



Going. Going...Gone?

OUR TURN TO CARE AND ACT FOR OUR FORESTS



Transparency International – Malaysia



NORWEGIAN EMBASSY

The image features a misty, green forest landscape with mountains in the background. In the foreground, there is a large, detailed leaf with serrated edges. The overall color palette is dominated by various shades of green, from light and hazy to deep forest greens.

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Transparency International-Malaysia

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Forest Facts



Best Practices



Case Studies

Contacts



F.A.Q.s



Monitoring & Actions

Detailed Contents



- vi Transparency International–Malaysia (TI-M)
- vii Forest Governance and Integrity Programme (FGI)
- viii Forest Governance and Integrity Programme in Malaysia (TI-M-FGI)
- ix Preface
- x Acknowledgements
- 01 Introduction



Forest Facts

- 03 FOREST FACTS IN MALAYSIA
A compilation of Forest Facts: 3–9, 11–18, 23–28
- 124 MALAYSIA'S NATURE SITES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE
- 129 SAMPLES OF OPEN FOREST CANOPY



Case Studies

- 39 SEGARI, PERAK • Virgin Forests and Turtles Going...
- 45 TASIK CHINI, PAHANG • Hacking At Harmony -
Tasik Chini: An Ecosystem on the Brink
- 50 ULU PAPAR, SABAH • A Price of the Future
- 56 MELIKIN, SARAWAK • Iban furious at attack on
land rights defender
- 60 JAGOI, SARAWAK • Jimah Watches Over An Ecosystem
Under Threat
- 65 KOTA DAMANSARA COMMUNITY FOREST, SELANGOR
• Shared Vision and Breakthrough



Monitoring & Actions

- 71 POPULAR WAYS OF MONITORING & ACTING
- 87 TI-M ForestWatch INITIATIVE
- 97 TI-M ForestWatch MOBILE APPLICATION
- 95 GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY IN FORESTRY
- 99 FOREST COVER IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND RELATED AGENCIES



Best Practices

- 20 DANUM VALLEY CONSERVATION AREA, SABAH
- 30 MATANG MANGROVE FOREST RESERVE, PERAK
- 36 RAJA MUSA FOREST RESERVE, SELANGOR
 - Rehabilitation of peat swamp forest by local communities



F.A.Q.s

*A compilation of F.A.Q.s:
10, 13, 19, 27, 29, 33, 34, 49, 74, 89, 123, 127*



Contacts

- 125 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS MATTER

About Transparency International–Malaysia (TI-M)

Transparency
International–Malaysia (TI-M)
is an independent, non-governmental
organisation committed to the fight against
corruption. TI-M is an accredited chapter of Berlin
based Transparency International.

TI-M's vision is to create a nation free of corruption. Its' mission is to eradicate corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity throughout society.

The five core values of TI-M are Justice, Integrity, Transparency, Accountability and Courage.

TI-M's understanding of corruption – ranging from petty corruption to state capture – enables the movement to raise awareness and critically but constructively engage with all stakeholders from civil society, government, private sector, professional bodies and the academia.

TI-M's strong reputation among stakeholders globally enables it to create political pressure for anti-corruption action and promote collective action for transparency, accountability and integrity systems at local, national and international levels.

TI-M's key programmes are Forest Governance and Integrity (FGI), Business Integrity, Public Sector Integrity, Reducing Corruption and Raising Transparency in Defence and Security Budgets, Reducing Corruption in Labour Migration, Advocacy and People Engagement.

Forest Governance and Integrity Programme (FGI)

FORESTS are the key to the planet's well-being. Its' degradation is a pressing social, economic and environmental challenge, affecting the daily lives of millions of people. The importance of forests has long been recognised, yet even after years of advocacy from local and global pressure groups; the illegal harvesting of timber continues to thrive on the back of corrupt behaviour and opaque governance systems.

Transparency International-Malaysia's **Forest Governance and Integrity Programme (TI-M-FGI)** tackles corruption as a primary driver of illegal logging and inconsistent forest management. The programme looks at corruption at all stages of timber production and processing and examines how it facilitates unsustainable harvesting, production, conversion, export, import and procurement of timber and wood products.

The activities of a regional FGI centre in Indonesia and local FGI units in Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands contribute to curbing corruption and improving forest governance.

The **FGI** works towards a society in which corruption free forest governance and sustainable management enable increased economic development, poverty reduction and environmental protection. The goal of **FGI** is to work towards a society where corruption-free forest governance and sustainable management will enable increased economic development, poverty reduction and environmental protection.

Forest Governance and Integrity Programme in Malaysia (TI-M-FGI)

In Malaysia, the Forest Governance and Integrity Programme (TI-M-FGI) contributes to improved and strengthened transparency, integrity and accountability in forest governance.

The objective of TI-M-FGI is to increase awareness and knowledge of the systemic structure of forest sector corruption and its challenges, strengthen cooperation amongst stakeholders, and development and application of forest monitoring tools.

TI-M-FGI is also actively involved in proposing solutions to forest governance in Malaysia through public and community involvement in forest governing processes, identification and adoption of threatened environmental sites, and recommending reforms in policies related to forestry in Malaysia.

Preface

Looking at forestry from a broader perspective, there is growing anxiety about the impact of the world's receding forest cover, on us and the future generations. Loss of natural resources such as fresh water, clean air, livable climate and biological diversity are but a few of the possible outcomes. The consequences may altogether leave the earth barren and exposed, making it vulnerable to major environmental catastrophes. Close to us today is the concern over the gradual diminution of our own tropical rainforests.

It is a great concern to us and governments around the world that good governance in forestry must prevail, for good governance holds the key to sustainable management of our forest resources. It is globally recognised that one of the key components of sustainable forestry is the active participation of the general public in governing processes.

With that in mind, Transparency International-Malaysia's Forest Governance and Integrity Programme's (TI-M-FGI's) **ForestWatch** Initiative is designed to allow communities to become part of the governing processes related to forestry. The initiative is aimed at creating public enforcement for forestry to safeguard Malaysia's natural resources and assist the Government of Malaysia to address illegal activities related to Forestry.

Datuk Paul Low Seng Kuan,
President, Transparency International-Malaysia

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Borneo Resources Institute Malaysia Sarawak (BRIMAS)

Centre for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC)

*Education and Research Association for Consumers
(ERA Consumers)*

Empower

*Environmental Protection Society
Malaysia (EPSM)*



*Federation
of Malaysian Consumer
Association (FOMCA)*

*Foundation for Community Studies and
Development*

Friends of Bukit Kiara (FoBK)

Institute of Foresters, Malaysia (IRIM)

Jawatankuasa Bertindak Wilayah dan Tanah Adat Tasik Chini

Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)

My Khatulistiwa

Network of Orang Asli Villages Semenanjung Malaysia (JKOASM)

Persatuan Aktivis Sahabat Alam Perak (KUASA)

Pertubuhan Perlindungan Khazanah Alam (PEKA)

Southeast Asia Council for Food Security and Fair Trade (SEACON)

Sustainable Development Network Malaysia - SUSDEN

Tenaganita

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Partners of Community Organisations, Sabah (PACOS)

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Transparency International–Malaysia



***Forests are the soul
of planet earth!***

Introduction

Malaysia's rainforests are the glory of nature. However, millions of acres of the country's forests are disappearing due to logging, mining, industrial development, land grabbing, large dams and tourism. These activities are destroying indigenous peoples' lands and our rich biodiversity and pouring billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The country's rainforests have become a tool for political control, handed out to political allies and family members to maintain loyalty and enrich the powerful elites.

The forestry sector is globally recognised to be one of the areas that is most prone to graft. Among other things, it is threatened by bribery, a lack of access to accurate or credible information, and an absence of transparency around financial flows.

Forestry sector corruption has widespread spill-over effects on governance and human rights. The individuals responsible for the losses are rarely held accountable by law enforcement officials and institutions that are corrupted by logging interests.

Efforts to slow forest loss could be derailed by corruption, due to a potentially dangerous combination: an opportunity to make a lot of money and weak governance. Given the secretive nature of corruption, it is difficult to obtain comprehensive data on corrupt activities in the forest sector. The lack of public information impedes the ability of citizens to hold the government accountable.

In order to deal with corruption in the forestry sector, the nature of the problem must be understood and its importance recognised. Increasing transparency and participation are key measures that should be adopted as part of a holistic approach to strengthening forest governance systems.

The degradation of Malaysia's forests is so severe that it requires urgent public participation in the governance of the nation's legendary tropical forests.

Good forest governance involves:

- giving local communities the real power to manage the land they live on,
- recognising indigenous people's rights to their land as it is central to their ways of life and collective identities as peoples,
- strengthening of community rights to their forests.
- people must be free to organise themselves and have a say in decisions over forest management, there must be transparency and accountability in the decision-making process by government agencies and access must be provided to information on forestry and land matters.

Professional disciplines and government agencies must recognise that the communities have their own knowledge and skills relating to the forests and should not be arrogantly dismissive of them. It is important that information, advice and diffusion of new technologies pertaining to forest management are based on consultations and dialogues with local communities.

Many community efforts to rehabilitate ecosystems that have been damaged are hindered by a lack of funds. Local governments should set up funds to support community efforts for reforestation.

We must hold our political representatives accountable in ensuring that they support forestry and land use policies that promote forest conservation, protect the rights of communities and ensure good governance in the management of forests.

Each of us must begin to play a greater role in the governance of our forests to stop forest destruction, corruption and injustices to our indigenous communities and future generations.

Josie M Fernandez
Secretary General, THM

What is a Forest?



Forest Facts

There are more than 800 different definitions for forest and wooded areas in use around the world.

In Malaysia, the official definition of forest is adopted from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO);

“Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds ‘in situ’. Orchards, urban parks and other agriculture tree crops are excluded as a forest”

- FAO, Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010

Forests in Malaysia

Malaysia’s land mass is 0.2% of total land surface of the earth and it is one of the 12 mega diversity countries in the world. Together, these 12 countries house at least 60 percent of the world’s known species.

Malaysia’s rainforest is **130 million years old** providing a complex, symbiotic and balanced ecosystem. Some of the trees in the forests of Sabah and Sarawak are not found anywhere else in the world.

Major Types of Forests in Malaysia

TYPES OF FOREST	FACTS
<p>a) Inland Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland forest, also known as the '<i>Dipterocarp</i> Forest' is Malaysia's main forest cover. • This type of forest can be classified into 3 categories: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Lowland <i>Dipterocarp</i> Forest (LDF) (up to 300m above sea level), b) Hill <i>Dipterocarp</i> Forest (HDF) (up to 300-700m above sea level), and c) Upper <i>Dipterocarp</i> Forest (UDF) (up to 750-1200m above sea level).
<p>b) Mangrove Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mangrove forest cover in Malaysia is about 577,500 hectares with Sabah having the largest mangrove coverage, accounting for 316,024 hectares.
<p>c) Peat Swamp Forest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peat swamp forests are crucial components of the world's forests. It is estimated that Malaysia's peat swamp forests remain 1.54 million hectares. • The State of Sarawak has the largest area of peat swamp forests amounting to 71.5%, accounting for 907,300 hectares.

Cross-section of Forest Types



Source: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) www.nre.gov.my



Forest Facts

At least 80% of the developed world's diet originated in the tropical rainforest. Its gifts to the world include fruits like avocados, coconuts, figs, oranges, lemons, grapefruit, bananas, guavas, pineapples, mangoes and tomatoes. **It has also provided vegetables including corn, potatoes, winter squash and yams; spices like black pepper, cayenne, chocolate, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, sugar cane, tumeric, coffee and vanilla and nuts including Brazil nuts and cashews.**



Permanent Reserved Forests (PRF)

Of the total 18 million hectares of forests, almost 13 million hectares are managed and protected as Permanent Reserved Forests (PRF) in Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and as Permanent Forest Estates in the case of Sarawak.

According to the National Forestry Act 313, every permanent forest has to be classified under one or more of the following classifications depending on the purpose or purposes for which the land is intended to be used:

- a) **Timber production forest under sustained yield**
- b) **Soil protection forest**
- c) **Soil reclamation forest**
- d) **Flood control forest**
- e) **Water catchment forest**
- f) **Forest sanctuary for wildlife**
- g) **Virgin jungle reserved forest**
- h) **Amenity forest**
- i) **Education forest**
- j) **Research forest**
- k) **Forest for federal purposes**

Table 1: Permanent Reserved Forests in Malaysia, 2004-2010

Region	Permanent Reserved Forest (2004-2010)						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Peninsular	4,683,505	4,711,264	4,726,182	4,695,630	4,815,529	4,930,569	4,919,685
Sabah	3,543,186	3,523,186	3,503,186	3,483,186	3,492,781	3,604,867	3,606,647
Sarawak	4,806,300	4,779,900	4,778,300	4,692,900	4,681,543	4,583,609	4,559,011
Total	13,032,991	13,014,350	13,007,668	12,871,716	12,989,853	13,119,045	13,085,343

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2010

Importance of Forests

Forests produce Oxygen, the most important element for sustenance of life forms on earth. Oxygen produced through photosynthesis creates the ATMOSPHERE rendering Earth as the only livable planet in the cosmos.

FORESTS • produce Oxygen • a source of freshwater • house a wealth of biodiversity



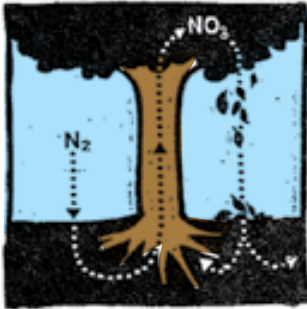


Forests are also a source of freshwater, another fundamental element for sustenance of life forms. Forests are the birthplace of streams that grow into rivers as they travel downstream. They absorb water during wet seasons and release it during droughts to ensure that the ecosystem is constantly well nourished, particularly the peat swamp forests; they provide water supply for domestic use and agricultural purposes such as paddy fields.

Forests are home to many indigenous communities and a vivid part of many cultures, in addition to providing home to a wealth of biodiversity. They maintain a healthy food chain, with each species co-existing to play a crucial and symbiotic role for a sustainable and balanced ecosystem.



Potential Benefits of Planting Trees



Some trees fertilise the soil, taking in nitrogen from the air and recycling it to the soil when leaves fall off and decompose.



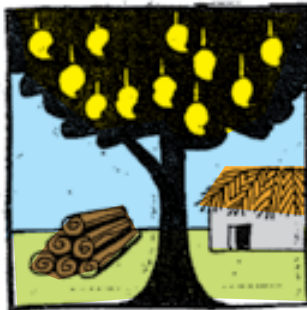
By cutting wind speeds, trees can prevent damage to crops, reduce wind erosion and provide shelter for animals.



On sloping land, trees can help bind the soil and prevent water erosion – provided there is good ground cover underneath the trees.



Trees provide shade for animals and people – which can be vital in hot climates. Some crops also benefit from shade.



Trees can provide a wealth of useful products – either for home or for sale: fruits, nuts, edible leaves, gums, spices, medicines, firewood, building poles, timber, thatching material and animal fodder are just some of them.

Source: Josie, A Training Manual for Women and Environment, ERA Consumers



What is Personal Carbon Footprint?

Our carbon footprint is the sum of all emissions of CO₂ (carbon dioxide), induced by your activities in a given time frame. We contribute to greenhouse gas emissions that are causing climate change.

Yet, there are many things each of us, as individuals, can do to reduce our carbon emissions. The choices we make in our homes, our travel, the food we eat, and what we buy and throw away all influence our carbon footprint and can help ensure a stable climate for future generations.

**Try it
today.**

For example, when you drive a car, the engine burns fuel which creates a certain amount of CO₂, depending on its fuel consumption and the driving distance. When you buy food and goods, the production of the food and goods have also emitted some quantities of CO₂. (<http://timeforchange.org/what-is-a-carbon-footprint-definition>).

Calculate your personal carbon emission at www.nature.org/greenliving/carboncalculator/index.htm

What is Biodiversity?

- “Biodiversity” is an abbreviation of “biological diversity”.
- Biodiversity means **variations** in the genetic pool of plants and animals with a vast spectrum of habitats in which **millions of different species co-exist**.

Malaysia is ranked as one of the 12 mega diversity countries in the world. It is estimated to harbour some **185,000 species of fauna and about 12,500 species of flowering plants.**

Malaysia’s peat swamp forest alone is home to at least 60 species of vertebrate fauna that are listed as globally-threatened, such as *Orang-utan*, proboscis monkey *Nasalis larvatus* and the Sumatran rhinoceros.



Photo credit: Nat



Forests provide resources of immense medicinal value.

Malaysian forests have contributed to the development of medicine, both traditional and modern.

The leaves of mangrove species *Bruguiera* is used for reducing blood pressure while the leaves of *Serapat Angin*, a species found in peat swamp forest are traditionally used in preparation to treat nerve disorders and post-natal problems.

Not only rural communities and indigenous people rely on Malaysia's vast spectrum of plant species for remedies, but multinational pharmaceutical companies also actively conduct research, particularly in the rainforests of Sabah and Sarawak for the development of new drugs.





F.A.Q.s

Forests are treasure trove of food sources.

