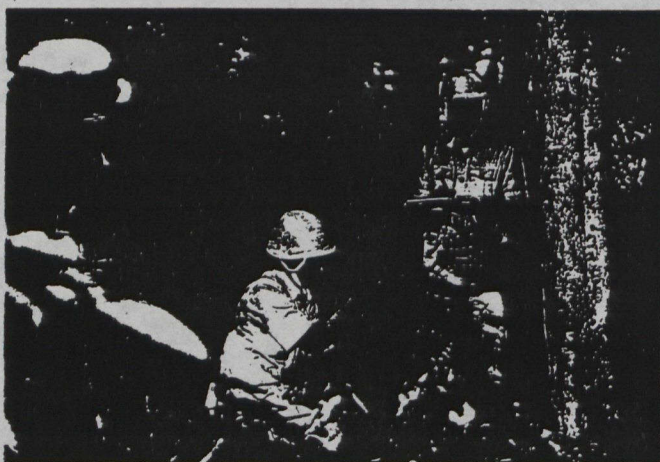


FOREST MANAGEMENT

Permanent Forest Estate

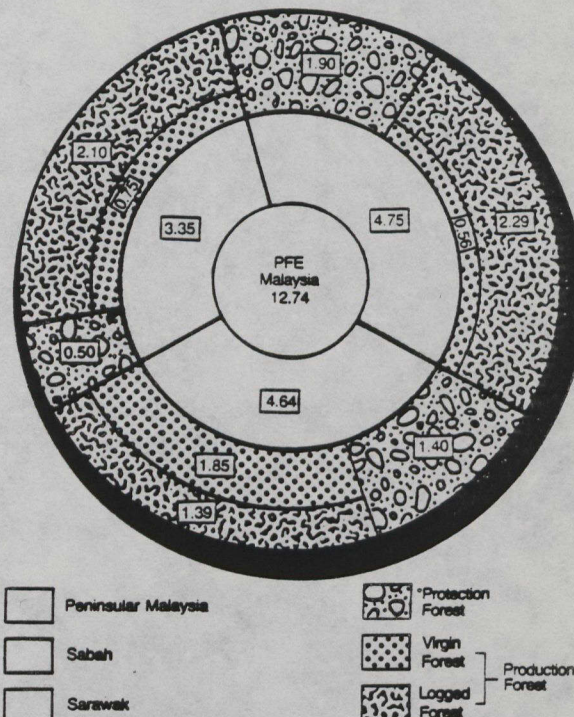
A major part of forest management in Malaysia is the Permanent Forest Estate. The Estate's 3.80 million ha of virgin forest is maintained as Protection Forest. It is preserved in its natural state to protect the hilly areas, watersheds and genetic diversity. The other 8.94 million ha of the Estate is Production Forest, with 3.16 million ha of virgin forest. This is managed for sustained timber harvesting.

In accordance with forestry management plans, such as for Peninsular Malaysia, areas within the Production Forest are managed under renewable cycles of 30-year for the richer forests, and 55-year for the others. These allow, under the current Fifth Malaysia Plan (1986-1990), for 71,200 ha to be harvested per year and assure timber production in perpetuity.



Harvesting is carried out under strict procedures and a pre-felling forest inventory is undertaken. Trees to be harvested are confined to matured and fully grown of at least 45cm at breast height. These are marked and the direction of felling is determined to reduce damage to the remaining trees and the environment. Under

Table 1: Permanent Forest Estate in Malaysia 1988 (million ha)



* The Protection Forest is made up of virgin forests, preserved in their natural state.

the Selective Management System as currently practised, a minimum of 32 trees per ha of at least 30cm in diameter at breast height must be left after harvesting. This permits the harvesting of some 30 to 40 m³ per hectare (or 7 to 12 trees per hectare). The larger trees that remain would reach maturity in 25-30 years to allow for a



LEFT: Growth measurement of seedlings in forest regeneration.
ABOVE: Virgin forest.