



BAKO — Biodiversity Between Land and the Sea

Edited by Mohd-Azlan, Suaidi & Das

Life from Headwaters
to the Coast

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Biodiversity
Between Land
and the Sea

Edited by

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BAKO NATIONAL PARK

This work takes the readers through a journey through several unique ecosystems within Bako National Park, highlighting many inhabitants on the way, from humble insects, such as mosquitoes and dragonflies, to the charismatic species, including the Proboscis Monkey and a rich assemblage of shorebirds that draw tourists by the thousands to the Park.

Bako is rich in biodiversity and accessible throughout the year via a short boat ride to the Park headquarters. From this vantage point, an eager tourist will be able to easily access the various habitats represented, including mixed dipterocarp forests, mangrove forests, cliff forest, beach forests, Kerangas, as well as mudflats, each with its unique biodiversity. The Park is also home to several endemic species, as well as species of conservation importance, upon which substantial ecotourism activities are based.

Bako National Park's rich ecosystems are presented through images and text accounts in this volume, which is based on field research, that reiterates their value for naturalists, tourists, as well as researchers. This book aims to enlighten stakeholders and present information on species biology and distribution to nature enthusiasts.

The chapter on geology and geomorphology sets the scene for the book. The wildlife aspects cover species from an array of taxa that includes plants and invertebrates, to fishes, herpetofauna, birds and mammals, rounded up with the ecotourism potential of the Park.

Research in Bako National Park was possible thanks to the generosity of various government agencies through research grants to Universiti Malaysia Sarawak. The project is aimed at assessing the area's biotic diversity, examine anthropogenic elements, and finally, to develop an applicable environmental model for ecotourism.



The Editors



Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan (left) earned his doctoral degree from Charles Darwin University for his work on mangrove avifauna of Australia. He is currently the Director of the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

Mohamad Kadim Suaidi (middle) is the Vice Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak since 2013, and hails from Kampung Bako. He is passionate about community engagement and sustainable development in relation to biodiversity conservation. The university's visibility and recognition at the global stage is one of his main achievements.

Indraneil Das (right) received his doctoral degree from the University of Oxford, and was a Fulbright Fellow at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University. Currently, he is Professor at the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.