According to United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO) there are approximately 300,000 species of plants in the planet, of which an estimated 10,000 to 50,000 species are edible. However, historically, only about 3,000 species of plants have actually been used worldwide for human consumption.

The Mangrove forests are the nursery grounds for countless species of fish, crabs, prawns, cockles, clams, lobsters, shrimps, crayfish, krill, barnacles, mussels, etc. Recently it has been discovered that mangrove forests support coral reef fish too.

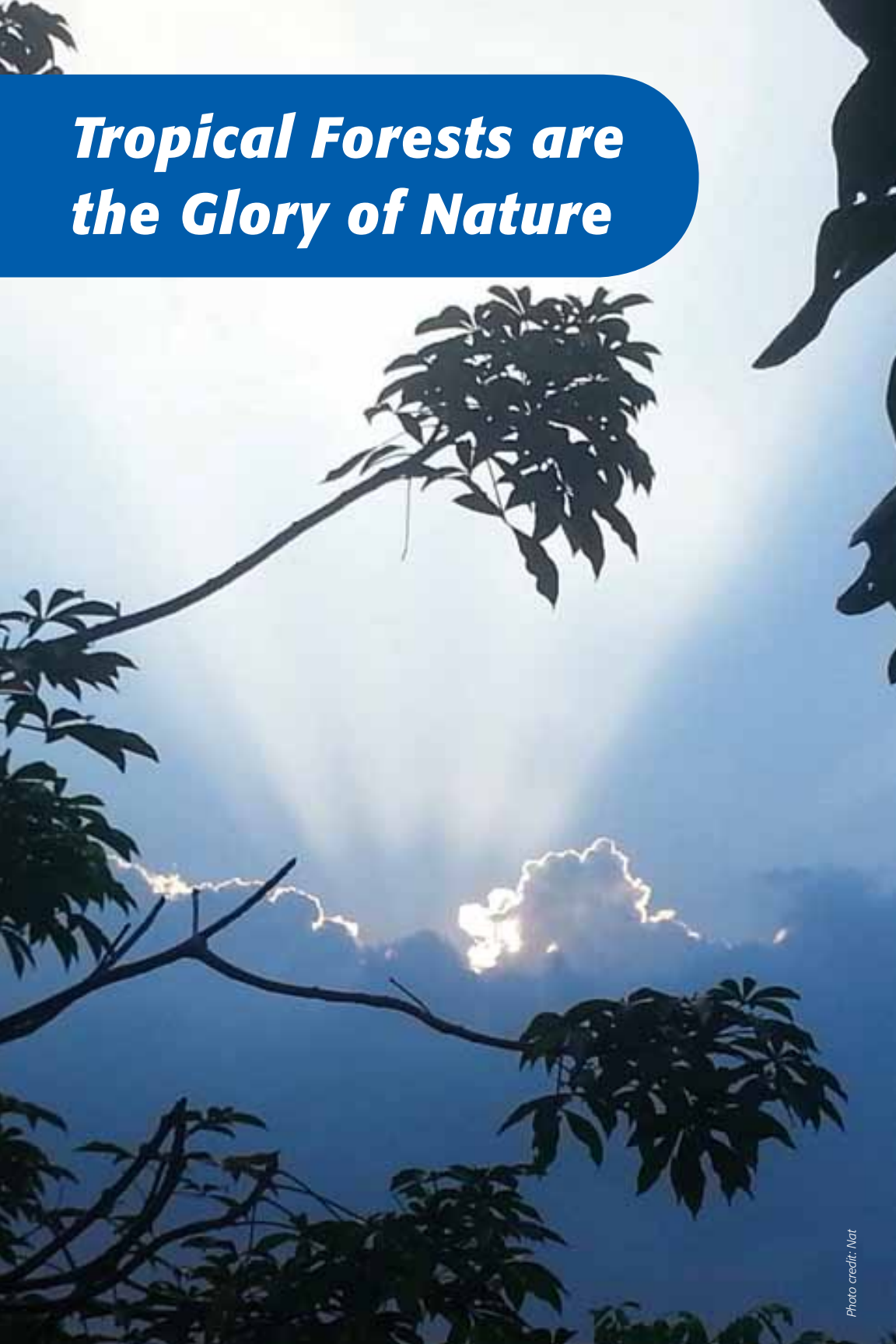
How does deforestation affect plants and animals?

The leading cause for animals and plants to lose their natural habitats is deforestation.

They depend on the forest for food, shelter and other means of living. If the forest disappears, there will be shortage of food, oxygen and medicinal resources which are vital for the continued survival of humankind.



Tropical Forests are the Glory of Nature



Forests provide coastal zone protection

allowing a safe haven for coastal dwellers. Mangrove forests are of immense importance as they protect coastal zones from solar UV-B radiation, green house effect, cyclones, flood, sea level rise, wave action and erosion. Mangroves are also effective for tsunami mitigation.

The effects of the 2004 tsunami that wrecked countless homes along the coasts of India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia were mitigated greatly in areas that were rich in mangrove forests.

Deforestation has a substantial impact on the mangrove's ability to protect settlements from environmental threats, which are likely to become more severe and frequent with the onset of climate change.

“Certain wetland types played a role in reducing tsunami impact, especially in locations further from the epicentre, including coral reefs and mangroves which broke the impact of the waves and absorbed some of the energy and protected areas further inland. Mangroves also stopped people being washed out to sea and trapped debris, reducing further damage.”

– Asian Wetland Symposium on February 2005 in an assessment of damage done by tsunami in 26 December 2004.



In view of the role played by mangrove forests in providing protection against tidal waves, the national task force for mangrove replanting programme of 4,250 ha in Peninsular Malaysia, 10, 000 ha in Sarawak and 3,275 ha in Sabah to be funded through the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010).

In 2005, a total of 500,000 saplings and trees of mangrove and other species were planted.
(Source: Malaysian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment's Booklet on Biodiversity in Malaysia)

Forests are the key solution to global warming,

one of the most catastrophic environmental challenges of the 21st Century. Unsustainable consumption increases carbon emission from cars, cigarettes, factories, etc. Increased carbon emission depletes ozone layer, puncturing holes in the atmosphere and allowing cancer-causing sun rays to reach us without the layers of protection and even killing people through extensive heat waves.

Forests act as a carbon sink and store carbon in great quantities to mitigate the effects of green house gases and reduce global warming, particularly the peat swamp forests.

The peat swamp forests lock carbon deep into the soil, greatly reducing the impact of climate change. Rampant clearing of peat swamp forests will result in the release of carbon in great quantities, accelerating global warming.

Forests mitigate floods and avert landslides.

They also play a major role in controlling soil erosion. One of the effects of climate change is the La Nina phenomenon; increased rain fall in unpredicted areas.

This unpredictability causes massive flooding contributing to devastating effects on people's livelihoods.

Forests are sources of livelihood for countless Indigenous People.

Indigenous people or forest dwellers use their forests in many ways such as for fishing, hunting, shifting agriculture and gathering of wild forest produce.

Forests immensely add to the aesthetic value of the world.

The increasing levels of stress in life due to intense urbanisation continue to burden and pressurize humankind.

As a result, more and more people are seeking forested areas for recreation. Thus, National Parks and Nature Reserves are highly in demand.



Forests are soul of planet earth! They are considered an universal asset. Forests cover 31% of Earth's surface, but they are shrinking at a rate of 13 million hectares each year.

Forest resources are very lucrative and have played an important role in the economic development of the country. However, Malaysia cannot continue to be dependent on the dwindling forest resources. The forestry sector is prone to illegal logging and corruption which strip forests at unprecedented rates.

Therefore, forest vigilance and collection of systematic and periodic forest information of significance can facilitate effective implementation of policies, informed decision making, and act as a guide to good forestry governance.

The **TI-M ForestWatch Initiative** enhances public knowledge on forestry and the application of technology to facilitate forest monitoring and help ensure forest protection.

The **TI-M ForestWatch Initiative** is a tool for good forest governance.



F.A.Q.s

I don't see how my livelihood or lifestyle is affected by deforestation. Why should I support the cause?

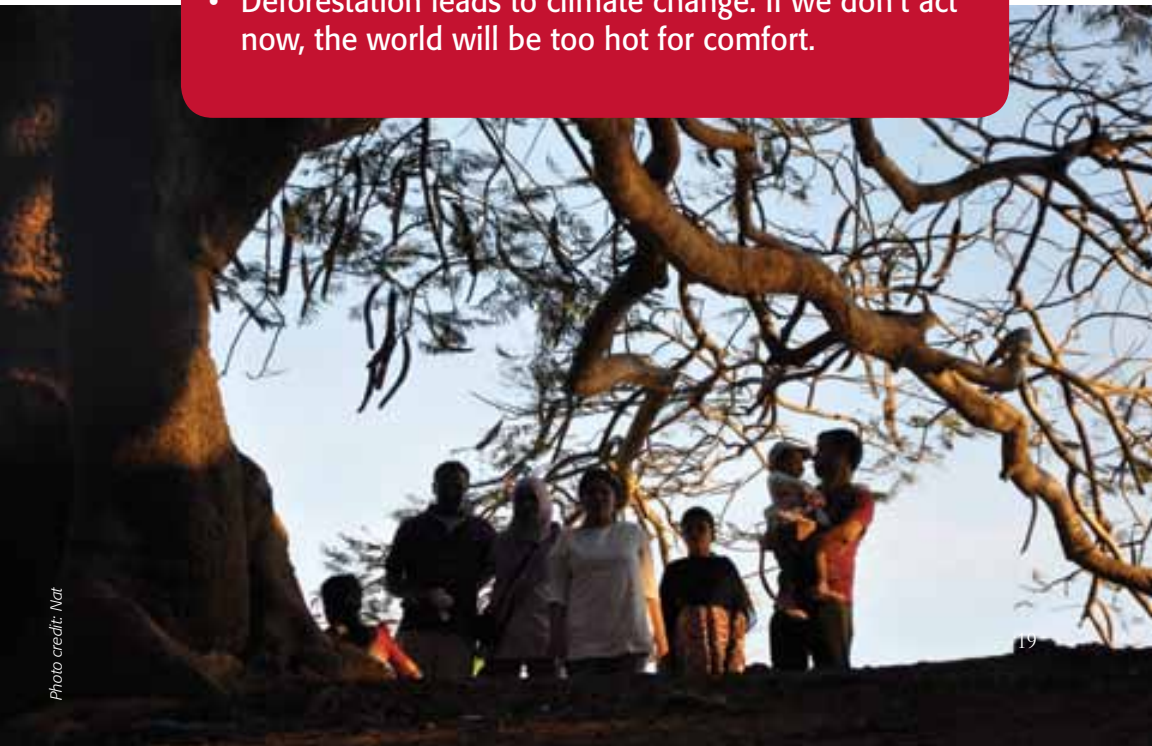
- In the globalised world, it is sometimes hard to establish a direct link with individual consumption and impacts or proxy impacts to nature.

At the end of the day, we all live on an island that we cannot leave and everything is interconnected.

For example, the Brazilian sugar that America imports is produced at the cost of deforestation in Brazil; and the palm oil that Bangladesh imports is at the cost of Malaysian deforestation.

So we need to understand that in the case of the environment, it is a "global problem that has only local solutions".

- Deforestation leads to climate change. If we don't act now, the world will be too hot for comfort.





Danum Valley Conservation Area, Sabah

The Danum Valley Conservation Area is one of the largest expanses of pristine lowland forest remaining in Southeast Asia. Located in South-eastern Sabah (4°50'N – 5°00'N and 117°35'E – 117°45'E), it covers an area of 43,800 hectares (438 km²).

The Danum Valley Field Centre is an example of a well managed rainforest

Danum Valley Conservation Area is one of the foremost rainforest research establishments in South East Asia.



***The Danum Valley Field Centre** is often used by international and local scientists, researchers, and NGOs to enhance knowledge on tropical rainforests (photo credit Sabah Tourism Board; www.sabahtourism.com/sabah-malaysian-borneo/en/destination/23)*

research centre, located within the Danum Valley Conservation Area, approximately 70 km inland from the town of Lahad Datu on Sabah's east coast.



Marbled Cat (*Pardofelis marmorata*) found in the Danum Valley

(photo credit Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danum_Valley_Conservation_Area)

In 1986, the Yayasan Sabah established the Centre for research, education, training and wilderness recreation.

Since then, the Centre has evolved into one of the foremost rainforest research establishments in South East Asia with facilities such as permanent research plots, an extensive trail system, well-equipped analytical laboratories, computer and email facilities, a library, climatic station data, phenology monitoring data base, trained field staff, vehicles, housing and sports facilities, a Nature Interpretation and Environmental Education Building and a Nature Discovery Centre, several canopy observation platforms and towers, and a suspension bridge over the Segama River.

Background

- 1976: WWF-Malaysia suggested that the area be declared a national park.



- 28 Nov 1980: Yayasan Sabah Board of Trustees resolved to leave the area for the purpose of conservation. Thereafter it is known as “Danum Valley Conservation Area”.
- 1982: The Interagency Danum Valley Management Committee was established, comprising Yayasan Sabah, Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and several other agencies.
- 1984: The Forest Management Plan for Yayasan Sabah Concession Area was drawn up and approved by the State Cabinet to designate Danum Valley Conservation Area as protected conservation area.
- May 1995, the area was declared a Class I (protection) Forest Reserve by the Sabah Legislative Assembly.
- 1999: Danum Valley Conservation Area was further gazetted under The Cultural Heritage (Conservation) Enactment 1998, as a Cultural Heritage (Conservation) Area.

Sources:

1. *Southeast Asia Rainforest Research Programme:*
<http://www.searpp.org/danum-valley>
2. *Sabah Holidays Malaysian Borneo:*
<http://www.danumvalley.info>
3. *Wikipedia: Danum Valley Conservation Area:*
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Danum_Valley_Conservation_Area

Why are Forests Disappearing?

The driving forces of deforestation include:

Land Clearance for Agriculture

The requirement of land for food and alternative energy to fossil fuel – biofuel – continues to shrink global forest cover.

In addition, 90% of remaining forest is lost due to unsustainable agricultural practices, reports United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UN-FAO).

In Malaysia, many vast monocrop oil palm and rubber plantations have depleted millions of hectares of forests resulting in the loss of forest cover, biodiversity and displacement of indigenous communities.

Consumer Demand

Consumer demand for timber and non-timber forest products such as cosmetics, medicines and processed foods is taking a toll on forests.

Urbanisation

Rapid urbanisation leads to deforestation as forests are cleared for



Photo credit: Nat

opening of new townships and housing (see case study on Kota Damansara Community Forest on page 65).

Development Activities

Deforestation also occurs due to various physical development projects such as dams, mines, hydro projects, railway lines, canals, etc.

Large development projects further result in massive forest and biodiversity loss and displacement of indigenous communities.



Displacement of Orang Asli in Ulu Kelantan (Photo credit Network of Orang Asli Kelantan)

Commercial Logging

Logging practices in many countries have been the main reason for loss of forests. In the 1960s to the early 1990s, large scale commercial logging in Malaysia resulted in massive loss of our precious tropical forests.

Our remaining forests are still at risk due to poor governance and weak enforcement of laws.

Forest and Forest-Related Domestic Laws and Legislation

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

- Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 [Act 716]
- National Policy on Biological Diversity 1998
- Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Act 1985
- National Forestry Act 1984, Amended 1993
- National Parks Act 1980, Amended 1983
- National Forest Policy 1978, Revised 1992
- Environmental Quality Act 1974, Amended 1996, 1998, 2001
- Malaysian Timber Industry Board Act 1973
- Protection of Wildlife Act 1972, Amended 1976, 1988
- National Land Code 1965
- Land Conservation Act 1960, Revised 1989





- Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954, Revised 1974
- Water Act 1920 [Act 418], Amended 2006
- Control of Rivers and Streams Enactment 1920
- International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008 (Act 686)
- Protection of New Plant Varieties Act 2004 (Act 634)
- National Policy on the Environment 2002

SARAWAK

- Sarawak Biodiversity Regulations 2004
- National Parks and Natural Reserves Regulations 1999
- The National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998
- Wildlife Protection Rules 1998
- Wildlife Protection Ordinance 1998
- The Wild Life (Edible Birds' Nests) Rules 1998
- Sarawak Biodiversity (Access, Collection and Research) Regulation 1998
- Sarawak Biodiversity Ordinance 1997
- The Forests (Planted Forests) Rules 1997
- Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance 1995
- Natural Resource and Environment Ordinance 1993
- Sarawak Timber Industry Corporation Development Ordinance 1973
- Forest Rules 1962
- Forest Ordinance 1958, Amended 2003

SABAH

- Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997
- Parks Enactment 1984
- Forests Enactment 1968, Amended 1984





F.A.Q.s

International Agreements and Conventions on Forests and Forest Related Matters Ratified by Malaysia

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), 1992, New York, ratified 13 July 1994.

International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTO), 1994, Geneva, ratified 1 March 1995.

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) 1992, Rio de Janeiro, ratified 24 June 1994.

International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTO), 1983, Geneva, ratified 14 Dec. 1984.

Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES), 1973, Washington, ratified 14 Dec. 1984.

