

THE MNS BELUM-TEMENGOR CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



A Presentation By:
Malaysian Nature Society
(MNS)

Kanitha Krishnasamy
Senior Conservation Officer, Policy

policy@mns.org.my



Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)

MNS Mission: To promote the study, appreciation, conservation and protection of Malaysia's natural heritage.

- ❑ Established in 1940
- ❑ The oldest, largest, membership -based non-governmental conservation organisation in Malaysia
- ❑ 11 branches across the country, run by elected branch committees, also voluntary, with more than 4,000 members



MNS – Our Focal Areas

□ Conservation

- Document, protect and manage Malaysia's natural heritage
- Conservation policy and advocacy
- Sustainable use of Malaysia's natural heritage

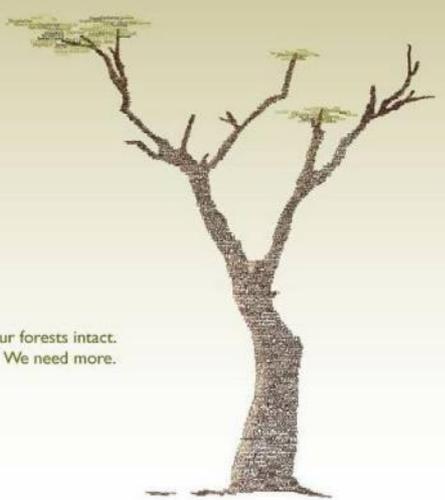
□ Education & Public Awareness

- Educating Malaysians
- Establish and Manage Parks (6 currently)

MNS Belum-Temengor Conservation Initiative



- ❑ **OBJECTIVE: to protect this last significant landscape scale reserve**
- ❑ 6 month Postcard Campaign in 2006
- ❑ 80,000 postcards received, and handed-over to previous Perak Menteri Besar
- ❑ Positive response and liaison with Perak State and the Federal Ministry of Natural Resources & Environment



Every name helps keep our forests intact.
We need more.



Belum Temengor is the last significant remnant of our unprotected rainforest landscape. I strongly urge the Perak State Government to stop logging old growth forests in Temengor and safeguard it for future generations. Intact forests can only increase in value as years pass, but logging strips us of our national heritage.

Signature _____

Name _____

IC No. _____

Address _____

www.mns.org.my | Postcard distributed by Malaysian Nature Society

YAB Dato' Seri DiRaja Mohammad
Tajol Rosli Mohd Ghazali
Menteri Besar Perak Darul Ridzuan

Pejabat Menteri Besar Perak
Aras 2, Bangunan Setiausaha Kerajaan
Ipoh 30000 Perak



Why Temengor?

Why do we need the Temengor Forest Reserve to be included as a protected area when the Royal Belum State Park is already to be set aside as a protected area?



Why Temengor?

- ❑ to protect this last significant landscape scale reserve
- ❑ to protect the corridor along the East West highway from Acacia plantation
- ❑ to encourage the federal and state governments to take responsibility for wise natural resource management



Why Temengor?

1. Keeping our future options open

- Largest remaining tract of unprotected forest landscape in Peninsular Malaysia
- Such a huge protected area could become a World Heritage Site, in conjunction with transboundary Thailand, and other Perak forests
- An irreplaceable asset delivering free environmental services that would exorbitantly expensive for the state to provide or replace

Why Temengor?

2. To prevent extinction of Malaysia's mega-fauna

- Key nature tourism attraction
- Our large mammals are all declining at alarming rates – some face extinction in the near future



Why Temengor?

3. Because it has the best populations of hornbills in all of Malaysia

- All ten species of Malaysia's hornbill; unlike anywhere else in the world.
- The largest known concentration of hornbills in a single area, globally



The effect of logging on hornbill populations may be catastrophic

- ❑ Surveys made clear that hornbill diversity was higher in unlogged areas compared to logged. There were more hornbills and more species in unlogged forest than logged forest
- ❑ Rhinoceros, Helmeted, Bushy-crested, Wreathed, Wrinkled and White-crowned Hornbills were encountered more frequently in unlogged forest.

Why Temenggor?

