

Birding Tourism Malaysia

Andrew Sebastian
Malaysian Nature Society @
Hong Kong Birdwatching Society
4 Feb 2013



Birding Tourism

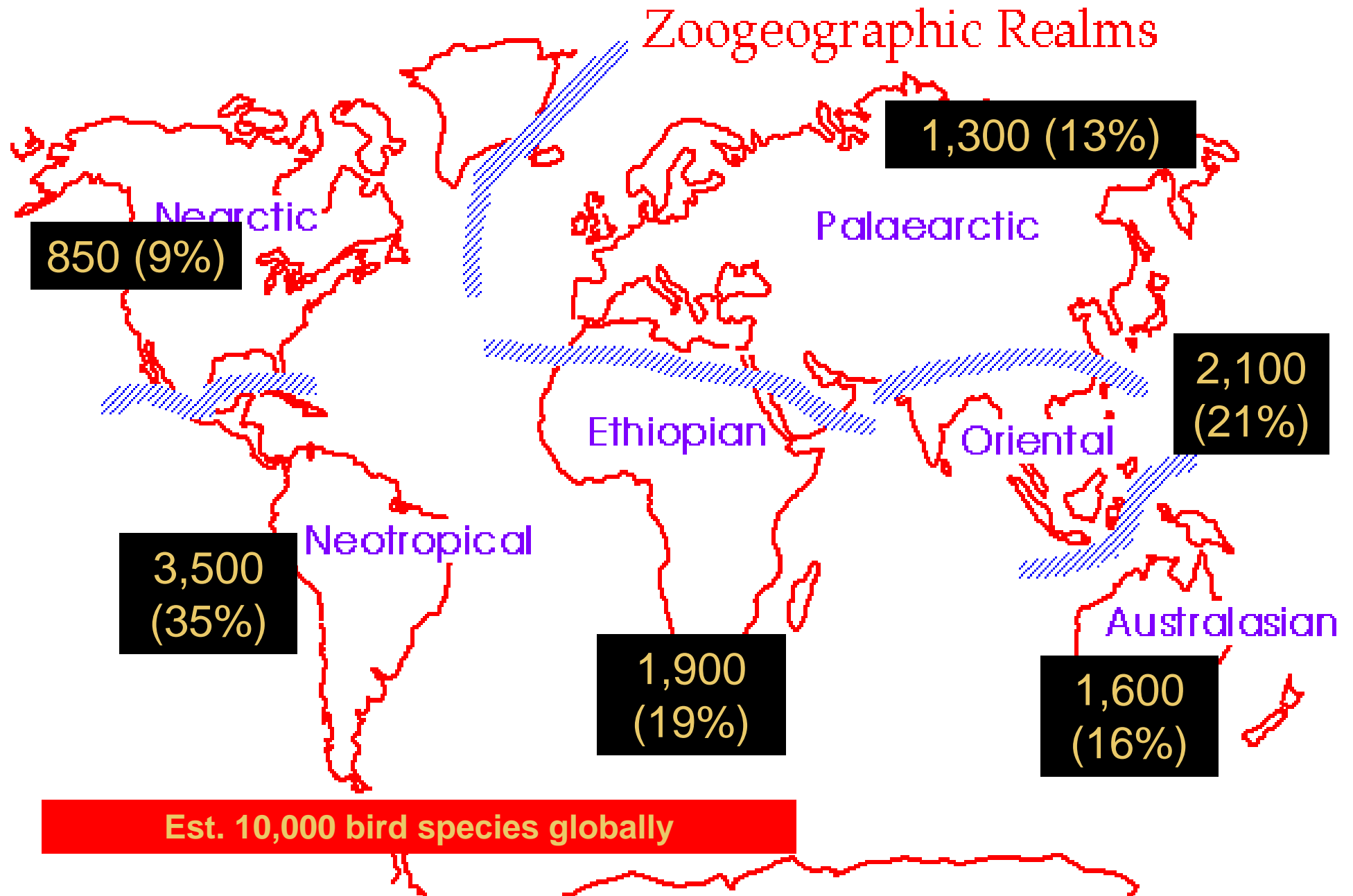


“BIRDING TOURISM”

*A form of nature-based tourism that **does not** negatively affect birds or host communities but supports the conservation of sites visited, while delivering local livelihood benefits.*



HOW ARE BIRDS DISTRIBUTED



The main reason people travel internationally to birdwatch is not to see exotic or strange birds but to see more species.

*Source: Avibase** this list needs serious review..!*

1879	Peru?
1796	Brazil?
1690	Indonesia?
1618	Columbia
1534	Ecuador ?
1394	Venezuela?
1389	Bolivia?
1348	China?
1235	India?
1121	Tanzania?
1097	Mexico?
1082	Myanmar?
1106	Kenya?
1058	Uganda?
1018	Thailand?
1005	Argentina?

983	Angola?
983	Panama?
969	Cameroon?
962	Sudan?
955	Nigeria?
925	Australia?
906	Costa Rica?
901	Nepal?
862	Vietnam?
858	South Africa?
853	Ethiopia ?
850	Papua New Guinea?
842	Zambia?
757	Malaysia?

434?	Indonesia
341?	Australia
242?	Brazil
200?	Philippines
139?	Peru
103?	Mexico
98?	Madagascar
83?	Papua New Guinea
68?	Solomon Islands
67?	Colombia
59?	New Zealand
57 / 300 ?	India
54?	Malaysia
54?	Venezuela
54+	China
37?	Ecuador/Galapagos
24?	Taiwan

Number of Endemic

Species – Needs Revision!

