

A LIVING HERITAGE

MALAYSIAN RAIN FOREST - A LIVING HERITAGE

Forests are a living resource. They are recognised for their role in maintaining and protecting the climatic and physical environment.

As reservoirs of a country's water supply, forest catchments are the source of fresh water for agriculture, industry, household and recreation. These catchments are conserved and managed to provide clean water supply for the country. Furthermore, Malaysia seldom experiences severe drought, and this is important for ensuring the successful development and production of agricultural crops.

Located just north of the Equator, Malaysia is blessed with abundant sunshine and rainfall, and is home to vast stretches of evergreen tropical rain forests. Out of a total land area of 32.86 million ha (a hectare equals 2.5 acres), some 20.10 million ha or about 61% are under forest cover. Another 4.19 million ha have been planted with tree crops bringing the total area under forest and tree crops to 24.29 million ha or 74% of the total land area of Malaysia.

