



The Siput Kuning Journal

Nature Notes from both sides of the Indian Ocean



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2010

Kuala Lumpur's Urban Rainforests



The tranquility of a rainforest as epitomised here in the Sungai Kanching Waterfall, Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve north of Kuala Lumpur.

Imagine stepping into the shadows of a thick green forest canopy, feeling the cool, damp air as it flows into your lungs and tuning in to the rhythms of the forest: the chirping of birds, the hisses of insects, the fluttering of wind-caressed leaves; And yes, the barely audible humming and honking from the traffic in distant roads. A faint reminder of us still within the urban zone. Welcome to Kuala Lumpur- minus the city!



Soft, warm beams of rays shines upon Bukit Kiara's secondary forests at sunset.

It is hard to imagine that the Malaysian capital, despite facing the onslaught of large scale crop estates, extensive mining operations and of course, the continuing urban sprawl, still has some rainforest tracts in its vicinity. These remaining green lungs of the metropolitan region have been of great aesthetic and scientific values in recent years. The exponentially growing support of many KL urbanites in retaining these valuable assets is a testimony to their importance. What is more surprising is to consider that just decades ago, these same people used to think of the rainforests as nothing more than a bane to the city, an obstacle that must be removed in the pursuit of modernisation. So what made KL's forests such an enviable feature of the city for the people?

ABOUT THE BLOGGER



JK

A young nature-lover aspiring to be a malacologist. Inspired by the amazing

biodiversity of tropical rainforests and coral reefs (snails, clams and slugs in particular); Intrigued by the fields of paleontology, geology and many other fields that suffix with "-logy"; Motivated by the never ending discoveries of nature and the ecology within. Traveled extensively around Southeast Asia & beyond. This blog showcases snapshots of my discoveries, explorations, views and admiration of the intricacies in molluscs and nature while on the journey towards achieving my childhood dream.

[View my complete profile](#)

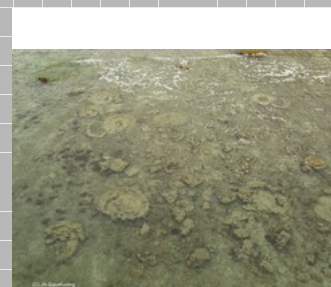
WHAT'S IN A (BLOG'S) NAME?

[The Story Behind SiputKuning.com](#)

I SUPPORT



MY FLICKR PHOTOSTREAM



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Some of the wildlife typical of KL's secondary forests include the native long tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*) and introduced species such as the Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) and Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) as seen here in Bukit Kiara.

Perhaps, it is because of the fact that they are located in one of the world's biodiversity hotspot and the sad irony of their imminent destruction by nondiscriminatory urban sprawl. Or is it because of the increasing appreciation brought by visiting foreigners? After all, it is no surprise to find that many KL visitors often quoted the uniqueness of this modern capital juxtaposed with evergreen hills of tropical rainforests.

Or probably KL urbanites have come to terms with the importance of sustainable development which cares for the present and future generation economically, environmentally and socially?



A view of the majestic Bukit Tabur Quartz Ridge in Selangor State Park.

Either way, one thing is for sure: With "infrastructural development" high on the agenda of city planners and the die-hard old-school thinking of "environmental blitz" in the name of progress, these precious tracts of remnant forests are at the mercy of bulldozers and chainsaws. To add salt to the wound, urban sprawl has since spilled beyond the city's boundaries into the surroundings, resulting in a continuous tract of build-up area dotted with remnants of secondary rainforests and abandoned plantations.

Thus, it would be best for us to reflect on what is at stake in each of Kuala Lumpur's last bastions of tropical biodiversity:

CENTRAL REGION

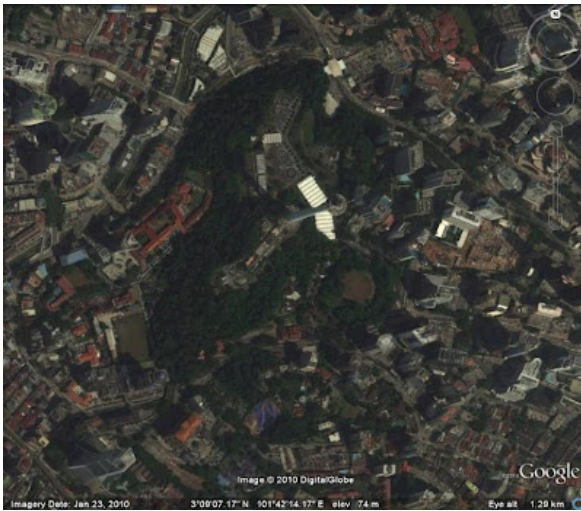
FOLLOWERS

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Visitors

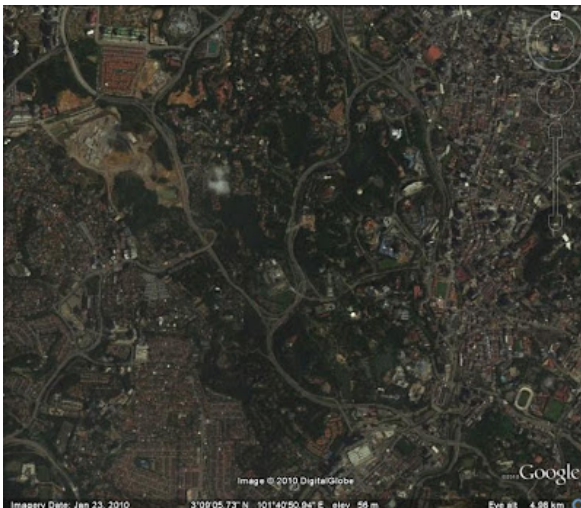
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8,328	8
1,243	8
1,112	8
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981	8
874	7
691	7
657	7
592	6
510	6
466	6
373	6
336	6
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332	6
331	5
327	5
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298	4
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FLAG counter



Bukit Nanas Forest Reserve

Probably the only natural tropical rainforest in the heart of the city (literally!), this tiny 0.11 kilometres square (11 hectare) patch of vegetation holds a surprising number of large trees and some common forest wildlife including macaques and some forest birds. Fortunately, everlasting interest expressed by past city planners as well as today's tourists and locals have made it into an economic asset worthy for protection and thus, gazetted as a Forest Reserve in 1909. This forest might also be of great scientific value as it provides a perfect field for studying the effects of urbanisation around an isolated patch of tropical rainforest.



Bukit Tunku-Taman Tasik Perdana-Bukit Persekutuan

The region bounded by this three hill areas has plenty of old secondary forest that are very photogenic and unique to Kuala Lumpur. It is the only area in the city centre where rainforest vegetation fringe the highways and is aesthetically pleasing to the passerby and local residents too. Hence, the highly sought-after residences within the area and is probably one of the factors that explains why there has not been plans to clear the forests for high density development to date. Although fragmented in nature, these forests have served as the only available habitat for native wildlife for miles in the metropolitan area. The headquarters of the Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) is located here and has an educational forest trail for visitors to experience the highly accessible rainforest.

NORTHERN REGION



SIPUTKUNING'S PICKS



Freshwater Gastropods of North America
The SNHHTICACBW Marstonia 5: scalariformis - Our modern understanding of the North American hydrobiid genus *Marstonia* is entirely to the credit of two men, as similar as they were different, Dr. F...
4 weeks ago



wild shores of singapore
Four-clam day at Cyrene with signs of dugong - On the last morning super low tide of the year, we return to our favourite shore! [image: Knobbly sea star (Protoreaster nodosus)] We survey the eastern sho...
1 month ago



ARGO
Reasons to do Pool Painting in Sydney at any Times - Surge the Decoration - The demands to enjoy a pool in the summer are more so you make your pool areas attractive and shiny by hiring the Painting

ARCHIVE

- ▶ 2008 (2)
- ▶ 2009 (11)
- ▼ 2010 (8)
 - ▶ 01/17 - 01/24 (1)
 - ▶ 02/14 - 02/21 (2)
 - ▶ 04/18 - 04/25 (1)
 - ▶ 06/06 - 06/13 (1)
 - ▶ 10/03 - 10/10 (1)
 - ▼ 11/14 - 11/21 (1)
 - [Kuala Lumpur's Urban Rainforests](#)

- ▶ 11/21 - 11/28 (1)
- ▶ 2011 (4)
- ▶ 2012 (2)

LABELS

- [About my blog](#) (1)
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- [Bukit Panching](#) (2)
- [Bukit Sagu](#) (2)
- [Bukit Tenggek](#) (2)
- [Cambodia](#) (1)
- [China](#) (1)
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- [geology](#) (6)