ENDEMIC - Species only found or restricted to a particular country/site. Some of these birds may only occur at one or two sites within the country, so it is important to make a special effort to see them. *Source: Avibase..excuse the figures 😊*



AZAHARI REYES @ JAVON

MALAYSIAN OVERVIEW

- Y2011, total tourists arrival 24,714,324 with RM56.5 billion in tourism receipts.
- Tourism is the 2nd largest foreign exchange earner.
- Tourism Malaysia Departing Visitors Survey, 46.3% tourist engaged in trekking/walking/hiking and 46.0 % engaged in sightseeing/countryside as part of their activities
- Number of HK tourist increasing..



Malaysian Nature Society & Bird Tourism

- MNS is the oldest/largest ENGO. BirdLife International Partner. Est. 60% members active/involved in bird activities.
- Coordinates/involved in all bird related events including *Raptor Watch*, *Fraser's Hill International Bird Race*, *Festival of Wings*, *Borneo Bird Festival* and *Borneo Bird Race*.
- Commissioned by Ministry of Tourism to conduct feasibility study "*Towards the Development of Bird Watching as an Eco Tourism Product for Malaysia*" in 2009 (ongoing).
- Continues to promote Important Bird Areas (IBA)
- Co-founder of the Asian Bird Festival (ABF) Network



A peek into
hornbill
conservation

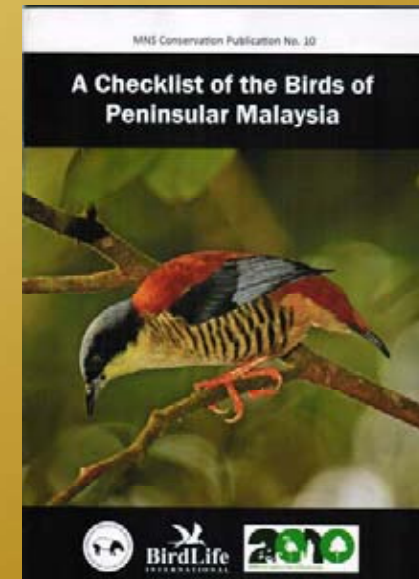
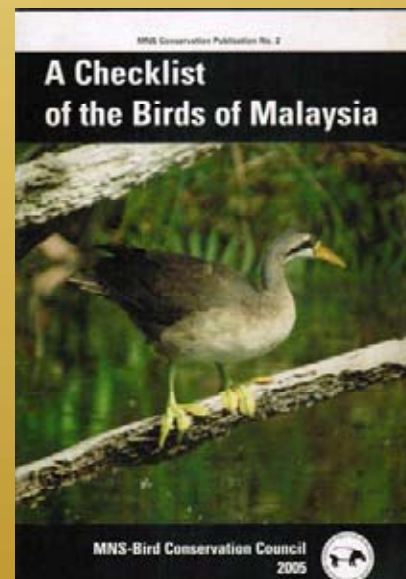


MALAYSIA'S AVIFAUNA

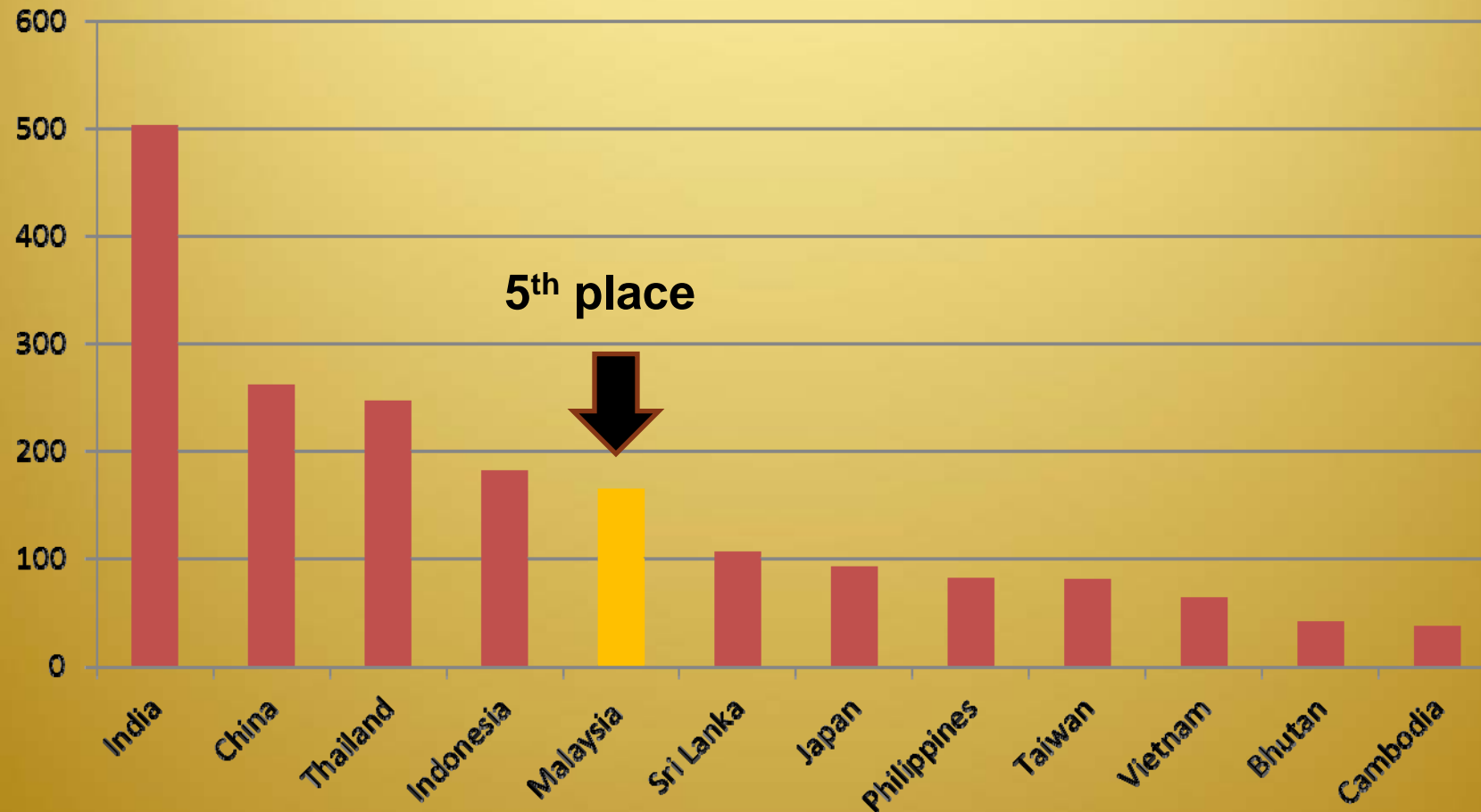
Total no. of bird species	757
Total no. of Resident birds	527
Total no. of Migratory birds	230
Total no. of species Resident & Migrant	52
Endemics	54

