoring, community participation, funding, marketing and capacity building.



The participants of the workshop brainstorming in a break-out session

WWF-Malaysia/S. Suksuwan

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

5-6 December 2006

UKM is organising the 8th National Symposium on Biology at Palm Garden Hotel, IOI Resort, Putrajaya. To participate please call Prof. Dr. Gires Usup at (+6) 03-89213200 email gires@pkrisc.cc.ukm.my.

6-7 December 2006

The 5th Bornean Biodiversity & Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) International Conference will be held at Promenade Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. For details please contact Mrs Julia George at (+6) 08824 0430 or danielpamin@hotmail.com or bbec@sabah.gov.my

12-14 December 2006

Workshop on CEPA National Action Plan at Institute for Biological Diversity, Bukit Rengit, Lanchang, Pahang. For details please call En. Azhar of NRE at (+6) 03-8886 1111 or email him at azhar@nre.gov.my

18-22 December 2006

Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia is organising a biodiversity expedition to Bintang Hijau Forest Reserve, Perak. To participate, contact En. Azman Abdul Rahman at (+6) 03-2616 4488 or email him at azman@forestry.gov.my

20-21 March 2007

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

Featured Park: Endau-Rompin Johor National Park

Endau-Rompin Johor National Park is located in the State of Johor and managed by the Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC). Covering a vast area of 48,905 hectares along the Johor-Pahang border, the park is named after the two major rivers that flow through the park. Being among the oldest rainforests in the world, the park's rock formations date back some 240 million years.

The Endau-Rompin Johor National Park is home to no less than 230 species of birds including hornbills and the Argus pheasant and many species of insects including 179 species of butterflies.

Scientific studies have reported the existence of large mammals such as the Malayan tiger, the Asian elephant, and the Malayan tapir as well as primates such as the dusky leaf monkey.

There is a rich diversity of flora including orchids, pitcher plants and wild gingers. Many new species of plants were discovered along the streams and on the hills in the park, among which is an endemic fan palm species, *Livistona endauensis*.



Dusky leaf monkey

WWF-Malaysia / S.Hogg

Attractions and Activities



The jetty at Kampung Peta in Endau-Rompin

JNPC

There are numerous rapids and waterfalls in the area, among which are Upeh Guling Falls and Mahkota Falls. Endau-Rompin has 26 km of trails and several campsites that provide access to various destinations such as Kuala Marong, Batu Hampar, Janing Barat and Buaya Sangkut. Endau-Rompin is also home to the Orang Asli people of the Jakun tribe and visitors stand to gain valuable insights into their culture and lifestyle.

The park is also one of the best places for nature study, thanks to the environmental education modules produced by the Malaysian Nature Society with funding from DANCED (Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development, now known as DANIDA).

How to get there

From Johor Bahru, take the North-South Expressway northwards and exit at Ayer Hitam or Simpang Renggam. From there, head towards Kluang, and then Kahang where the National Park office for entry via Peta is. From Kahang, the use of a 4WD is advisable as it is around 90 minutes or 60km off-road (taking one past sand-mining areas, plantations, Orang Asli villages and forest reserves) to the entrance of Endau-Rompin Johor National Park. A safer option would be to take a package offered by the Johor National Parks Corporation. The park recently opened a new entry point at Selai near Bekok in Segamat.

Species of the issue: *Livistona endauensis*

The *Livistona endauensis* is endemic to Peninsular Malaysia and is currently on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. This palm, also known as 'pokok sabun' to the locals, is found along ridgetops and steep escarpments on shallow soil. The best spot to look at this magnificent palm is at Janing Barat at the Endau-Rompin Johor National Park, where almost pure stands of this palm can be found.



Khoo Boon Kang / JNPC

News Updates

Rafflesia Conservation Workshop - Contributed by Sabah Parks

A Rafflesia Conservation Workshop was held on 29 August 2006 at Kinabalu Park, Poring Hot Springs Station. This one-day workshop was organised by Sabah Parks and officiated by Dr. Jamili Nais, Assistant Director of Sabah Parks (Research and Education Division).

Sixty participants including villagers and representatives from the Sabah Forestry Department were present at the workshop. Four speakers from Sabah Parks and Sabah Wildlife Department presented on "Rafflesia and Its Current Status", "Parks and Wildlife Conservation Enactment In Relation To Rafflesia Conservation" and "Introduction To A Better Approach Of Conserving Rafflesia".

The objective of the workshop was to create awareness on Rafflesia conservation and on Sabah Parks' roles in enforcing the Parks Enactment, 1984 and the Wildlife Conservation Enactment, 1997.

This workshop was concluded by a presentation of certificate to participants by Mr. Paul Basintal, Assistant Director of Sabah Parks (Park Management, Development and Enforcement).



Rafflesia Conservation Workshop: Group photo session



Salah satu aktiviti dalam program JRE adalah "Tubing"

Program 'Jungle River Ecology' (JRE) di Taman Negara Pahang

- Sumbangan Jabatan Perhilitan

Program 'Jungle River Ecology' (JRE) telah diadakan pada 29 Ogos - 4 September di Taman Negara Pahang, Sungai Relau, Merapoh. Program tersebut merupakan program lanjutan kepada Program Pendidikan Alam Sekitar (PPAS) yang telah dilancarkan pada tahun 1978. Melalui program tersebut, guru-guru sekolah telah didedahkan kepada aktiviti-aktiviti konservasi dan praktikal, pemikiran kritis dan aktiviti 'hands on'.

Seramai 37 orang guru Pusat Ko-Kurikulum dibawah Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia daripada 13 buah negeri telah mengambil bahagian dalam program tersebut. Antara aktiviti-aktiviti Program JRE adalah pemerhatian burung dan amfibia, 'night observation', 'snorkeling' dan menyuap ikan.

Bengkel Kajian Semula Rancangan Pengurusan Hutan Taman Negeri Perlis

- Sumbangan Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia

Satu Bengkel Kajian Semula Rancangan Pengurusan Hutan Taman Negeri Perlis telah diadakan di Negeri Perlis pada 25-26 Julai 2006 bertempat di Hotel Putra Palace, Kangar. Bengkel selama dua hari ini dianjurkan oleh Ibu Pejabat Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia bersama Jabatan Perhutanan Negeri Perlis dan dirasmikan oleh Y.B Tuan Haji Musa bin Hassan, Pegawai Kewangan Negeri Perlis, selaku wakil kepada Y.B. Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri Perlis.

Seramai 20 orang telah menghadiri bengkel ini yang terdiri dari pegawai-pegawai kanan JPSM dan JPNP serta beberapa agensi-agensi persekutuan dan negeri seperti Kementerian Sumber Asli dan Alam Sekitar, Jabatan PERHILITAN Negeri Perlis, Majlis Tindakan Pelancongan Negeri Perlis, Kolej Universiti Kejuteraan Malaysia dan Universiti Teknologi Mara.

Antara tujuan bengkel ini adalah untuk mengkaji semula Pelan Pengurusan Taman Negeri Perlis (2004-2008) untuk menghasilkan satu Rancangan Pengurusan Taman Negeri Perlis (2007-2010) yang dinamik dengan mengambilkira isu-isu semasa dan perkembangan teknologi terkini. Disamping itu, kajian semula rancangan pengurusan sediaada dapat menyediakan Rancangan Pengurusan Hutan yang seragam bagi Taman-Taman Negeri di Semenanjung Malaysia.

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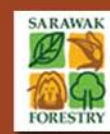
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