Gombak Region Forested Hills

Hills such as these are often left forested as their steep slopes are deemed unfit for urban development. Although some of them are orchards or rubber estates many years ago, continuous succession of the forest structure has made them indistinguishable from old secondary or even primary rainforests. Recent reports have shown that they are important stopover points for migrating bird life and this has attracted many birdwatchers to the hill peaks especially during months of northern hemispheric autumn (mid September to November) and spring (mid February to April). Unfortunately, at the same time, proposals to destroy the forest for high density residential development have emerged, enraging growing circles of local residents in support of the hills' protection. Here is the official webpage of the petition to save one of the hills, Bukit Melawati: <http://www.savetamanmelawatihill.com/home.html>



Batu Caves

Literally an ecological island in a sea of buildings, this is the only limestone outcrop that is surrounded by the city. It is one of the important assets of KL covering cultural values (it being the location of the famous Batu Caves Sri Mahamariamman Hindu Temple), recreational values (Batu Caves is the prime location for rock climbing, caving and other speleological activities in Kuala Lumpur) and scientific values (with a dozen endemic species of flora and fauna including snails and cave insects as well as the rare Kambing Gurun or the Sumatran Serow, *Capricornis sumatraensis*). The geological massif is threatened by limestone quarries and pollution effects due to its proximity to build-up areas.

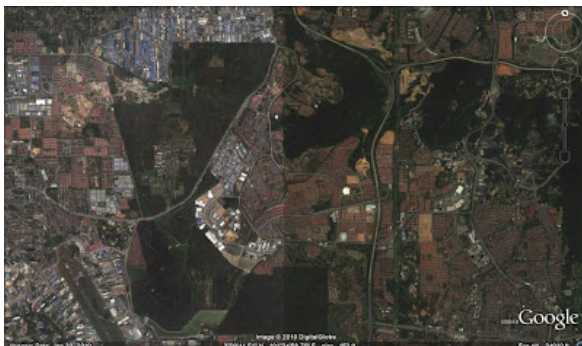
Company in Sydney. They know how... 2 years ago	Gopeng (1)
	Johor (1)
	Kinta Valley (6)
B	Krahi (2)
A Snail's Eye View Bound for South Australia - Coming soon! 4 years ago	Kuala Lumpur (1)
	landsnails (9)
	limestone hills (10)
	mangroves (2)
	marine life (5)
B	marine shells (3)
COLOURFUL CLOUDS I Shall Wait For You..... - to come out again, Mr/Ms Mantis Shrimp..... And true enough, patience paid off and here's he/she peeking out of his/her hole! More of the Mantis Shrimp and... 8 years ago	Matang (2)
	nature (15)
	nudibranchs (1)
	Pahang (2)
	Perak (7)
	Perlis (1)
	Phuket (1)
	Port Dickson (1)
	Pulau Perhentian (1)
	rainforests (3)
	Sabah (3)
B	Selangor (2)
Aristotle's Lantern Qu'est-ce que c'est? ANSWERED! - 8 years ago	Shell museum (1)
	Sipadan (2)
	Terengganu (1)
	Thailand (3)
B	Urban Forests (1)
Pengerang Sea Shore Sungai Rengit: What and where to Eat. Yummy! - Today is Halloween. In my own culture, it is never part of our 'habit' to celebrate this event. But in my adopted country, this is big! The children are lo... 9 years ago	wildlife (11)
	MALAYSIAN TERRESTRIAL MOLLUSCS REFERENCE DATABASE
	The Terrestrial Gastropods of Sabah (North Borneo)
	Bornean Terrestrial Molluscs
	Malay Peninsular Terrestrial Molluscs
B	ON THE CONSERVATION FRONT
Blog Geologi Malaysia Skala Masa Geologi 2012 - 9 years ago	InfraWatch Southeast Asia
W	RIMBA Forest Research Blog
WETECOL Melaleuca Swamp, A Seasonal Freshwater Swamp on Dune Landscape of Terengganu, Malaysia - Article ID: 2013-07-22-wetecol *Jamilah, MS* & Muhammad Razali Salam Coastal Biodiversity and Conservation Research Group Department of	Turtle Conservation Centre-Malaysia
	MOLLUSCAN BLOGOSPHERE
	A Snail's Eye View
	Adventures in Spineless Science
	Argonauta.com
	Arqueomalacologia (Iberian Archaeomalacology)
	Arts Science of Nature



Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve and Kanching Forest Reserve

This large tract of semi-continuous low altitude hill forests contains two of the three limestone outcrops of Klang Valley, Bukit Takun and Anak Bukit Takun (the other being Batu Caves), and has potential of harbouring many endemic species as is the case for most karstic formations. Nearby, a multi-tiered waterfall in the Kanching Forest Reserve receives high visiting numbers by locals and foreigners alike while Bukit Lagong is home to the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM). Some endemic species found so far includes the reintroduced endangered plant *Begonia aequilateralis* in FRIM, diterocarp tree *Hopea subalata* in Kanching Forest Reserve and *Lipthistius batuensis* in Gunung Anak Takun.

WESTERN REGION



Sungai Buloh Forest Reserve (currently RRM and Kota Damansara Community Forest),

Bukit Lanjan and Bukit Kiara (from left to right)

Sungai Buloh Forest Reserve, being established in 1898, is the oldest forest reserve in Malaysia. Unfortunately, much of the 16.18 km square (1618 hectares) of rainforests have dwindled to a mere 3.47 km squares (347 hectares). The large block of greenery on the left of this image is a monoculture of para rubber trees operated by the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (RRIM) and thus, not really of significant biodiversity importance. The sole remnant secondary forest is Kota Damansara Community Forest on the centre-left of this picture. This piece of forest is the focal point of forest stewardship in the city. For the past decade, residents of this region have formed committees and societies to garner support for the protection of the remaining secondary forest. The gazetting of Kota Damansara's forest as a community-managed forest conservation and education park as well as its endorsement by international agency- Global Environment Facility (GEF), is the hallmark of success in the Malaysian public's awareness of the country's biodiversity importance. Here's Kota Damansara Community Forest' official website: (<http://kd.communityforest.net/>)

Biological
Scien...
9 years ago



SNAIL'S TALES

Bootleg
transactions of
the 15th MAM
meeting - The
15th meeting of
the Mid-Atlantic
Malacologists
took place
yesterday at the
Delaware
Museum of
Natural History
(DMNH) in
Wilmington,
Delaware. I
counted...
9 years ago



Muticaria

Publications -
update 4 - The
ariophantid
*Hemiplecta
belerang* sp.
nov. from South
Sumatra is
described in this
paper. It is
compared with its
closest
congeners, from
which it is g...
9 years ago



Dreaming of Pandora Forest

Run Wildlife Run!
- Snakes! Tigers!
Lizards!
Pangolins!
Bears! Calling all
wildlife in the
forest! Run for
your lives! For
the wildlife
Kingpin is freed -
again... Old
habits ...
10 years ago



FishiLeaks | Dispatches from the Undersea Realm

The Sea Hare
Cometh - I pick
my way along the
beach The sky is
blue, the tide is
out, Exposed
pools glitter;
down I reach To
touch a sea hare
on the snout.* - *
(Perhaps it's
not...
11 years ago



Karst Naturalist

About terrestrial
snail of Borneo -
Borneo is totally
smaller than

Bram's Snail Site
Catherine Dupont's
Archaeo-
malacology blog

Circus of The
Spineless
Freshwater
Gsatropods of
North America
Geology Malaysia

Igor Gutierrez
Zugasti's
Arqueomalacologia
blog

Instituto Portugues
de Malacologia
(IPM)

