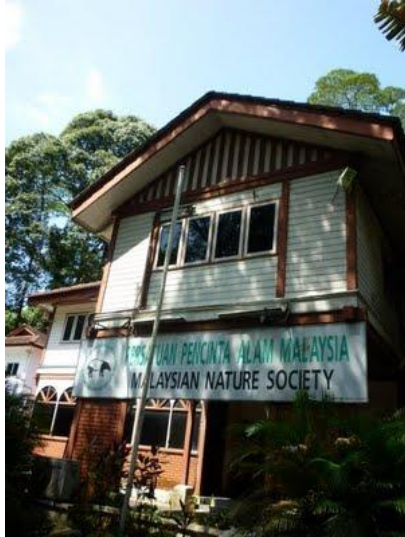




INTRODUCTION : MALAYSIAN NATURE SOCIETY (MNS)

MNS Mission: To promote the conservation of Malaysia's natural heritage

Our story..



The Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) is Malaysia's largest and oldest non-government environmental organisation. The genesis of our society predates our country's independence – by a group of mainly British expatriates deeply interested in our country's lush natural heritage decided that the abundant collection of field notes and natural history records which they had accumulated was vital to the country's heritage and should be published. In 1940, with the publication of the *Malayan Nature Journal* Volume 1, the Malaysian Nature Society was born.

MNS today, has over 4000 members, 12,000 student members (Kelab Pencinta Alam *KPA*) with 14 branches spread across the country. MNS' Kuala Lumpur-based headquarters has now a team of 40 dedicated full time staff who see to the day-to-day

running of the society's administration and activities

MNS' overarching focus in everything it does is to conserve Malaysia's diverse habitats. Our key role is to protect Malaysia's natural heritage, especially ecologically sensitive landscapes. As a nation that is vigorously forging ahead in development, this is a key factor in addressing Malaysia's current and future environmental challenges.

MNS is an integral part of the Malaysian institution, working closely with the government, bringing the conservation voice to Malaysia's decision-making and planning platforms. The society plays a significant national role in the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). In the last five years especially, we have represented national delegations to the Conference Of Parties (COPs) of Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Ramsar & UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Climate change is a key focus area, and we are a founding member of the Malaysian Climate Change Group (MCCG) and a member of MYCAT (a tiger conservation network) as well as a founding organisation of MENGO (Malaysian Environmental NGO). We sit on national Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) panels, national budget consultations and various national and state-level consultations. MNS is also a partner, member and is also affiliated to various international organisations, such as BirdLife International (www.birdlife.org), Forest Stewardship Council, FSC (www.fsc.org), IUCN (www.iucn.org), Climate Action Network South-East Asia (www.climatenetwork.org), and many more.

MNS On The Ground..

MNS view ecologically sensitive and important sites as places where conservation is demonstrated, feeding into advocacy. It is here at the field conservation site that efforts and success translate into meaningful and far-reaching changes to Malaysian mindsets, attitudes and commitments towards using our natural resources wisely.



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MNS & Protecting Habitats..



Our habitat protection work is guided by several key documents produced by MNS such as the Directory of Important Bird Areas in Malaysia-Key Sites for Conservation.

These documents, together with national policies such as the National Physical Plan, National Policy on Biological Diversity, and many others, are used to advocate for habitat protection.

MNS & Birds As Indicators and Conservation Tool..

Appreciating and conserving birds is a firmly entrenched pillar of MNS, in 1995, we set up the Bird Conservation Council (MNS-BCC), and the Birds Records Committee, to cater for the specific needs of bird conservation, data-basing, validation, and promoting birdwatching.



Hornbills have been our flagship for habitat conservation and management in Malaysia. With 10 species, two of which are globally threatened and restricted range species, they exemplify the landscape approach to biodiversity conservation, one we apply towards the conservation of the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex. These are further used to improve the status of globally threatened birds.

In recognition of its major role in conservation and towards the Belum-Temengor cause, MNS was awarded with the *BirdLife International Partnership Award* and the inaugural Merdeka Award in 2008. This was at the heels of our other bird publications such as the *Suara Enggang* series and *Directory of IBAs in Malaysia - Key Sites for Conservation, 2007*.

MNS & People..

