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International Outlook for Privately Protected Areas

Country Report: MALAYSIA

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Introduction:

This country profile is part of a study by the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) summarizing the **legal, policy, and institutional mechanisms used to establish and incentivize privately protected areas (PPAs) in 30 understudied countries.**

PPAs contribute to the achievement of global conservation goals and biodiversity targets by contributing to landscape-scale conservation, connectivity and ecological-representativeness of protected areas.

For the purposes of this profile, an area is considered a PPA if it conforms to the definition agreed upon by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Generally speaking, a PPA's protection must be recognized and durable (with long term conservation intent); it must be governed by a private or non-governmental entity; and it must be governed and managed to meet the general conservation standards of a protected area (PA) as laid out by the IUCN.^{1,2} **Note: Alongside currently existing mechanisms in these countries, this study also references mechanisms that represent *potential opportunities for the creation of PPAs.***

The data in this profile is based on a 2018 desk review of law and policy documents, government reports, publications by multi-lateral organizations, scholarly literature, and other sources. For 28 of the 30 country profiles, data was reviewed by a volunteer in-country expert. We are grateful to these experts, whose names and the profiles they reviewed are listed in the appendix to the [International Outlook for Privately Protected Areas summary report](#).

Finally, this profile is intended to be a living document, which will be updated periodically as more information is submitted and time and resources allow. If you have a contribution, please contact the authors at landconservation@lincolninst.edu.

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¹ Mitchell, B.A., Stolton, S., Bezaury-Creel, J., Bingham, H.C., Cumming, T.L., Dudley, N., Fitzsimons, J.A., Malleret-King, D., Redford, K.H. and Solano, P. (2018). *Guidelines for privately protected areas*. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 29. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xii + 100pp.

² Dudley, N. (ed.) (2008). *Guidelines for Applying Protected Area Management Categories*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. x + 86pp. WITH Stolton, S., Shadie, P. and Dudley, N. (2013). *IUCN WCPA Best Practice Guidance on Recognising Protected Areas and Assigning Management Categories and Governance Types*, Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 21. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN

MALAYSIA

Outlook for Private Protected Areas

The ILCN and UNDP would like the following volunteers for reviewing this document for accuracy to the best of their ability.

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I. Country Overview

Land Area

The total land area of Malaysia is 32,855,000 hectares (ha), divided into two roughly even-sized regions: peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo. Of this, 7,839,000 ha (23.86 per cent) is in agriculture,³ and about 21,000,000 ha (54 per cent) is in forest cover.⁴ In 2005, a full 4,000,000 ha was being cultivated for palm oil alone, making Malaysia the second-largest producer of oil palm in the world, after Indonesia.⁵

Peninsular Malaysia is comprised of 11 states and three federal territories on the southern extent of the Indochinese Peninsula. Malaysian Borneo is made up of two states, Sabah and Sarawak, situated on the largest island in Southeast Asia, which Malaysia shares with Indonesia and Brunei. Sabah and Sarawak exercise a high degree of independence from the federal state in governing their land and natural resources, relative to the peninsular states. The small Federal Territory of Labuan is a separately-administered island off the Bornean coast.

Malaysia is considered a megadiverse country for its wealth of species and ecosystems. However, nearly half of plant species and a majority of animal species in Peninsular Malaysia are under some level of threat, as classified by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).⁶

Attempts to streamline protected areas management in Malaysia has been a challenging task due to the Malaysian Constitution, whereby land, forest, and most of the natural resources are under the direct jurisdiction of the state governments. There have been some early attempts to address this by a number of external assisted projects, especially after Malaysia signed and ratified the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) following the Earth Summit.⁷

³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2014. "Malaysia". Accessed June 2017. <http://www.fao.org/countryprofiles/index/en/?iso3=MYS>.

⁴ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Malaysia. 2014. Fifth National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity. P. 26. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/my/my-nr-05-en.pdf>.

⁵ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. 2018. "Malaysia - Gender and Land Rights Database." Accessed July 2017. http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/general-introduction/en/?country_iso3=MYS.