Karst Naturalist

Land Snails and
Slugs of
Pennsylvania and
New York

Land Snails
Ecuador

Malacological
Society of
Australasia

Malaysia Triassic

Multicaria

Reuben Clements

Seashell Hub

Snail's Tales

Snails and Slugs

Snails Rock Blog

The Shell and
Mantle

FRIENDS OF
KOTA
DAMANSARA



MALAYSIAN
NATURE SOCIETY



THE MARINE LIFE
BLOGOSPHERE

Aristotle Lantern

BlogFish

Chai's Marine Life
Blog

Colourful Clouds

Coral Reef Alliance

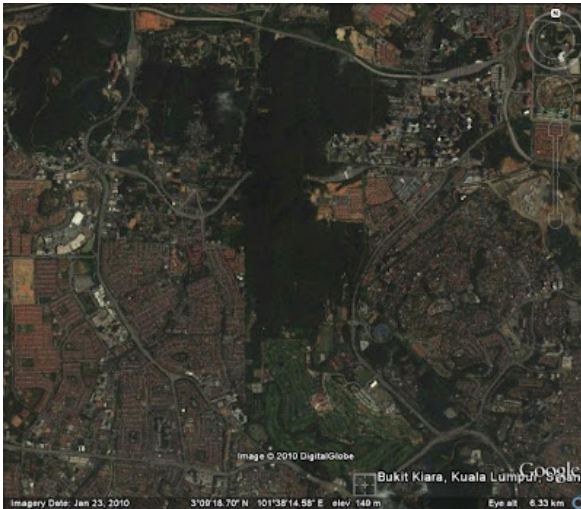
Echinoblog

FishiLeaks



Bukit Lanjan

An indigenous reserve, it is among the few remaining wildlife refuge in the northern Petaling district. It has an economic potential to be developed as an educational and research field by the indigenous (mostly Temuan tribe) residents to attract locals and tourists and guarantee a steady flow of income and social benefits to these low-income communities. Sadly, the forest are threatened by hill slope development as lowlands have already been occupied by buildings.



Bukit Kiara

Bukit Kiara, meanwhile, has been enjoying very high visitor numbers by local and expatriate residents on a daily basis for its well-developed forest park concept and facilities provision. It is also a well-known venue for mountain biking too, as reflected by the many regional and national biking competitions held within the park's forest trails. In terms of forest structure, it is a rubber estate-turned-secondary forest. Surprisingly, it still holds many native flora and even a resident troop of long-tailed macaques (*Macaca fascicularis*). Unfortunately, the entire park is set to be cleared for landscape and development into an artificially constructed large garden park (<http://www.bu6wawasan.com.my/content/view/592/1/>); while the southern portion of the hill has been cleared to make way for a golf course.



Rimba Ilmu, University Malaysia

This is geographically a southern extension of Bukit Kiara. It is within the grounds of University Malaysia and is an educational forest set up for public use

India or Australia, but very rich with biodiversity. I am interested on terrestrial snail fauna especially the micro-terres...
12 years ago



Malaysian Triassic Blog
Formasi Trias Malaysia - litologi, biofasies, korelasi dan kedudukan tektonostratigrafi - Semenanjung Malaysia mempunyai dua formasi Trias yang utama iaitu Formasi Semantan dan Formasi Kaling (diperkenalkan oleh Jaafar Ahmad, 1976) dan dua biofa...
12 years ago



Chai's Marine Life Blog
Sydney snorkel - Little Bay - 19 October 2009
After the not-so-satisfying snorkeling experience at Bare Island in the morning, I went snorkeling at Little Bay in the afternoon and had a...
12 years ago



OCEAN DIVERS (Scuba Diving Malaysia)
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!! - Ocean divers welcome you to scuba diving in Malaysia.
13 years ago



The Reef Ecosystem through my lenses...
The Coral Reef Ecosystem - This is a short article written on coral reef ecosystem for EKOMAR coffee table book (:). "Coral reef ecosystem is the most diverse ecosystem in the sea. It...
14 years ago

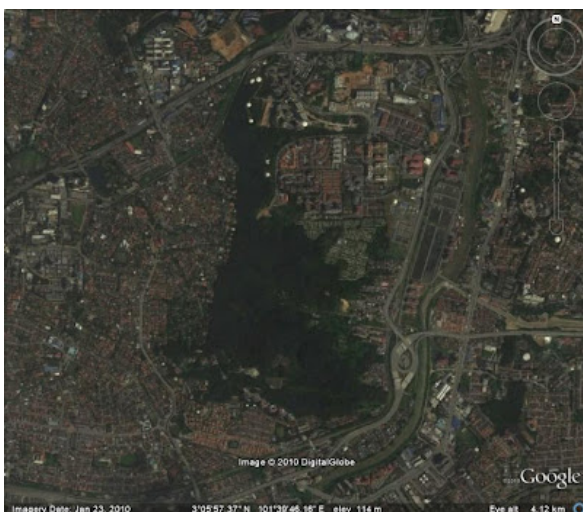
[Foraminifera - the blog of foraminifera.eu](#)
[Malaysia Diving Community](#)
[Ocean Divers](#)
[Project AWARE](#)
[Sarawak Dolphin Project](#)
[Save Our Seahorses-Malaysia](#)
[The Aquatic Community](#)
[The Fish Directory](#)
[The Other 95 %](#)
[The Right Blue](#)