MNS- BCC (2005) MNS Conservation Publication No. 2: A Checklist of the Birds of Malaysia Revised MNS-BCC (2010)

MNS Conservation Publication No.10: A Checklist of the Birds of Peninsular Malaysia



Malaysia's position in Asia



Number of Trip Reports According to Countries (as at 26 Oct 2011)
[travellingbirder.com]

Birding Tourism – Malaysia's Competitive Advantage

- Malaysian **avifauna generally well-known** and certain birding sites **internationally established**.
- **Politically stable** compared to some neighbouring countries.
- **Relatively good accessibility** to most sites i.e. road networks, signages, local air travel, rail & buses
- **Untapped** target audiences e.g. independent, opportunistic birders



Malaysia – Key Birding Routes

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

- Entry point Kuala Lumpur Int Airport of KL LCCT
- Itinerary included **Kuala Selangor Nature Park, Fraser's Hill and Taman Negara (Kuala Tahan)**.
- Commenced in Kuala Lumpur.
- Every tour included **at least 3-5 nights in Fraser's Hill, and 4-6 nights in Taman Negara**.
- **78% of tours made an overnight stop in Kuala Selangor**; all the others made a daytime visit only.
- Tours varied in length **between 8 days and 2 weeks in Peninsular Malaysia**. Some then continued on to Sabah.
- Other locations incl Royal Belum State Park, Langkawi Island

