

## **Project Update: August 2002**

From November 2001 to December 2001, information from baseline studies and surveys done previously (1996 - 1999) in the Tasek Bera wetland site were compiled where relevant information on endangered and threatened plant and animal species were extracted. A total of 20 plants and 28 animals were found to be endangered in Tasek Bera.

From January 2002 to March 2002, the skeleton and format for the Field Guide was developed. Each endangered animal and plant was described in different sub-sections and categories. Whatever information compiled earlier was rewritten to suit the specified format of the guidebook. Scientific and local names and families that the various species belonged to were verified and checked with the help of many reference books.

A total of 5 visits to different villages were made to Tasek Bera Ramsar site during April 2002 to May 2002. In each visit, a varied group of old and young men belonging to the Semelai tribe, who have inhabited Tasek Bera wetlands for over 600 years, were interviewed. (Photographs of the interviews are attached with this report). From June 2002 to July 2002, information gleaned from the interviews were rewritten and added on. Photographs of plants and animals were obtained from Wetlands International-Malaysia photo library and collection, while others were sourced out from other local environmental and conservation organisations like World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Malaysian Nature Society (MNS).

By August 2002, the draft text and the guidebook will be completed and translated into Bahasa Malaysia. In October 2002, the ISBN number for the guidebook will be obtained from the National Publishing House in Kuala Lumpur. All the images (prints and slides) will be scanned and incorporated or rearranged into the text. A final graphical layout to be done and checked. By end October 2002, 2000 copies of the Guidebook will be printed and in November 2002, copies of the Field Guide will be distributed to Wetland Centres located in Malaysia and university libraries.



Left: Wading through a freshwater swamp during a field survey. Right: Mr. Hashim the chief nature guide of the Semelai Ecotourism Association was seen releasing an endangered terrapin which found its way to the settlement area.