Conference on Wetlands of International Importance especially Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention) 1971, Ramsar, ratified 10 Nov. 1994.

(Sources: Nature and Nation: Forest and Development in Peninsular Malaysia / www.forest.sabah.gov.my/policies/legislation.asp; www.forestry.sarawak.gov.my/)

We don't hear enough of activities that are destroying the forests. How would I know if commercial activities are creating a negative impact to the forests?

The best way to get news of commercial activities and their impact on forests is by registering and connecting yourself with local environmental groups or Residents' Associations which will provide you with up-to-date news of such activities. The Local Authorities and the State Forestry Departments are useful contacts.



Forest Facts

Nearly 121 prescription drugs sold worldwide come from **tropical rainforest plant-derived sources** and 25% of Western pharmaceuticals are derived from rainforest ingredients; yet less than 1% of these tropical trees and plants have been tested by scientists.

The establishment of protected areas and parks often allow for development of trails for hiking and bird-watching, providing people who live outside of forests with a refuge for recreation, tourism, and educational activities. Walking in a forest can be a source of spiritual renewal.

Trees are an important part of the **water cycle**. By helping slow runoff and allowing water to filter into the soil, they can preserve groundwater supplies that are important both to people as drinking water and to fish and other aquatic life in nearby streams.

Trees help hold soil in place, reducing erosion by both water and wind. Deforestation in Inner Mongolia plays a role in dust storms that afflict Beijing and other East Asian cities. China has embarked on an ambitious reforestation effort in part to alleviate these problems.

Source: *Top 10 Reasons Why Forests Matter*;
<http://change.nature.org/2010/12/03/top-10-reasons-why-forests-matter/>



What can we do to save the forests in Malaysia?

- *The public can help by reporting their observations of suspicious activities through TI-M's ForestWatch Initiative (www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my).*
- *You can also join as a Volunteer or a Member of a non-governmental-organisation that supports environmental conservation.*

Why do we need Forests?

Forests protect the soil and play a key role in maintaining the water cycle. Forests are also an important reservoir of biodiversity, providing habitat for more than two-thirds of the world's terrestrial species. Our forests are known to contain plants that can cure cancer. There are likely to be more herbal species in our rainforests that await to be discovered for countless other medicinal uses.

It is not possible to sum up the importance of forests in just a few words. From the water we drink, air that we breathe, climate that we enjoy, newspaper that we read, tissues that we use to cheques that we sign are from the forest. http://wwf.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/importance/



Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve, Perak

The Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve located in Perak is one of the best managed mangrove forest. Covering slightly more than 40,000 hectares, it is the largest single mangrove forest in Peninsular Malaysia. Since 1902, it has been protected and sustainably managed for more than a century.

The Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve's management

Covering slightly more than 40,000 hectares, it is the largest single mangrove forest in Peninsular Malaysia.



Matang Mangrove Forest ([Alexchseng.blogspot.com](http://alexchseng.blogspot.com):
[http://alexchseng.blogspot.com/2011/02/
my2011-matang-mangrove-forest-reserve.html](http://alexchseng.blogspot.com/2011/02/my2011-matang-mangrove-forest-reserve.html))

system has evolved at many levels, from silviculture to zoning and conservation. It is divided into four zones based on carefully delineated forest types. This in turn, is the basis for a silviculture system based on ecological considerations. At the heart of the management system are the Perak



Matang Mangrove Forest

(Image by Earth Observatory:
<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=713>)

State Forest Department's 10-Year Working Plans and detailed Control Maps, which meticulously outline how the forest reserve is to be managed. The first Working Plan covered the period 1950-1959, and has been revised consistently every 10 years.

Since the formulation of the first 10-Year Working Plan a pristine 42 hectares of predominantly *Rhizophoraceae* forest has been designated a Virgin Jungle Reserve (VJR).

The Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve is an exemplary site because it is managed

to ensure sustainability by striking a balance between conservation and forest resources utilization.

Charcoal, firewood and poles produced by the forest are sold nationwide. An area of 7,360 hectares, or 18.2% of the Forest Reserve is protected for the purpose of bio-diversity



conservation, erosion mitigation, research and education, recreation, enhancing local community's needs and providing sites for settlements. Wood harvesting is strictly prohibited in the protected forest.

Buffer zones are established to ensure environmental protection. They provide invaluable ecosystem values such as:

- protecting of river banks from excessive erosion,
- minimizing impact of clear-felling operations on the marine ecosystem,
- preventing unnecessary loss to the most accessible productive forest areas, and
- acting as the source of propagates for immediate felled areas.

The Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve is an exemplary site because it is managed to ensure sustainability by striking a balance between conservation and forest resources utilization.

The Matang Mangrove Forest Reserve is an important biodiversity site. Its dryland forest houses mammals such as Leopard Cat (*Felis bengalensis*), Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*), Silvered Langur (*Presbytis cristata*), and a variety of bats,

squirrels, civets, mongooses, pangolins and wild boars.

Besides dryland forest species, it is also home to 156 species of birds. Of these, 49 species are migratory. At least two important species are listed in the IUCN/ICBP Red Data Book of endangered bird species, which are the Milky Stork (*Mycteria cinerea*) and Lesser Adjutant Stork (*Leptoptilos*



javanicus). It also provides habitat for the Grey Heron (*Ardea cinera*), and during wintering, hundreds of migrating Great Egrets (*Egretta alba*) find food and home at the site.

Other fauna found in Matang includes the Smooth Otter (*Lutra perspicillata*).

Sources:

Wetlands International:

<http://www.wetlands.org/?TabId=2661&mod=601&articleType=ArticleView&articleId=98>

NASA's Earth Observatory:

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=7131>

Malaysian Timber Certification Council:

<http://www.mtc.com.my/info/images/stories/pdf/tm-vol-15-3.pdf>

The Status of Coastal Waterbirds and Wetlands in Southeast Asia: Results of Waterbird Surveys in Malaysia (2004–2006) and Thailand and Myanmar (2006) by Wetlands International; <http://www.wetlands.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pfZvNPMxDUA%3D>



F.A.Q.s

Why do we need living forests?

Living forests are the earth's green lungs that absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, keeping the environment in balance. Clearing forests releases that carbon dioxide back into the atmosphere, contributes to earth warming that leads to devastations of climate change.



What is afforestation?

Afforestation is the establishment of a forest or stand of trees in an area where there was no forest.

What is reforestation?

Rehabilitating or restoring the degraded forest. Reforestation is the re-establishment of forest cover, either by natural regeneration or by direct seeding or planting.

Should trees be cut to make way for projects like the Mass Rapid Transit (MRT)?

Necessity for development may require PARTS of the forest to be cleared. Only the areas needed to make way for development should be cleared but the unaffected areas must remain intact. Tracks should be built without cutting down forests.

Why do we need urban forests?

Urban forests help purify the air we breathe. Just 100 trees can remove two tons of carbon dioxide from the air annually. Trees can help reduce flooding. Because a city has many impermeable surfaces, rainwater often builds up rather than being absorbed into the ground. This means that even a small rainstorm can cause flooding, as most of the water overflows into the stormwater system rather than into the ground. Trees help reduce energy demand.



DO'S AND DON'TS IN THE FOREST

Do's

- ✓ Take time off to walk in the forests.
- ✓ *Be environmentally conscious.*
- ✓ Respect the local people who have been living there for centuries. If you would like to take their photo have the good manners to ask their permission first and respect their wishes.
- ✓ *Hug the trees.*
- ✓ If you come across illegal activities such as illegal logging, report at **www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my**



Photo credit: Nat

Don'ts

- ✗ Don't leave anything behind in the forest, pack your litter and take it home to dispose.
- ✗ *Don't take anything from the forest, not even a dry leaf.*
- ✗ Don't stomp, be light footed so as not to disturb wildlife.
- ✗ *Don't make noise, enjoy the music of nature. Whisper if you need to speak.*
- ✗ Don't feed animals in the forest. The food may poison them.
- ✗ *Don't smoke in the forest, you might start forest fires.*
- ✗ Don't use flash while photographing. Animals are often blinded and disoriented momentarily.



Raja Musa Forest Reserve, Selangor

- Rehabilitation of peat swamp forest by local communities

Raja Musa Forest Reserve is part of the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest, located near Batang Berjuntai, Selangor.

Covering an area of 23,000 ha, this peat swamp forest is an important source of freshwater. It is also a critical site that mitigates global warming through its function as a carbon sink.

Unfortunately, in the past 10 years, more than 500 ha of

Covering an area of 23,000 ha, this peat swamp forest is an important source of freshwater.



Restoring hydrological functions of Raja Musa Forest Reserve

the reserve has been illegally cleared and burnt for farming activities causing major environmental problems. During the dry season, peat burns for days releasing thousands of tonnes of greenhouses gases, contributing to global climate change and causing massive air pollution.



A forest rehabilitation programme was initiated by local communities in 2008 with assistance from the Global Environment Centre (GEC) and Selangor Forestry Department. Since then more than 10,000 trees have been planted.



The programme also restores hydrological functions of the forest reserve through blocking of drainage canals and ditches.

Tree Planting at Raja Musa Forest Reserve

The forest rehabilitation programmes continue to enhance knowledge of local communities living in the vicinity of the forest, garnering support for reforestation of the Raja Musa Forest Reserve.



Source: Presentation by Global Environment Centre, Meeting on TIM-FGI Forest Watch Initiative's Adopted Sites, 26 July 2012



***Just 100 trees can remove
two tons of carbon dioxide
from the air annually.***



Segari, Perak • Virgin Forests and Turtles Going...

The Perak State Government has approved two major development projects – a Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) plant, and a steel and iron ore plant in the Tanjung Hantu Forest Reserve located in the District of Manjung.

The Tanjung Hantu Forest Reserve, an area of 287.54 hectares is coastal hill forest classified as Virgin Jungle Forest (VJF). According to the National Physical Plan, it is an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Rank 1 and 2. ESAs refer to areas that are of critical importance in terms of goods, services and life-support systems they provide such as water purification, pest control and erosion regulation. In addition, they also refer to areas that harbour the wealth of the nation's biodiversity.

The National Physical Plan is a written statement of strategic policies on physical development and conservation throughout Malaysia.



Turtle landing site (photo credit Robyn Wilson)

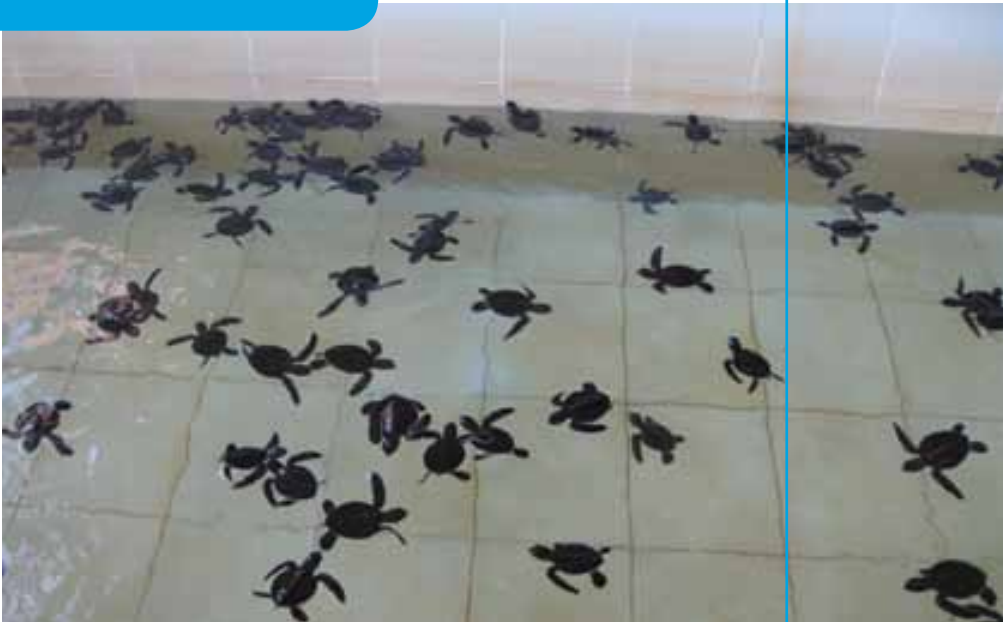
Therefore, this area should not be opened for any development activities. Only low impact tourism, research and educational activities may be allowed.

These development projects covering 262.35 hectares are awarded in the ESA Rank 1 which is also one of the three turtle landing sites in West Coast of Malaysia.

The coast along Tanjung Hantu Forest Reserve to the Pasir Panjang Forest Reserve is the main landing area for three turtle species - the Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*),

Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) and Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricate*).

These eggs collected by workers from the Centre are incubated until they are hatched.



Turtle hatchery managed by Department of Fisheries (photo credit TIM)



The Pasir Panjang Forest Reserve is a Virgin Jungle Reserve within the Segari Melintang Forest Reserve. The Segari Melintang Forest Reserve covering an area of 2720.79 hectares is a coastal hill forest. Most of it is also classified as Virgin Jungle Reserve and High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF). The HCVFs are rare, threatened or ecologically vulnerable.

These Virgin Jungle Reserves are home to 60 species of fauna, 33 species of flora and some rare species of hardwood trees like the endangered *Shorea glauca* (*Balau Bunga*) and the critically endangered endemic species *Balau lumutensis*. Both the *Shorea sp* and *Balau sp* are listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species (www.iucnredlist.org).

The Department of Fisheries, Malaysia built a Turtle Hatchery and Information Centre in 1990 along the Pasir Panjang

Coast. The turtles land at these sites to nest from March to July. The eggs are incubated and the hatchlings are then released into the sea four months later.

The Segari Melintang Forest Reserve which was 4700

hectares when it was first gazetted in the 1950s has been significantly reduced to 2920.79 hectares. Excision by the Perak State Government, encroachment, illegal forest clearing, oil palm plantations and poultry farming have

Forest clearance and wastes from the LNG, iron and steel plants contribute towards soil erosion and degradation of water quality.

contributed to the reduction in size of the largest Coastal Hill Forest Reserve in Peninsular Malaysia. This has affected the turtle landing site over the years, as fewer turtles now come to nest on the beach.

The continued degazettal of the forest reserves, encroachment and economic development at Segari Melintang are in direct violation of the National Physical Plan. The local communities in the Manjung District have raised their concerns with the State Government of Perak.



Tanjung Hantu Forest Reserve is compromised (photo credit TIM)



The Community Acts

The Persatuan Aktivist Sahabat Alam Perak (KUASA) has mobilised the community in Manjung and Lumut to take actions to Save Segari Melintang. KUASA assisted the community in developing a Memorandum to the State Government of Perak to halt further development at these sites.

They have also organised stakeholder consultations with interested parties and held press conferences to highlight environmental problems at Segari Melintang.

Some 60 million indigenous people are completely dependent on forests for all aspects of their survival.



Hacking At Harmony • Tasik Chini: An Ecosystem on the Brink

“We are trapped. We turn left, we face oil palm plantations; we turn right, we face logging; we turn behind we face mining activities; we turn to the lake and it’s dying... we are trapped without our land, forests and lake.”... Saripah, 5 August 2012

In the 1960’s, Tasik Chini was a treasure trove of pristine nature. To get to it, you would pass through untouched rainforest, 135 million years old. The journey along the Pahang River to Tasik Chini, would give glimpses of tigers and elephants.

Rapid economic development has severely affected the lake catchment for over 25 years.



Tasik Chini is surrounded by oil palm plantations (left) and logging for mining activities (right). (Photo credit TI-M)



The majestic trees with their unbroken canopy and buttress roots combined for a truly amazing sight. From May to October, the lake was covered with the pink blooms of the sacred lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*).

Tasik Chini is one of only two natural freshwater bodies in Malaysia. The other is Tasik Bera.

The lake is already eutrophic, which is one level above an ecosystem that has totally collapsed.

Tasik Chini is one of the most biologically diverse forest formations in Malaysia. In a 2011 forest inventory, 583 timber



Children of the Jakun community in a dug-out canoe on Tasik Chini (photo credit Dr. Colin Nicholas)



species, including several high valued timber like *Keruing* and *Merawan* were recorded. 44 species are endemic to Malaysia, some are critically endangered.

Its biodiversity includes an astounding variety of flora and fauna, including endemic species of trees, medicinal plants, about 300 species of non-aquatic vertebrates, 184 species of birds and 39 species of fresh water fishes. Some of these species cannot be found anywhere.

Tasik Chini is Malaysia's only UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. It was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in May 2009 to ironically pursue a programme of conservation, restoration and sustainable development.

Tasik Chini is the land of the *Jakun*, an orang asli community. The *Jakun* live close together with their family members in several villages surrounding Tasik Chini, in harmony with its ecosystem, rich in natural and cultural assets.

Tasik Chini was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in May 2009 to ironically pursue a programme of conservation, restoration and sustainable development.

Rapid economic development has severely affected the lake catchment for over 25 years. Logging, plantation and mining activities have resulted in significant land use change within the catchment area of the lake. Logging has destroyed primary forest over

the catchment area. A weir built in the 1990s to facilitate eco-tourism has hastened the collapse of Tasik Chini.

