



Nature Guide Training in Peninsular Malaysia

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BACKGROUND

- Established in 1938/39
- Taman Negara National Park is Peninsular Malaysia's single largest protected area located in the central regions of the peninsula
- Area : 4,343 km²
- Managed by the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

HABITAT CONSERVATION

- Lowland dipterocarp
- Hill dipterocarp
- Upper dipterocarp
- Montane oak
- Ericaceous
- Limestone hills
- Riverine forest

SPECIES CONSERVATION

- > 200 mammals
- > 400 birds
- > 150 herpetofauna
- > 50 freshwater fishes
- > 240 butterflies
- Estimated 14,000 species of plants



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

FAUNA SPECIES CONSERVATION



Asian Elephant



Malayan Tiger



Sumateran Rhino



Seladang (Gaur)



Tapir

BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION



Calamus sp.



Ferns



Mosses



Nepenthes sp



Dictyophora sp.



Rafflesia cantleyi

BACKGROUND

- Hospitality services in Taman Negara was privatized in 1990
- By 1992 Taman Negara National Park received 24,953 visitors
- This also gave opportunity for improvement in tourism services
- The Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MOTAC), Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) and University of Putra Malaysia (UPM) developed and organized the training course to train the locals
- To date the DWNP had organized 60 courses and trained more than 1,800 individuals

TOURIST ARRIVAL PROFILE

- Tourist from more than 70 countries
- Peak season: July & August
- Highest and most consistent foreign visitors from:
 1. Netherlands
 2. United Kingdom
 3. Germany



LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Surrounding Malay villages
 - Agriculture was the main economic activity
- Batek aboriginal tribe
 - Mainly hunter-gathers



LOCAL COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Transportation: Boat services
- Resort / chalet operators
- Restaurant operators

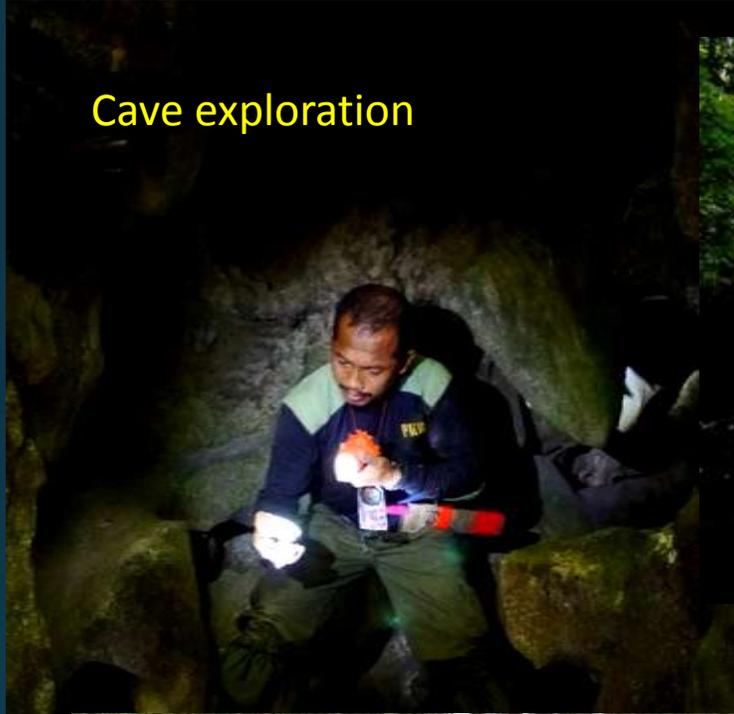
NATURE GUIDE SERVICES

- Provided by association
- go licenced and registered guides
- Rate: RM60 – RM 1400



ACTIVITIES WITH NATURE GUIDE

Cave exploration



Canoeing



Bird watching and nature photography



Fishing



Canopy Walkway

INSTITUTION AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- Ministry of Tourism and Culture (MOTAC)
 - Tourism Industry Act 1992
 - National Ecotourism Plan 1996
- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (NRE)
 - Department of Wildlife and National Parks (National Parks Act 1980, Taman Negara (Pahang) (Amendment) Enactment 1990)
- Ministry of Human Resources
 - National Occupational Skills Standard

TOURISM INDUSTRY ACT AND REGULATIONS

Objectives:

- To regulate and monitor all tourism enterprises
- To maintain and improve the quality of facilities and services in tourism industry
- To encourage healthy tourism business practices
- To protect the interest of tourists

FUNCTION

- To register & license all tourism enterprise under:-
 - Tourism Industry Act 1992
 - Tour Operating Business & Travel Agency Business Regulations 1992
- To register & license all Tourism Training Institutions under:-
 - Licensing of Tourism Training Institution Regulations 1994
- To register & license all Tourist Guides under:-
 - Licensing and Control of Tourist Guides Regulations 1992

LICENSING OF TOURIST GUIDES

- To enable the Ministry to regulate and control the activities of tourist guides in keeping with the need to create and retain a good image of the country
- To enhance the professional status of tourist guides as well as to ensure that guiding becomes an important and rewarding profession.