MORE NATURE WEBSITE AND BLOG LINKS

[Alamendah's Blog](#)
[ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity](#)
[Biodiversity A to Z](#)
[Brunei Nature Society](#)
[Cempaka Nature, Agriculture and Environment](#)
[Conservation International](#)
[Esotisekitarku Blog](#)
[Foto Biodiversitas Indonesia](#)
[Info Karst dan Gua Mogabay](#)
[Monyet Daun Indonesia](#)
[Pulau Hantu nature blog](#)
[Pulau Ubin Stories](#)
[Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research](#)
[Siam Insect-Zoo & Museum](#)
[Siamensis.org-Thailand Nature website](#)
[Singapore Snakes](#)
[The annotated budak](#)
[The Life You \(And I\) Never Knew](#)
[Urban Forest](#)
[Wild Shores of Singapore](#)
[Wild Singapore](#)
[WWF International](#)

and university research purposes, thus safely protected from any urban development so far. It also houses the university's herbarium which contains 1600 species of tropical flora. It is popular among locals and tourists who wanted to get a quick glimpse of the rainforest and its floral wealth. Here's the website of Rimba Ilmu:

(<http://rimba.um.edu.my/>)



Bukit Gasing

Another green lung that has captured the interest and enthusiasm of the local population, this regenerating secondary forest serves not just as a wildlife refuge but also a recreational area that has experienced increased popularity beyond the surrounding communities and even among foreigners. As in the case of its northern neighbours, Bukit Kiara and Bukit Lanjan, this cherished piece of greenery is disappearing fast due to development of apartments on its eastern portion (which is under Kuala Lumpur's jurisdiction). The only hope left is the western portion of the hill which is declared a protected educational forest for the community by the state government of Selangor. This blog features the environmentalism movement of the Bukit Gasing Community: (<http://savebukitgasing.wordpress.com/>)



Ayer Hitam Forest Reserve

Yet another forest that faces the same scenario as those above, Ayer Hitam is unique in its crucial role for forest-based research conducted by the nearby University Putra Malaysia. It is also one of the largest remaining forest completely surrounded by urban functions, thus it houses a great deal of wildlife and plantlife representative of the Klang Valley's extremely rare lowland forests. Furthermore, a study has indicated that there is 33 endemic and 30 new records out of 319 species of trees surveyed in just a 5 hectares plot. Mammals that are reported to inhabit this 12.48 km square (1248 hectares) rainforest includes rats, squirrels, rarely seen moonrats (*Echinosorex gymnurus*) and the charismatic Slow Loris (*Nycticedus coucang*). The Orang Asli (Indigenous people) of the Temuan tribe frequents the forest for its natural products while local residents often conduct hiking trips there as well. The biggest threat facing this forest is the rapid deforestation for residential zone expansion although it is unlikely that the entire forest will be destroyed anytime soon as the forest has been leased to the university for the next 64 years.

Jungle Mike's Site

Sarawak Lens



A Naturalist in Asia

SOME MALAYSIAN NATURE WEBSITE & BLOGS

[A Wandering Naturalist](#)

[Ari Nature Photography](#)

[Ben's Slice of Life](#)

[Birders of Sabah Borneo Island](#)

[Birds and Nature Photography Blog](#)

[Bornean Clouded Leopard Program](#)

[Borneensis Valley-Borneo](#)

[Bukit Gasing](#)

[Caves of Malaysia](#)

[Centre for Insect Systematics UKM](#)

[Diary of A Small Hiker](#)

[Dreaming of Pandora Forest](#)

[Eco-Malaysia](#)

[Forest Research Institute Malaysia](#)

[Friends of Bukit Gasing](#)

[Friends of Kota Damansara](#)

[Friends of Mangroves](#)

[Green Selipar](#)

[Hort Log](#)

[JasnJohn](#)

[Johor Biodiversity Database](#)

[Jungle Trekking in Puchong](#)

[Keats The Sunshine Girl](#)

[Langkawi Mangrove Species Database](#)

[Malaysia Trekking](#)

[Malaysian Fungi Blog](#)

[Malaysian Karst Society](#)

[Malaysian Nature Society](#)

[Malaysian Nature Society-Johor Branch](#)