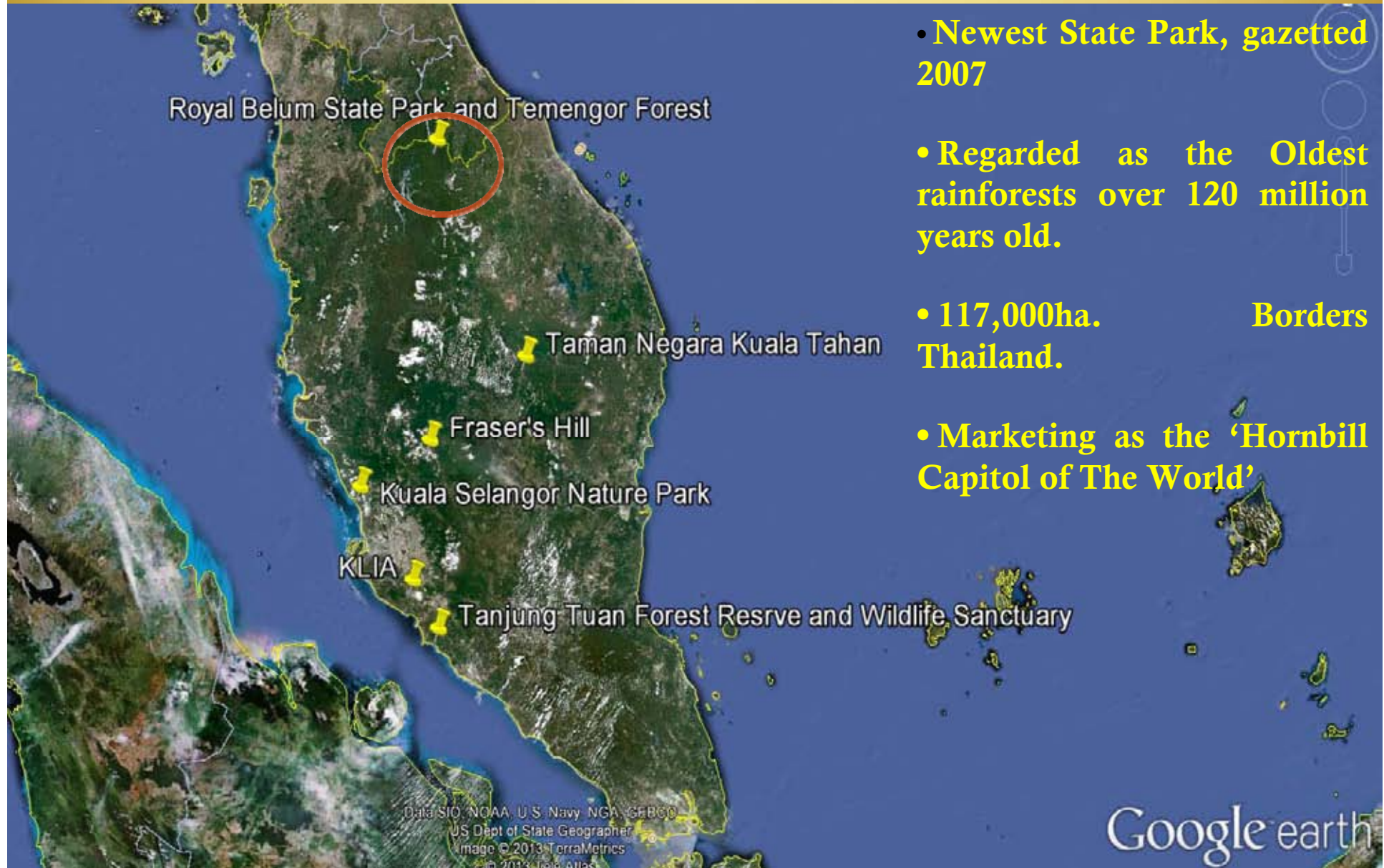
EAST MALAYSIA

- Entry points were usually to Kota Kinabalu or Lahad Datu
- Itinerary included **Kinabalu Park (3-5 days), Sukau (Sg Kinabatangan) (2-3 days), Borneo Rainforest Lodge (in Danum Valley) (3-6 days)**.
- Daytime stopover at **Gomantong Caves** to look at the swiftlets.
- The length of East Malaysian **birding tours is generally between 10-17 days**.
- Sarawak is seldom featured in the itinerary.
- Other locations visited incl. Tabin WR, Bako National Park, Kota Kinabalu City wetland sanctuary

Malaysia



Royal Belum State Park



- **Newest State Park, gazetted 2007**

- **Regarded as the Oldest rainforests over 120 million years old.**

- **117,000ha. Borders Thailand.**

- **Marketing as the 'Hornbill Capitol of The World'**



HORNBILLS OF BELUM/TEMENGOR - PERAK, MALAYSIA

THE BIRDS OF MALAYSIA
VOLUME 10
PART 1
THE BIRDS OF MALAYSIA
THE BIRDS OF MALAYSIA

Illustrated by
[Name]

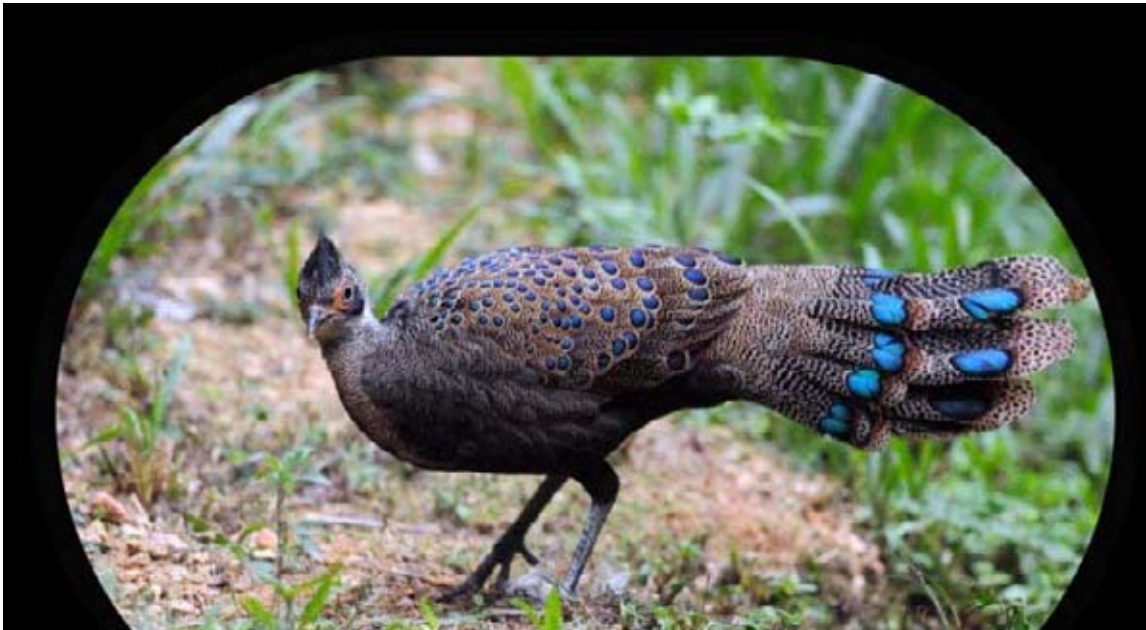


Taman Negara



- **Taman Negara National Park is one of the world's oldest rainforests over 120 million years old and key birding site.**
- **Gazetted as Malaysia's 1st national park in 1938/39.**
- **Malaysia's largest national park (4343 sq km)**





Fraser's Hill



- Famous Hill station, 1400m surrounded by Permanent Forest Reserve.

