



MALAYSIA

NATIONAL ACTION PLAN for PEATLANDS



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

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Nephentes found in Klias (Photo Credit : GoM/UNDP Peat Swamp Project)

Peat soil sampling (Photo Credit : GEC)

Fungi found in Pahang Peat Swamp (Photo Credit : GoM/UNDP Peat Swamp Project)

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NATIONAL ACTION PLAN
FOR
PEATLANDS**

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MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT MALAYSIA

FOREWORD



Peatland is an important and unique ecosystem which has key values for biodiversity conservation and climate regulation. Due to its unique characteristic, peatlands provide huge potential to be used wisely for the socio-economic well-being of communities that live within or adjacent to peatland areas.

Hence, in achieving a balance between conservation and development, an efficient and integrated approach has to be taken to conserve and sustainably use peatlands and its biodiversity. In meeting this call, I am glad that ASEAN has taken steps to come up with regional actions on peatland management. To complement ASEAN's efforts, Malaysia has come up with this National Action Plan on Peatlands (NAP) to promote domestic actions.

The NAP was formulated through an open and transparent consultative process with all relevant stakeholders. The NAP is envisaged to augment the Malaysian Government's continuous commitment in enhancing knowledge, awareness and capacity to sustainably manage and conserve the nation's biodiversity. The NAP will also complement Malaysia's Common Vision on Biodiversity, which among others calls for the mainstreaming of biodiversity in all sectors.

It is my fervent hope that with the cooperation of all stakeholders, this plan will be translated into real and tangible actions on the ground. This will ensure that peatlands in this country will be managed and used wisely and continue to provide its ecosystem services for the benefit of our present and future generations.

DATO SRI DOUGLAS UGGAH EMBAS
22 May 2011



Part 1: Introduction

1.1 Peatlands

1.2 Role of Peatlands

PART 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Peatlands

Peatlands are one of the most important natural ecosystems in the world which have key values for biodiversity conservation, climate regulation and support for human welfare. Peat is one of the soil types in Malaysia covering about 8% of the country. Peat has high organic matter content (more than 65%) in a soil layer at least 50cm deep. Areas where peat soil has naturally accumulated are called peatlands. Peatlands are mostly found in the coastal plains of Malaysia.

1.2 Role of Peatlands

Peatlands play vital roles in the welfare of both people and wildlife, because of their large extent and the range of functions and values that they generate. Peatlands are important reservoirs of carbon, water and biodiversity.

Peatlands are home to many flora and fauna species. Peatlands are an important source of timber and non-timber forest products. In Malaysia, the species important for timber include Ramin melawis / Ramin telur (*Gonystylus bancanus*), Alan (*Shorea albida*), Meranti paya / Meranti bersisik (*Shorea platycarpa*), Jongkong (*Dactylocladus stenostachys*), Septir paya (*Copaifera palustris*), Durian paya / Durian burong (*Durio carinatus*) and Kempas / Menggris (*Koompassia malaccensis*). In addition, peatlands contain scented species, medicinal plants, resin producing trees, ornamental plants and ferns.

Fish in peatland areas are important to the livelihood of local communities that live within or adjacent to these areas. Some of these fish species are the main source of protein for local people and some have commercial value (both for food and ornamental fish trade). Some examples of commercial species are Tapah (*Wallago leerii*), Forest snakehead (*Channa lucius*) and Peat swamp barb (*Puntius rhomboocellatus*), while ornamental species include Arowana (*Scleropagus formosus*), Fighting fish (*Beta spp.*) and Chocolate gouramy (*Sphearichthys osphromenoides*).

A range of reptile species have been recorded from peatlands in Malaysia including four species of global significance; the Malayan false gharial (*Tomistoma schlegelii*), the Asian soft-shelled turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*), the Painted terrapin (*Callagur borneensis*) and the Bornean river turtle (*Orlitia borneensis*).

Peatland forests support a range of mammal species. In Sarawak and Sabah, the Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) has been recorded. The red-banded langur (*Presbytis melalophos cruciger*) has also been spotted in Maludam National Park. A total of 36 species of bats are found in Loagan Bunut National Park (LBNP), representing about one-third of the bat species found in Borneo.