Today, the lake is already eutrophic, which is one level above an ecosystem that has totally collapsed.



At various consultations from November 2011 with a coalition of non-governmental organizations led by Transparency International Malaysia, the Orang Asli community proposed key measures to save the lake ecosystem.

They submitted a memorandum to Reverse the Decline of Tasik Chini to the Prime Minister of Malaysia, YAB Najib Tun Razak on 10 April 2012.

If the situation is allowed to continue, it is possible for Tasik Chini to collapse by 2030.

A national campaign to save Tasik Chini was launched on Aug 12, 2012 to highlight the advanced state of ecological damage

to the lake. When a weir was constructed for ecotourism in the mid-1990s Tasik Chini began to show signs of a disturbed ecosystem.

The decline of fish species, the dead trees and the emergence of cat's tail are some of the indicators of disturbance. New iron ore mines since late 2011 further degraded the lake. If the situation is allowed to continue, it is possible for Tasik Chini to collapse by 2030.



**Join the campaign to save Tasik Chini.
Watch:**

Tasik Chini - Ecosystem On A Brink:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=sXzD2IxtMEk

Tasik Chini - Ekosistem di Ambang Kemusnahan:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=sXzD2IxtMEk



Why are Malaysian Forests Important to the world and Malaysia?

Maintaining our forests sustainably will show a significant example of leadership in the conservation of natural resources to the rest of the world's rainforest countries. The world will suffer if the tropical rainforest belt is destroyed.

*Because of this, there is urgency in the UN to establish a financial mechanism to reward countries for implementing policies that protect their forests. This mechanism, known as **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus Forest Rehabilitation efforts in developing countries), focuses on finding financial incentives to motivate industry and governments to shift their policies for greater emphasis in sustainable forestry practices.*

Can the Malaysian economy progress without exploiting Malaysia's Forests?

- Yes, it is about time that this country focuses on knowledge-based economic development and save the natural resources for the future. The country is in the process of depleting its land resources to be used as capital for development.*
- Policies and Economy in Malaysia need to undergo reforms to include environmental conservation and sustainability as key tenets. In addition, the Malaysian authorities need to involve stakeholder discussions in their decision making, such as the affected local communities and indigenous communities, non-governmental-organizations and civil-society-organizations, to create a successful model of living in harmony with the environment.*



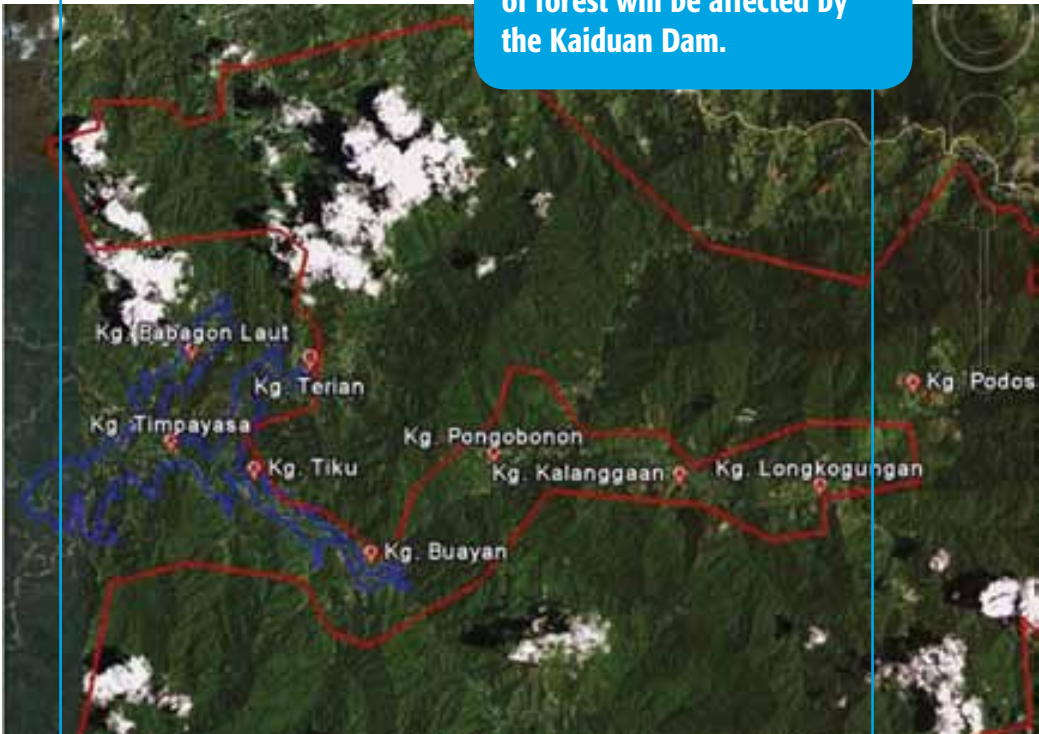
Ulu Papar, Sabah

• A Price of the Future

Cradled by Borneo's Crocker Range and tucked in a narrow strip of state land, a handful of villages known collectively as Ulu Papar are helping to redefine the concept of conservation.

Ulu Papar is located in the upper reaches of the Papar River, in the Penampang District, Sabah, where about 1,400 Indigenous Dusun community live in several

The total area of 320 hectares of forest will be affected by the Kaiduan Dam.



*The Kaiduan Dam Project area the size of 320 hectares
(Photo credit Partners of Community Organisations in Sabah)*



settlements scattered across the area. The villages include Terian, Buayan, Tiku, Timpayasa, Pongobonon, Kalanggaan and Longkongan, and one small settlement, Kionop, that is located inside the Crocker Range Park, one of the most important protected areas in Sabah.

The Kaiduan Dam Project approved by the Government of Sabah in 2008 will relocate the Dusun community. Based on the experience of the Babagon Dam in the same Penampang District, resettled community experienced

increased social, economic, cultural and psychological stresses that affected the quality of life. Inadequate

For the Dusun community, Ulu Papar is their ancestral land and they depend almost entirely on natural resources found in the forest of Ulu Papar.



The Dusun community is protesting against the Kaiduan Dam Project (photo credit Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah)



facilities and low income levels will further marginalize the community.

These villages will be inundated with water, destroying a primary school, 3 pre-schools, churches, graves, village markets, houses, orchards and vegetable gardens, suspension bridges, rice mills and rice fields, most of which were established with assistance from non-governmental-organisations.

For the Dusun community, Ulu Papar is their ancestral land and they depend almost entirely on natural resources found in their forests. They plant hill rice and wet rice, hunt, fish, and gather forest products for food, medicines, and construction materials.

“The forest resources we collect include rattans, resin, wood, medicinal plants, and meat,” says Buayan community member Mositol Sondigon.

With no road access, the rugged and hilly terrain makes Ulu Papar remote and difficult for outsiders to reach.

“We cannot get these resources from the market because our village is so remote,” Mositol informed.

The *Tagal* System of closing parts of rivers to increase fish stock is practised by the community to ensure sustainability. The Crocker Range Park, one of the most important protected areas in Sabah and currently proposed to be UNESCO’s biosphere reserve is a State Park, prohibiting any resource extraction from the area.



The Dusun Community, through Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah (PACOS) has been working towards a community resource management plan. However, the announcement of the Kaiduan Dam Project has devastated the community.

The Kaiduan Dam Project will seriously impact the environmental sustainability, culture, economy and health of the community. In deciding to implement the Kaiduan Dam Project the Government failed to fulfil its commitments to United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

Articles 32 and 10, among others, assert the rights of Indigenous Peoples to determine their own development or use of their lands and resources and that they should not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).



Actions Against the Dam

- 2009 - Through the assistance from Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah, the Dusun community formed the Action Committee Against Kaiduan Dam (ACAKD). They announced that the government,
 - 🔊 *did not obtain free, prior and informed consent of the communities and has not seriously considered environmental and social costs,*
 - 🔊 *does not appear to value indigenous peoples' traditional lands, heritage and livelihoods, nor the biodiversity and ecotourism industry in this area that comes from generations of indigenous people's management and knowledge.*
 - 🔊 *Impacts on other settlements outside the affected areas and downstream in terms of loss of hunting and fishing grounds, and changes in the properties of the soil.*
- 2010 - They Dusun Community created a bio-cultural community protocol (BCP) – a document articulating the interests, rights and responsibilities of the Ulu Papar community in the preservation, management and utilisation of their territories and culture.
- 2011 - ACAKD submitted a petition to the Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC), Sabah's governing authority over the conservation and utilization of the state's biodiversity,
 - *requesting that adequate community consultations be conducted as part of nominating the Crocker Range as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve,*



- o stressing the need for transparent, impartial and scientific investigation on the effects of the Kaiduan Dam on the sensitive ecology and the indigenous community in that area,*
 - o requesting that Sabah government find alternative methods to protect the rich bio-cultural resources in Ulu Papar.*
- 2013 – Advocacy Campaign at the TI-M National Conference on Environment: People, Forest and Sustainability, gaining widespread acknowledgement of their significant contribution to global conservation particularly of:
 - o their unique form of bio-cultural diversity, and*
 - o Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs).*

Sources:

- Heather Leach; *Conservation Begins at Home*. March 2013
www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/malaysia
- Ulu Papar Community Petitions Sabah Government to Consider Negative Effects of Kaiduan Dam Project. Global Diversity Foundation. <http://www.global-diversity.org/news/southeast-asia/ulu-papar-community-petitions-sabah>.
- Integration between Community and Biodiversity to Address Threats to Ulu Papar Area, Sabah. Paper presented by Kaiduan Dam Task Force, Sabah at the TI-M National Conference on Environment – People, Forests and Sustainability 27-28 February 2013.

Iban furious at attack on land rights defender

Keruah Usit

An elderly Iban man fighting for land rights in Melikin, Sarawak, Surik anak Muntai, was viciously attacked on March 15, 2013 by four or five men armed with sticks and parang, while he waited outside Sekolah Sungai Menyan, Serian, to pick up his son from school.

Surik, 66, has identified one of the assailants as an administration “executive” of an oil palm plantation company embroiled in a court battle over the Melikin villagers’ native customary rights (NCR) claim to land.

According to Surik’s wife, Rosni Langap, Surik suffered splintered fractures of his right wrist, and a deep gash on his right forearm, when he tried to ward off machete blows from the thugs. Both his kneecaps were broken by clubs.

He also endured a contaminated ankle wound. Surgeons

operated on him for four and a half hours, and he remains weak but stable in hospital.



*Surik Muntai in hospital
(Photo credit Surik Muntai)*

Violent intimidation tactics

Surik is a farmer from Kampung Danau Kerangas, some two hours by road from the capital Kuching. Over 300 of his fellow Iban have filed a lawsuit against plantation company United Teamtrade and its partner Memaju Jaya.



These firms have met with local resistance in their efforts to take over 7,300 hectares of the villagers' traditional NCR land, using a "provisional lease" issued by Sarawak chief minister Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Whistleblower website *Sarawak Report* has documented that two powerful Sarawakian politicians are behind the company. The natives have complained of being victimised over their rejection of the companies' offer of RM300 compensation per hectare, a pittance compared with the millions to be potentially made. The villagers claim the authorities have attempted to intimidate them. In October 2012, five villagers were held on charges of criminal intimidation of United Teamtrade employees.

Last year, the authorities also tried to charge villagers with the torching of a company bridge. In both cases, the villagers were discharged from court, and were greeted by hundreds of villagers outside the courthouse, demonstrating their support.

The villagers had told *Sarawak Report* that the companies had used thuggish intimidation tactics, including brandishing a samurai sword at an Iban longhouse, and boasting of owning a pistol.

On September 1, 2012, the villagers watched in dismay as a company bulldozer destroyed a community bridge, in a form of collective punishment against the villagers.

According to the *Borneo Post*, a local daily, the village head of Kampung Engsebang, Patricia Pantau, said "they (plantation companies) demolished the bridge built by the government.



As a result of that, we lodged several reports at Serian Police Station together with all the evidence but there was no action taken by the police. That's why the villagers are very unhappy."

"Consistent pattern" of attacks

In July 2012, Michael Luang, a leading Melikin NCR activist, had his four-wheel-drive- vehicle destroyed by arson. In a similar attack in November 2012, the villagers' lawyer, Batu Lintang Parti Keadilan Rakyat state assemblyperson See Chee How, also came under threat.

A Molotov cocktail was flung into the lawyer's driveway, scorching his car.

No arrests have been made following either attack.

See has written to the inspector general of police and the state police chief to point out the "consistent pattern" of the modus operandi of the attacks, the hate mail sent to his office, and the latest brutal assault on Surik.

See described the brutal attack on Surik as "cold-blooded madness".

"I must commend the police in Serian for their swift action in arresting one of the assailants," he told *Malaysiakini*. "I appeal for calm among the villagers, and at the same time, I pray that the police will be vigilant and bring the assailants quickly to justice."

He said this was the first NCR case he had come across where a senior "executive" of a plantation company was



allegedly involved in a brutal attack on an elderly native villager. See said the state government must immediately suspend the provisional leases.

He urged the police to register and examine the records of all those claiming to work as “security officers” for the plantation companies.

See pointed out that villagers had reported that the companies’ “security officers” had behaved like gangsters, and the detained plantation ‘executive” was “often giving commands, in the thick of the action”.

News of Surik’s ordeal has spread rapidly by social media, stirring anger at the state government’s contempt for native communities’ land rights.

In 1999, gangsters working for an oil palm plantation from Miri threatened and abused Iban villagers defending their NCR land at Rumah Bali and Rumah Busang, near Bintulu.

The Iban retaliated by killing four of the thugs. The villagers and lawyers in Melikin will have to keep the villagers’ tempers in check to ensure there is no further violence.

The Iban with access to social media have expressed fury at the assault on Surik.

But no-one expects this assault to spark protests in Sarawak, in the way that Tunisian Mohamed Bouazizi’s self-immolation and death launched the Arab Spring.

Keruah Usit is a Malaysiakini columnist who began writing and speaking out against endemic corruption more than two decades ago. Keruah travels to all the divisions in Sarawak, to try to provide a voice for some of the most marginalised communities in Malaysia.

Jimah Watches Over An Ecosystem Under Threat

The Jagoi Village, once located at the peak of Jagoi Mountain, is the ancestral home of the Bidayuh for many centuries. The foothill of Jagoi Mountain is located in Bau District, about an hour's drive from Kuching, the capital of Sarawak.

The Bidayuh community has been the caretaker of the Jagoi Mountain ecosystem and they have led a self-sustaining lifestyle, using resources from around Mount



The Bidayuh community has been the caretakers of the Jagoi Mountain ecosystem and they have led a self-sustaining lifestyle, using resources from around Mount Jagoi.

Jagoi. They use resources that can only be cultivated or found at the mountain, such as paddy, vegetables and forest products.

The community has now moved to the foothills of the mountain for easy access to the city. However, the community has elected a

Jimah, the sole caretaker of Jagoi Mountain (Photo credit TI-M)



woman representative, Jimah, to continue to live as the caretaker of the former village to ensure the continued survival of the forest and their culture.

"My mother passed away last year. We, the Bidayuh believe that my mother's spirit will be lost if I am not here for at least three years since her demise," said Jimah.

The Bidayuh community of Jagoi Mountain have been living in a harmonious and symbiotic relationship with their surrounding environment for the past several centuries.

"I have also been given the responsibility of taking care of the Mountain," she continued.

Jimah is now the sole caretaker of Mount Jagoi,



Going up former Jagoi Village to the Peak (Photo credit TI-M)



Land clearance at Mount Jagoi (Photo credit TI-M)

living above 1200 meter above sea level amidst the 400 hectares of lush primary forest.

The Bidayuh community of Jagoi Mountain has been living in a harmonious and symbiotic relationship with their surrounding environment for the past several centuries. Their tradition is interwoven with their environment. Jimah uses freshwater from the mountain, vegetables from her garden and utilizes wood from the forest for cooking.

"I do not use oil because it is not provided by the forest and I minimize waste. When my sisters and friends visit me, we enjoy ourselves, sharing stories."

"We don't have electricity and at night the forest becomes alive with the sounds of nature, it does something to our souls," says Jimah.



*The traditional home of the Bidayuh at the peak of Jagoi Mountain
(Photo credit TI-M)*

In early 2012, Jimah noticed bald patches appearing in the forest and notified the Jagoi local village administration (JKKK Jagoi).

The JKKK Jagoi informed Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) of their fear of losing the forest. Subsequently, TI-M and the Sarawak Forest Department visited the site and had a stakeholder consultation on 5 May 2012.

The Bidayuh community of Jagoi have developed a sustainable management plan to protect the forest as well as to conserve the cultural heritage of the area comprising of former traditional houses, a *Gawai* (ceremonial) house, a *Baruk* (Parliament) house and a museum housing human skulls.

They would like to develop low impact tourism by rebuilding and refurbishing former traditional houses. The United



Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Tourism Sarawak have provided funds for location maps and amenities.

When the plans for the low impact tourism are actualized, Jimah will be promoting homestays and managing the eco-tourism site to ensure the protection of the forest.