4. Because it is classified as as **ESA Rank 1** under the **National Physical Plan**

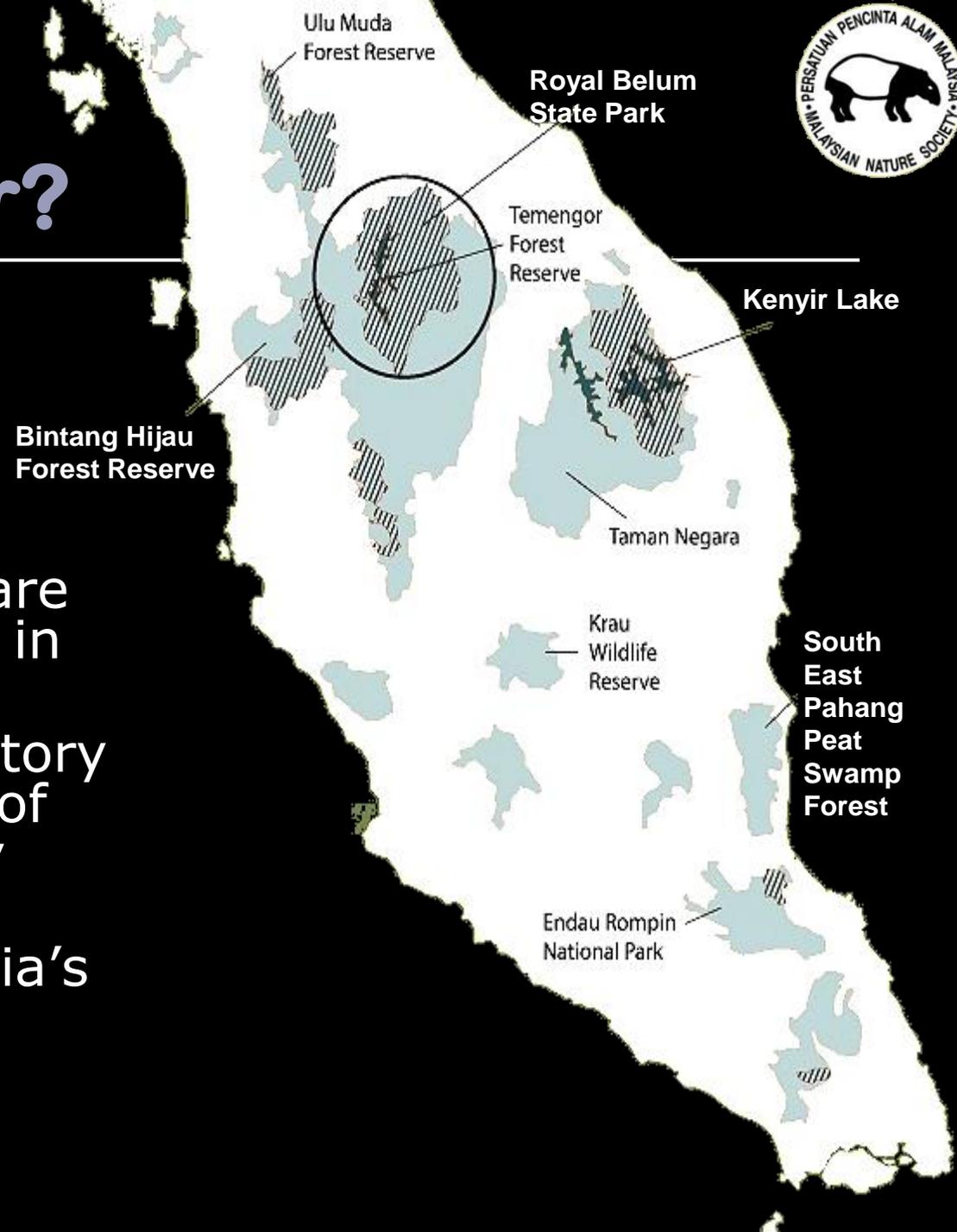
- Implement national policy and planning document



Why Temengor?

5. To create a Protected Areas network

- All of these areas are not connected and in isolation.
- Malaysia is a signatory to the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD)
- In line with Malaysia's National Policy on Biodiversity



Why Temengor?

6. Because it protects the heritage and livelihoods of the indigenous communities

- An estimate of 10,000 indigenous people are known to live within the BT area.





What is happening in Belum-Temengor?