Investing in people is what the Society is all about. Our Environmental Education Division is the platform we use, to educate and raise future environmental stewards. Two core areas define our efforts nationwide: school nature club programme, focusing on students and teachers, and public environmental education centres. With 14 branches throughout Malaysia, we are in contact almost on a daily basis, with the Malaysian public, through nature activities, talks, conferences, events and the media. Furthermore, we mobilize and empower communities in all of our initiatives, be it rural or urban settings; advancing the internationally recognized Local Conservation Group (LCG) initiative.



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The Society continues to document (and communicate) Malaysian natural history through the *Malayan Nature Journal* (since 1940), and for public consumption, and our membership, the *Malaysian Naturalist*, the foremost national popular nature magazine. More recently, we have published a series of 7 Conservation Publications on various topics as well as the bi-monthly *Suara Enggang*, a newsletter on local birds & resources.



MNS is also an embodiment of grassroots and act as a catalyst and supporter towards many local campaigns to conserve natural sites in danger. Our latest efforts can be seen in public campaign (exclusively as MNS or in support of other like-minded organisations) campaigns the 'No To Sturgeon Project 2014', 'Save Selangor State Park' 2014, 'Save Merapoh Hill' 2014, 'Save Gua Kanthan' 2014, 'Save Chini Campaign' (Aug 2012) 'Save Bukit Kiara Campaign' (Sept 2012), 'Save Gunung Angsi' (2012), Save Temengor Campaign (2010), Save Belum

Temengor (2006), Save of Sharks (since 2004), Save Bukit Larut (2012), Save Penang Hill (2012), Save Bukit Gasing (since 2006), Save Sg Buloh Forest Reserve (2004) and many others. Our focus includes all communities within our conservation landscape which includes the indigenous orang asli people.

MNS The Malaysian Voice..

Through our various successes and initiatives above, MNS embodies the essence of a truly national conservation NGO; a civil society organization that inspires, commits, delivers and contributes to the nation's wellbeing.

Some of our achievements..

Protected areas. MNS played a key role in identifying, protecting, advocating the gazzement and managing of several protected areas, which includes:

- Kuala Selangor Nature Park
- Endau Rompin State Park
- Batu Caves
- Pulau Redang Marine Park
- Taman Negara, Pahang
- Pulau Tioman Marine Park
- Tanjung Tuan Wildlife Reserve
- Pantai Acheh National Park
- Kota Damansara Community Forest (Sg. Buloh Forest Reserve)
- Selangor Heritage Park
- Royal Belum State Park
- Ulu Geroh Rafflesia Site, Gopeng
- Amanjaya Forest Reserve
- Kota Damansara Community Forest
- Merapoh Caves



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Habitat conservation & management

- MNS Forest Policy & Strategic Plan (2002-2010) – our policy towards sustainable forest management
- Malaysian IBA Directory- Key Sites for Conservation, 2007. 55 IBAs listed, feeding into Malaysia's National Physical Plan, the national sustainable development blueprint, including selection of important wetlands and Ramsar sites.
- MNS Local Area Monitoring of IBAs (LAMIBA Programme) developed in 2005, providing Branches and members a framework to monitor IBAs. The National IBA monitoring framework from BirdLife was later adapted to this in 2007, and now implemented at branches nationwide

Bird Conservation

- Hornbill Research Belum-Temengor Complex (2006 – on going)
- Asian Bird Fair, MNS was one of the 6 founding organisations established in 2010.
- Malaysia's first National Checklist of Birds published in 2005. Protection of Wildlife Act 1976 recently revised based on this checklist – 240 revisions of protection status nationwide.
- 2nd Edition 'A Checklist of Bird the Birds of Malaysia' was published in March 2015.
- National Bird Database online and the Suara Enggang (bimonthly bird bulletin) in 1988.
- Bird i-witness (Malaysian Chapter of the Worldbirds database) launched in 2008
- Milky Storks - Captive-breeding programme (1997-2004), 9 free-flying birds released in the wild.