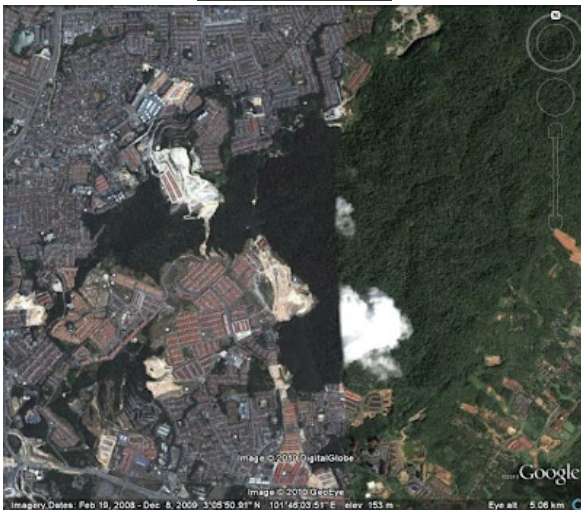
[Malaysian Nature Society-Kuching Branch](#)



Saujana Utama-Bukit Cahya, Shah Alam

These forests are important water-shed areas but seemed to have experienced extensive urban and agricultural developments in recent years that are encroaching towards the reservoirs within the forests. This is particularly pronounced in the southern portion belonging to Bukit Cahya and the north-eastern portion. Ironically, Bukit Cahya is home to the Malaysian Agricultural Park and has parts of it featuring the forest itself. However, there is only a small pool of local residents who voiced out their concerns and enthusiasm about the forest, rendering it harder to conserve the region's shrinking forests.

EASTERN REGION



Cheras Region Forested Hills

The Cheras geography is characterised by majestic green hills and a large, unbroken chain of forested mountains in its backdrop. This area has been, like most other rainforests in KL, the weekend haunts of many local residents. Hills such as Bukit Permai and Bukit Putih (Apek Hill) features several very popular waterfalls and trekking trails and has attracted hoards of people from all across Kuala Lumpur. However, foreign tourists have not frequented the area to date. Although no research has been conducted in its forest so far, it definitely holds some mammalian megafauna such as wild boars and macaques as anecdotal and photographic evidence have provided for years. Again, the disregard of local residents as important stakeholders when developing the hills have resulted in conflict and concerns for the safety of the hill slopes.

- [Malaysian Nature Society-Miri Branch](#)
- [Malaysian Nature Tracker](#)
- [Malaysian Spiders](#)
- [Meng Chwen Blog](#)
- [My Birding Field Trips](#)
- [My Rainforest Adventures](#)
- [Naturalist in Asia](#)
- [Nature and Culture with Kim Chye and Yian](#)
- [Nature Eye](#)
- [Nature Eye](#)
- [Nature Malaysia](#)
- [Nature Malaysiana](#)
- [Northern Malaysia Natural Heritage](#)
- [Not Just Odonata](#)
- [Of North Borneo Birds and Others](#)
- [Pak Teh Speaks-Malesian Biodiversity](#)
- [Pengerang Sea Shore](#)
- [Planet of the Monyets](#)
- [Rachel's Monkey Mission](#)
- [Rainforest Journal](#)
- [Sarawak Fireflies](#)
- [Sarawak Lens](#)
- [Selangor State Park](#)
- [Shah's Ramblings](#)
- [The Malayan Tiger](#)
- [Tung Kin Foong's Blog](#)
- [Watercolours Dive Centre Blog](#)
- [Waterfalls of Malaysia](#)
- [Wetland Ecologist](#)
- [WWF-Malaysia](#)

VISITOR TRAFFIC



Ampang Region Forested Hills

Another region of similar geography as Cheras, this area also features some waterfalls and are as popular as those in Cheras. But the most important feature of this part of the city is the frequent occurrence of landslides ranging from minor to fatal. Perhaps the two most well known are the Bukit Antarabangsa 1999 landslide and the Taman Bukit Mewah landslide.

(Link to a satellite picture comparison of the landslide of

2008: <http://www.crisp.nus.edu.sg/coverages/landslide20081206/index.html>)

They are grim reminders of the disasters caused by inconsiderate development on geologically unstable hills.



Central section of Selangor State Park. Note the linear Bukit Tabur Quartz Ridge and the Klang Gates Reservoir visible at the bottom left corner of this image.