These regulations cover the whole of Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah dan Sarawak.

LICENSING OF TOURIST GUIDES SECTION 21 (ACT 482)

- No person shall act, or hold himself out, as a tourist guide unless he is licensed under PART IV Act 482
- Any person who contravenes Section 21 (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall on conviction be liable to a fine not exceeding seven thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both, and in case of a continuing offence, shall in addition be liable to a daily fine not exceeding five hundred ringgit for each day the offence continues to be committed.

EMPLOYMENT OF LICENSED TOURIST GUIDES

- No licensed tourism enterprise shall employ, or obtain for a tourist or any other person the service of, a tourist guide who is not licensed under Tourism Industry Act, Section 19 (1)
- Any person who contravenes shall be guilty of an offence and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding twenty thousand ringgit or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both

CATEGORIES OF LICENSE

Regulated as city guiding and nature guiding:

- City guides (BLUE)
- Localised / specialised nature guides (GREEN)

LICENSING REQUIREMENTS

Attend an appropriate course in a licensed Training Institution and pass all required examination conducted by the Training Institute in collaboration with MOTAC

- I) 18 years and above
- II) No criminal records
- III) In good health and normal physical ability

Must be a member of a Tourist Guides Association

NATURE GUIDE TRAINING

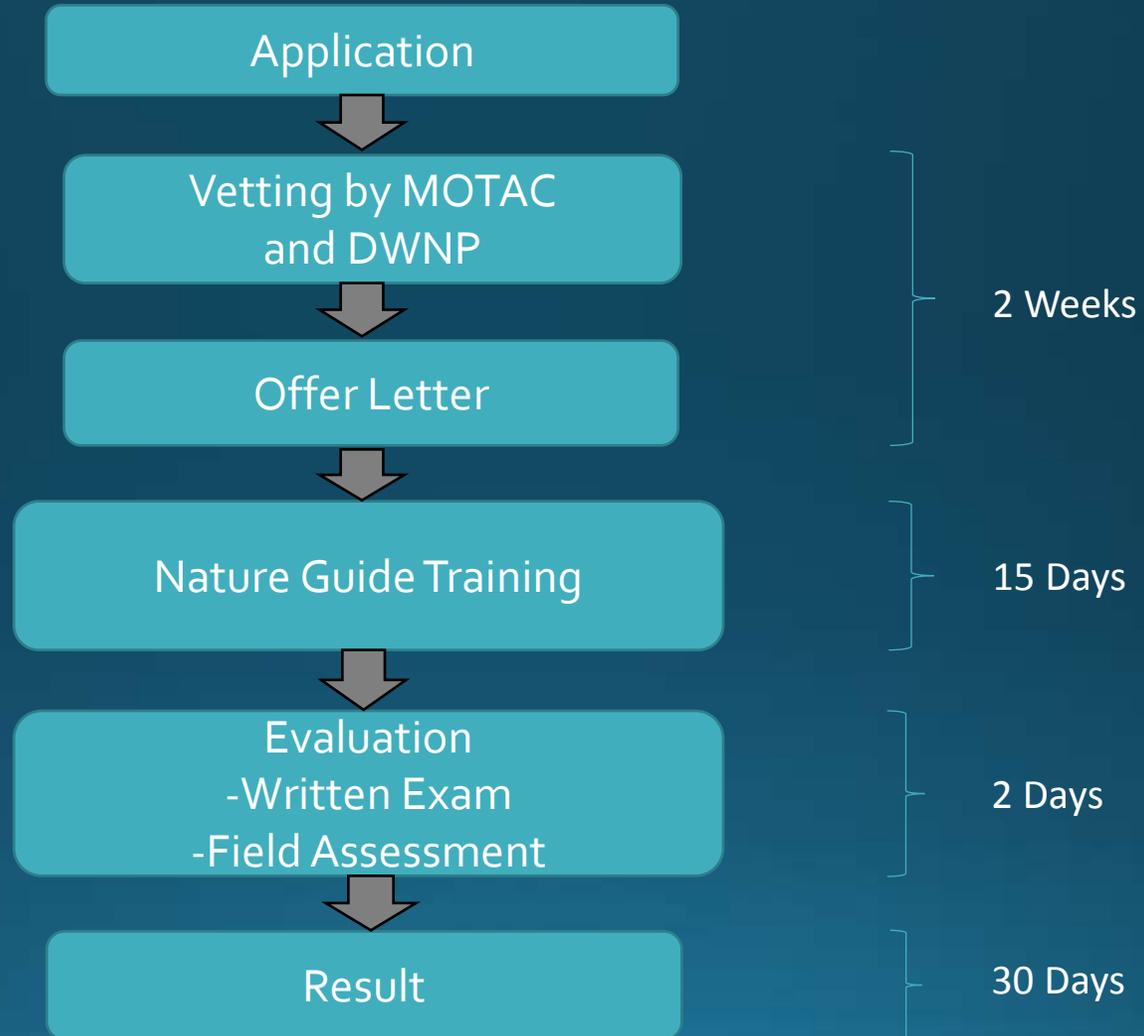
- Started in 1992 in Taman Negara National Park
- Training by the DWNP in collaboration with MOTAC
- Follows the NOSS applied in Malaysia
- Duration of training course : 17 days (including 2 days of examination and field assessment)
- successful participants will apply for license (to be issued by MOTAC)