Under the Natives Customary Rights to Land, the Bidayuh community has rights to their land at Jagoi Mountain. However, the bald patches appearing in the forest is an indication that their land is being encroached and the water catchment site threatened. Jagoi Mountain is a catchment area that provides freshwater to the surrounding seven villages. The community is worried that the Mountain will lose its forests to the logging and mining industries.

The Bidayuh community of Jagoi Mountain wants to be consulted on issues related to the governance of Jagoi Mountain and its ecosystem. They want to preserve their historical, cultural and spiritual heritage.

The Sarawak Forest Department has assured the community that it will investigate and provide support for the community initiative. Since the site visit, a biodiversity assessment of Jagoi Mountain has been undertaken and the Bidayuh community has been participating in advocacy campaigns to save Jagoi Mountain.

The Bidayuh community of Jagoi Mountain wants to be consulted on issues related to the governance of Jagoi Mountain and its ecosystem.

Source: Transparency International-Malaysia's Forest Governance and Integrity Programme



Kota Damansara Community Forest

• Shared Vision and Breakthrough

A forest nestled in a city is a gift of nature for city dwellers.

The Sungai Buloh Forest Reserve, the oldest forest reserve in Peninsular Malaysia shrunk from 6,590 ha to a mere 30 ha, in the past 115 years. It was first gazetted as a Forest Reserve in 1898 by the British colonial administration. Located 10 km west of Kuala Lumpur, the conversion of this forested area into township began in the 1990s.

The Sungai Buloh Forest Reserve, the oldest forest reserve in Peninsular Malaysia shrunk from 6,590 ha to a mere 30 ha, in the past 115 years.



*Kota Damansara Community Forest Reserve
(photo credit Kota Damansara Community Forest)*



The area was the home of the Temuan, an indigenous community who were relocated to accommodate the Kota Damansara township project. Although the Temuan were given bungalow houses as compensation, they lost their culture and way of life that is deeply intertwined with the forest.

In 1994, following recommendations made in the Environmental Impact Assessment of the Township project, the Selangor State Forestry Department reserved 402.6 ha as Sungai Buloh Botanic Garden Reserve.

Located 10 km west of Kuala Lumpur, the conversion of this forested area into township began in the 1990s.

On 20 May 2002 newspapers reported that the State Government had



(photo credit Kota Damansara Community Forest)



abandoned the plan to establish a botanic garden in Sungai Buloh and planned to revoke the Sungai Buloh Botanic Garden Reserve for residential development including a cemetery.

The Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) formed the Friends of Kota Damansara with Residents Associations to oppose the development and conserve the forest.

They had frequent public consultations with newly-formed opposition State Government (2008). All their efforts bore fruit in 2010 when the State Government of Selangor gazetted the forest reserve for Amenity, Education, Conservation and Research.

The partnership between the Friends of Kota Damansara, Selangor Forestry Department, Yayasan Warisan Alam (YAWA), Majlis Bandar Petaling Jaya (MBPJ) and Trail Association of KL and Selangor (TRAKS) took action to manage the Botanic Garden as the 'Kota Damansara Community Forest'.

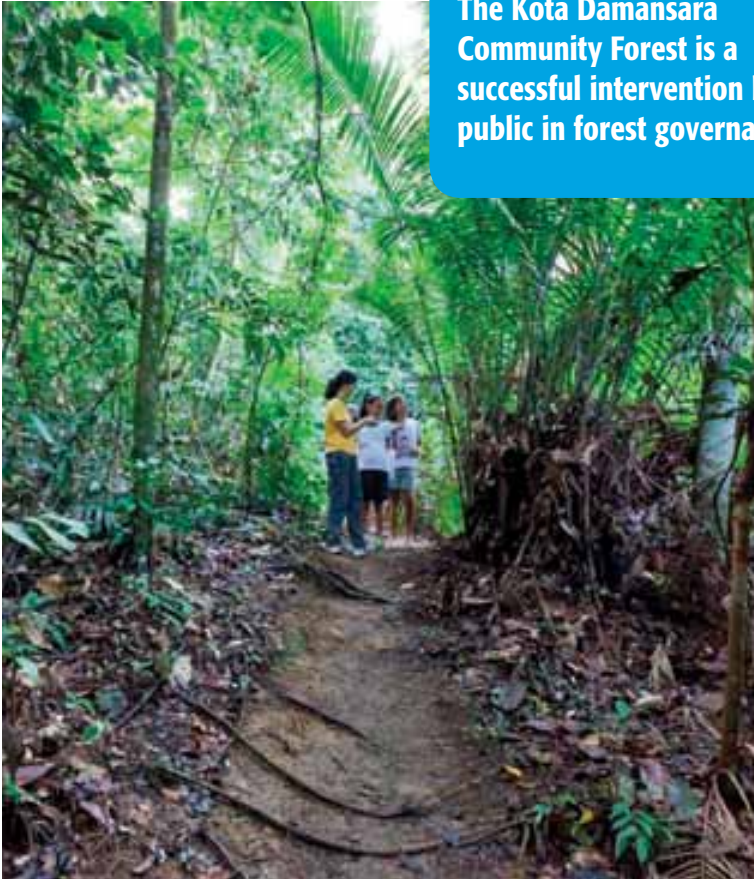
All their efforts bore fruit in 2010 when the State Government of Selangor gazetted the forest reserve for Amenity, Education, Conservation and Research.

The forest consists of many types of unique trees. Also seen are a number of commercially-valuable trees such as the *Nyatoh Tembaga* and the *Meranti Kepong*.

Other interesting species include the *Petai* tree with its curiously shaped flower-heads, *Screwpine* or *Mengkuang* that can grow to great heights as with woody climbers such as the *lianas* and numerous varieties of wild rattan.

The undergrowth is a colourful array of fungi, lichen and mosses that come in amazing shapes and delicate sizes.

The Kota Damansara Community Forest is a successful intervention by the public in forest governance.



(photo credit Kota Damansara Community Forest)

Herbaceous plants such as gingers reward the trekker with strikingly bright red flowers. *Segemuk* is another intriguing herbaceous plant with its blood red roots.



The lake in the park houses freshwater fish such as *Toman* (giant snakehead), myriad aquatic insects, frogs and snails.

Research is actively on-going on various aspects. The Kota Damansara Community Forest Society, Selangor now welcomes membership and participation of individuals, institutions and associations that wish to support the objectives of the Society (<http://kotadamansaraforest.org/membership/> or www.facebook.com/groups/77015742023/).



(photo credit Kota Damansara Community Forest)

Source:

1. Kota Damansara Community Forest Society; <http://kotadamansaraforest.org/about-us/a-shared-vision-for-the-kota-damansara-community-forest/>
2. Kota Damansara Community Forest Facebook; <http://www.facebook.com/groups/129269360492834/>
3. *Biodiversity Assessment and Recommendations for a Revised Management Plan of Kota Damansara Forest Reserve, Resource Stewardship Consultants Sdn Bhd (Rescu); 31 Dec 2010.*

**Speak Up.
Share.
Inform.
Network.
Act.**

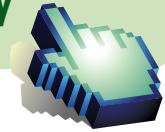




POPULAR WAYS OF MONITORING & ACTING

Visit our WEBSITE

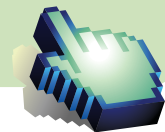
www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my



WRITE to your Member of Parliament (MP) or the Prime Minister what you think and feel

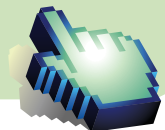
In case you do not want to write:

You can contact your MP by telephone. Or you can SMS him/her. You can also contact the Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN).



E-MAIL to your local newspapers, e-community newsletters & online newspapers

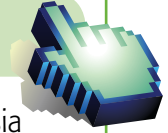
Letters intended for publication should be based on facts on details about the complaint.





Some tips to keep in mind.

Do Some Background Research

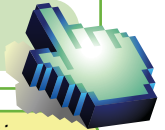


- Understand the problems that may develop in Malaysia for ordinary citizens if the issue is not addressed.
- Understand the problems that your community – children, family members, friends, neighbours and colleagues and you – will face if no action is taken.
- Check out the newspaper you can write to, whether online or printed.
- Look at some of the letters that appear in the newspaper (“Letters to Editor” or “Opinion” Sections). Read them and get an idea. Also, keep a list of e-mail addresses to write to (see *Contacts* section towards the end of this book).
- Check the letter specifications of the newspaper to which you are writing to. Length and format requirements vary from paper to paper. You may need to give your name and e-mail address.
- Is a certain type of letter usually printed? If the topic you address is controversial, present reasonable arguments or present hard contrary facts and figures, consider sending your letter to the “right” paper, online or printed.



You can send your articles to newsletters, magazines or pin them up in your community or organisational notice boards.

Writing Tips

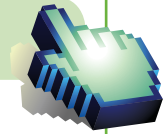


- *Make one point (or at most two) in your letter/opinion piece. State the point clearly. Ideally, state it in the first sentence or in the first paragraph.*
- *Keep your letter to the point and not unnecessarily long and windy.*
- *Try to tie the issue you want to write about to something that happened recently in your life, community or workplace, or link it to something you saw or heard.*
- *Present a situation or event that can be imagined or visualised so that the reader can think and feel with you.*
- *Write directly or indirectly and highlight possible impacts or about our rights from your personal, your children or your community point of view. Where possible, bring down the problem to a personal level or the level of the family so that the reader is able to sympathise with you.*
- *If you are critically quoting someone in your writing, refute or criticise by using supporting counterfactuals and arguments. Present relevant facts that have been ignored or omitted.*
- *Ask others to write letters on the issue. This will show that other individuals in the community are also concerned about the issue. If your letter doesn't get published, perhaps someone else's on the same topic will.*
- *Monitor the paper for your letter. If your letter has not appeared within a week or two, follow it up. If it has been rejected, send it to other newspapers.*
- *Write to newspapers of different languages.*
- *Always sign your letter as an individual or representative of a community group.*



There are many things you can do for forests.

Blog, Blog, Blog Away...



- If you are comfortable with using information and communications technologies (ICT).
- If you are used to sending and receiving e-mail.
- If you do not mind spending time with your computer.

You can blog, i.e. start and maintain an online diary of your observations, thoughts, comments and reflections on the issue for public consumption. You can become a “community reporter”, a citizen reporter on forest issues for your community. (Note: You can also blog on anything related to your community, e.g. Malaysiakini Citizen Reporter: www.cj.my) Services to help you blog are available on the web, free of charge. Explore the world of blogging by starting one. (There are many free blogging service providers. Search for them on the internet.)



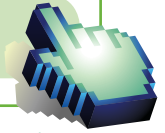
F.A.Q.s

How can forests protect people from natural disasters?

Apart from climate change mitigation, root systems of trees provide soil stability averting landslides, soak excess rain water to help avoid floods and act as buffer zones at coastal areas providing protection from tsunamis.

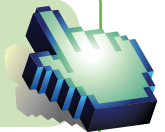


Some Tips to Help You Blog



- *Start with a topic (eg. forest issue) as an observation, reflection, comment, thought or query. Be passionate about it.*
- *Organise purposefully and contextualise the content of your blog. Make it understandable to all.*
- *Concentrate on shorter, more frequent entries in your blog. It is your diary.*
- *Make it your business to post a new entry at least once a week, preferably two or three times a week. It is the least you can do as a citizen for other citizens.*
- *Let yourself go as a writer; let your authentic “voice” emerge. Connect with basic realities of a Malaysian citizen in relation to trees and forests.*
- *You can add pictures to your blog.*
- *Use correct grammar (unless it is intended).*

Participate in e-Discussion Groups/ Facebook Groups & Pages & e-Mailing Lists. Go ahead and try it.

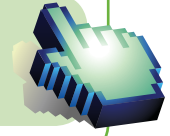


You can have an active online discussion on forest issues by joining an e-discussion group. Or starting one. You can find free e-discussion group service providers by searching the internet for Gmail groups, Facebook, Twitter and many others.

Set up your own community e-discussion group/e-mailing list. Announce it and let others from yours and other communities join in. Build online citizen communities that can be active on issues that generally affect all citizens or specific communities. Develop an online democratic movement on the issue.



Why Use an e-Discussion Group/ e-Mailing List?

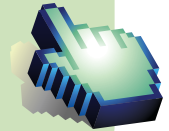


- *To continue a dialogue that started from a face-to-face meeting.*
- *To let people know about upcoming events or actions.*
- *To share resources related to organising (posters, flyers, creative action ideas, etc.).*
- *To collaborate on upcoming events.*
- *To discuss news or events pertinent to activism.*
- *Sharing drafts of work and documents.*

USE SMS

You can use **SMS** to pass on information about meetings on forest issues to your friends and colleagues. You can also SMS to your MP or the ADUN.

Or you can go the conventional way – **simply make a phone call.**



These aspects can be raised and discussed according to the context in the family (washing dishes, eating together, watching television together, after prayers, etc), in your mother tongue and at proper levels (in relation to how you will use language).

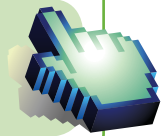


Engage your family.

Family members are your immediate community – sisters, brothers, parents, children, grandparents, grandchildren. Engage them and discuss interesting topics related to trees and forests (use information from this book). Let them know. Let them assess and understand.

To be able to talk and discuss with your immediate family members on serious matters, you need to build better family time. Here are some ideas how you can go about it.

Engage Your Children and Family Members

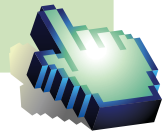


- *Organise family picnics in forests and parks.*
- *Talk and listen to each other about the environment and forests.*
- *Read interesting sections of a book or magazine or view television programmes together and discuss the content wherever and whenever possible.*
- *Attempt to do family chores together and share responsibilities.*
- *Parents and elder siblings can help with schoolwork. (forest-related examples can be given.)*
- *Have fun together playing indoor or outdoor games.*
- *Do family projects, like building the 'family tree' or setting up a 'kitchen garden' (if you have land).*
- *Plan and organise a family outing with everyone taking some responsibilities.*
- *Research and create your own 'forest family time calendar' – with birthdays, anniversary dates, holidays, outing dates and outing dates to national parks, etc.*



Discuss in Informal Gatherings/Settings.

- **teh tarik shop**
- **sundry shops/
mini-markets**
- **wet markets/
supermarkets/
shopping malls**
- **kopitiam**
- **railway/LRT
stations**
- **airport**
- **waiting rooms**
- **festive gatherings**
- **family and friends
gatherings**
- **bus stops**
- **lunch break
gatherings**
- **workplace breaks**



Discuss. Discuss. Discuss.

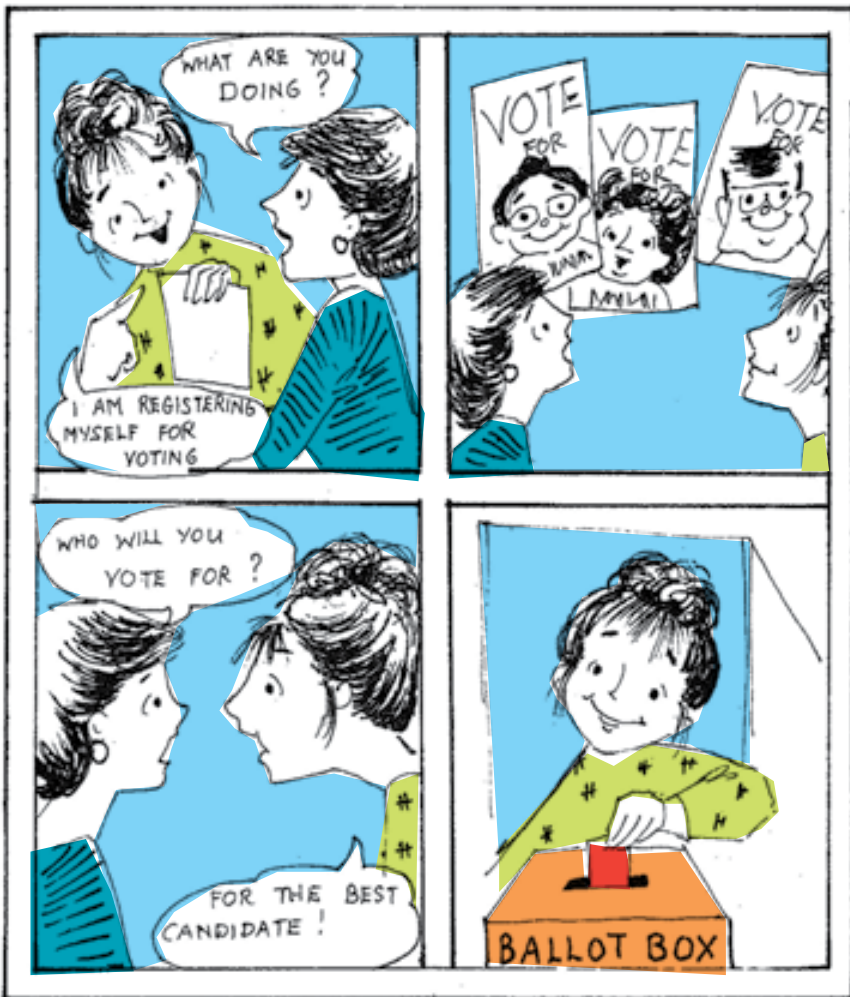
- *Add 'forests' to your topic of discussion (in addition to houses, cars, holiday trips, children's education, about your neighbour, income, etc).*
- *Inform your listeners in informal gatherings about this book, about **TI-M ForestWatch** website and other web sites on forest issues.*
- *Try to follow up by email messages, calls, sms, etc.*
- *Discussion and dialogue can bring people and organisations together on common issues. It can help build a movement and give voice to people's concerns.*



Decision-Making

The pursuit of *sustainable development* requires:

A political system that ensures effective citizen participation in decision-making.