⁶ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia. 2016. National Policy on Biological Diversity, 2016-2025. P. 28. <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/my/my-nbsap-v2-en.pdf>.

⁷ DWNP-DANCED. 1996. Capacity Building and Strengthening of The Protected Areas System in Peninsular Malaysia: A Master Plan. *Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Kuala Lumpur*.

Land Ownership and Tenure

Land law in Malaysia was consolidated by the *1965 National Land Code*⁸, which applies to all states in Peninsular Malaysia (Sabah and Sarawak have their own land laws, and it is not mandatory for these two states to adopt decisions made under the National Land Council).⁹ Generally, the state owns all land until it alienates—i.e. sells or otherwise formally distributes—that land in a transaction. Once alienated, an individual may hold land in a freehold title and use, derive benefit from, and sell at their discretion (as long as they conform to the applicable regulations on how such land should be managed). Freehold land may be leased by one private entity to another, on terms that vary by case.

Rather than alienating land, the State may also choose to retain its ownership and allocate land by a lease up to 99 years renewable, which are functionally equivalent to full title.¹⁰ This results in a leasehold title for the individual.

Forests in the states of Peninsular Malaysia, are classified, per section 10 of the *National Forestry Act of 1984*, as one of 11 or more categories, depending on their purpose. The most common of these are *timber production forests under sustained yield*, which may be logged for a profit with government license.¹¹

Sarawak state land law is rooted in the *Sarawak Land Code of 1958*, and distinguishes between *native area land*, *native customary land*, *interior land*, and *mixed zone land*.¹² Sabah state land law derives from the *Sabah Land Ordinance of 1930*, which assigns all land as property of the State, but which can be used and inherited by landholders.¹³

Adat land, or customarily-managed land, is legitimated by the *Customary Tenure Enactment of 1909*. Adat land is held by communities, rather than individuals. The nature of Adat land varies regionally within Malaysia.

Protected Areas in Malaysia

The Federal Government, through the Ministry of Land, Water and Natural Resources (KATS; prior to July 2018 was known as Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment – NRE), has undertaken listing of protected areas in Malaysia under the Protected Area Masterlist. The first draft was prepared in 2015 and the second draft was prepared in 2018. Although not officially published, based on the 2018 list, there are 467 terrestrial protected areas encompassing 4.35 million ha of land areas (13.2 per cent of terrestrial area of Malaysia).¹⁴ This listing is based on conservation sites that are legally gazetted under specific federal or state legislation. (Note: The World Database on Protected Areas shows 6,347,400 ha of land – 19.12 per cent of the Country – protected.¹⁵ Differences between statistics may be due to differences in methodologies or out of date reporting).

⁸ Laws of Malaysia. Act 56, National Land Code 1965. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/mal5145.pdf>.

⁹ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2018.

¹⁰ Lee. G. B. 1994. Urban Land Management in Malaysia: An overview. *Asia Occasional Paper* No. 11. Urban Management Programme (UMP) Regional Office for Asia. Pathumthani, Thailand. Asian Institute of Technology. <http://www.serd.ait.ac.th/ump/op11.pdf>.

¹¹ Laws of Malaysia. Act 313, National Forestry Act 1984. <http://www.chm.frim.gov.my/getattachment/b3ef13c6-7e18-4fc8-b5b8-d2b3c008c6c4/National-Forestry-Act-313-1-.pdf.aspx>.

¹² Laws of Sarawak. 1958. Land Code (Chapter 81). <https://pengayau.files.wordpress.com/2012/04/sarawak-land-code-chapter-81-tmp.pdf>.

¹³ State of Sabah. 1930. Land Ordinance (Sabah Cap. 68). <http://www.lawnet.sabah.gov.my/Lawnet/SabahLaws/StateLaws/LandOrdinance.pdf>.

¹⁴ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. 2018. The Interim Master List of Protected Areas in Malaysia – A Tool for National Biodiversity Conservation Management and Planning. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

¹⁵ UNEP-WCMC. 2018. “Protected Area Profile for Malaysia from the World Database of Protected Areas.” Accessed September 2018. <https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/MYS>.

