



Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

Like all countries, Malaysia has had to grapple with environmental degradation issues. Urban-based economic growth has led to increased potential for pollution of the environment. The principles of sustainable development have progressively been integrated into national development plans and policy making in Malaysia. Malaysia is also an active participant in reviewing environmental issues at the regional and international level and has ratified most major multilateral environmental agreements

The total land area for Malaysia is about 33 million hectares of which 19.5 million hectares or 59.5% of the total land area are under forest cover. Out of the 19.5 million hectares, 14.3 million hectares are gazetted as Permanent Reserve Forests and are managed under the Forestry Department of each state.

Crude oil and petroleum products, which provided about 53% of the total energy supply in 2000, are predicted to grow at 6.3 % per year during the Eighth Malaysia Plan period (2001–2005). Natural gas, which contributed 37%, is projected to grow by 8.8% per annum. By 2005, the contribution of crude oil and petroleum products is anticipated to decline to 50.9%, while natural gas and coal are expected to increase to 39.9% and 5.9% respectively. Similarly, the use of renewable energy is expected to be intensified.

Increased access to improved water sources has been a powerful factor in improving health and reducing the spread of infectious diseases in Malaysia, especially among rural communities. As water supply coverage has increased amongst rural population, the incidence of cholera, typhoid, and dysentery has fallen markedly.

The government has been actively promoting environmental sanitation to improve the health status of the population since the 1970s. Almost the entire urban population has been supplied with reticulated sewerage systems and septic tanks by local authorities. In rural areas, sanitary latrines had been provided for 99% of the population by 2000 compared to just 83% in 1990.¹

QUICK FACTS

CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:	\$110,104,950
Total UNDP and Co-Finance:	\$1,749,700
Total MPU and Bilateral:	\$4,483,245
Total:	\$116,337,895

Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out: 2,949.2 ODP tonnes

SPOTLIGHT



Land Rights, Cultural Protection and Poverty Reduction²

Over the past several decades, destructive logging has caused the loss of a third of the tropical forest cover in Asia, inhibiting species survival and threatening the existence of indigenous communities. Previous attempts to defend land rights and prevent illegal logging enterprises from inflicting further degradation have done little to protect these vital habitats.

In the Malaysian state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo, the Uma Bawang Resident's Association (UBRA) represents a community of under 100 people that successfully used blockades, and now innovative mapping efforts, to defend customary land rights. Since UBRA's first Geographic Information System mapping workshop in 1995, other communities increasingly use this technique to defend their borders and traditional lands legally, in court. The Association also helps communities learn a wide variety of skills that provide cash income, including communal rice farming and milling, pig-rearing, hand-crafts marketing, growing pepper and fruit trees, and developing sustainable teakwood plantations. Projects supported by UBRA provide incomes without endangering forest resources and are complemented by work in reforestation and restoration of damaged forest lands. Since 1992, the Association has planted 4,000 tree seedlings in degraded areas, with an average of 200 fruit trees planted per family.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts for poverty reduction and biodiversity conservation, UNDP's Equator Initiative awarded UBRA with a US\$ 30,000 grant in 2002. UBRA has used the grant to build and expand a community centre, enlarging the reforestation project area, restoring and replanting indigenous tree species, as well as other valuable non-timber products within the communal rehabilitation forest area. Other future initiatives include a revolving fund to assist women's craft activities, short-term cash cropping, inter-community activities, project maintenance and a contingency fund for publications, communication and campaigning.

In Malaysia, UNDP works together with the Government and other partners in developing, co-funding and implementing projects that will contribute to attaining MDG 7, in particular in striking a balance between environment concerns and development priorities. UNDP Malaysia also works on outreach on environmental issues, which aims to create greater awareness among the Malaysian public on sustainable development.³ "UNDP Malaysia's focus on improved environmental management among indigenous communities is improving their livelihood and helping them better realise their human rights."



Richard Leete, Resident Representative

PORTFOLIO

ENERGY

Innovative approaches to ensure access to sustainable energy services have been adopted in Malaysia, UNDP has assisted the country in developing several projects to build capacity and remove barriers in utilizing palm oil biomass waste for grid-connected power generation and co-generation in palm oil mills. In addition, to build capacity and remove barriers to efficient energy use in the wood, food, glass, pulp & paper, cement, rubber, iron & steel and ceramic sectors, and to develop Malaysia's Initial Communication and report to the UNFCCC.

LAND

UNDP, in partnership with Japanese government is assisting Malaysia with a focus on the transfer of selective breeding technology for aquaculture improvement from Asia to Sub-Saharan Africa and Egypt.

BIODIVERSITY

Malaysia has made important steps in Biodiversity conservation. Based on its success in developing policy on highlands development in Peninsular Malaysia, UNDP is extending the programme to include the Sabah and Sarawak highlands. Danida and the Government of Netherlands are partnering with the GEF and UNDP in developing and implementing management plans to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of globally significant genetic species and ecosystem diversity and to strengthen institutional and human technical capacities and raise awareness on the importance and values of peat swamp forest and biodiversity.

CHEMICALS

Significant impact has been achieved towards Malaysia's compliance with MP obligations through the capacity development assistance UNDP is providing with MLF funding. Institutional strengthening support has made possible national coordination of ozone-related initiatives and relevant policy development. Furthermore, technical assistance is being provided to install alternatives and phase-out all remaining non-QPS uses of methyl bromide, while the aerosol sector benefits from an umbrella project with direct impact towards ODS phase-out in small and medium size enterprises. This project will result in completion of ODS phase-out in the aerosol sector for Malaysia.



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PARTNERS

Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Malaysia

DANIDA
 Government of The Netherlands
 Government of Japan

³MDGR 2005 http://www.undp.org.my/cms_undp/document/MDG7.pdf; Field, M., "Community Plans for the use of Equator Prize 2002"; UNDP, 2003; UNDP, "Equator Prize 2002 Winners Announced"; UNDP, 2002; http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/secondary/awards_winners.htm#five and EquatorNet Newsletter, UNDP, 2002; <http://www.undp.org/equatorinitiative/EquatorNet/malaysiaPage.htm#S2002>.
⁴http://www.undp.org.my/undp_in_malaysia/undp_in_malaysia_prog/energy_environment.asp