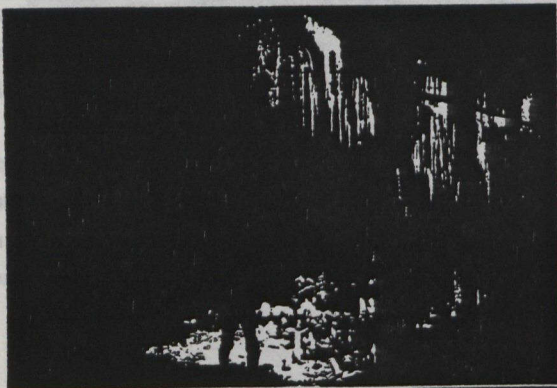




Among Malaysia's internationally well-known parks are the Taman Negara (National Park), Kinabalu National Park in Sabah and the Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak. The Taman Negara, for example, is an expanse of over 434,000 ha of essentially virgin forest comprising varied forest types according to altitudes and soil. Apart from geological formations and clean, unpolluted rivers, the Park is a showcase of Malaysia's flora and fauna.



TOP : The protected orang utan at the Sepilok Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre, Sabah.

ABOVE : An inside panorama of an extensive limestone cave at Gunung Mulu National Park, Sarawak.

RIGHT : Part of a river at Taman Negara (National Park).

In addition to these conservation areas, Malaysia has established a network of virgin jungle reserves as permanent nature reserves to conserve the various forest types in their natural state. At present there are a total of 130 reserves covering 107,310 ha.

To provide 'going-back-to-nature' outdoor activities and to conserve some of the more scenic forest areas, 64 forest recreational sites have also been developed with 23 more to be set up.

Care is taken to protect rare and endangered wildlife, and this goes back to the 1950's. There are rehabilitation centres for wild animals with special emphasis on the orang utan (a wild ape) which is otherwise threatened with extinction. Malaysia has also implemented programmes for the conservation of larger mammals such as the tiger, Sumatran rhinoceros, elephant, seladang (a Malaysian wild ox) and deer.

