

HIKING MANAGEMENT IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA: 'MALIM GUNUNG PERHUTANAN'

**Mohd Yussainy MY¹, Zuraida Z¹, Mohamad Rizal R¹, Mohammad Ifratshim MS¹,
Che Engku Nor Amiza CE¹, Mardiana Salihah M¹ and Mohd Zulkhairi Z¹**

¹Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia, W.P. Kuala Lumpur (MALAYSIA)

E-mail: yussainy@forestry.gov.my

Abstract

As of 2020, there are a total of 116 Forest Eco Parks and 16 Forest State Parks that have been established and more than 240 mountain and hill hiking trail hotspots in the Permanent Reserve Forests (PRF) of Peninsular Malaysia. The evolution in the current trends of recreation has shifted from leisure to adventure tourism activities which are highly risked in nature and require professional guides with particular set of skills. There is a perception that mountaineers possess unique personality characteristics that attracts them to the profession. Methods questionnaire of the personality inventory of MGP were utilized to obtain data from participants. By strengthening local communities with related skills will directly increase visitors' assurance towards hiking services offered. A total of 852 accident cases were recorded from 2018 to 2021 due to missing, falling, sudden death and drowning. In this regard, the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) committed to have 1,000 local guides with comprehensive training modules before being certified as Malim Gunung Perhutanan (MGP). The MGPs will also act as first responders while carrying out activities in PRFs and act as FDPM's ambassadors in the management of hiking activities in Peninsular Malaysia. Full implementation of the MGP services will commence in 2023 and is expected to assist FDPM in resolving hiking management issues other than assisting the local communities to generate income in ecotourism through MGP services.

Keywords: Malim Gunung Perhutanan, Hiking Management, Personality Inventory