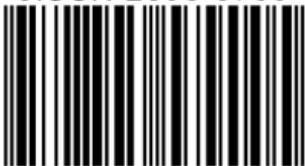


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Frog Race. It's a Race for Humans!

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Bornean Tree Hole Frog (*Metaphrynella sundana*) Photo credit: Indraneil Das

International Bornean Frog Race



Minute Slender Toad (*Ansonia minuta*) Photo credit: Indraneil Das

Despite its 9th anniversary celebrating frog diversity, many common folks here imagine a group of frogs put before the line, ready for release and at least one hop to the finish line. No, that does not happen at our Race!

It is, in reality, a Race between people, a photographic competition, to be exact.

The International Bornean Frog Race is open again and is seeking all human participants, to venture into the wilds and other frog habitats (may include your backyard or vacant parking lot), to find and photograph amphibians. Showcasing the rich diversity of amphibians in the region and highlighting their beauty to people, many of whom have never seen more than one or two of the most common types. Participants have to race to the field and return with their harvest of photographs before closing time and submit the possible winning images.

The 9th International Bornean Frog Race 2021 is a novel version of the event, compared to previous versions, when it was held over two hours or overnight, at one or a few sites within Sarawak. It is now a 90-day Race, covering all of Borneo. Upon registration on the official website and the nature photography platform “iNaturalist”. All on Borneo are eligible to take part, and there are two categories of prizes- ‘The Best Photos’ and ‘The Most Number of Species’. Regardless of devices used (any sort of camera or mobile phone), one can receive monthly prizes given out over three consecutive months, starting September until November, and eventually take the pride of place for being the best of the best at a grand closing ceremony, where the grand prizes are awarded.

The International Bornean Frog Race provides fun for all, while emphasizing conservation and protection of amphibians. In addition to the photographic competition, there are webinars on amphibians by renowned herpetologists throughout the Race Period. A participant is also entitled to monthly Frog Race Newsletters, downloadable field guides of amphibians in pdf format and a customized e-certificate. And the cash prizes are generous, thanks to our sponsor, the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Sarawak. Monthly cash prizes are RM 200 for five winners of the categories, Best Photo and Most Number of Species, for September, October and November. Grand Prizes for two categories are RM 1000 (3rd prize), RM 1500 (2nd prize) and RM2500 (1st Prize) to be given away during the grand closing ceremony, planned for December 2021.

The International Bornean Frog Race is one of its kind, setting an example how citizens can interact with and derive pleasure from being with nature, as the world slowly emerges from the long period of isolation and social distancing rules.

“No one will protect what they don’t care about. And no one will care about what they have never experienced” David Attenborough