Malaysia does not have a uniform national protected area system.¹⁶ In Peninsular Malaysia, there are at least four major protected areas networks, managed by different government agencies. The different networks are governed by different laws with varying requirements and degrees of protection. At the federal level, the Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP) and the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) administer the protected areas where biodiversity conservation is the main objective.

On peninsular Malaysia, terrestrial protected areas fall into two broad categories: Wildlife Protection Areas and protection forests under Permanent Reserved Forests.¹⁷ Wildlife Protection Areas include National Parks, State Parks, Wildlife Reserves, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Nature Reserves and are established by the *National Parks Act 1980*,¹⁸ the *Wildlife Conservation Act 2010*,¹⁹ and the *National Land Code 1965* at the Federal level, and state level enactments. The *National Forestry Act of 1984* defines Permanent Reserve Forest and provides forest classifications for production and protection forests (section 10).²⁰ (Sabah and Sarawak have their own legislation around protected areas and wildlife conservation, which will not be covered further in this document.²¹)

II. Law and Policy for Private Land Conservation

Privately Protected Areas

There is no official definition for a privately protected area (PPA) under Malaysian national nor state laws. It follows that there is no formal registry for PPAs in the Country, nor a means by which a private landowner may otherwise enter their land into the protected area network of the Malaysia as officially recognized.

To address this gap and to comply with the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD), Malaysia, through KATS and with the technical assistance of UNDP-GEF PA Financing Project, has initiated a national policy for protected areas through the development of the draft *National Framework for Protected Areas* (NFPA) that is awaiting adoption. If the NFPA is adopted, it will provide an opportunity for Malaysia to not only inventory all existing protected areas, but to also recognize existing conservation areas as protected areas that are managed by non-governmental entities, including communities, NGOs, private sector, and individuals.²²

In the meantime, there are several options—both tested and untested—for landowners and other private entities interested in establishing a PPA through informal means. (In addition to those outlined below, there are voluntary conservation mechanisms that are more likely to create an “Other Effective Conservation Measure” (OECM; defined by the IUCN) and, thus, are not covered in this profile.)

¹⁶ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Malaysia, 2014. p. 32

¹⁷ Ibid. P. 33

¹⁸ Laws of Malaysia. Act 226, National Parks Act 1980. <http://www.agc.gov.my/agcportal/uploads/files/Publications/LOM/EN/Act%20226%20-%20National%20Parks%20Act%201980.pdf/>

¹⁹ Laws of Malaysia. Act 716, Wildlife Conservation Act 2010. <http://extwprlegs1.fao.org/docs/pdf/mal107883.pdf>.

²⁰ Laws of Malaysia. Act 313, National Forestry Act 1984.

²¹ Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Malaysia, 2014. p. 13

²² Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. 2017. National Framework for Protected Areas. Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Putrajaya, Malaysia.

Easements

Part 17 of the *National Land Code* defines an easement and delimits the rights that may be granted through an easement.²³ An easement is a right granted by one proprietor to another, allowing the latter to enjoy specified rights on the property of the former. The property on which rights are specified is the *servient land*; the property of the proprietor to whom rights are granted is the *dominant land*. The rights and restrictions that may be placed on the servient property include “any right that something should not be so done.”²⁴ Section 286.2 indicates that such a grant of rights may “be either in perpetuity or for any number of years,” while Section 287 confirms that the easement applies to the successor in title on the properties.

The easement may only be extinguished if it is released by the dominant proprietor, if the two parcels fall to the same owner, or if the presiding registrar deems the easement obsolete. Thus, the easement is generally binding on the servient property. The easement could be held or managed by such entities as private conservation organizations, local government councils, or specially-established trusts.²⁵

In 2014, under a UNDP-GEF protected areas financing project, KATS looked into the possibility of developing easements for conservation. A delegation led by the Secretary General of KATS (then NRE) had a working visit to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and US National Park Service (NPS) to look into easement practices in USA.²⁶ However, to the knowledge of this study, an easement for conservation purposes has not been used in Malaysia to date.

