

'Nurture wildlife awareness from childhood'

KUALA LUMPUR: Awareness of the importance of wildlife must be nurtured in the people from an early age, said an academician.

Ecology and wildlife management expert at Universiti Putra Malaysia, associate professor Dr Marina Mohd Top @ Mohd Tah said in a statement yesterday this awareness must be cultivated from a young age in view of the alarming rate of extinction, death and declining population of wildlife.

"Children have various connections with wildlife in their daily life. They learn about wildlife and nature in formal and informal situations.

"For instance, environmental programmes, visits to the zoo and interactive information obtained through media such as documentary videos, can be carried out to draw the interest of the youths to wildlife," she said in conjunction with the 2020 International Day for Biological Diversity today, with the theme "Our Solutions are in Nature."

According to Marina, many are not aware that wildlife has a role to play in the environment including promoting plant diversity by spreading seeds and pollination.

"Wildlife also contribute to the economy and education through aesthetic value, wildlife recreation, eco-tourism and environmental education programmes," she said.

— Bernama