

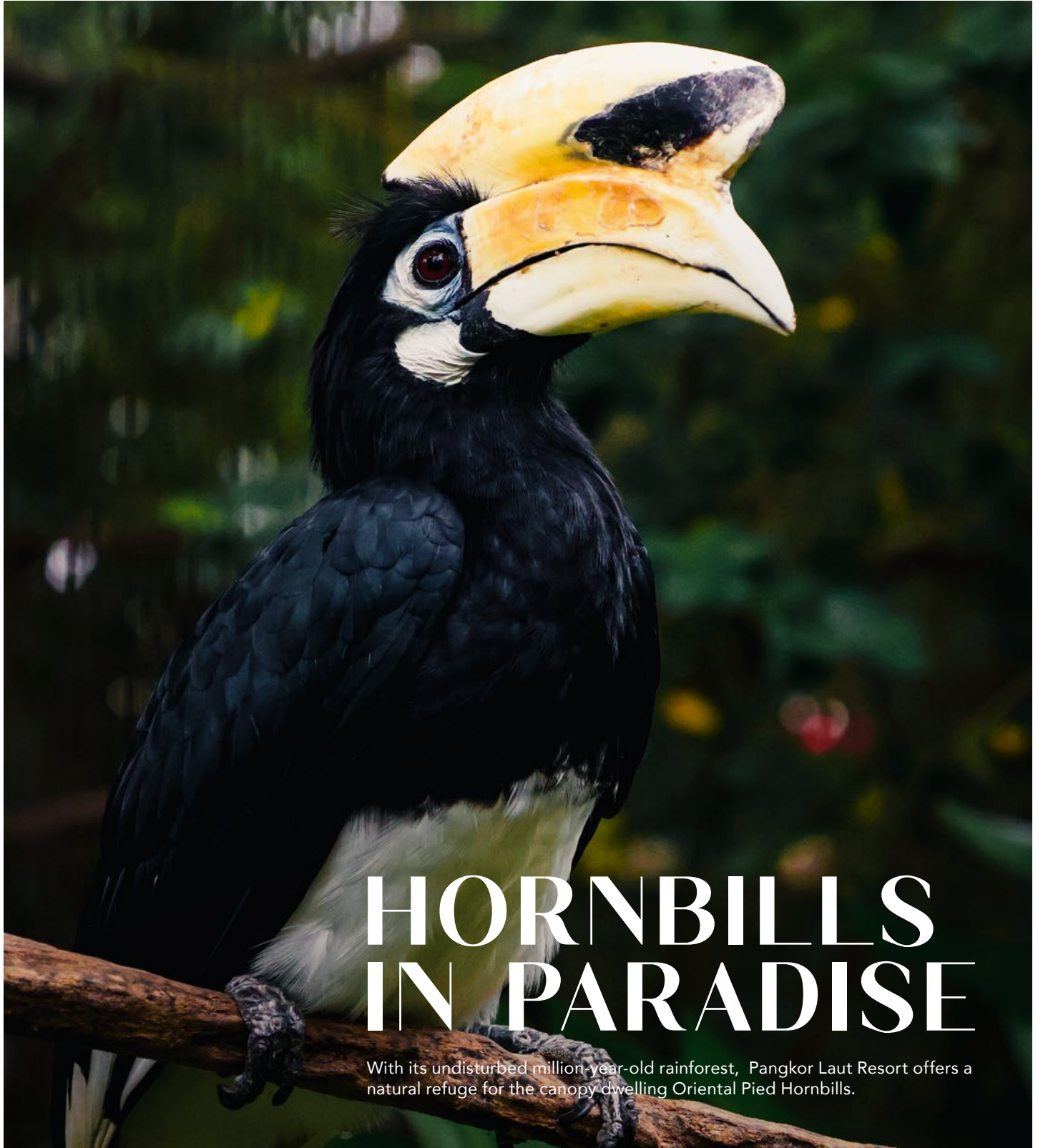
YTL'S

NATURAL WONDERS

Nº.2

VOICE OF CONSERVATION

Oct '23



HORNBILLS IN PARADISE

With its undisturbed million-year-old rainforest, Pangkor Laut Resort offers a natural refuge for the canopy-dwelling Oriental Pied Hornbills.

A WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM JUSTIN JUHUN



Dear guests,

It is with great pleasure that we bring you the second volume of The Natural Wonders - Voices of Conservation, a compendium of heart-warming updates on YTL Hotels' key sustainability and environmental initiatives. In this quarter's update, we invite you to sail over emerald waters to the private island that is Pangkor Laut Resort, and delve into our conservation activities which kept us busy during the global

lockdowns. The fruits of those labours are indeed encouraging, as our 20-month survey offered biodiversity count of 176 species identified ranging from fish, mammals, birds and reptiles to all manner of insects. Our efforts in Pangkor Laut Resort have also yielded both a Nature Conservation Centre as well as a tropical botanical garden on the grounds of Pangkor Laut which are both open to guest visitations. Our continuing collaboration with academic institutions also means you will chance upon some of our bright and upcoming eco-warriors in time to come, carrying out their studies on the island's flora, fauna and coral reef.