Selangor State Park

One of the most distinctive features that dominates the landscape of eastern Kuala Lumpur, the Bukit Tabur Quartz Ridge is located within this new state park. This ridge is made entirely of quartz crystals and is said to be the longest of its kind in the world. Hence, efforts have been made to include it as a UNESCO World Heritage Zone. Along with the intact forests that dominate behind the ridge, forming the catchment area of the Klang Gates Reservoir, this park serves as the source of KL's drinking water and is home to many rare and endemic flora especially along the ridge. Given its proximity from the capital, effort has been taken to attract tourists. It is currently a favourite weekend haunt for locals particularly along the Quartz Ridge and the various waterfalls.

Sadly, there is a danger that parts of the ridge may collapse as hill cutting and deforestation on its slopes continues unabated. Moreover, ad hoc plans to destroy parts of the ridge to make way for roads and buildings often surfaces to the anger of the public. Here is the link to their official blog: (<http://selangorstatepark.blogspot.com/>)

The above list of forest are but the tip of an iceberg of significant areas worthy of preservation in KL and its surroundings. There are many more smaller but equally interesting tracts of forest remnants scattered across the city. All these forests face the same issue of encroachment and destruction and ought to be saved in view of its

economic, social and even political benefits that could be gained from such a move.



*The rare and relatively unknown ground dwelling plant, *Thismia* sp., is usually described as habitat specific and sensitive to disturbance, hence only found in primary rainforests. However, the surprising discovery of it living in the Bukit Lagong Forest Reserve have shown that Kuala Lumpur's rainforests, however small and isolated, are important reserves for tropical species including rare and endemic ones.*

Already, modern cities across the world are setting aside and creating tracts of important habitats as wildlife refuges and for recreational and educational purposes. Some examples include Australia's Adelaide's Urban Forest Programme, Brazil's Sao Paulo City Greenbelt Biosphere Reserve and Canada's Ottawa Greenbelt. (Check out this link for more information: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_belt) It is almost an unstated rule of thumb that cities should integrate with its environment and not the other way around.

Of course, this must also be accompanied by responsibly planned urban development that seeks to control urban sprawl if the forest were to remain untouched by developers.

Malaysia and its capital's economy are largely build upon by the natural bounty of the land. Kuala Lumpur will not be as modern and developed as in the vision and hopes of the Malaysian people if little or no acknowledgment of the importance of biodiversity is given in the form of the provision of wildlife refugia.

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority."

~Elwyn Brooks White, Essays of E.B. White, 1977.

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Posted by JK at [4:59 AM](#)



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6 comments:



Monyet King said...

Excellent entry. Very informative.
November 18, 2010 at 4:52 AM



JK said...

Thanks, Monkey King! You've got an enviable blog too- I'm tempted to say that it's among the best and most vocal of the Malaysian environmentalism movement to date! :)
November 18, 2010 at 6:59 PM



Dreamer said...

Good of you to compile all of these. Many thanks for highlighting these and in fact, how many of Klang valley-sapiens will be aware of the future of the green belts. I can only point my fingers to the ever increasing population growth and the demand for space. Add on (greed as well). How to slow down population growth??
November 20, 2010 at 7:31 AM



JK said...

Indeed rapid population growth is the primary factor that drives uncontrolled urban sprawl in Klang Valley. But slowing down the growth can be a tricky issue.

More realistically, city planners should allocate reasonable number of nature reserves and wildlife-corridors (ie Native tree corridors) to connect the reserves to each other and the main forest block up in the highlands/outskirts of the city.

This is not actually a weighty burden for the city planners. Much to the contrary, existing forests in the city and roadside greenbelts can be integrated into such a scheme.

What's more, they can be used for recreational purposes (free of charge) as in the existing KL forests and is an important economic asset that could raise the land prices of neighbourhoods by a considerable amount. This is reflected by the daily newspaper advertising of prime residential locations nestled in rainforest surrounds.

Other methods in urban planning include consolidating (increasing population density) residential zones and redeveloping un-used (non-forested) or underused lands in the city.

All these are viable as far as KL is concerned. The only factor that stands between a developed, modern metropolitan and a rundown, mismanaged city is political will.

November 20, 2010 at 9:36 PM



WWL said...

Great post. I am very familiar with many of these places. particularly Puchong forest and Bukit Cherakah. This and Bukit Cherakah still have many big trees.

February 6, 2011 at 8:00 PM



JK said...

Thank you for your concern, mate!

February 7, 2011 at 7:52 PM

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