

MALAYSIA

Strengthening non-state actor involvement in forest governance



CAPACITY BUILDING



The project team participated in a total of 24 online webinars/video conferences/ forum etc., organised by governmental agencies and NGOs.

INCREASED TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFO



MNS has been elected as NGO expert to sit in Department of Environment (DOE) Review Panel to the Term of Reference (TOR) for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and EIA report.

SUSTAINABLE AND INFORMED NETWORKS



MNS, together with six (6) other NGOs, formed a new network, the Coalition for the Protection of Selangor's Forest. The coalition aims to address civil society responses to the proposed degazettement of Kuala Langat North Forest Reserve (KLNFR).

INFORMED AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION



MNS conducted a 2-day ground campaign to gather objection letters against the degazettement of KLNFR.

The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has impacted major project delivery and workplan from March until June 2020, due to the Malaysian government imposing the Movement Control Order (MCO) and the Registrar of Societies Malaysia (ROS) temporary banning all society activities until 30th June 2020. However, the **Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)** continued to monitor forest activities and advocate for good forest governance & non-state actor participation at Central Forest Spine (CFS) and Heart of Borneo, especially at Belum-Temengor Forest Complex (BTFC). Works were mostly done remotely.

Outcome 1: Capacity Building

- Project team participated in a total of 24 online webinars/videos conferences/ forum etc., addressing topics on forum governance; forest certification; forest conservation; protected area management; EIAs; terrestrial ecosystem; climate change; forest and landscape restoration; IBA; Ulu Muda Forest; Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) etc.
- 10 MNS representatives (5F, 5M) participated in the Carbon Stock Measurement Webinar (25th June). MNS also shared training expectation in the webinar.

Outcome 2: Increased transparency and access to information

- MNS developed targeted communication/talks with important stakeholders to share information on BTFC, IBA and Malaysia's Important Hornbill Landscapes linked to Central Forest Spine.
- Two (2) maps showing Totally Protected Areas (TPA) and forest reserves in Peninsular Malaysia were produced.
- MNS contributed in one (1) TOR on the EIA for proposed projects; five (5) EIAs on proposed projects; and two (2) on RSPO Certification, relating to forest governance and management.
- Two (2) press releases (ie. MNS Sabah Branch support the Sabah's commitment towards 30% TPA forests by 2025; and MNS Terengganu Branch express disappointment to the degazettement of most of the Belara Forest Reserve), were released and captured by local mainstream media.
- MNS Terengganu Branch also shared their disappointment to the Belara Forest Reserve degazettement in a national radio interview at BFM89.9.
- The 'Birds of Belum-Temengor Forest Complex, Perak State, Peninsular Malaysia: An Overview of Ornithological Research, Checklist & Selected Bibliography', reflecting the health of the forest, was published.
- Balu Perumal (Project lead) was invited to speak in one (1) online forum, sharing MNS experiences as non-state actors in forest governance.
- MNS continued to organised one (1) Tapir Talks which discussed on current status of biodiversity in Malaysia, addressing to terrestrial forest landscape and limestone hill and mountain. Approximately 100 attendees participated in the virtual event.

Outcome 3: Sustainable and informed networks

- The 'Coalition for the Protection of Selangor's Forests' was formed; firstly, to address civil society responses to the proposed degazettement of KLNFR. The coalition is made up of 7 NGOs, namely MNS, GEC, TrEES, SAM, COAC, GRASS Malaysia and KUASA.
- MNS had five (5) cooperative engagements with governmental agencies on forest governance management and conservation issues, ie. one (1) meeting on National Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure; one (1) consultation session on Forestry Policy of Malaysia and Forestry Policy of Peninsular Malaysia; one (1) Focus Group Discussion on review of CFS Master Plan; one (1) letter submitted to DOE to share satellite map evidence on siltation of Pontian Dam, Pahang; and one (1) Tourist Survey on Malaysian Protected Areas in CFS.

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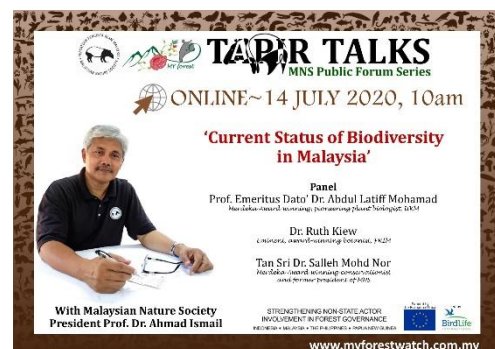
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Six hundred (600) individual objection letters against the proposed degazettement of KLNFR were collected and submitted to Selangor State Forestry Department.

- MNS attended a webinar session for REDD Plus Readiness Project, Green Climate Fund: REDD Plus Safeguards. It was organised by REDD Plus Unit, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.
- MNS launched the 'Save Ulu Muda Forest with MNS' online campaign to gather support to help MNS to save the Ulu Muda Forest Reserve in Kedah.
- MNS conducted 2-day ground campaign at Kuala Langat to gather objection letters from residents, against the proposed degazettement of KLNFR. MNS also submitted an objection letter to Selangor State Forestry Department, together with all the 600 letters collected from the ground campaign.
- MNS continue to support the 4th International Conference on Climate Change, as a strategic partner. The conference provides a platform for scientist, researchers etc. to share existing policies, researches, data etc. relating to climate change.
- MNS and GEC had a meeting with three (3) Selangor State Assembly Representatives. They agreed to voice their objections to the proposed degazettement of KLNFR during Selangor State Assembly.

Visibility

- Project progress and activity announcements continued to be published in MYforest project website; Myforest project Facebook; *Malaysian Naturalist*; newsletter etc.



UPCOMING EVENTS AUG — DEC 2020

- Tapir Talks
- IBA Review Workshop
- Forest Certification Workshop