At Gaya Island Resort, we are now moving into another phase of replanting seagrass meadows, one of the world's most productive ecosystems. It provides habitat and food for shrimp, crabs, cod and flatfish, marine mammals and even birds, with seahorses, turtles and dugongs among the other animals who seek refuge there. These meadows also reduce the impact of coastal storms as the leaves soften the ferocity of the waves while keeping coastal waters healthy by absorbing bacteria and nutrients.

I hope you enjoy the reading ahead, and that you will also be able to also experience the many delightful nature experiences that our conservation team has put in place. And in some small way, we hope these experiences will provide you with indelible moments in which the beauty of nature is distilled in front of your very senses.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Juhun'.

Justin Juhun
Director of Conservation
YTL Hotels



IN PANGKOR LAUT RESORT, BIODIVERSITY STUDIES ACROSS TWO YEARS SHOWCASES WILDLIFE ABUNDANCE

During the pandemic, YTL Hotels initiated a preliminary survey at Pangkor Laut Resort to gauge the state of biodiversity in the natural landscape. The findings were hugely encouraging as we recorded a total of 176 species across the following classifications; mammals (8), birds (28), reptile – snakes (8), reptile – lizards (6), amphibian – frogs (2), spiders (11), insect – butterflies (15), insect – moth (10), insect – beetle (12) insect – others (30), others (10) and fish (36).





Upon the accomplishment of this preliminary wildlife survey, we compiled and produced a PDF booklet to be freely disseminated to guests of Pangkor Laut Resort interested to learn more about the wildlife on and surrounding the island.

To further augment our efforts in wildlife conservation and related enrichment programmes, we took 14 months to convert a building to become the resort's Nature Conservation Centre. Here, guests will be able to learn about our conservation efforts and also immerse themselves in the island's rich biodiversity.

Following the establishment of the Nature Conservation Centre, we then began work on a Tropical Botanical Garden with the objective of preserving and showcasing the island's rare species of flora, such as the Triangular Clubmoss (*Huperzia phlegmaria*) which are sometimes used as ornamental plants.





THE MAGNIFICENT HORNBILLS HABITAT RESEARCH & CONSERVATION



Ongoing efforts with academic institutions include a collaboration with University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) in which two interns undertook a three-month study of 'The Oriental Pied Hornbill Census and Behaviour', a field of research enabled by the large hornbill population on the island.

To conserve hornbills, Macarthur Palms (*Ptychosperma Macarthurii*) is planted as part of the resort's garden plants, which also provide fruit for hornbills. Several wooden nesting boxes made from recycled wood were also built to provide breeding and nursery habitats for the hornbills. We are committed to work together with local bird conservation organisations to advance conservation efforts that benefit birds and their habitat.



A LAWN BENEATH THE WAVES & ON THE SHORES OF GAYA ISLAND RESORT

At Gaya Island Resort, located within the protected 4,922-hectare Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, our four-year effort to replant the seagrass produced some fascinating results. Three different planting methodologies were used and the third one proved most successful, allowing us to create a seagrass meadow over an area of 255 square metres, ideal as grazing grounds for marine life. In total, seven different seagrass species were collected and introduced into this project.



Similarly, our long-standing mangrove habitat project – which began in 2014 – has also led to recent a nursery planting project. At the resort’s mangrove nursery, guests are also invited to participate in collecting the propagules during excursions into the mangrove forests. Early this year, our team visited the Sulaman Wetland Centre in Tuaran, Sabah, an area of over 1,200 acres, to obtain more species of mangrove for habitat enrichment and propagation. By producing small pockets of mangrove forests, our hope is to increase diversity and avoid the existence of a mono habitat.



On another note, one of the resort’s seven natural wonders – the elephant foot yam – adds an incalculable benefit to the landscape. When matured – this plant produces a seasonal flower measuring up to 60cm in height and 56cm in width. You can find these plants at the resort’s pool bar walkway, entrance to the pool bar rest rooms and also at the chef’s garden with continual efforts to introduce this plant at various areas of the island.