Direct Ownership

Because land may be held in freehold without a limit on amount or duration, it is possible to acquire land and protect it without formal recognition or an easement to ensure that protection continues in a long-term and systematic manner.

Lease

Just as it is possible to hold land in fee as an informal means of protecting it, it is also possible to lease land for conservation along the same lines that one might take to lease land for timber extraction. There is no legislation outlining one’s specific right to do so. However, the approach has succeeded on more than one occasion (see case studies). According to *Guidelines for Privately Protected Areas* (2018), released by the IUCN, “PPAs can be established on leased land, provided these are intended to be long-term and renewable.”²⁷ Therefore, depending on the terms of the contract, it is possible that conservation concessions may one day be recognized as PPAs.

Private Sector Involvement in PAs

Section 9 of the *National Parks Act, No. 226 of 1980*, entitled “Occupation of Land Within National Park,” specifies the only cases in which government land within a national park may be used or occupied by a

²³ Laws of Malaysia. Act 56, National Land Code 1965. Section 283.1.B.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Forever Sabah. 2015. Environmental Law and Policy in Sabah: From Ridge to Reef. Volume 2: Land. Forever Sabah: Malaysia.

²⁶ Personal Communication, Dr. Sivanathan Elagupillay, August 3, 2018.

²⁷ Mitchell, B.A., S. Stolton, J. Bezaury-Creel, H.C. Bingham, T.L. Cumming, N. Dudley, J.A. Fitzsimons, D. Malleret-King, K.H. Redford, and P. Solano. 2018. Guidelines for privately protected areas. Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No. 29. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. xii + 100pp.

private entity.²⁸ Section 11.1.Q of the same Act permits the presiding minister (now, the Minister of KATS) to make new regulations regarding the management of the park, which may include the contracting of private management.²⁹

There are some examples of NGOs assisting with the management of national parks in Malaysia, such as the case study of Malaysian Nature Society below. In such instances of shared governance, it depends on who ultimately has decision-making power whether the area, in fact, meets the requirements of a Privately Protected Area, as defined by the IUCN.³⁰

Environmental Protection Areas

In the state of Sabah, *environmental protection areas* (EPAs) may be decreed on land of any ownership type. An EPA is a totally protected area, in that this status is meant to be permanent, and as no resource extraction or other potentially-damaging activities are permitted on the site. According to section 11 of the *Environmental Protection Enactment of 2002*, the chairman of the Environmental Protection Council (a body established by the same act) may declare the land an EPA.³¹ To the knowledge of this study, no private entity has pursued the use of this legislation to create a PPA in Sabah.

National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD)

In 2016, Malaysia submitted their National Policy on Biological Diversity (NPBD) to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the period from 2016-2025. The NPBD has specific targets to recognize local communities and private stakeholders in the management of biodiversity resources and protected areas.³² The policy states that, “by 2025, the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society and the private sector to the conservation and sustainable utilization of biodiversity have increased significantly.”³³

To achieve this aim, the government plans to double the number of collaborative projects between the government and private or community entities and develop the National Framework for Protected Areas (NFPA) by 2018.³⁴ The government will also seek new policy and legal provisions by 2021 for private sector and community participation. The nature of these provisions goes largely unexplored in the NBSAP, though there is a clear imperative to “identify and provide incentives to the private sector to conserve and sustainably use of biodiversity” [sic].³⁵ The fulfillment of these goals will depend on stronger networking amongst conservation interests in the country and region. To this end, the NFPA commits Malaysia to building and maintaining “a register of civil society organizations at the national, subnational and local level” involved in conservation, and to hosting a National Biodiversity Roundtable.³⁶

III. Financial Incentives for Privately Protected Areas

To the knowledge of this study, the Malaysian government offers no direct or tax-based incentive to private entities pursuing land conservation. However, such incentives may be forthcoming (see above).

²⁸ Laws of Malaysia. Act 226, National Parks Act 1980. Section 9.1.