Source: Josie, A Training Manual for Women and Environment, ERA Consumers

Casting your vote at elections is an act of decision-making.

***Protect our Forests.
Act NOW at your level.***

***Bring out the
writer in you.
Write to inform.
Write to share.
Write to inspire.
Write to encourage
action.***





TI-M FORESTWATCH INITIATIVE

What is TI-M ForestWatch?

The **TI-M ForestWatch** is an initiative by Forest Governance and Integrity Programme (TI-M-FGI) aimed at enhancing public awareness on the usage of geospatial technology [**satellite imagery, aerial photography** and **Geographic Information System (GIS) 3D globe**] in forest monitoring and assessing forest cover, and providing a platform for public participation in forest governance in Malaysia.

The **TI-M ForestWatch** is designed for the general public to become eyes and ears of the forests to ensure that the nation's forest resources are protected from illegal activities.

The **TI-M ForestWatch** website

www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my

allows users to view an area of concern through the eyes in the sky - satellites that provide virtual guides. The **satellite imagery, aerial photography** and **Geographic Information System** allow an overview of the area. Using such information, any member of the public will be able to inform the authorities of doubtful and irregular activities within the area of concern through easy steps featured at the website.



The **TI-M ForestWatch** website is the gateway for the public to be involved in forest governing process, for example, if there are sightings of lorries with covered loads exiting from an area of concern, anyone would be able to access bird's eye view of the site through the website and alert the authorities.

Who is TI-M ForestWatch?

All reports received through **www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my** are referred to the **TI-M ForestWatch Task Force** comprising of officials from Transparency International–Malaysia, Forestry Departments, Malaysian Anti Corruption Commission, Institute of Foresters Malaysia, and the Department of Wildlife and National Parks.

The website provides a platform for the **TI-M ForestWatch Task Force** to access these reports and direct them to appropriate authorities for investigations.

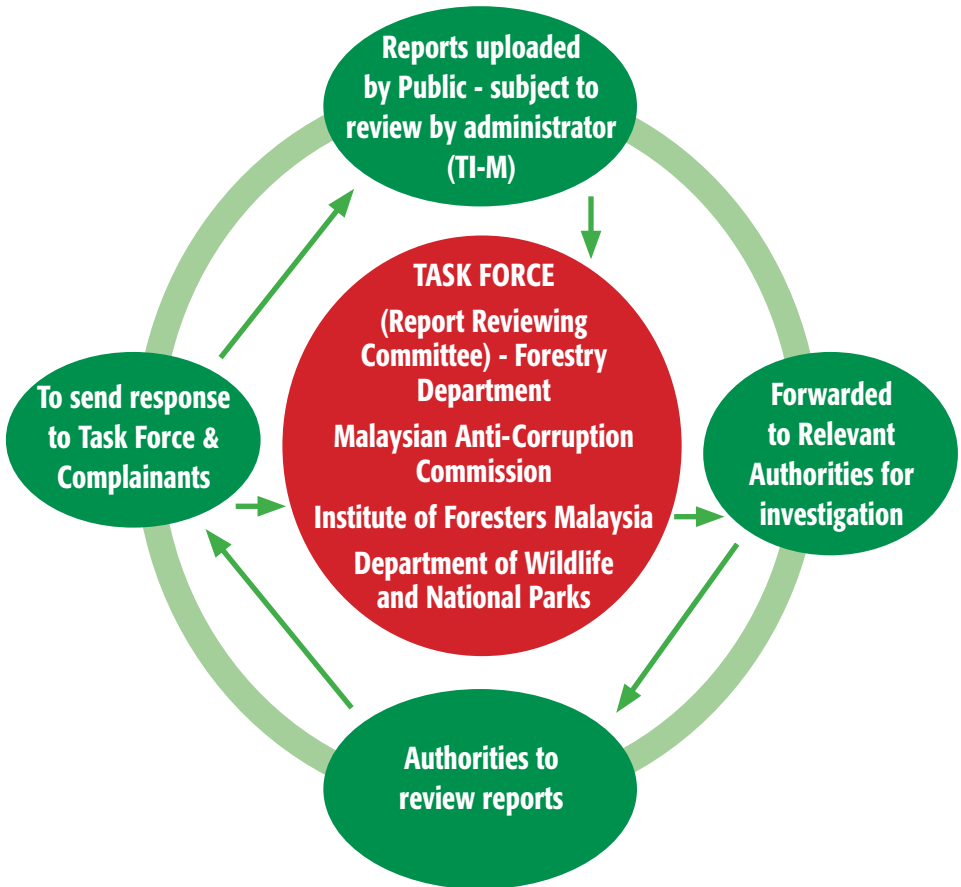
Feedback on the investigation will be given within a reasonable time frame.

All information on the reporting individual or organisation is kept confidential.

Note: Each Report will be processed by Transparency International-Malaysia before publishing. The reporting individual or organization will receive an auto response.



TI-M ForestWatch Reporting Cycle





Forest monitoring can now be done with the mere click of a button by anyone interested in playing their part for the environment.



How to Use TI-M ForestWatch?

- 1 Log on to **www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my**



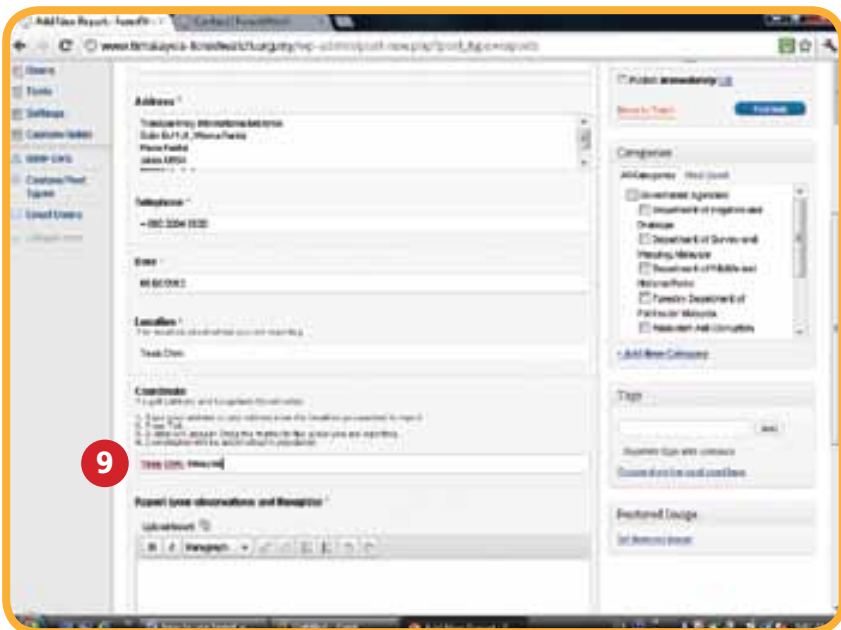
- 2 Click on **REGISTER**.
- 3) Create **User Name & Password**.
- 4) Obtain your password which will be sent to your E-mail.
- 5 Click on **LOG IN**.
- 6) Enter your **User Name & Password**.



7) Click on **REPORT**.

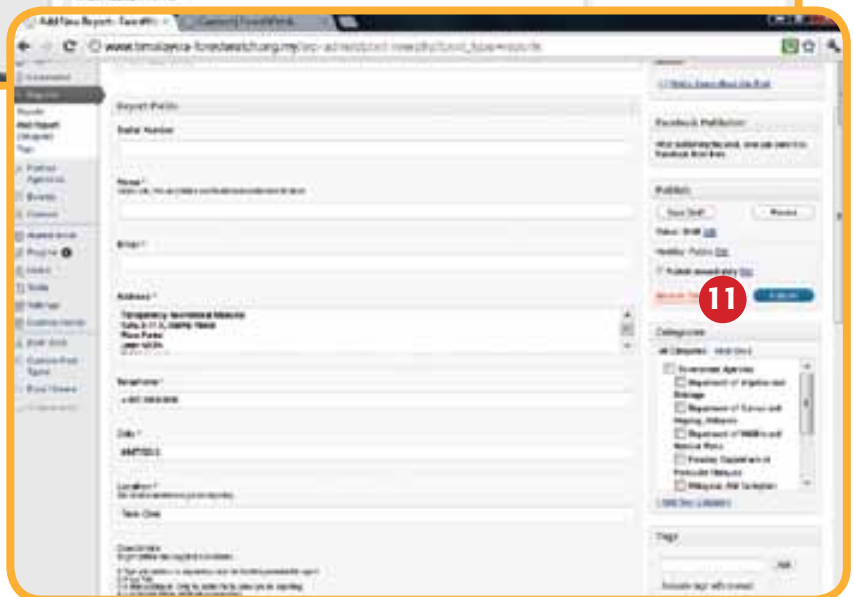
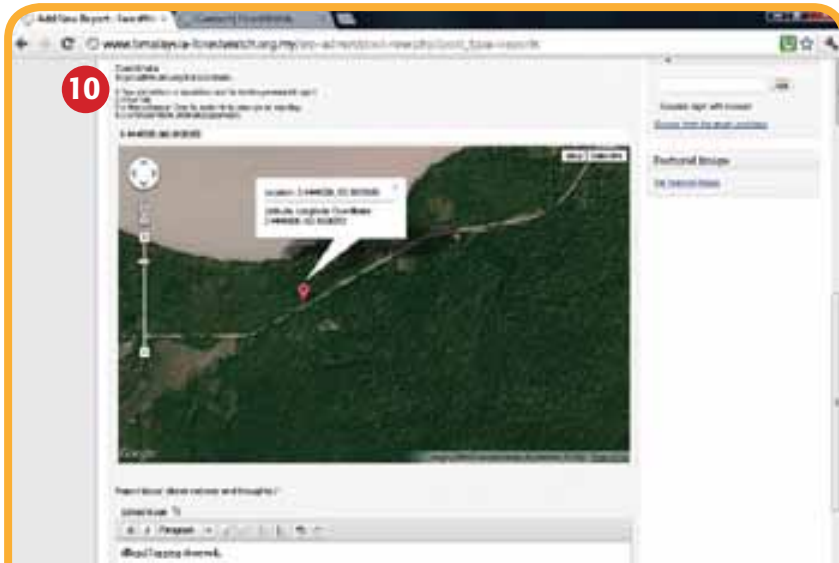
8) Type in your **personal details**.

9) Type the location of concern (name of the road/area or address) at the **Coordinate** input tab.





10 Click on **Coordinate**.



11 Fill in the blanks, add file (for additional photographs, etc.) and Publish the report.



If you come across illegal activities such as illegal logging, report it at www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my or use the **ForestWatch Mobile Application** (see Page 91)



Voluntary Forest Monitors (TI-M-VFM)

The Voluntary Forest Monitors (VFM) are guardians of the forests. TI-M-VFM's are entrusted to address suspicious activities that pose threats to good forest governance.

TI-M-VFM's will be trained on issues related to forestry. The experiences gained will enable them to assist with the implementation of Forest Governance and Integrity Programme's planned activities throughout the year.

TI-M-VFM is a programme for Malaysians to participate in forest governance to ensure sustainability of forests and related ecosystems.

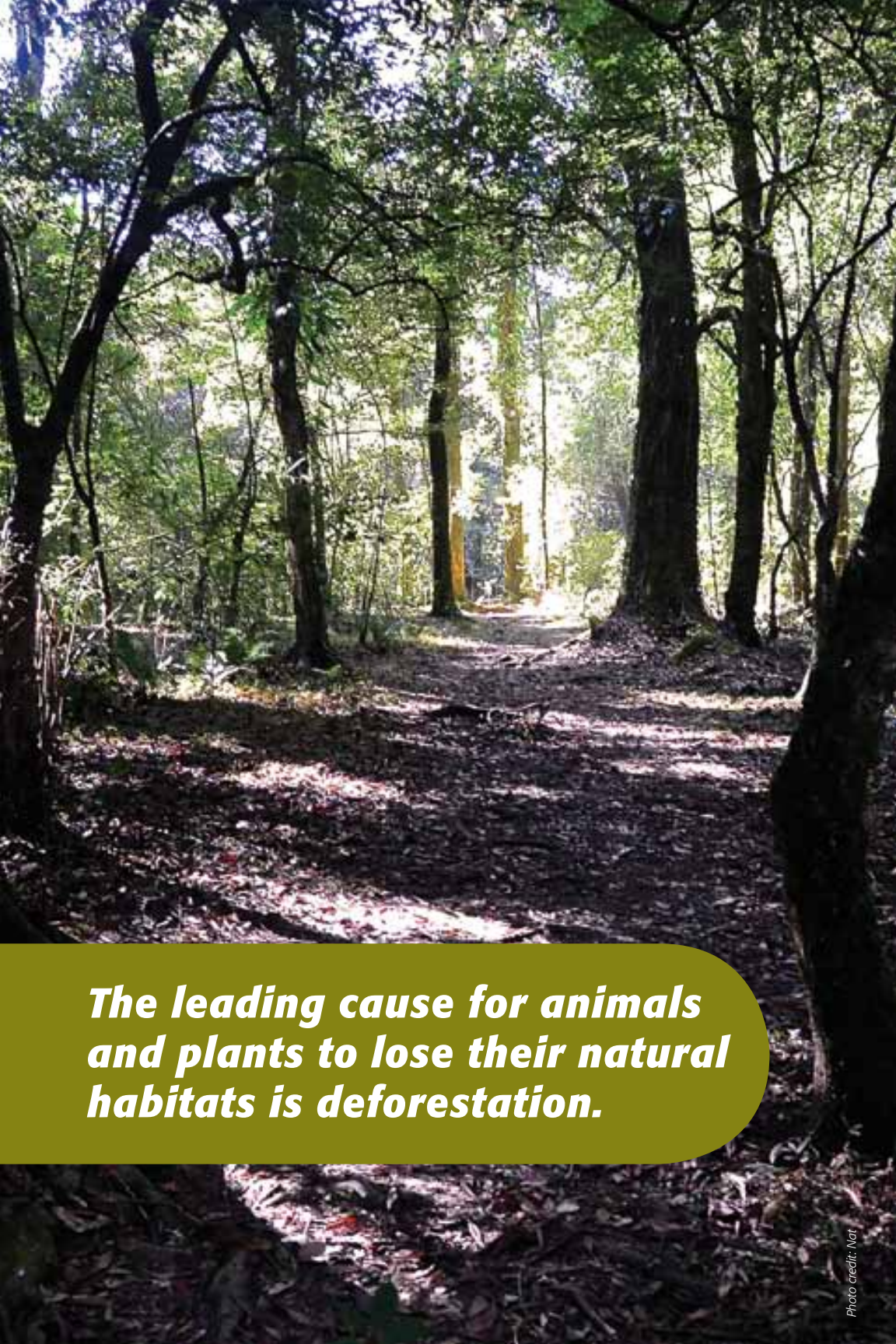
Sign up to become a **TI-M-VFM** at **www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my**.



F.A.Q.s

What is the government doing to save the forest and is it enough?

*Forests are by law, gazetted as **Permanent Reserved Forests** to be managed by the Forestry Department (i.e. to be harvested, rehabilitated, or simply protected, such as water catchment areas).*



The leading cause for animals and plants to lose their natural habitats is deforestation.



What is TI-M ForestWatch Mobile Application?

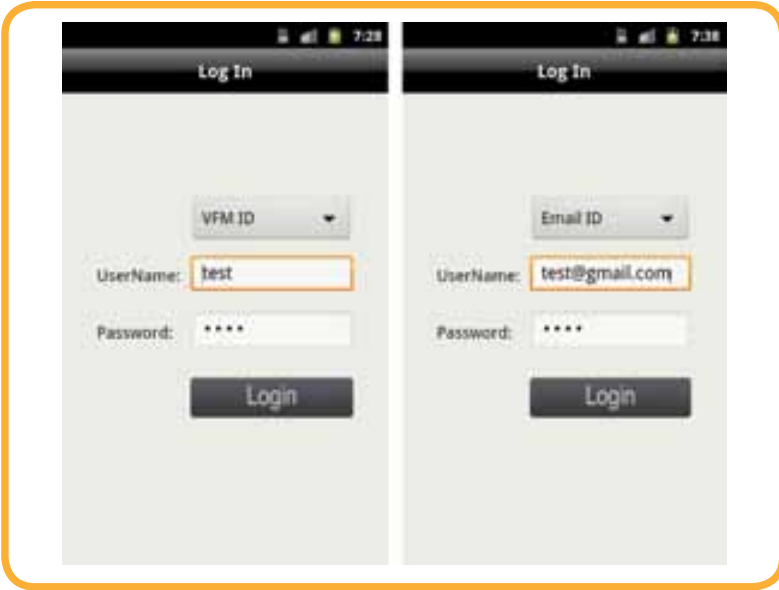
TI-M ForestWatch Mobile App is an application which allows public to report irregularities of forest activities through their smart phones.

