

# CBD From The Perspective of Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia

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The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is an international legally binding treaty. The Convention has three main goals; conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity); sustainable use of its components; and fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

The Convention was opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro on 5 June 1992 and entered into force on 29 December 1993. To this date, 192 states and European Union are parties to the CBD. Malaysia has signed the treaty on 12 June 1992 and rectified on 24 June 1994. On 22 December 2010, the UN declared the period from 2011 to 2020 as the UN-Decade on Biodiversity.

There are two protocol which have been adopted by the Convention; Cartagena Protocol in 2000 and Nagoya Protocol in 2010. The Cartagena Protocol focuses on Biosafety. The protocol seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organism (LMO) resulting from modern biotechnology. The protocol came into force on 11 September 2003. It establishes as advance informed agreement (AIA) procedure to ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their territory – “a precautionary approach” as stipulated in Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to the Convention on Biological Diversity is an international agreement, a supplementary agreement to the Convention. Aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding, thereby contributing to the conservation of biological diversity and the sustainable use of its components.

Some of the many issues dealt with under the convention include:

- Measures and incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- Regulated access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge, including Prior Informed Consent of the party providing resources.

*Sharing, in a fair and equitable way, the results of research and development and the benefits arising from the commercial and other utilization of genetic resources with the Contracting Party providing such resources (governments and/or local communities that provided the traditional knowledge or biodiversity resources utilized).*

*Access to and transfer of technology, including biotechnology, to the governments and/or local communities that provided traditional knowledge and/or biodiversity resources.*