²⁹ Laws of Malaysia. Act 226, National Parks Act 1980. Section 11.1.Q.

³⁰ Mitchell, et al. 2018.

³¹ State of Sabah. Environmental Protection Enactment of 2002. Accessed online at <http://ww2.sabah.gov.my/ipas/laws/EPE/EPE02.pdf>

³² Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia, 2016.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

At present, the strongest financial instruments supporting private conservation efforts are voluntary, privately-managed mitigation banks (see case study). These include international markets for the trading of carbon credits, such as UN-REDD+.

UN-REDD Program

The UN-REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) program, which makes its payments through the support of foreign governments and through international markets for carbon credits, is one such potential source of funding for private land conservation efforts. Since 2011, both the federal government of Malaysia and the state of Sabah have engaged in REDD-readiness programs.³⁷ However, no official UN-REDD+ projects have launched in Malaysia to date.

IV. Organizations for Private Land Conservation

Government

- The Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia is a federal agency under KATS and is responsible for the coordination, planning, and management of forest resources, including the protection forest reserves through the respective State Governments and their State Forestry Departments.³⁸
- The Department of Wildlife and National Parks (DWNP/PERHILITAN; under KATS) Peninsular Malaysia, together with the state DWNPs, is the federal agency responsible for enforcement of the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 throughout Peninsular Malaysia and the management of national parks and wildlife reserves under federal jurisdiction.³⁹
- Some notable state agencies include:
 - o Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS) in Selangor, which has gazetted riverine and coastal conservation areas under the Selangor Water Management Authority (LUAS) Enactment 1999.
 - o Perak State Park Corporation, which is responsible for the enforcement of the State Park Corporation Enactment (Perak) 2001 and manages the state parks under this enactment.
 - o Johor National Parks Corporation (JNPC), which has gazetted national parks under the National Parks Corporation Enactment (Johore) 1989.
 - o Sabah Wildlife Department, which is an office of the state Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment, and is responsible for the conservation and protection of wildlife, management of wildlife reserves and sanctuaries, and monitors trade in wildlife and wildlife products in Sabah state.⁴⁰
 - o Sabah Parks, which is a statutory government body responsible for the management of terrestrial and marine parks in Sabah state.⁴¹
 - o Sabah Forestry Department, which is responsible for the management of forests, including protected forest reserves and the economic development of forest resources, in Sabah state.⁴²

³⁷ The REDD Desk. 2012. "National REDD-readiness in Malaysia." Accessed June 2017. <http://theredddesk.org/countries/initiatives/national-redd-readiness-malaysia>.

³⁸ See their website: <https://www.forestry.gov.my/index.php/en/>.

³⁹ See their website: <http://wildlife.gov.my/index.php/en/>.

⁴⁰ See their website: <http://www.wildlife.sabah.gov.my/>.

⁴¹ See their website: <http://www.sabahparks.org.my/>.

⁴² See their website: <http://www.forest.sabah.gov.my/>.

- The Forest Department Sarawak, which manages natural resources, protected areas (national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, nature reserves), and relevant legislation and ordinances in Sarawak state.⁴³

Non-governmental

- In Malaysian Borneo, the World Land Trust has partnered with French NGO HUTAN and local stakeholders to strategically acquire and maintain land for wildlife corridors in the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme (see case study).⁴⁴
- World Wildlife Fund Malaysia operates two programs, one each in Peninsular Malaysia and Malaysian Borneo (Sabah and Sarawak states).⁴⁵ WWF is the lead operating group on the Heart of Borneo Initiative (HoB), a trans-boundary effort to conserve the intact rainforest of central Borneo in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei.⁴⁶
- LEAP Spiral (Land Empowerment Animals People) is a non-profit that coordinates between international conservation interests and local stakeholders in Sabah. LEAP partners with WLT and HUTAN on the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme.⁴⁷
- Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) is the oldest environmental non-profit in Malaysia, founded in 1940. Multiple national parks in the country owe their existence to MNS, as the group has campaigned extensively to generate support for new government protected areas.⁴⁸ MNS is also collaborating with Selangor State Government to manage Kuala Selangor Nature Park.
- Malua Wildlife Conservation Bank (or Malua BioBank) sells Biodiversity Conservation Certificates, each denoting 100 square meters of protection and restoration in the Malua Forest Reserve.⁴⁹
- Conservation International (CI) runs a program in the Sulu-Sulawesi Sea region (shared by Malaysia, Indonesia, and the Philippines), supporting marine protected area management, sustainable fisheries, and coastal ecosystem rehabilitation.⁵⁰
- The Habitat Penang Hill partners is a for-profit rainforest discovery park situated partially within the Federal Hill Forest Reserve. A concession is paid to the Penang State Government and proceeds from the park are channeled to conservation initiatives of The Habitat Foundation.