- Best birding site for hill & lower montane birds

- Home to 3/4 of Peninsular Malaysia's endemics

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
US Dept of State Geographer
Image © 2013 TerraMetrics
© 2013 Tele Atlas

Google earth





Red-bearded Bee-eater



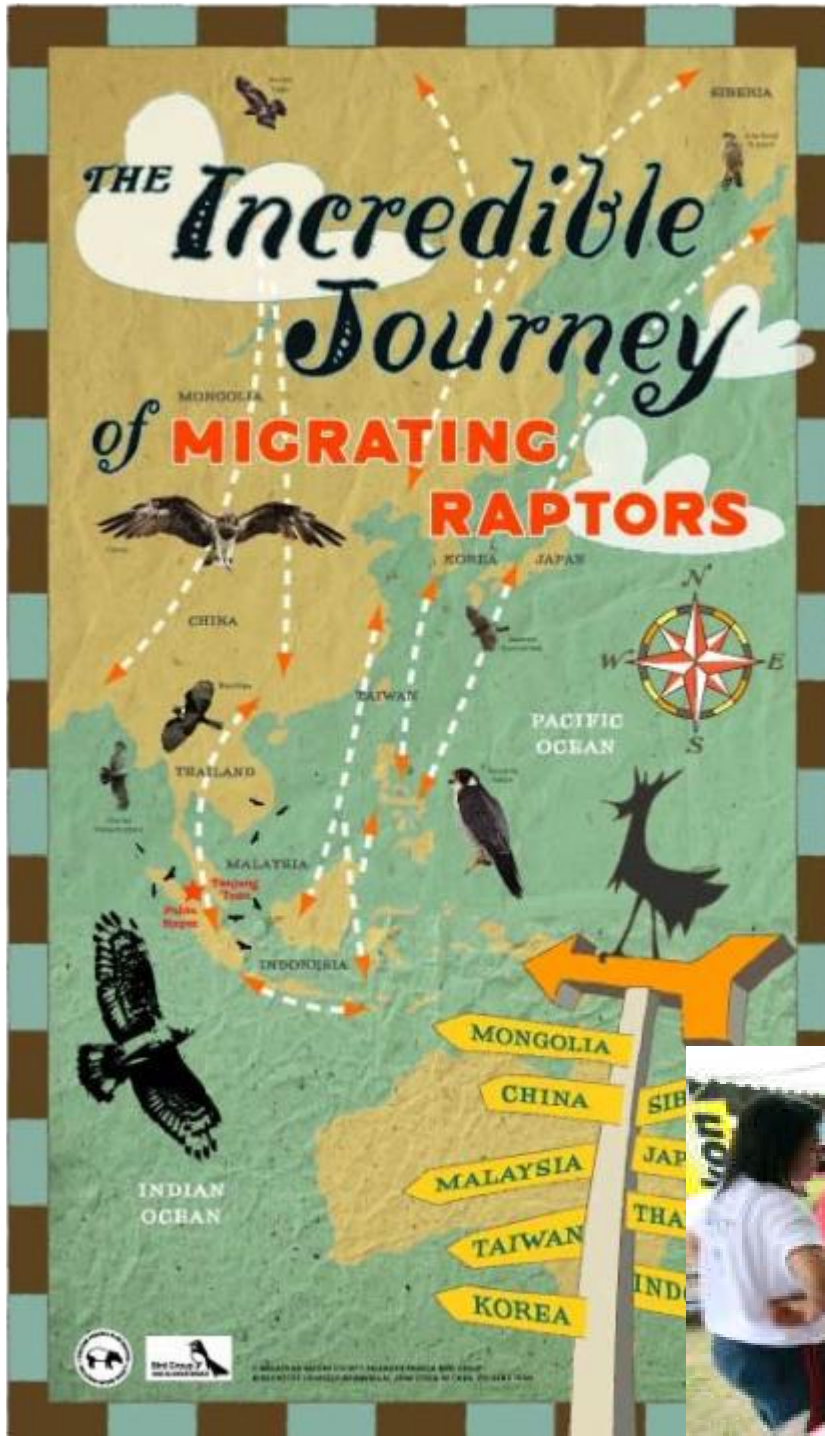
Silver-breasted Broadbill

Tanjung Tuan

- Home to Raptor Watch , Malaysia's biggest ecotourism & bird event.

- 9-10 March 2013 #14 year. HKBWS officially invited ☺

- Asian Bird Fair 2014..



