



Mainstreaming biodiversity

Biodiversity, our natural heritage, is ours to use wisely and to conserve to maintain our own quality of life, as well as for the benefit of our children and their children. Unsustainable practices that lead to the loss of biodiversity such as large scale forest conversion, and illegal hunting and trade in wildlife must be made a thing of the past.

There is no doubt that sustainable development, a fine line between development and conservation, can be reached with wisdom and a common understanding of what it takes. Most importantly,

We must work together!

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) works towards empowering all stakeholders including government agencies, the private sector, NGOs, and individuals with the knowledge and tools to play their respective roles. To this end, it is important that sufficient safeguards for biodiversity conservation are integrated into all stages of the development process.

For further information and materials, visit: www.nre.gov.my



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



1. Understand the issues

It is important to have a good understanding of biodiversity and how we can manage it better. The Malaysian Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism (www.frim.gov.my/chm) is a good place to start. Key guiding documents include the National Policy on Biological Diversity and A Common Vision for Biodiversity.



2. Incorporate biodiversity safeguards into your own sector

Every day we make decisions that may affect biodiversity and the continued provision of ecosystem services. Striking a balance between conservation and development is the key. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEAs) and Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) are examples of tools that may be used to integrate biodiversity considerations into various development policies, plans and programmes.

3. Support activities on biodiversity

There are numerous conservation activities in Malaysia. Become a member, volunteer and contribute to nature based NGOs.

4. Be the eyes and ears of the authorities

Enforcement officers cannot be everywhere at once. That's why they need the help of the public to alert them to activities such as illegal encroachment into forests, illegal logging, poaching, and trade in protected species. Contact NRE at aduannre@nre.gov.my

5. Make your voice heard

There are many avenues for the public to participate in development planning, such as the public review period for EIAs or for Draft State Structure Plans and District Local Plans. Look out for such announcements in the newspapers. In addition, write to NRE, your federal/state/local representative.



Conserving Malaysia's biodiversity

How you can help

Basic things we can do to help conserve biodiversity



Biodiversity - Our natural heritage

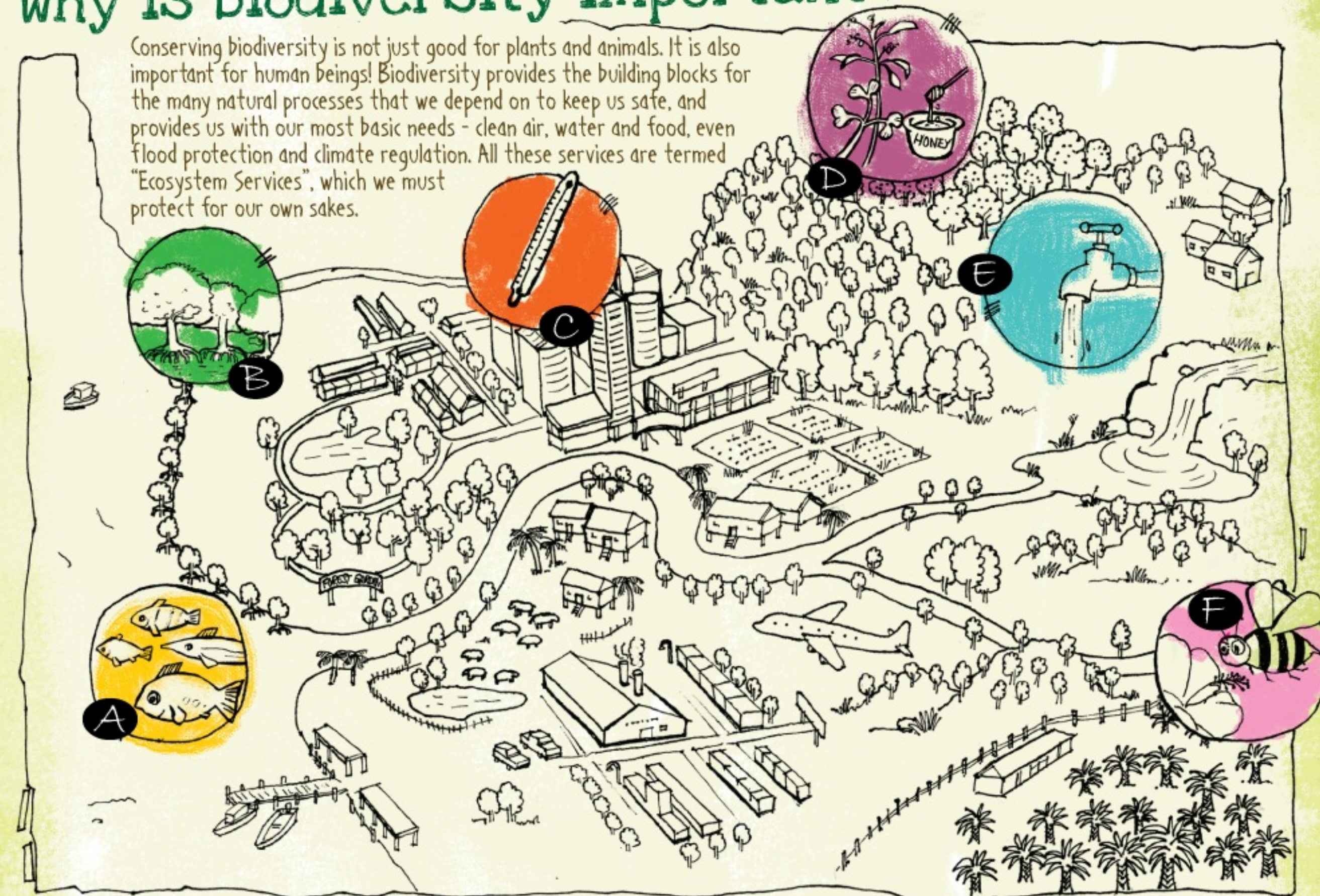
Apart from having a rich cultural heritage and delicious food, Malaysia is also well known as a tropical paradise blessed with lush rainforests, magnificent rivers, mysterious limestone caves and beautiful coral reefs. These ecosystems contain a vast array of plants and animals, including many that cannot be found anywhere else in the world.

Biodiversity

which is short for "biological diversity", refers to the variety of life on the planet, including all plants and animals and even bacteria and fungi.

Why is biodiversity important?

Conserving biodiversity is not just good for plants and animals. It is also important for human beings! Biodiversity provides the building blocks for the many natural processes that we depend on to keep us safe, and provides us with our most basic needs - clean air, water and food, even flood protection and climate regulation. All these services are termed "Ecosystem Services", which we must protect for our own sakes.



- A** Ensures our fish stock
- B** Protects against tsunami
- C** Helps in climate regulation
- D** Provides resources for livelihood
- E** Gives us fresh water
- F** Provides pollinators for our crops

Malaysia's species richness

Due to this rich biodiversity, much of which is only found in here, Malaysia is recognised as one of the world's 12 Megadiverse countries which together harbour over 60% of the earth's species... Isn't this something we should be proud of?

- Birds: 785 species
- Invertebrates: 150,000 estimated species
- Reptiles: 567 species
- Vascular Plants: 15,000 estimated species
- Amphibians: 242 species
- Mammals: 307 species

All of these species play a role in the ecosystem - the "web of life". The loss of any species weakens the ecosystem, and as a result may affect its ability to perform the ecosystem services that we depend on.