V. Case Studies

Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme

In Sabah state in Malaysian Borneo, the World Land Trust (WLT) has partnered with French NGO HUTAN and local stakeholders on the Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Programme. The multi-phase project uses donated and fundraised dollars to directly acquire of several properties on 99-year lease terms, as allowed by the Sabah Land Ordinance.⁵¹ The land acquisitions are strategically planned and rooted in ecological science to ensure the maximum effectiveness of each property in protecting wildlife and habitat.

⁴³ See their website: <http://www.forestry.sarawak.gov.my/>.

⁴⁴ See their website: <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/malaysia> AND <http://www.hutan.org.my/about/>.

⁴⁵ See their website: <http://www.wwf.org.my/>.

⁴⁶ See their website: http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/borneo_forests/about_borneo_forests/hobstrategy/

⁴⁷ See their website: <https://www.leapspiral.org/>.

⁴⁸ See their website: <https://www.mns.my/>.

⁴⁹ See their website: <http://www.maluabank.com/>.

⁵⁰ See their website: <http://www.conservation.org/where/pages/sulu-sulawesi-seascape.aspx>.

⁵¹ World Land Trust. n.d. "Malaysia – Projects." Accessed July 2017. <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/projects/malaysia>.

Along the Kinabatangan River, a series of protected forests covering more than 30,000 hectares are increasingly fragmented by development, agriculture, and oil palm plantations. Three of the leaseholds made by WLT create direct, narrow corridors of forest to bridge some of the longest gaps between existing PAs.⁵² Though the three corridor properties total only 437 hectares, they are instrumental in supporting healthy genetic exchange between otherwise-isolated wildlife populations.

In 2017, WLT leased another four properties with a combined area of 13.2 hectares.⁵³ This most recent series of leases are intended to act as a buffer for the Pangi Virgin Jungle Reserve, part of the Kinabatangan River PA network. Whereas a corridor protects land to link habitats, a buffer provides a semi-protected zone that defrays the negative influence of surrounding development (termed the edge effects) on the core PA.

WLT and HUTAN cooperate with the Sabah Wildlife Department on the management of the leased areas and the government-controlled PAs. The operation employs about 50 local people in monitoring and non-extractive resource management.

Kuala Selangor Nature Park

Kuala Selangor Nature Park (KNSP) owes its existence to the combined efforts of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and the Asian Wetlands Bureau (now Wetlands International). In the 1980s, the two NGOs took notice of the mounting development pressure along the Selangor River in Selangor state; plans had been made to install a golf course on the site.⁵⁴ Recognizing the importance of the coastal mangrove swamp forest in the area, the groups entered negotiations with the government to acquire the land.

In 1987, rather than selling the land to MNS, the federal government of Malaysia gave the park official protected status and contracted MNS to manage the 240 ha area until further notice.⁵⁵ KNSP thereby became the first NGO-managed PA in Malaysia. KNSP includes a small lake and sections of secondary forest, and supports several conservation, tourism, and research facilities.

