

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Protection of the environment is important to Malaysia. The aim of sustainable forest management, including the designation of the Permanent Forest Estate, is to assure substantial natural forest cover to maintain the quality of the environment.

Harvesting is carefully controlled to minimise damage. For instance, the effects of harvesting operations on soil erosion and sedimentation of river systems are being reduced by the enforcement of regulations and guidelines for logging operations. These include 'Standard Road Specifications' and 'Forest Harvesting Guidelines'.

All harvesting operations are controlled and monitored. Harvesting is carried out in accordance with the conditions stipulated in the logging permits. These pertain to road alignment and construction, drainage; marking of trees, directional felling and the setting up of log yards. Forest engineers carry out spot checks as well as advise on the implementation of such controls and the development of the infrastructure in logging areas. The Environmental Quality Act provides for environmental impact assessments to be carried out.

As part of Malaysia's greening programme, the planting of trees and shrubs are encouraged. In 1981, Malaysia adopted a greening programme for its cities and towns. Over a million seedlings and plants have been supplied for this programme. This has helped to reduce ground temperature in Kuala Lumpur and other urban areas of the country, besides contributing to aesthetic values.