*Technical and scientific cooperation.*

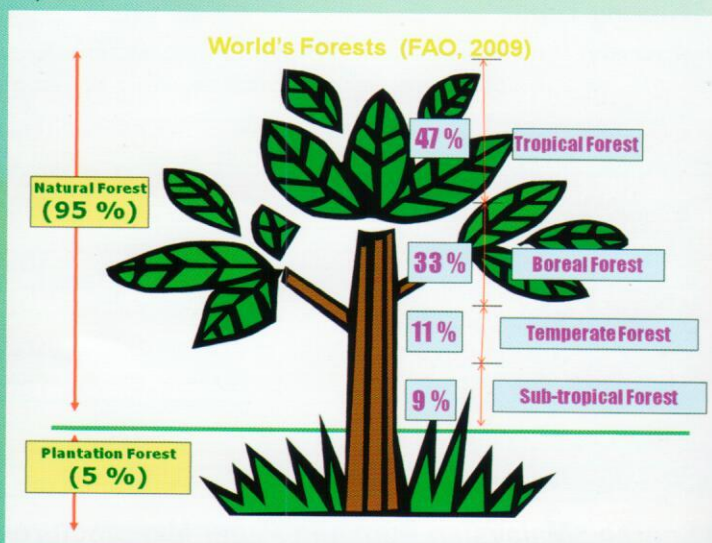
*Impact assessment.*

*Education and public awareness.*

*Provision of financial resources.*

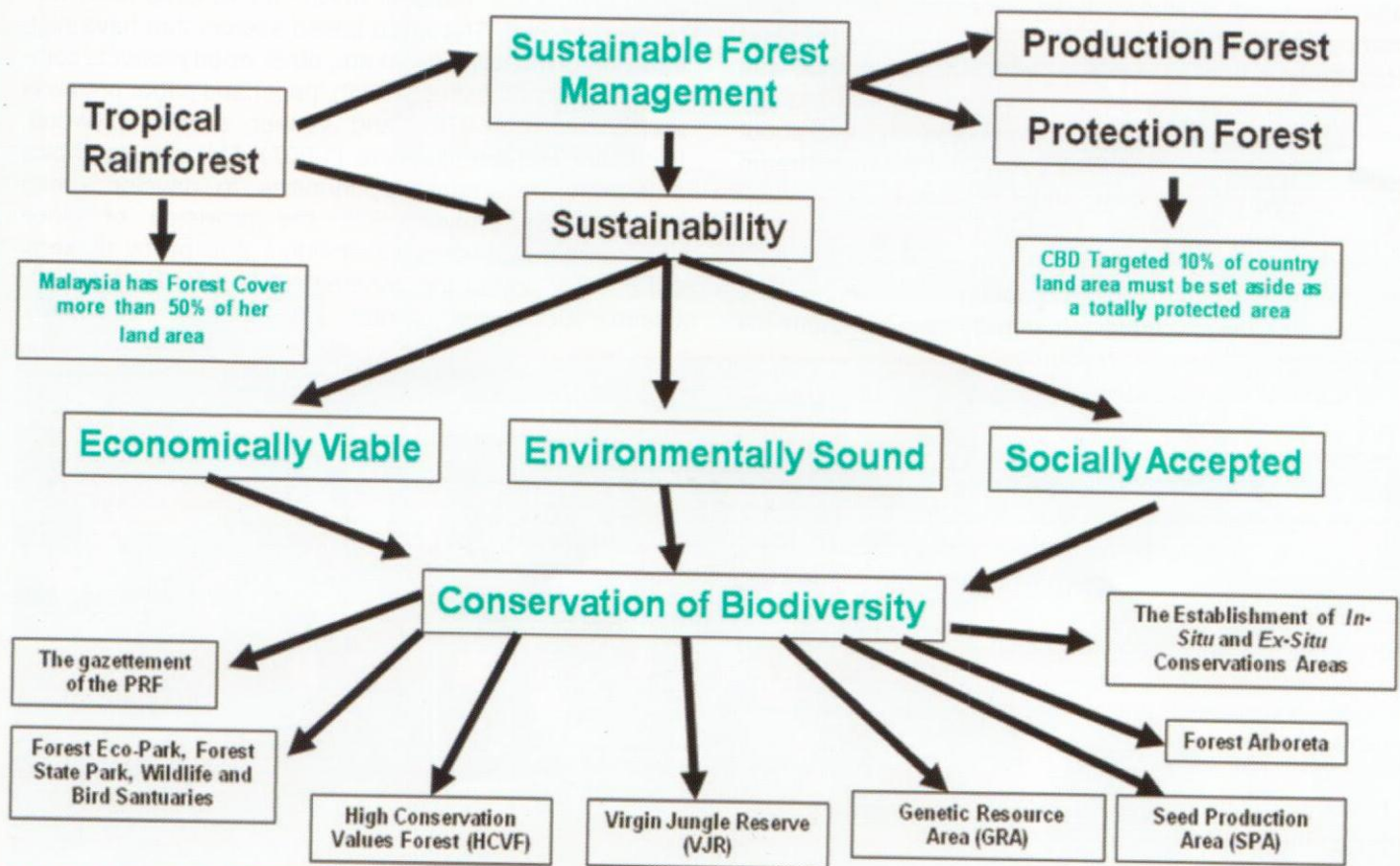
*National reporting on efforts to implement treaty commitments.*

As illustrated in below figure, tropical forest contributes 47 percent of the total natural forest coverage. Malaysia is one of the top 17 mega-diverse countries of the world. It has 56.4 percent of forest areas excluding forest plantation, oil palm, rubber, and cocoa and coconut plantation area.



In supporting to Cartagena and Nagoya protocol, Malaysia has implemented various policies to promote sustainable use of forest. National Forest Policy 1978 (Revised 1992) has two objectives; conserve and manage the nation's forest based on the principles of sustainable management; and Protect the environment as well as to conserve biological diversity, genetic resources, and to enhance research and education. Malaysia's National Policy on Bio-diversity, 1998 has six main trusts :-

- (i) To optimize economic benefits from sustainable utilization of the components of biological diversity,
- (ii) To ensure long-term food security for the nation,
- (iii) To maintain and improve environmental stability for proper functioning of ecological systems,
- (iv) To ensure preservation of the unique biological heritage of the nation for the benefit of present and future generation,
- (v) To enhance scientific and technological knowledge, and educational, social, cultural and aesthetic values of biological diversity; and
- (vi) To emphasize biosafety considerations in the development and application of biotechnology.



In the figure below illustrates the effort made by Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM) to successfully implement SFM. The main target of SFM is to conserve the biodiversity. There are a lot of programs undertaken aligned with the conservation of biodiversity.

Although the concerted effort will continuously takes place, there are ways forward in conserving biodiversity in Malaysia. There is a crucial need in improving the scientific base information. Research institutions and universities are very much encouraged to get involved in providing basic science information on Malaysia's biodiversity. Furthermore, there should be more platforms in exchange

of sustainable utilization of forest bio-diversity through strengthening and integrating forest conservation program and establishment of sustainable forest management and conservation funding mechanisms. It also could be enhanced by integrating forest bio-diversity consideration into sectoral planning strategies as well as enhancing skill, capabilities and competency in the sustainable forest management and conservation activities. On the other hand, there should be some medium of encouragement for wider private sector participation in sustainable forest management and conservation activities/programs. The public and institution awareness must reach at higher