

Introduction



The nearest mountain range to the city of Kuching, Sarawak's capital city, is the Matang Range. Situated about 22 kilometres to the north-west of the city, this long but low (its summit, Gunung Serapi, is just 911 metres above sea level) range shows fine representations of tropical lowland and kerangas (Bornean heath) forests. Two protected areas exist in this range, the Kubah National Park ('Kubah' meaning dome, roughly the distinctive shape of this mountain, in the Malay vernacular) and the Matang Wildlife Centre.

Matang range is the primary catchment area for Sungei Rayu, and consists of sand and mud deposited alluvium, along steep terrain, with streams and drains on the flanks. The foothills have been largely cleared of vegetation, with villages and agricultural areas, the zone with natural forests entirely within the two protected areas that lie between 20–777 metres above sea level. A series of forest trails within the two parks make exploration of its flora and fauna easy.

A race to document and learn about the amphibians of Range is held annually, on the last weekend of April. In 2015, the Fourth International Bornean Frog Race will be held on 25 April, and will attract biologists, naturalists, and private citizens from all over the state, and internationally. The event will include talks, a workshop on frog photography, an exhibition highlighting the use of frogs and their images in many products we use in our everyday life, and a Race to photograph the amphibian diversity of Kubah National Park.