

FACT SHEET
PARK GUIDE TRAINING AND LICENSING SYSTEM FOR NATIONAL PARKS AND
NATURE RESERVES IN SARAWAK.

1. The implementation of the Park Guide Training and Licensing System in the State is government by Regulation 8 of the National Parks and Nature Reserves Regulations, 1999 which was approved and gazette by the government vide Sarawak Government Gazette Part II Vol. LIV No. 25 dated 2nd September, 1999.
2. Under the aforesaid Regulation, the Controller is empowered to issue, renew and revoke Park Guide Licence, and to prescribe courses and training that persons have to undergo and successfully completed, before they can be licensed. In accordance with this statutory requirement, the office of the Controller has given approval to Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) to implement a park guide training and licensing system with effect from 1st April 2007.
3. The system was officially implemented with effect from 1st April 2007. It was officially launched by YAB the Chief Minister at Gunung Mulu National Park on 14th April 2007, SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC) is the implementing agency tasked with overseeing the implementation of the System in the State.
4. For this purpose, SARAWAK FORESTRY Corporation (SFC) has developed two training programme called "Certificate in Park Guiding" Course and "Specific Park Products and Services Course" which are in accordance with the provision of the aforesaid Regulations. The training programme is specially tailored to meet the demands of providing professional guiding services in a national park or a nature reserve. The above aforesaid courses have been registered with the "Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad, Cawangan Sarawak". University Teknologi Mara (UiTM) is appointed as the Consultant to provide consultant or training services for the "Certificate in Park Guiding" while, with the exception of Gunung Mulu National Park, the "Park Products and Services Courses" for the rest of national parks or nature reserves, are provided by SARAWAK FORESTRY.
5. The training programme under the Certificate Course is modurised into five modules and requiring a 81 hours of lectures and practical. The course is comprising i) Theoretical knowledge on tourism and ecotourism, ii) Totally Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation, iii) National Parks and Nature Reserves as a Tourism Products (Nature's Hidden Treasures), iv) Risk Management in National Parks and Nature Reserves, and iv) Principle of Thematic Interpretation. While, under the training programme for the Park Products and Service Courses, the prescribed generic course has at least three modules, depending on a particular site and its unique biological and cultural resources available and requires a total of period of about 25 to 83 hours.
6. The main objective of the Park Guiding and Licensing System is to RECOGNISE best practice park guiding in our national parks or nature reserves by training and licensing at least 300 park guides in Sarawak. The training programme under the Certificate Course is aimed at:
 - ✓ enhancing the professionalism of park guides in the delivery of guiding services so that they will be able to provide high quality experiences to visitors in our parks.
 - ✓ enabling park guides to understand conservation so that they can motivate tourists to appreciate environmental and biodiversity issues.
 - ✓ enhancing the skill of park guides on the special nature of park guiding as a tool for conservation.
 - ✓ inculcating best practice standards among park guides in relation to safety, interpretation, customer service, product promotion and park guide's own leadership and presentation.
 - ✓ assisting tour operators in identifying park guides possessing the relevant training and qualifications to conduct guiding services in national parks and nature reserves.
7. Prior to the implementation of the Regulation, numerous dialogues with relevant stakeholders including various associations and industry players were held from year 2002 to 2006. Stakeholders included the Sarawak Tourism Federation (STF) and its member organizations, including the Sarawak

Tourist Guide Association (SkTGA). During these dialogues, inputs were obtained from these stakeholders and taken into consideration in developing the training and licensing system for park guides in the state. It culminated with the approval and endorsement from the state authorities.

8. Even after the system was implemented, SFC continues to conduct several dialogues and other engagement activities with the industry. In this dialogues, STF and its member associations including SkTGA, Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) and Association of Sarawak Inbound Agencies (ASIA) were fully represented.
9. Those keen in taking up park guiding as a career must undergo and complete this intensive skill-training programme. The curriculum is specially tailored to meet the demands of providing guiding services in our national parks and nature reserves.
10. A major feature of the system is the flexibility accorded to park guides in terms of attendance in the courses. For park guides who feel that they have already possessed or acquired the relevant skill and knowledge, they can apply to the Controller for exemption from attending the two courses and instead sit for the assessments directly.
11. Under the licensing system, a full Park Guide Licence is issued. The full Park Guide Licence is valid for 3 years. In order to obtain this licence, a park guide must be a person of good character; physically and medically fit to perform the duties of a park guide; and have attended and passed a "Certificate in Park Guiding Course" or pass the general examinations/assessment organized by SFC. The applicant must also possess a valid Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Certificate issued by the Red Crescent Society or Health Department. He or she must pass at least one competency assessment of one of the products in at least one national park or nature reserve organized by SFC, and in conjunction with this, a "Park Products and Services Course" will be organized in order for a park guide to qualify for guiding in specific parks.
12. The "Certificate in Park Guiding" course will take about 16 days with a fee of RM 1, 500 (include lectures fee, F & B). Each "Park Products and Service" Course will cost at least RM 400 as course fee, depending on the eco-site. For example, once a park guide trainee passes a Certificate in Park Guiding Course, He/she is required to take up at least one Park products and Service Course for a particular national park of his/her choice, say Bako National Park. The total cost of for such training will then be amounting to RM 1, 900 prior to legally issuing him/her a licence to guide in Bako National Park.
13. Under the system, park guides will also be required to commit themselves to a Code of Ethics. The objective is to ensure long term viability of natural or cultural resources on which tourism in parks and reserves depends on.
14. Announcement for the participation in the Certificate in Park Guiding Course and the Park Products and Services Course will be made (in media) or specially tailored to a specific request and all those interested, particularly those who are currently working as park guides are highly encouraged to apply.