

# LANJAK ENTIMAU WILDLIFE SANCTUARY (LEWS) SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION 2008

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We participated in the LEWS Scientific Expedition which was held from 16-29 June 2008 organised by Academy of Sciences Malaysia and Forest Department Sarawak. UMS team consists of 13 members from ITBC and six from The International School of Forestry.

Among the objectives of the expedition was to explore & study the rich biodiversity and natural resources of LEWS using a multidisciplinary and multi institutional approach. The theme was "Rebounce to conserve the nature".

Our exciting trip from Sibü began with a two-hour journey on express boat then followed by a four-hour motorised long-boat ride. We stayed in a field station build by the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) about a decade ago.

This expedition was participated by about 170 scientists and students, excluding about 30 local helpers (boatman, cook, etc.). No wonder it is a headache for the expedition Chairman, Prof. Dr. Hj. Mohamed Abdul Majid!

The flora of the riverine is rich in epiphytes, such as orchids, bryophytes and ferns. There were new species of plants collected, such as a *Rizanthès* species and several *Zingiberaceae* species. The fauna is also rich and several new species of snails and beetles were collected.

In between days of exploring the lowland forests in LEWS, we also took the opportunity visiting the long houses of Iban communities staying downstream Bloh River. They are indeed very friendly to visitors!

Our main transportation – motorised long-boat

## "Rebounce to conserve the nature"

Expedition Theme

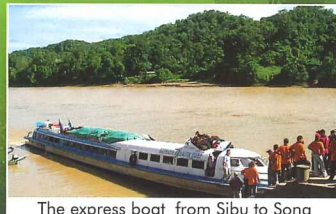
With the Iban people in their long-house



*Rizanthès* sp., a family member of the *Rafflesia*.



An interesting form of termite mound, common to LEWS



The express boat from Sibü to Song



A pregnant mousedeer caught and released at the foot of Sengayoh



The 'pseudo-mossy forest' along the riverine



The field station that was built by the Bloh River