© MNS



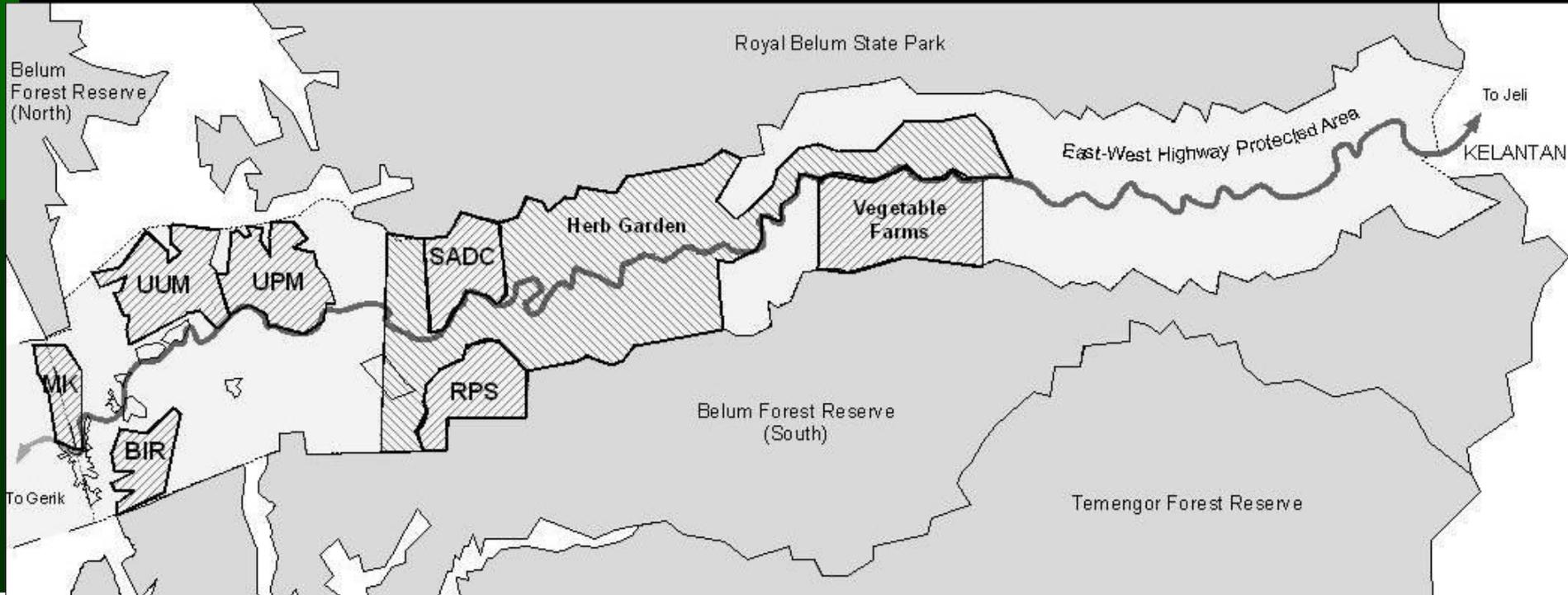
© MNS

What is happening: Fragmentation

- **Plans by the state government along the East-West Highway:**
 - The proposed 2km wide corridor of planting and other developments along the East – West Highway will seriously damage forest integrity, isolating Royal Belum and threatening many species.



Fragmentation



- BIR – Belum Island Resort on the northwest side of Pulau Besar
- Herb Garden – “Tanaman Herba” 4383.14 ha (District Local Plan)
- MK – EMKAY Group (Belum Rainforest Resort Sdn Bhd) on the north side of Pulau Banding
- RPS – Air Banun Aboriginal Regroupment Scheme (oil palm or rubber plantation)
- SADC – Perak State Development Corporation (oil palm plantation)
- UPM – Universiti Putra Malaysia (Biodiversity Research Campus)
- UUM – Universiti Utara Malaysia (Branch Campus)
- Vegetable Farms – Department of Agriculture (Flowers and Highland Vegetable Farms) at Pucak Baring



Other Plans and Proposals

- ❑ **Agriculture:** FELDA Bersia Timur Rubber Plantation , oil palm plantations (north of Highway near RPS Banun), national food plantation by Dept of Agriculture, aquaculture projects
- ❑ **Resorts:** EMKAY, Belum Island Resort, Aman Group
- ❑ **Petrol pipeline:** 312 km pipeline from Yan-Bachok, by Transpen
- ❑ **University Campuses:** USM, UUM Branch, UUM agricultural training centre



Fragmentation - Other Linear Developments

- ❑ NCER Masterplan mentions upgrading the present highway to create the “Gerik-Jeli Link” (may involve widening the existing road or creating an entirely new alignment).
- ❑ High-speed railway from Penang to Kelantan (mentioned in the NPP despite the fact that the NPP zones the area as an ESA1 important for wildlife movement).
- ❑ Kelantan government has been recently advocating for the railway (or a new highway) to be included under the East Coast Economic Region (ECER) masterplan.