TRAINING OBJECTIVE

- To prepare local communities to obtain a License to become Nature Guide
- To improve their skills and quality of service as a Nature Guide
- To instill sense of responsibility, awareness and appreciation of the natural beauty of the park
- To ensure that guiding becomes an important and rewarding profession to the locals

THE PROCESS



MODULE

- Follows the NOSS applied in Malaysia
- Participants will start on Level 2 which is the level of acceptance for those who has had any sufficient experience in education and/or practical aspect of nature guiding.
- Level 3 is for expert in specialised field. i.e birdwatching, caving and diving
- Currently MOTAC and DWNP are implementing Level 2 Nature Guide Course for Local Communities

CURRICULUM

- The curriculum is designed to impart knowledge to participants on the concepts and aspects of nature guiding:
 - Ecotourism
 - Nature guide requirements
 - Public speaking
 - Image presentation
 - Organizational skills
 - Licensing
 - Marketing
 - Mock presentation

CURRICULUM

- Besides lectures and classroom presentation, participants are also taught field skills:
 - Compass application
 - GPS application
 - Topographic map reading
 - Orienteering
 - Bird watching
 - Binocular application
 - Outdoor camping and ethics
 - Ecological talk in groups
 - Survival skills
 - First aid skills
 - Tree identification (basic)
 - Wildlife track identification (basic)
 - Nature interpretation
 - Cultural interpretation

FIELD SKILLS

- Compass application
- Orienteering
- Topographic map reading



PRACTICAL GUIDING TECHNIQUES



- Nature Interpretation
- Interpretive communication skills
- Guiding simulations



OUTDOOR CAMPING AND ETHICS



- Minimal impact techniques
- Prepare and maintain equipment

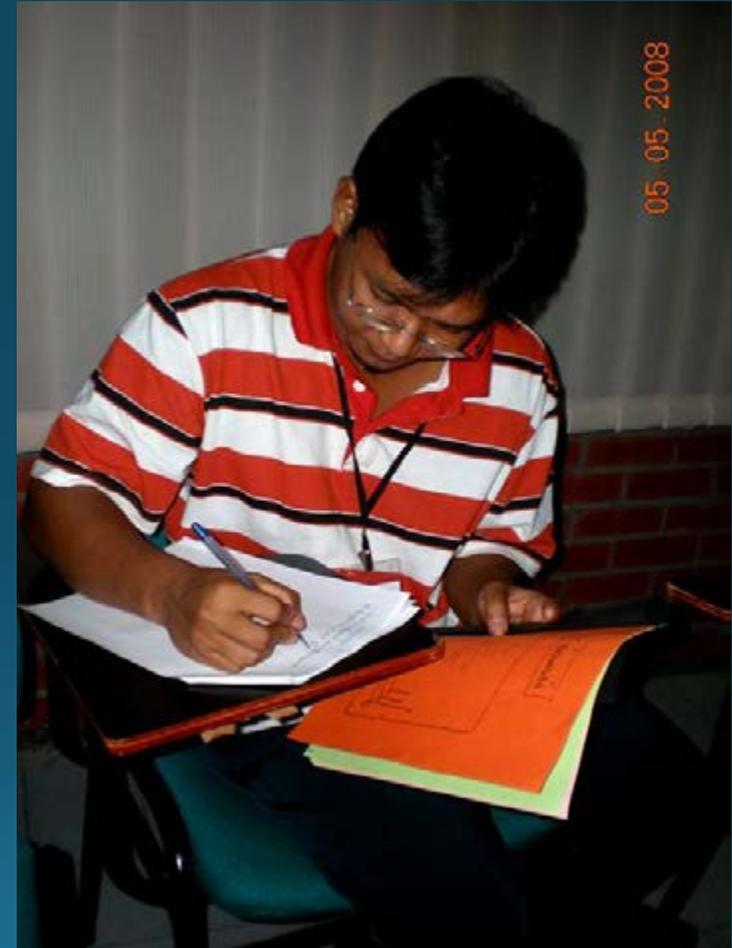
RISK MANAGEMENT



- Handling emergency situations:
First aid

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

- Assessment and evaluation comes in the form of:
 - Individual and Group Assignments
 - Written Examination
 - Practical Assessment in the field



WAY FORWARD

- Upskilling
- Enhance opportunities for local communities
- Increase collaboration with international training institutes/organizations

A group of people, likely guides, are shown from the back, wearing white polo shirts. The shirts have "Nature Guide" printed on the back. The people are standing in a line, and the background is slightly blurred.

Nature Guide

THANK YOU

Nature Guide