Kuala Selangor



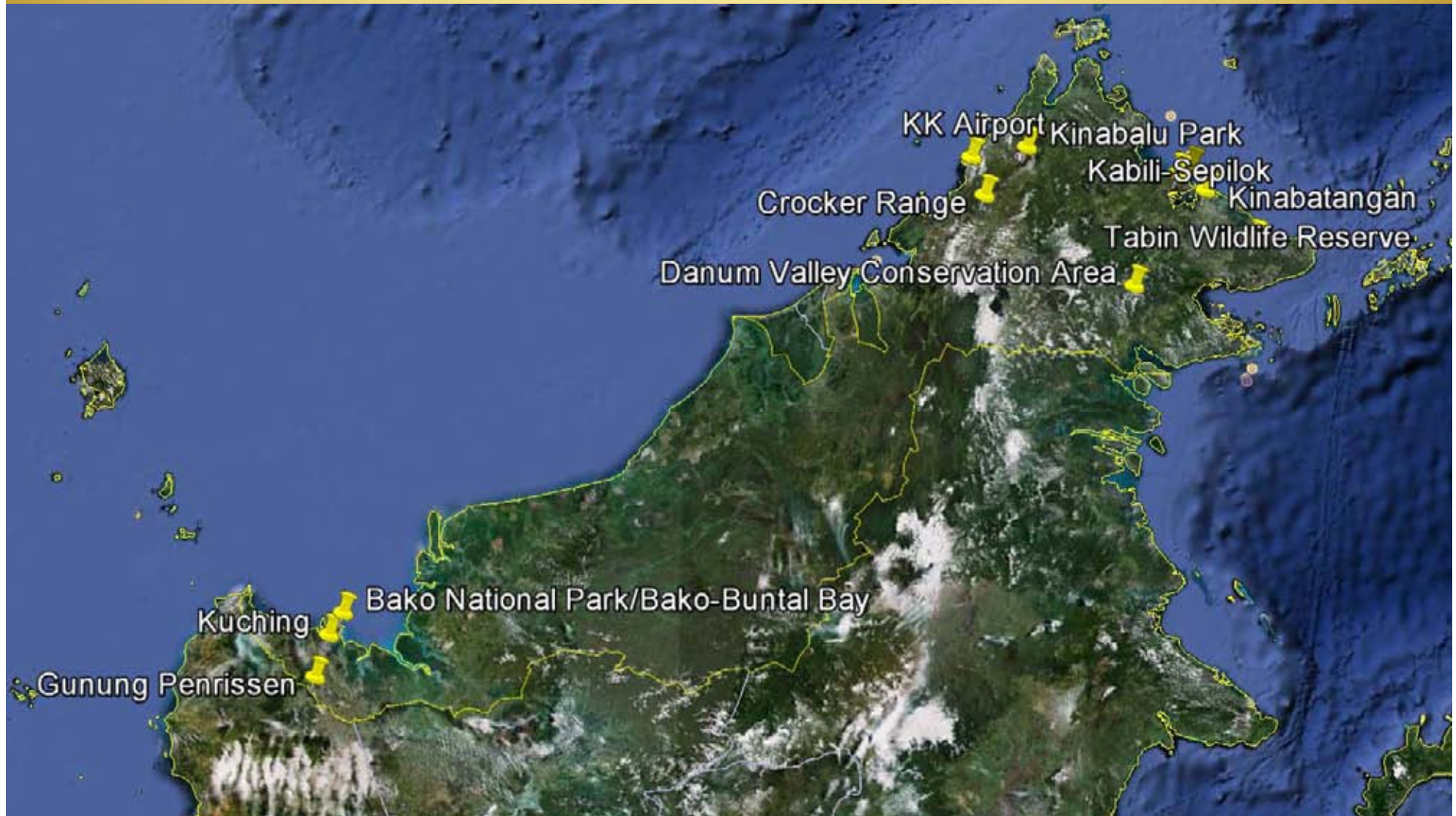
- Kuala Selangor Nature Park (IBA), Coastline and paddy field make up an amazing diversity

- Also home to 3 primate species and world famous synchrononous fireflies

- Cheap, fresh seafood!



East Malaysia/Borneo



Kinabalu Park

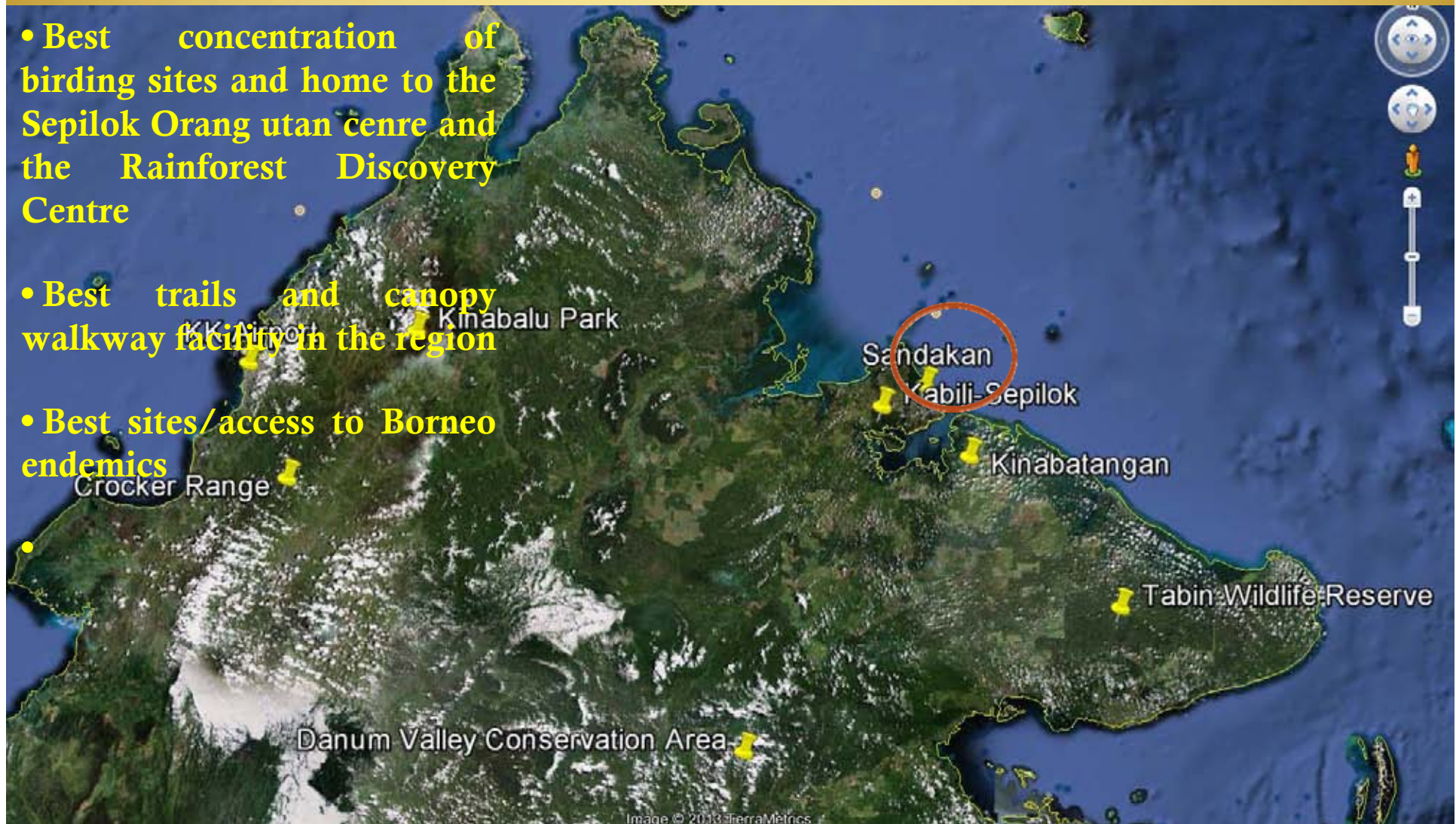
- #20 most prominent mountain in the world @ 4,095m, key birding site
- World Heritage site, among the most important biological sites in the world