TI-M ForestWatch Mobile is an initiative of Transparency International Malaysia Forest Governance Integrity (FGI) Programme to enhance the public involvement in forest monitoring.



TI-M ForestWatch Mobile App is divided into 3 sections which are:

1) Login Module – An authentication module where only VFM are able to login with their VFM ID and password.



2) News Module – A section where the administration can promote forest-related news to the VFM and other relevant parties. This keeps everybody updated about what is happening in the forests and will spark interest to do and learn more.



3) Report Module – This is the main module of the application. After successfully logging in, the VFM will be able to lodge reports of irregular activities by inputting the location, address, coordinates (automatic detect), description of the activities and also attaching snapshots of the area.

Once he or she clicks 'Submit', the report will automatically be sent to the **TI-M ForestWatch** server.



TI-M ForestWatch Mobile App is downloadable from Google play store or the **TI-M ForestWatch** website (www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my).



***Avoid excessive
consumption of forest
products to help
maintain sustainability.***



GEOSPATIAL TECHNOLOGY IN FORESTRY

What is Geospatial Technology?

Geomatics, or geospatial technology, is defined as ***the discipline of gathering, storing, processing and delivering geographic information or spatially referenced information.*** This advancement in technology applies to various fields including navigation, land management, sociology, criminology, archaeology and the **environment.**

Why Use Geospatial Technology in Forest Management Practices?

Previously, forest monitoring was carried out by specific government agencies with relevant expertise and resources. However, large amounts of cash required for capacity building and acquiring necessary tools surpassed the efforts needed to monitor vast areas of forests on a regular basis. As a result, forest monitoring was conducted extremely sparingly, perhaps only a handful of times per decade. This was especially true for developing countries.

The introduction of geospatial technology has enabled the above mentioned practices to be done away with completely. Now, forest monitoring can be done with the



mere click of a button by anyone interested in playing their part for the environment. It is an extremely cost effective tool for forest and land monitoring, thus enabling developing nations around the world to engage the use of geospatial technology in their forest governing processes.

Implementation of Geospatial Technology in Forest Management Practices Globally

Many countries are employing the use of geospatial technology as part of their forest governance processes, for example, India, Ethiopia, Australia, United States of America, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Belgium, Sri Lanka and Malaysia.

India

- Geospatial technology is actively being used in forest resources management, including forest cover mapping, timber volume assessment, encroachment detection and forest development planning, wildlife habitat evaluation, grassland mapping and environmental impact assessment.
- Currently, remote sensing is being used for landscape analysis, fire risk zoning and biomass productivity estimation.
- Future applications of geospatial technology may extend to greenhouse gas emission monitoring, climate change and biogeochemical cycling.



Ethiopia

- Geospatial technology is used for land assessment, forest areas and cover, natural pasture, mapping of protected areas, wetlands, pollution and any changes in the environment.

Australia

- The focus of geospatial technology in Australia is on emergency management such as floods, earthquakes and wildfires.
- The Australian & New Zealand Land Information Council (ANZLIC) recommended the creation of a national Distributed Spatial Data Library in 2003.
- The potential use of geospatial data in natural emergency management practices was demonstrated through 24 nationwide workshops by the "GeoInsight" programme in 2002.

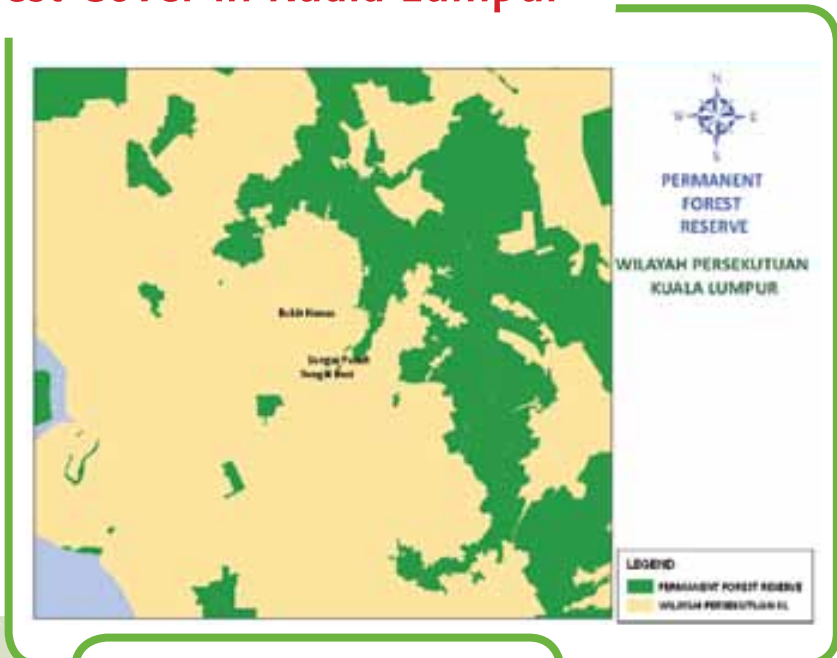


***If we don't act now, the world
will be too hot for comfort.***



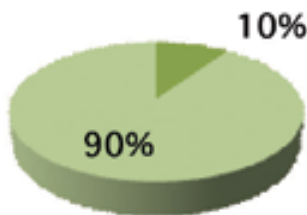
FOREST COVER IN PENINSULAR MALAYSIA AND RELATED AGENCIES

Forest Cover in Kuala Lumpur



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Kuala Lumpur

Forestry Department (Kuala Lumpur)

Address

Headquarters
Forestry Department
Peninsular Malaysia
Jalan Sultan Salahuddin
50660 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03-2616 4488

Fax: 03-2692 5657

Website: www.forestry.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Kuala Lumpur/ Selangor)

Address

Floors 3, 4, 10, 20 & 20M
West Block, Wisma Selangor
Dredging, Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03-2161 0577

Fax: 03-2162 1470

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Kuala Lumpur)

Address

Malaysian Anti-Corruption
Commission (MACC)
Block D6, Complex D
Federal Government
Administrative Centre
P.O Box 6000
62007 Putrajaya, Malaysia

Tel: 03-8886 7000

Fax: 03-8888 9562

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Kuala Lumpur)

Address

No.21, Jalan Dwi Tasik 1
Bandar Seri Permaisuri
56000 Cheras, Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03-9171 0258/
03-9171 0260

Fax: 03-9171 0257

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



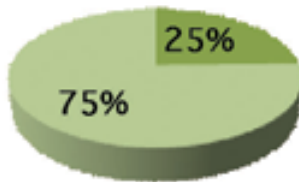


Forest Cover in Johor



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Johor

Forestry Department (Johor)

Address

2nd Floor, Bangunan Dato
Mohamad Ibrahim Munsyi
Kota Iskandar, Nusajaya
79660 Johor Bahru
Johor

Tel: 07-2667433

Fax: 07-2661288

Website:

www.johorforestry.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Johor)

Address

15th Floor, Area 15A
Menara Ansar, Jalan Trus
80000 Johor Bahru
Johor Darul Takzim

Tel: 07-2243901

Fax: 07-2248542

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Johor)

Address

Johor MACC Office Complex
Jalan Persiaran Tanjung
PO Box 6000
81200 Tampoi
Jalan Darul Takzim

Tel: 07-2316000/
07-2316080

Fax: 07-2352982

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Johor)

Address

9th Floor, Block B
Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Air Molek
80000 Johor Bahru
Johor

Tel: 07-2230580

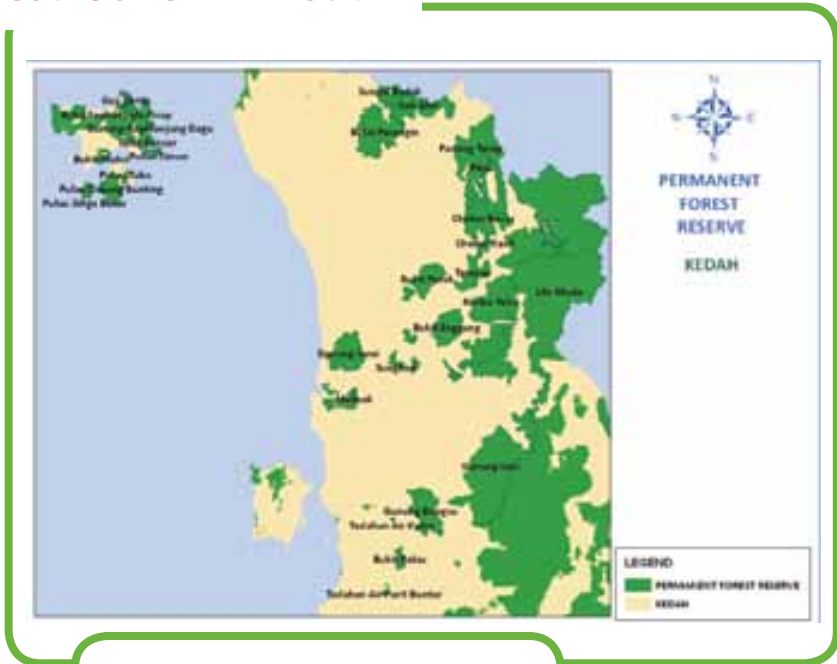
Fax: 07-2235702

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



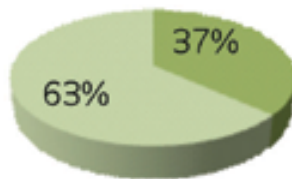


Forest Cover in Kedah



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Kedah

Forestry Department (Kedah)

Address

8th Floor, Bangunan Sultan
Abdul Halim
Jalan Sultan Badlishah
05000 Alor Setar, Kedah

Tel: 04-7333844

Fax: 04-7310610

Website:

www.kedforestry.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Kedah/Perak)

Address

Bangunan Kerajaan Persekutuan
3rd Floor, Block A
Jalan Panglima
Bukit Gantang Wahab
30000 Ipoh
Perak Darul Ridzuan

Tel: 05-2540009

Fax: 05-2559402

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Kedah)

Address

Malaysian Anti Corruption
Commission Kedah
Level 2, Block B
Bangunan Persekutuan
Jalan Sultan Badlishah
P.O Box 60000
05720 Alor Star, Kedah

Tel: 04-7001880

Fax: 04-7001870

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Kedah)

Address

37 Lengkok Cempaka 1
Persiaran Cempaka
Bandar Amanjaya
Sungai Petani, Kedah

Tel: 04-7312200

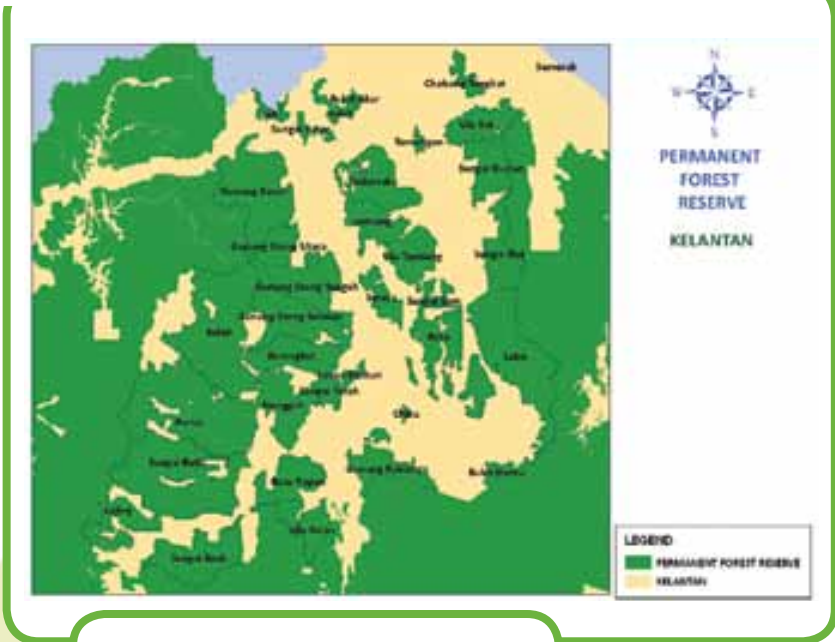
Fax: 04-7355286

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



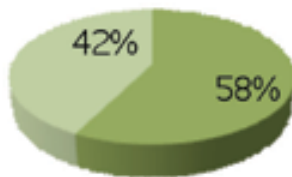


Forest Cover in Kelantan



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Kelantan

Forestry Department (Kelantan)

Address

Block 2, 1st Floor
Kota Darulnaim
15503 Kota Bharu, Kelantan

Tel: 09-7482140

Fax: 09-7445657

Website:

www.jpnk.kelantan.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development Negeri Kelantan/Terengganu

Address

6th Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Bayam
15200 Kota Bharu
Kelantan Darul Naim

Tel: 09-7443488

Fax: 09-7440622

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Kelantan)

Address

MACC Complex Kelantan
Jalan Sultan Yahya Petra
Peti Surat 6000
15990 Kota Bharu
Kelantan

Tel: 09-7661800

Fax: 09-7477305

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Kelantan)

Address

12th Floor
Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Bayam
15664 Kota Bharu
Kelantan

Tel: 09-7416240

Fax: 09-7477635

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



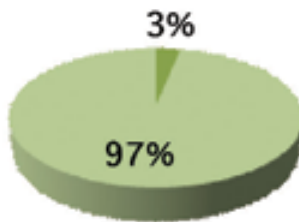


Forest Cover in Melaka



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Melaka

Forestry Department (Melaka)

Address

Level 19, Menara Persekutuan
Jalan Persekutuan, Bandar MITC
Hang Tuah Jaya
75450 Ayer Keroh
Melaka

Tel: 06-2316095

Fax: 06-2322867

Website:

www.forestry.gov.my/melaka

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Melaka)

Address

Melaka MACC
No. 2, Jalan Alai Perdana 16
Crystal Bay, Alai
Peti Surat 6000
75460 Melaka

Tel: 06-2616020

Fax: 06-2896141

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Melaka/Negeri Sembilan)

Address

4th Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Dato` Abdul Kadir
70000 Seremban
Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tel: 06-7638815

Fax: 06-7610134

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Melaka)

Address

Level 18, Menara Persekutuan,
Jalan Persekutuan,
Hang Tuah Jaya
75450 Ayer Keroh, Melaka

Tel: 06-2324053

Fax: 06-2345620

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



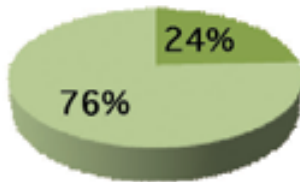


Forest Cover in Negeri Sembilan



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Negeri Sembilan

Forestry Department (Negeri Sembilan)

Address

Block C, 4th Floor
Wisma Negeri
70503 Seremban
NEGERI SEMBILAN

Tel: 06-7659849

Fax: 06-7623711

Website: www.forestry.gov.my/negerisembilan

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Negeri Sembilan)

Address

MACC Negeri Sembilan
Jalan Dato' Kelana Makmur
Peti Surat 6000
70700 Seremban
Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tel: 06-7625446

Fax: 06-7620522

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Negeri Sembilan/Malaka)

Address

4th Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Dato' Abdul Kadir
70000 Seremban
Negeri Sembilan Darul Khusus

Tel: 06-7638815

Fax: 06-7610134

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Negeri Sembilan)

Address

No. 7 Jalan Dato' Muda Linggi
70100 Seremban
Negeri Sembilan

Tel: 06-7616998

Fax: 06-7645852

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



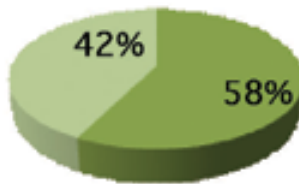


Forest Cover in Pahang



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Pahang

Forestry Department (Pahang)

Address

5th Floor, Tun Abdul Razak
Complex
Bandar Indera Mahkota
25900 Kuantan, Pahang

Tel: 09-5732911

Fax: 09-5733355

Website:

<http://forestry.pahang.gov.my>

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Pahang)

Address

3rd Floor
Bangunan Persekutuan
Jalan Gambut
25000 Kuantan
Pahang Darul Makmur

Tel: 09-5156425

Fax: 09-5165768

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Pahang)

Address

SPRM Negeri Pahang
Kompleks SPRM
Bandar Indera Mahkota
P.O Box 6000
25700 Kuantan, Pahang

Tel: 09-5716000

Fax: 09-2901400

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Pahang)

Address

2nd Floor, Bangunan Asia Life
Jalan Teluk Sisek
25000 Kuantan, Pahang

Tel: 09-5178111/7733/
09-5143000

Fax: 09-5178822

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



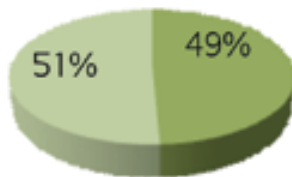


Forest Cover in Perak



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Perak

Forestry Department (Perak)

