



THE Bornean Frog

The Bornean Frog Race 2013

KOTA SAMARAHAN: Amphibians comprise over 7,000 species, and living representatives include frogs, salamanders and caecilians. A significant portion of this diversity occurs in South-east Asia, and Malaysia itself is a frog-rich nation. From a conservation standpoint, it is remarkable that a large proportion of the world's amphibians - a third of the known

species, are recognised as being under threat.

On 27 April 2013 (Saturday), conservationists in several countries will highlight the threatened status of amphibians via a series of activities aimed at arousing public awareness of the world's disappearing amphibians. See www.savethefrogs.com

The activities on 27 April 2013 will centre around raising public awareness on the need for conservation of the frogs and other amphibians of Sarawak and of South-east Asia to draw awareness of the declining amphibians. This will be the second year the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, UNIMAS organises the event, the first was held in 2012, at Kem Permai, Santubong.

A "frog race", which will include talks on amphibians and their conservation, exhibits of sights and sounds, all open to the general public and based at the Kubah National Park, Matang, is planned for the day, which is part of the Kubah Week celebrations, organised by the Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

The Bornean Frog Race is jointly-organised by the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental

Conservation, UNIMAS and Sarawak Forestry Corporation.

Activities planned include workshops on amphibian biology and photography, exhibits on amphibians (including frog figurines, stamps, photos, books and calls) and screening of the documentary by Sir David Attenborough entitled "Land Invaders" from the award-winning BBC television series, "Life in Cold Blood" (with permission from Sir. Attenborough). The International Speaker is Dr. Ulmar Grafe, a world-renowned amphibian specialist (and consultant to Steven Spielberg for his film, "Jurassic Park").

The main event will be the Bornean Frog Race, to create greater awareness on amphibian conservation in Borneo. This competitive event is open to members of the public (especially students and naturalists from Kuching and other parts of Sarawak, and beyond). The race would entail participants going up the main trail to Gunung Serapi, within Kubah National Park, for a period of 2 hours, and returning with digital images of amphibians. Awards (books on amphibians and natural history, DVD on amphibians as well as

attractive amphibian sculptures) and certificates will be given to participants for the following categories:

1. Most number of amphibian species found
2. Rarest amphibian species found
3. Best amphibian photograph taken

There would be additional surprise categories for prizes.

Photo vouchers are necessary for those taking part in the competition. Interested participants are also required to pay a nominal registration fee which include lunch, dinner and supper besides bring their digital cameras with appropriate lens and flash systems, and an ability to stay awake till 12.00am. Laptops and download cables are optional.

Entry to the Bornean Frog Race is limited to 100 and participants are advised to register on line at <http://theborneanfroggrace2013.weebly.com/index.html>

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