

# LOJING HIGHLANDS SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION 2008

By Zulhazman Hamzah (*Nature Tourism*)

Lojing Highlands is located in the District of Gua Musang, Kelantan and also situated at the Cameron Highlands' footsteps. The total land area is 23,435 ha, mostly covered by hill *dipterocarp* and sub-montane forest of Lojing and Sg. Berok Forest Reserves.

It has been the desire of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK) to comprehend and document it's natural wonders and species richness contained within its boundary. There is also a timely need to unravel the ecological mystery of it's biotic and abiotic elements within the habitats of Lojing Highlands.

Realizing the importance of the neglected yet understudied ecosystem and with the rapid development in the region, has prompted UMS and UMK to initiate a scientific expedition with the objective of exploring and documenting the flora and fauna of the Lojing Highlands region. This expedition was undertaken together with the assistance of Forestry Department of Kelantan and Southern Kelantan Development Authority (KESEDAR) from May 26th to June 16th, 2008.

A total of 109 participants from various field of interests and agencies were involved in this expedition. Six public universities also participated; UMS, UMK, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, International Islamic University of Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia. UMS sent a total of 30 participants including researchers and assistants to explore the flora and fauna of Lojing Highlands and sharing knowledge with other participants from Peninsular Malaysia.

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Sewang time! Danced with locals from Temiar ethnic of Lojing Highlands



Looking for millipedes! One of the participants assisted by the staff from Kelantan Forestry Department during sample collection.