SPREADING THE KNOW-HOW OF CONSERVATION

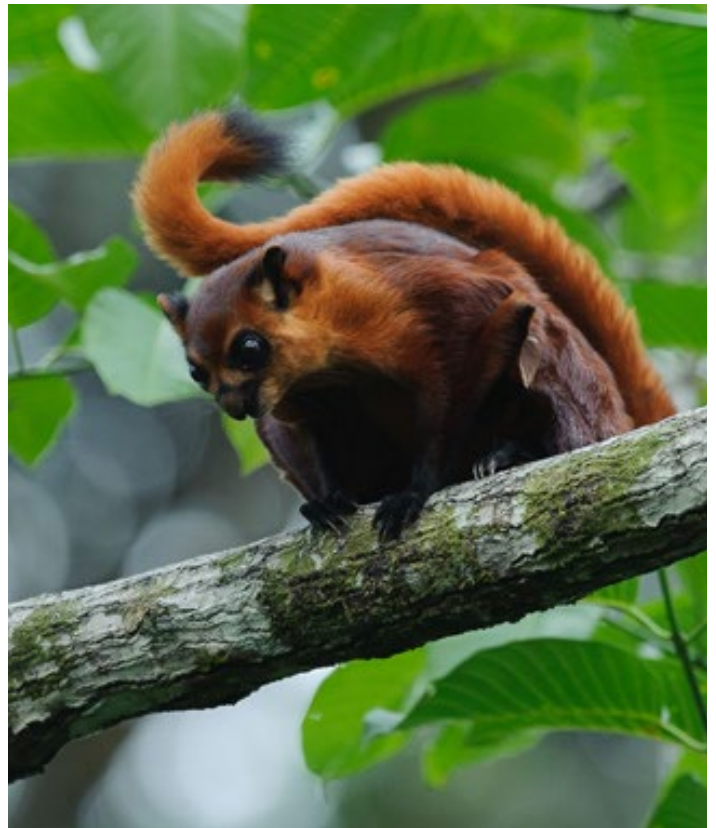


A vital turtle hatchery site in the making.

During my time stations at Pangkor Laut Resort, I was approached by two gentlemen Dr Nurul and Rasli who run the turtle sanctuary at Teluk Ketapang in the adjacent Pangkor Island. I offered advisory on their management of the turtle sanctuary and, assisted them to draft an MOU with the relevant authorities to establish greater governance and guidance in the management of their sanctuary.

Earlier this year, I also received an invitation from the officer of Taman Taman Perak (Perak Parks) to visit Pulau Sembilan. Here we had a deep discussion on partnership of future conservation work while also discovering plenty of turtle nesting sites, making it vital for us to establish a turtle hatchery site on the island.



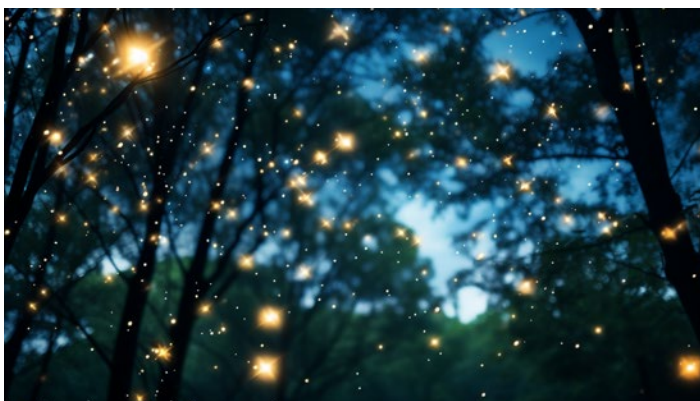


ENCOUNTERS WITH FURRY FRIENDS & FIREFLIES



This year's Earth Hour was celebrated at the resort with a night expedition at the stream nearby the Tavajun Trail to collect fireflies for the closing event. Then at the resort's boardwalk, approximately 60 guests gathered and were given a specimen bottle of fireflies – the freeing of more than a hundred fireflies back into their habitat, shimmering in the darkness.

In September, we installed three new nesting boxes made of Selangan Batu timber – a heavy hardwood – for the use of the red giant flying squirrel. This species, which can be found from the Himalayas to various parts of central and southern China, is deservedly a natural wonder of Gaya Island Resort being one of the largest variants of arboreal squirrels in the world.





THE KURI-KURI KIDS CLUB FOR THE YOUNG EXPLORERS AT GAYA ISLAND RESORT

A tropical wonderland for children and families to participate in exciting activities.

The third quarter of this year, we also saw the launch of a new nature activity of the little ones named, 'Kuri-Kuri Kids Club - The Young Explorer'. This programme guides children on the resort grounds in search of wildlife. The tour ends at the wildlife centre where the children are able to complete their own wildlife journal, recording all the new and exciting animal sightings from the day.

Gaya Island Resort is a tropical wonderland for children and families to participate in exciting activities. The activities are curated to stimulate creativity, wonder and exploration in children. We are passionate to provide a day of experiential fun and learning for children to learn of our on-going sustainability and conservation efforts - to bring home life long memories of their Distinctively Borneo adventure.



YTL HOTELS

Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

The Natural Wonders - Voice of Conservation aims to share the latest conservation news from our collection of Luxury Resorts in Malaysia. Discover the infinite variety, complexity, sheer beauty of the natural environment and the passion of its people that make each resort an exceptional experience.



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