Thanks to its protected status, KNSP remains an important habitat for the Silvered Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus cristatus*), a firefly breeding ground, and a sanctuary for birds in migration. MNS is now seeking Ramsar recognition as a wetland of international importance.⁵⁶ Mangrove replanting programs aimed at protecting the estuary and at buffering local communities from storm surges have also gained traction. In 1998, the Milky Stork Captive Breeding & Reintroduction Program at KNSP began, becoming the first of its kind in the world.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ World Land Trust. 2017. "Saving Kinabatangan Appeal triples original target" Accessed July 2017. <http://www.worldlandtrust.org/news/2017/07/saving-kinabatangan-appeal-triples-original-target>.

⁵⁴ Asmawi, M. Zainora, Zainul Ariffin Abdul Aziz, and Hassan Abdulaziz. 2009. "Wetland Management of Kuala Selangor Nature Park, Malaysia". P. 10. http://irep.iium.edu.my/3336/1/wetland_zainora_120609.pdf.

⁵⁵ Ibid..

⁵⁶ Nathan, Yvonne T. 2016. "Sowing seeds of conservation to protect Kuala Selangor Nature Park." *The Star Online*, published March 31, 2016. www.thestar.com.my/metro/focus/2016/03/31/sowing-seeds-of-conservation-master-plan-set-to-protect-kuala-selangor-nature-park-and-serve-as-guid/.

*Vale Eco Center*⁵⁷

MNS is also partnering with Vale, a global mining company, on the Vale Eco center in Teluk Batik. The center is located at the entrance of the 715-acre Teluk Rubiah forest, which was set aside for preservation from Vale's 1,196 acres of land. The Teluk Rubiah forest is a coastal hill forest, rich in biodiversity. A 2014 scientific study found more than 100 plant, 125 bird, 28 dragonfly, and 3 primate species in the forest.

The Vale Eco Centre is part of Vale's Corporate Social Responsibility initiative and commitment to the socio-environmental sustainability of the area where it operates. The aim of the center is to serve as an educational platform for the local community, and the public at large, to learn, appreciate biodiversity and as a haven for natural wildlife at the Teluk Rubiah forest. Through an MOU, Vale works with the MNS to manage the center's operations.

*The Habitat Penang Hill*⁵⁸

The Habitat is a world-class ecotourism facility located on Penang Hill which overlooks the untouched rainforest of Penang Hill which extends all the way to Penang National Park in the northwest of Penang Island. In 2010, 20 acres of 2,288 ha Bukit Persekutuan Permanent Forest Reserve were put up for tender by Penang State Government as the site for an eco-tourism attraction. The founders of the Habitat, long time residents and nature lovers, were awarded the contract in 2010.

Since its launch in January 2016, The Habitat has developed a 1.6 km Nature Trail, a 230m Langur Way Canopy Walk, and the Curtis Crest Treetop Walk 800m above sea level. The Habitat also boasts an Aerial Trail comprising a network of zip-lines and canopy walkways. All development has been done with as little impact to nature as possible, and through this built infrastructure, The Habitat is enabling the public to gain a unique and affecting experience of the rainforest.

The Habitat Foundation was established as the sister organization of The Habitat Penang Hill in 2017 with the aim of contributing to research, conservation, environmental education, community initiatives and sustainable tourism. The Foundation supports ongoing research by conservation biologists and is current backing the nomination of the Penang Hill UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve. The eventual goal is for the two organizations to complement each other by generating a circular economy and a viable model for effectively managing a significant protected area while generating continuous funding for research and conservation via the Habitat's Rainforest Research Centre which is now in development.

⁵⁷ See their websites: <http://www.vale.com.my/vale-eco-centre-2/?lang=en/?&lang=en> AND <http://www.vale.com.my/promoting-environmental-education-and-conservation/?lang=en> AND <http://www.vale.com.my/vale-launches-vale-eco-centre-a-new-eco-tourism-hotspot-in-teluk-batik-lumut-perak/?lang=en>.

⁵⁸ This case study was provided by Justine Vaz, General Manager, The Habitat Foundation. Personal communication, September 4, 2018. See their website: <http://thehabitat.my/index.php>. The Habitat. 2018. 2018 Programme Summary.