Involving People

- Raptor Watch - annual public event, on national calendar, in 17th year, attracting over 5,000 participants.
- Belum-Temengor Campaign – national campaign for the last unprotected forest landscape in Malaysia (over 80,000 members of the public signed our campaign letter to the PM & Menteri Besar in 2006, bringing about the gazettelement of Royal Belum State Park in 2009.
- Follow up campaign 'Save Temengor Campaign was launched in 2010 and is on-going, with about 82,716 members of the public signing our campaign letter)
- Sarawak Nature Festival. Organised and conceptualised since 2013 by our Kuching Branch, this unique festival continues to develop itself and is an important event for East Malaysia.
- Kenyir Bird & Nature Quest has been ongoing since 2013, developed by our Terengganu Branch and draws a growing number of visitors annually.
- Borneo Bird Festival 2009 – developed inaugural event with Sabah Toursim Board to promote bird tourism in Sabah
- Asian Birdwatch 2005, involving 15 countires in the region, reaching out to more than 70,000 people.
- Local Conservation Groups – Kpg. Kuantan community custodial system for fireflies and mangroves; Kpg. Dew community ecotourism and fireflies



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program, Fireflies Festival (2011), Ulu Geroh community conservation of rafflesia & birdwing butterflies; Bako-Buntal bay community management of an IBA wintering site

- School Nature Club Programme set up in 1991 with the Ministry of Education – 360 schools nationwide, involving 25,000 students and educators with a start-up of only 10 schools in 1991.
- Environmental Education Centres – KSNP (1987), MNS-BOH Field Study Centre (1989), NEC-FRIM (1993); Rimba Ilmu (1997), Langkawi (2008, programme ended 2010); Environmental Interpretive Centre, Sepang (2009) and EcoCare, Kertih (2010), Urban Environmental Education Hub (soft launch in Jan 2015) at Mid Valley Megamall, Kuala Lumpur and in collaboration with Vale Minerals Malaysia, we are also managing the Vake Eco Centre, Lumut (soft launch Jan 2015).
- In October 2012, MNS launched the first Youth Environmental Expo and KPA for Youth programme.

Marine & Coastal Monitoring

- EMMCE - Short for Environmental Monitoring of Marine and Coastal Ecosystems. The project is designed to empower local stakeholders to monitor the condition of coastal ecosystems within their surrounding area. The local stakeholders are being trained to undertake monitoring activities using simple monitoring methods in order to understand the state of these ecosystems over time. It is also a project that monitors activities of marine mammals in efforts to implement environmental policies in the near future. Current project sites are located at Pulau Redang, Terengganu and Kota Kinabalu, Sabah (launched 2011, on going).
- ROAR - Launched in June 2012, Restore Our Awesome Reefs is an integrated coral rehabilitation project to help restore Tioman Island's coral reefs with an aim to restore, rehabilitate and educate local communities on the importance of conserving our coral reefs. As of 2014, this project has expanded into ROOTS, Revisiting Our Original Trees, a project that involves local communities taking ownership in Tioman.
- Paddle for Nature - A unique activity that involved members of MNS and the public between October 2014 to March 2015. The Peninsula Malaysia coastline was monitored and activity- mapped by the conservation division. Satellite public events were held to increase awareness on coastline environmental issues.

Accolades..

- In 1991, MNS received the **UNEP Global 500 Award**
- In 1994 MNS received the Japanese **Minamata Award** for Conservation and Scientific work at Kuala Selangor Nature Park.



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- For its consistency and long service towards the conservation campaign of the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex Conservation Initiative, MNS was awarded with the inaugural **Merdeka Award in 2008**. MNS remains the only environmental group to be bestowed to date.
- For its outstanding conservation work in Malaysia, MNS was awarded by BirdLife International, with its **BirdLife International Partnership Award** in 2008
- In 2012 the Kuala Selangor Nature Park which is run and managed by MNS was awarded the **Best Eco-Tourism Site** in Selangor.
- In September 2012, MNS was awarded with the **EU-Malaysian Chamber of Commerce and Industry EUROPA Award 2012**.
- MNS received the **Community Engagement Excellence Award** from University Kebangsaan Malaysia in June 2013.
- MNS received **Pertubuhan Cemerlang Award** in March 2014 by the Registrar of Societies, Ministry of Home Affairs.
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- MNS was conferred with the **Green International Awards 2015** by the Korean Federation for Environmental Movements (KFEMCA)

End.