Sandakan

- Best concentration of birding sites and home to the Sepilok Orang utan centre and the Rainforest Discovery Centre
- Best trails and canopy walkway facility in the region
- Best sites/access to Borneo endemics







BLACK-HEADED PITTA

Pitta ussheri
© GARY ALBERT



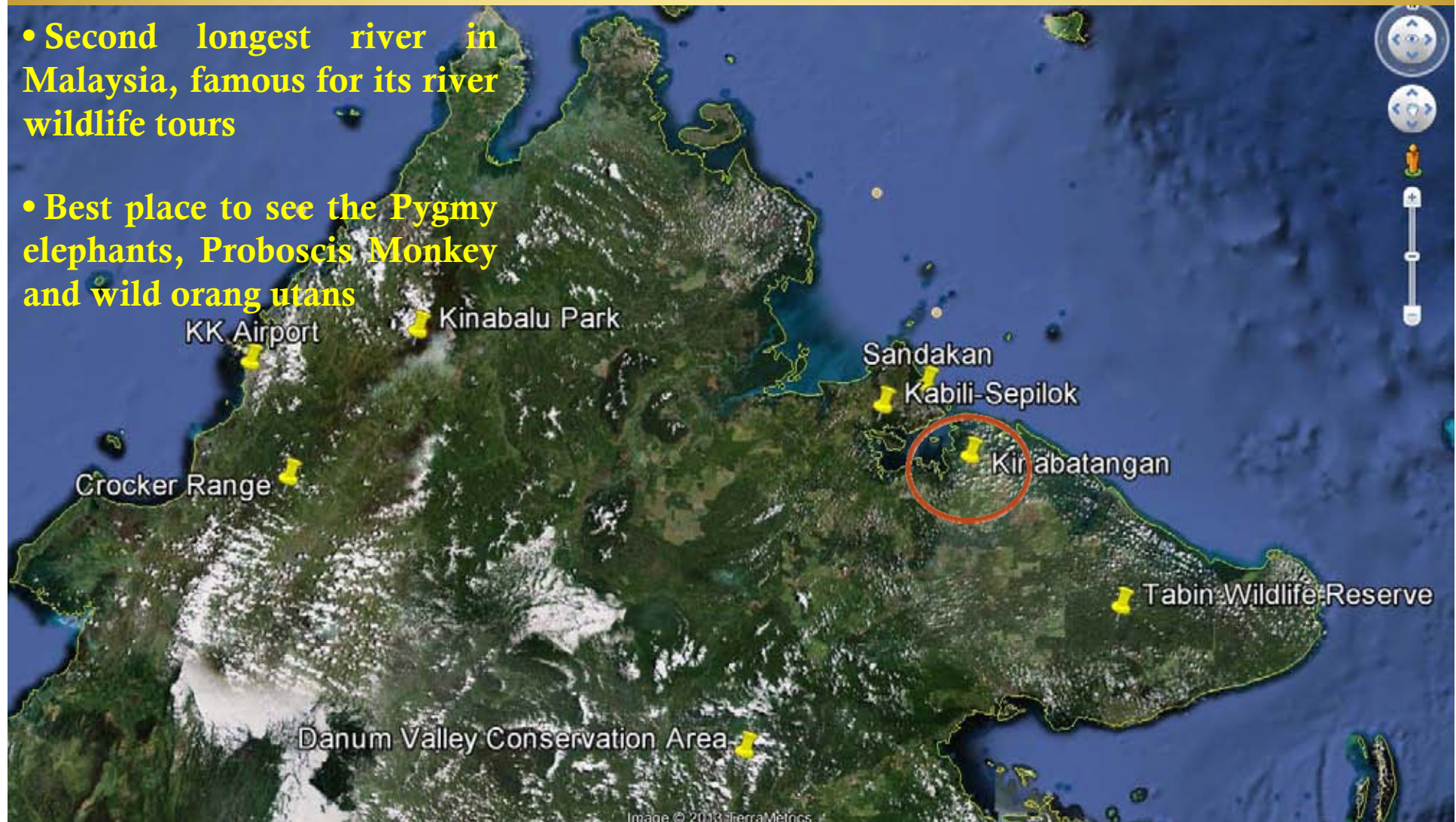
esen.com



© Doug Wechsler/VIREO

Kinabatangan River/Sukai

- Second longest river in Malaysia, famous for its river wildlife tours
- Best place to see the Pygmy elephants, Proboscis Monkey and wild orang utans