Address

Persiaran Meru Utama
Bandar Meru Raya
30020 Ipoh
PERAK

Tel: 05-5288100

Fax: 05-5288101

Website:

www.perakforestry.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Perak)

Address

MACC Perak
Plot 7, Persiaran Meru Utama,
Bandar Meru Raya,
Peti Surat 6000
30020 Ipoh, Perak

Tel: 05-5267000/05-5261227

Fax: 05-5261214

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Perak/Kedah)

Address

Bangunan Kerajaan Persekutuan
3rd Floor, Block A
Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang
Wahab
30000 Ipoh
Perak Darul Ridzuan

Tel: 05-2540009

Fax: 05-2559402

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perak)

Address

3rd Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Dato' Seri Ahmad Said
Greentown
30450 Ipoh, Perak

Tel: 05-2436645

Fax: 05-2436635

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



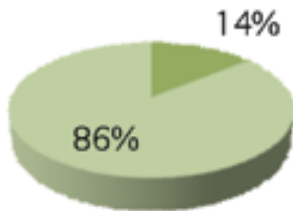


Forest Cover in Perlis



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Perlis

Forestry Department (Perlis)

Address

KM 2, Jalan Kaki Bukit
01000 Kangar
PERLIS

Tel: 04-9765966

Fax: 04-9767901

Website:

www.perlisforestry.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Perlis)

Address

3rd Floor
Bangunan Tun Abd Razak
01000 Kangar, Perlis

Tel: 04-9761813

Fax: 04-9770689

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Perlis)

Address

Perlis MACC
Level 7, Bangunan Persekutuan
Persiaran Jubli Emas
P.O Box 6000
01700 Kangar, Perlis

Tel: 04-9763982

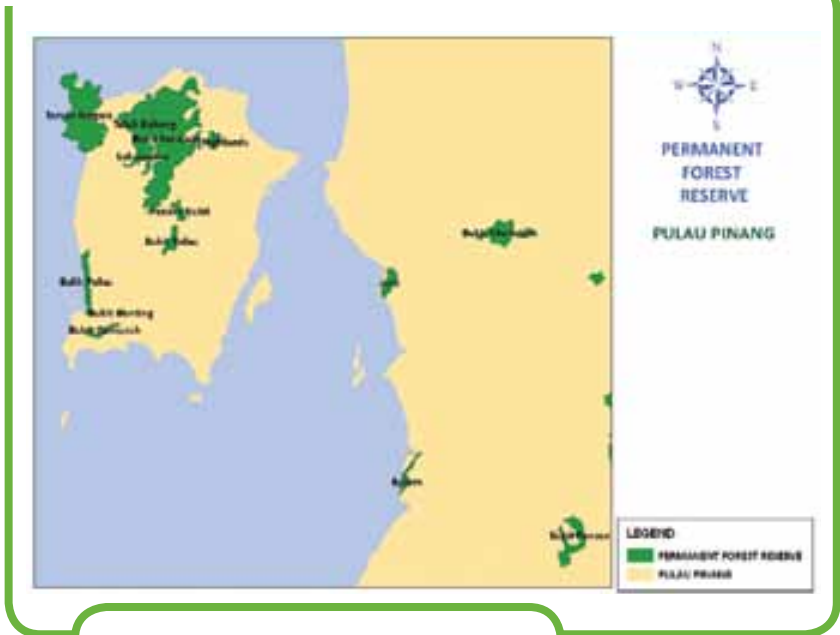
Fax: 04-9765828

Website: www.sprm.gov.my



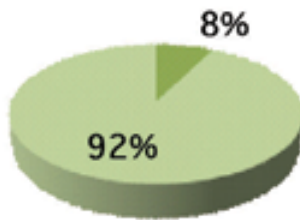


Forest Cover in Pulau Pinang



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Pulau Pinang

Forestry Department (Pulau Pinang)

Address

20th Floor, KOMTAR
Bangunan Komtar
10000 Pulau Pinang

Tel: 04-6505250

Fax: 04-2636335

Website:

<http://jhn.penang.gov.my>

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Pulau Pinang)

Address

40th Floor, Bangunan Komtar
10000 Pulau Pinang

Tel: 04-2613039

Fax: 04-2610330

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Pulau Pinang)

Address

PENANG MACC
MACC Complex
44, Jalan Sultan Ahmad Shah
P.O Box 6000
10850 Pulau Pinang

Tel: 04-2271982 /

04-2299262 /

04-2287871

Fax: 04-2266070 /

04-2292315

Website: www.sprm.gov.my



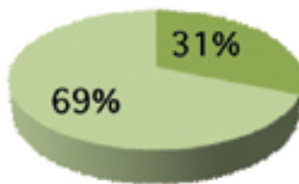


Forest Cover in Selangor



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Selangor

Forestry Department (Selangor)

Address

3rd Floor, Podium Utara
Bangunan Sultan Salahuddin
Abdul Aziz Shah
40000 Shah Alam
SELANGOR

Tel: 03-5544 7507

Fax: 03-5511 9961

Website:

www.forestry.gov.my/selangor

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Selangor)

Address

MACC Selangor
Floors 7 & 8, Wisma PKPS
Persiaran Perbandaran
Seksyen 14
40675 Shah Alam
Selangor Darul Ehsan

Tel: 03-55197369/7370/7375

Faks: 03-55109094

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Selangor/ Kuala Lumpur)

Address

West Block, Wisma Selangor
Dredging
Jalan Ampang
50450 Kuala Lumpur

Tel: 03-21610577

Fax: 03-21621470

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Selangor)

Address

Jalan Lanar 8/15
Seksyen 8
40000 Shah Alam
Selangor

Tel: 03-55193915/0817/
03-55106328

Fax: 03-55101830

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



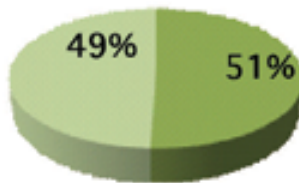


Forest Cover in Terengganu



Percentages

- Forested Land Area
- Non-Forested Land Area



Permanent Forest Reserve

Source:
Forest Department
Peninsular Malaysia



Related Agencies in Terengganu

Forestry Department (Terengganu)

Address

8th Floor, Wisma Negeri
20200 Kuala Terengganu
TERENGGANU

Tel: 09-6222444 ext 6808

Fax: 09-6236552

Website: <http://trgforestry.terengganu.gov.my>

Department of *Orang Asli* Development (Terengganu/Kelantan)

Address

6th Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Bayam
15200 Kota Bharu
Kelantan Darul Naim

Tel: 09-7443488

Fax: 09-7440622

Website: www.jakoa.gov.my

Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (Terengganu)

Address

MACC Terengganu
10th Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Peti Surat 6000
Jalan Sultan Ismail
20720 Kuala Terengganu
Terengganu

Tel : 09-6301920

Fax : 09-6301923

Website: www.sprm.gov.my

Department of Wildlife and National Parks (Terengganu)

Address

4th Floor, Wisma Persekutuan
Jalan Sultan Ismail
20200 Kuala Terengganu
Terengganu

Tel: 09-6221460

Fax: 09-6241326

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my





What will happen to the animals when forests are cleared?

- *In Malaysia, wild animals such as the fully-protected Asian Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) Musang Pulut are often found in residential areas looking for food, and becoming road kill.*

This is due to loss of their habitat as a result of excessive deforestation, often for development of oil palm plantations and timber latex cloning. All organisms and living things in the forest will become homeless and there will be a short supply of food.

Eventually they will die, creating a gap in the vital roles that they played in maintaining the food chain and the balance of the ecosystem.

What is more important? Car parks or forests?

- Cities are becoming impossible to live in due to traffic congestion and inadequate car parks.

Alternative modes of transport that do not harm the environment is essential in creating sustainable cities.

Malaysia needs to build covered bicycle lanes and walkways to promote walking and cycling within the city. Trams such as those in San Francisco would be another possibility.

Urban development should go parallel with environmental protection.

MALAYSIA'S NATURE SITES OF INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE

Ramsar Sites

NAME	AREA (km²)
Tasek Bera, Ramsar Site in Pahang	312
Pulai River in Johor	91
Kukup Island in Johor	6
Tanjung Piai in Johor	5
Kinabatangan Forest Reserve in Sabah	404
Kulamba Wildlife Reserve in Sabah	207
Kuala Maruap and Kuala Segama Forest Reserve in Sabah	177
Lower Kinabatangan Segama Wetlands in Borneo	788

UNESCO's Biosphere Reserve

NAME	ACRES/Ha
Chini Lake in Pahang	12,565/ 5,085

Public Complaints Matter

Deforestation has led, and continues to lead, to a number of critical consequences, both in and across time and space, affecting us both geographically and inter-generationally.

There is mounting loss of biodiversity and indigenous cultures, increasing replacement of natural forest with 'monoculture, cash-crop forests', increase in water-soil instability, growing incidents of flash floods, intensification of global climate change, disappearance of forest-based sustainable livelihoods, growing destruction of forest homes of indigenous people, loss of traditional knowledge pertaining to ethno-botany, and irreversible destruction of national and global natural heritage.

We are on the way to creating a future without natural forests.

In Malaysia, there is a *declared aim* of maintaining fifty percent of land area under forest, forest sustainability for posterity, and recognition of land rights of Orang Asal and their livelihood from the forests.

We are on the way to creating a future without natural forests.

This declared aim urgently needs public support for an action-oriented comprehensive National Forest Policy. Such a policy can reverse the local, national and global trend and



impact of the high level of deforestation and degradation of natural forest in Malaysia.

(Source: Eco-Manifesto 2013: People, Forest and Sustainability in Malaysia by Transparency International Malaysia and Coalition Members)



You can mitigate deforestation through public complaint channels set up by Government Agencies and TI-Malaysia.

**1. Forest Clearing and Illegal Logging:
Transparency International–Malaysia’s
Forest Governance and Integrity Programme**

Log on to: www.timalaysia-forestwatch.org.my

Tel: 603-79606630

Fax: 603-79608690

Email: forestwatch@transparency.org.my

Address: 23, Jalan Pantai 9/7, 46000 Petaling Jaya,
Selangor

**2. Forest Encroachment and Poaching
Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP)
Peninsular Malaysia**

Log on to: www.wildlife.gov.my

Tel: 603-90866800

Fax: 603-90752873

Email: webmaster@wildlife.gov.my

Address: KM10 Jalan Cheras, 56100 Kuala Lumpur

Website: www.wildlife.gov.my



Contacts

3. Complaints on Forestry in Peninsular Malaysia

Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia Headquarters

Log on to: www.forestry.gov.my

Tel: 603-26164488 /
1-800-88-5776

Fax: 603-26925657

Email: webmaster@forestry.gov.my

Address: Jalan Sultan Salahuddin,
50660 Kuala Lumpur

Web: www.forestry.gov.my/

4. Environmental Pollution

Department of Environment, Malaysia

Complaints Line: 03-8889 1972

Hotline: 1-800-88-2727

Email: aduan_k@doe.gov.my

Address: Level 2, Podium 3,
Lot 4G3, Precint 4,
62574 Putrajaya

Web: www.doe.gov.my/portal/



F.A.Q.s

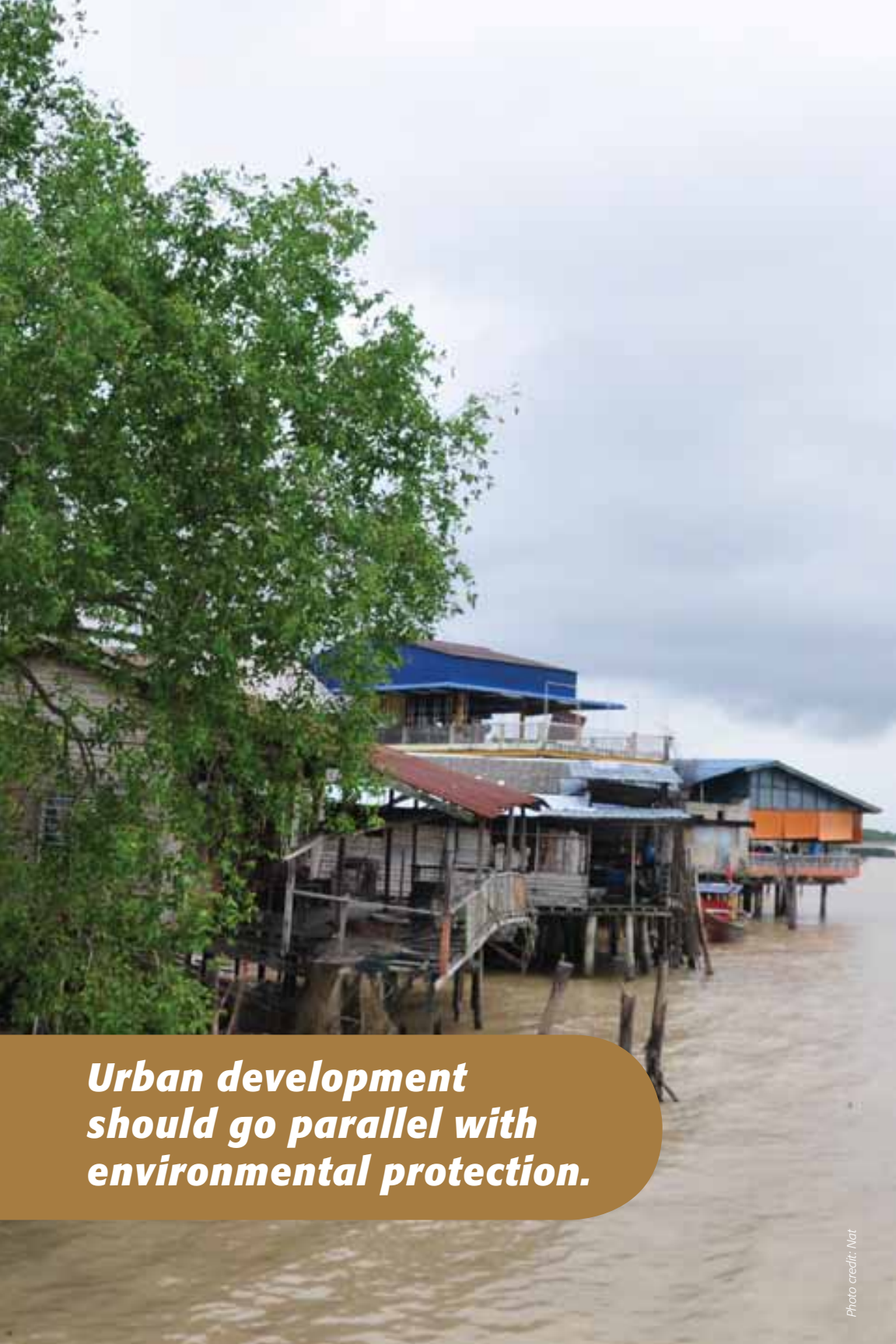
Is there an alternative to using logs/wood?

Currently, we have boards made of fiber and husk, and new paper technology that does not use wood for production.

Avoiding excessive consumption of forest products would help maintain sustainability.

For Complaints directed to State Offices, refer to the Section on *Forest Cover in Malaysia and Related Agencies*.

Contact your local newspapers by writing in through email, post or other means to the Editor or Newsdesk.



***Urban development
should go parallel with
environmental protection.***

SAMPLES OF OPEN FOREST CANOPY

LOGGING ON CONCESSION SITE FOR OIL PALM



AREA CLEARED FOR RUBBER PLANTATION



Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012



LOGGING AREA



Location: 5°29'31.63"N 102°03'09.24"E

TERRACING FOR PLANTATION



Location: 4°57'25.59"N 101°46'22.41"E

Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012

LAND CLEARED AND TERRACED



Location: 5°16'36.14"N 102°11'26.88"E

SAND MINING IN FOREST



Location: 2°25'28.03"N 102°21'3.36"E

Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012



DUMPING GROUND IN FOREST



Location: 2°17'36.14"N 102°08'32.41"E

VEGETABLE FARMING IN FOREST



Location: 4°33'32.50"N 101°23'07.54"E

Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012

LAND CLEARING IN WATER CATCHMENT AREA



Location: 5°31'27.17"N 101°25'56.29"E

LOGGING AREA



Location: 4°57'01.94"N 101°24'51.36"E

Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012



QUARRYING ACTIVITY IN FOREST



Location: 4°11'37.03"N 100°37'51.43"E

EARTH EXTRACTION



Location: 6°39'30.39"N 100°12'15.77"E

Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012

LAND CLEARING IN FOREST



Location: 5°15'40.33"N 102°52'18.90"E

RECOVERING LOGGED AREA



Location: 5°30'16.40"N 102°34'11.83"E

Note: All Samples of Open Forest Canopy are taken in 2012

Malaysia's rainforests are the glory of nature. However, millions of acres of the country's forests are disappearing due to logging, mining, industrial development, land grabbing, large dams and tourism. These activities are destroying indigenous peoples' lands and our rich biodiversity and pouring billions of tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

The country's rainforests have become a tool for political control, handed out to political allies and family members to maintain loyalty and enrich the powerful elites.

The forestry sector is globally recognised to be one of the areas that is most prone to graft. Among other things, it is threatened by bribery, a lack of access to accurate or credible information, and an absence of transparency around financial flows.



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