Address Fragmentation



- ❑ Too many confusing and conflicting plans outline development plans along the East-West Highway
- ❑ Re-evaluate plans on the proposed gas pipeline along the East-West highway
- ❑ Roads, pipelines or other physical development split these large areas into smaller pieces, thus cutting into animal territory that can lead to more frequent encounters with people

Address Fragmentation



- ❑ An immediate freeze on development in the area pending a comprehensive review of the environmental impacts of the various proposals.
- ❑ A strategic environmental impact assessment should be carried out to determine the cumulative impact of the various developments planned.
- ❑ An integrated management plan should be developed taking into account the environmental provisions of the NPP, Structure and Local Plans.



Address Fragmentation



Corridors through the proposed plantation would allow for the migration of animals and plants between Belum & Temengor

Crossings over and under the highway would be a unique Ecotourism opportunity

What is happening: Fragmentation

□ Logging

- Inconsistency: Perak Structure Plan identifies Temengor as ESA Rank 2 (allowing logging), a contradiction with the NPP
- Current logging practices do not meet national regulations, let alone international standards



Fragmentation - Logging

- Based on state statistics, Perak gains an average of RM 30 million annually from logging revenues (premiums, royalty, cess etc)
- Temengor represents 17% of the total PFE in the state
- With 3% of the Temengor Production Forest being logged, the total PFE in Perak makes loss to the logging industry manageable

What are we talking about?

TEMENGOR FOREST RESERVE		Total Area (ha)
Production Forest		79 117
Logging in 1970s	43 482	
Concession	14 593	
Others	10 058	
KUP 2006 (960ha)		
KUP 2005 (6 075ha)		
KUP 2004 (3 158ha)		
Protection Forest		86 189
Forest above 1000m	61 516	
MNS Expedition Site	4 578	
Lake Buffer Zone	2 130	
'Wildlife Forest'	364	
TOTAL		147 705



MNS proposes:

300,000 hectares of PROTECTED rainforest that is an interdependent ecosystem



MNS advocates:

- ❑ Stop the issuance of new licenses in Temengor and assess the compliance of present logging practice - Non-compliances with national laws and regulations
- ❑ All logging to cease in Temengor because of its huge value as a protected
- ❑ Identify High Conservation Valued areas within the Temengor Forest Area to guarantee the long term survival of BTs many flagship species
- ❑ Retain the highway corridor as natural forest and develop natural crossings for megafauna



Proposed collaboration with the Perak State Government on:

- ❑ Landuse and landuse planning
- ❑ Sustainable planning and management of natural resources
- ❑ Biodiversity Conservation
- ❑ Continued Sustainable Financing
- ❑ Long-term benefits to the state and subsequently to the country (from the economic and conservation angles).

Why MNS?

- ❑ Has a track record of two scientific expeditions in '93 and '98, and continued commitment in the BT area.

- ❑ Have been involved in protected area management and establishment:
 - Endau- Rompin National park
 - Taman Negara National Park
 - Kuala Selangor Nature park
 - Pantai Aceh National Park



Why MNS

- MNS commitment and support to Perak in other areas in the state:
 - Ulu-Geroh
 - Temengor: Hornbill Project
 - Belum : Ministry of Tourism project
 - Ecopro-EU
 - Total approximately RM 7million

- Have the opportunity to advocate and solicit for funds and smart partnerships

Conclusion

- ❑ Reiterate that the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex must be protected in its entirety
- ❑ Plans along the East-West highway must be reevaluated immediately to minimise/mitigate negative impacts
- ❑ Reevaluate logging plans in Temengor Forest Reserve
- ❑ MNS stands committed to support the Perak Government to achieve the above

THANK YOU



www.mns.org.my