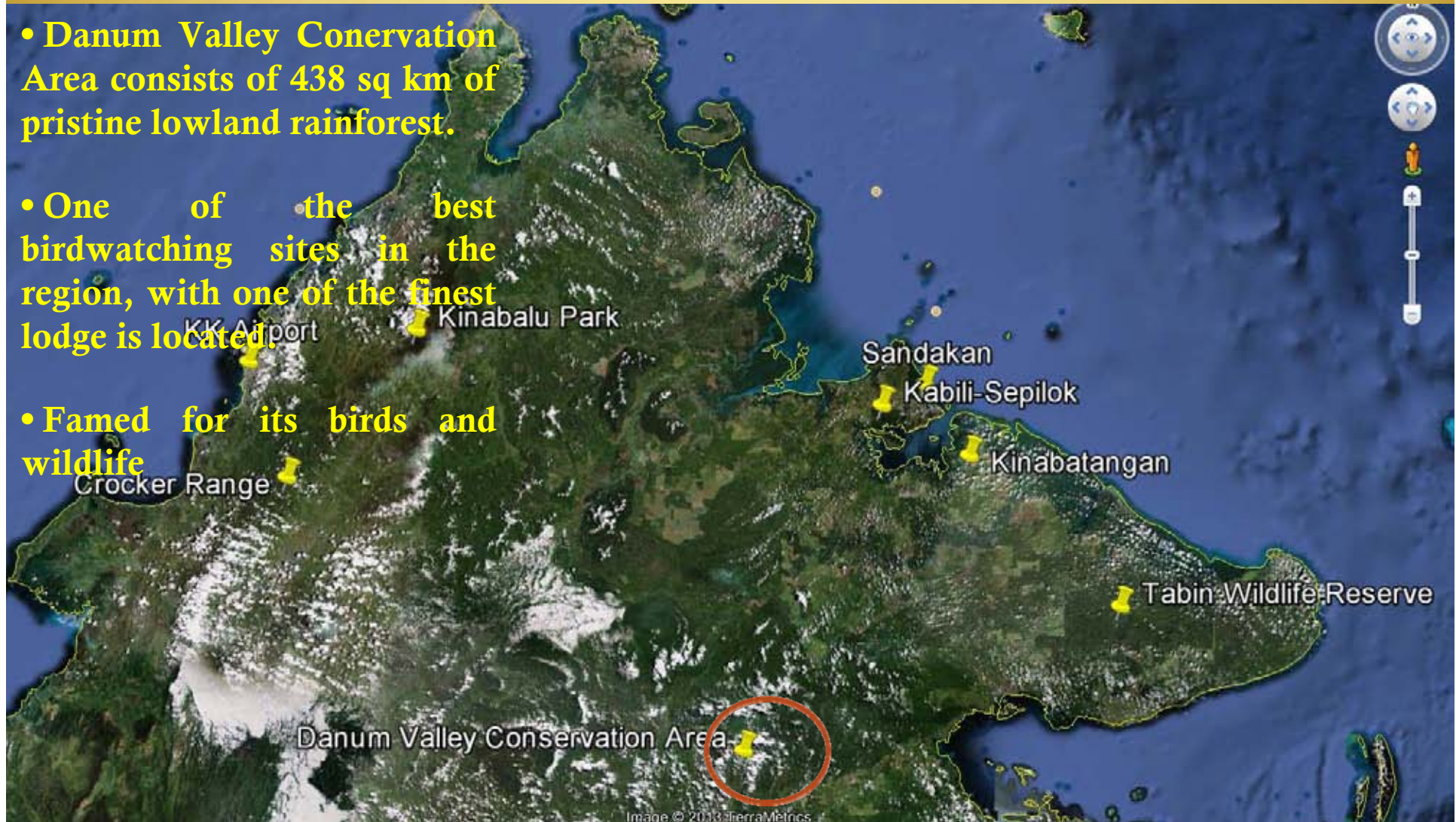


Danum Valley

- Danum Valley Conservation Area consists of 438 sq km of pristine lowland rainforest.

- One of the best birdwatching sites in the region, with one of the finest lodges located

- Famed for its birds and wildlife







© photo by Michelle & Peter Wong



AZAHARI REYES @ JASON



Birding Routes» **Northern Route**» **Central North Route**» [Belum - Temengor](#)» [Kuala Gula Bird Sanctuary](#)» [Taiping Lake Gardens](#)» [Bukit Larut](#)» **Central South Route**» **Southern Route**» **East Coast Route**» **Sabah Route**» **Sarawak Route**» **Home**

CENTRAL NORTH ROUTE

A+ A- A

**Black-and-Red Broadbill**

The Central-north Birding Route traverses Perak and Pahang, two of the largest states in Peninsular Malaysia. This extensive region encompasses all major habitats, ranging from montane forests in the interior highlands and lowland forests on the plains of Pahang, to vast mangroves on the west coast and extensive wetlands in the Kinta Valley of Perak. The area covered by the Central-north birding route includes several Important Bird Areas (IBA) as well as other sites of ornithological significance.

In essence..

- Everyone is linked! Let's make it SUSTAINABLE..
- We are losing most of our birds and natural ecosystems..
- Industry needs to thrive/grow/sustain itself so that Ecotourism is favored vs destruction of natural ecosystems
- Birdwatchers / Bird Tours Operators need to integrate itineraries and content (wildlife, local culture, history and food!)
- Form partnerships & routes between countries, regions and ecosystems
- The industry and players needs to embrace better “Best Practices” and “Rules”
- This talk, 1st step forward-TQ Bonnie!



TERIMA KASIH



Photo credits: AJ Sebastian, MNS archives, Eileen Chiang, Ooi Beng Yean, Tan Gim Cheong, Dave Bakewell, Paul Huang, David Lai, Eugene Cheah, OBC, Lim Kim Chye, Irshad Mobarak, Victor Yu, Dilys Lam, Roby Leung, Langgag Club HK.