



CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE UTILIZATION OF FOREST GENETIC RESOURCES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



(An ITTO Funded Project)

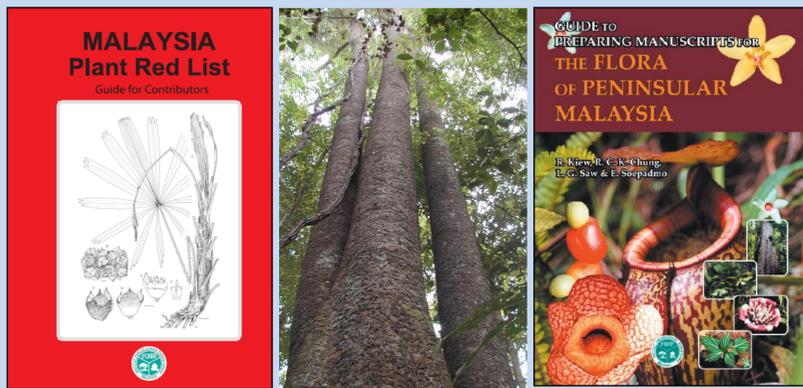
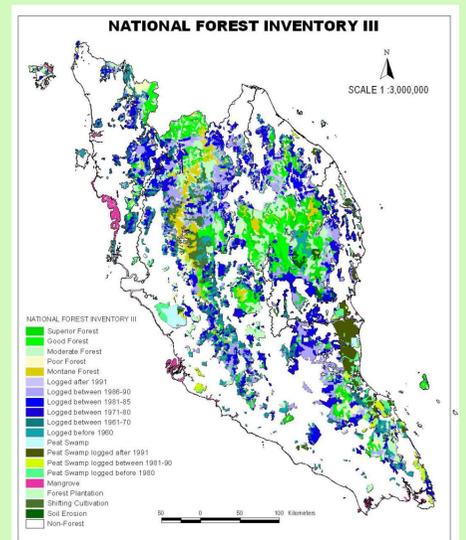
MALAYSIA

Current status and challenges

- Malaysia's rich and diverse tropical rainforests have been recognised internationally as a depository of megadiversity of both flora and fauna and act as a large storehouse of untapped genetic resources.
- These forests contain about 15,000 species of higher plants, 1,000 of vertebrates, >6,000 of butterflies and moths and 20-80 thousand of invertebrates.
- Forest cover estimated to be 18.35 million hectares (ha) or 55.9% of the total land area:
 - 10.81 million ha – Permanent Reserve Forests for sustainable utilisation,
 - 4.15 million ha – Totally Protected Areas,
 - 3.39 million ha – state or alienated land.
- Genetic diversity information of plant species is currently available for major timber species in the families of Dipterocarpaceae, Leguminosae and Thymelaeaceae.

Challenges

- Documentation, threat assessment and generation of genetic diversity information of Malaysia's vast forest genetic resources (FGRs).
- Integration of genetic diversity component in national biodiversity conservation plan.
- Balance between FGRs conservation and industrial/ agricultural production.
- Effective implementation and enforcement of policies and legislation.
- Participation of indigenous communities in FGR conservation debate and policy development.
- Research findings and policy-maker communication.
- Public awareness on the importance of FGR conservation.



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Linking the gaps between conservation research and conservation management of rare dipterocarps: A case study of *Shorea lumutensis*

Soon Leong Lee^{a,*}, Kevin K.S. Ng^a, Leng Guan Saw^a, Chai Ting Lee^a, Norwati Muhammad^a, Naoki Tani^b, Yoshihiko Tsumura^b, Jarkko Koskela^c

National priorities

- Documentation, threat assessment and generation of genetic diversity information of Malaysia's FGRs.
- Integration of genetic diversity component in national plant conservation strategies.
- Integration of genetic diversity component in forest rehabilitation and plantation programmes.
- Human resource development for FGR conservation.
- Involvement of indigenous communities in FGR conservation.
- Public awareness on the importance of FGR conservation.
- Linking the gaps between conservation research and conservation management of FRGs.
- Linking the gaps between researchers and policy makers on FGR conservation.
- Capitalise the strengths of biodiversity for commercialise discoveries in natural products.

Policy and institutional support

Policy & Legislation

- Article 74(2) of the Malaysia Constitution.
- Land Conservation Act 1960.
- National Forestry Council 1972.
- Protection of Wildlife Act 1972 (amended 1976 and 1988).
- Malaysian Timber Industry Board Act 1973.
- Environmental Quality Act 1974 (amended 1985).
- National Forestry Policy 1978 (revised 1992).
- National Parks Act 1980 (amended 1983).
- National Forestry Act 1984 (amended 1993).
- Malaysian Forestry Research and Development Board Act 1985.
- National Policy on Biological Diversity 1998.
- National Biotechnology Policy 2005.
- Biosafety Act 2007.
- International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008.

Institutional support

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment;
 Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities;
 Forest Departments of Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak;
 Forest Research Institute Malaysia;
 are the main agencies/institutions responsible for FGR conservation and sustainable utilization.



National Focal Point

Lee Soon Leong

Forest Research Institute Malaysia,
 Kepong, Malaysia
 Email: leesl@frim.gov.my