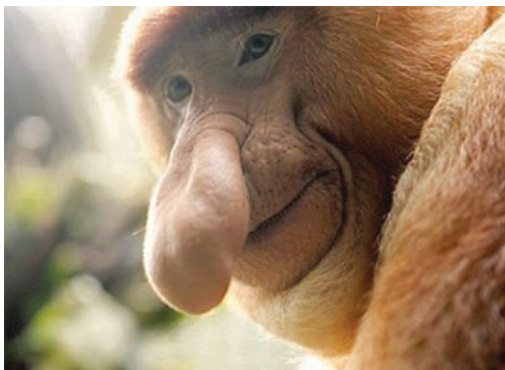
In Pahang, 58 species of mammals were recorded in their peatland forests. Among the important mammal species in this area are Smooth otter (*Lutrogale perspicillata*) and Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*).



Ramin melawis (*Gonystulus bancanus*)
in Pekan Forest Reserve, Pahang



Nepenthes bicalcarata, an endemic
pitcher plant in peat swamp forest. Photo
Credit: Alex Sayok



Proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*)



The biodiversity expedition research
team discovered a Bornean species
which is recorded for the first time in the
peninsula. The bat below is the Small
woolly bat (*Kerivoula intermedia*) found in
LBNP



One notable species in peat swamp forest in Loagan Bunut is the hook-billed bulbul (*Setorius criniger*). It is of global significance, listed as venerable in the IUCN Red List.

Peatlands in their natural state are waterlogged due to high water table. Their high permeability and high water retention capability enable peatlands to be effective in stabilising water levels, such as mitigating floods and droughts, in surrounding areas. During periods of heavy rainfall, peatlands act as natural reservoirs because they absorb and store water. The peat functions as a sponge, absorbing water during the wet season and releasing it gradually during dry periods. Peat helps to maintain the quality of freshwater because the sub-surface outflow of water from peatlands suppresses the inflow of saline groundwater in coastal areas. Peatlands also maintain dry season river flow and reduce intrusion of tidal waters.

Peatlands also play an important economic role to the country and thus need to be managed in a sustainable manner. In some areas in Malaysia, peatlands also play a vital role in the socio-economic well-being of the local communities. A substantial number of poor households are found living in and adjacent to peatlands. The sustainable development and management of peatlands in these areas are important in enhancing the socio-economic condition of local communities.

In addition peatlands are ideal locations for environmental education programmes to increase understanding and awareness on the roles and functions of peatlands and options for sustainable management and utilisation. Due to its unique ecosystem, peatlands provide huge potential for research and development (R&D) in various scientific fields such as socio-economy, biodiversity, climate change and biotechnology.



Part 2: Sustainable Management of Peatlands

- 2.1 Approaches at ASEAN Region
 - 2.1.1 ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI)
 - 2.1.2 ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2006 – 2020
- 2.2 Approaches in Malaysia
 - 2.2.1 Policies / Legislations
 - 2.2.2 Implementing Agencies

Part 2: Sustainable Management of Peatlands

2.1 Approaches at ASEAN Region

2.1.1 ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI)

The APMI was adopted by the Meeting of ASEAN Senior Officials on Environment-Haze Technical Task Force in 2003. The APMI is a mechanism whereby ASEAN Member States collectively collaborate among themselves or with other international institutions to address the issues of peatland management on a sustainable basis to reduce transboundary haze pollution as well as climate change impact.

The goal of APMI is to promote sustainable management of peatlands in the ASEAN region through collective actions and enhanced cooperation to support and sustain local livelihoods, reduce risk of fire and associated regional haze, and contribute to global environmental management.

The objectives of APMI are:

1. Enhance understanding and build capacity on peatland management issues in the region;
2. Reduce the incidence of peatland fires and associated haze in the region;
3. Support national and local level implementation activities on peatland management and fire prevention; and
4. Develop a regional strategy and cooperation mechanisms to promote sustainable peatland management.

2.1.2 ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS) 2006-2020

The APMS was endorsed by the 10th ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Environment in 2006. This regional strategy provides a framework for all those with responsibilities for, or commitments to, the sustainable management of peatlands, on its wise use, prevention of fires, and rehabilitation.

There are four general objectives to the strategy as follows:

1. Enhance awareness and capacity building;
2. Address transboundary haze pollution and environmental degradation;
3. Promote sustainable management of peatlands; and
4. Promote regional cooperation.

As an ASEAN Member State, Malaysia recognises the importance of contributing towards achieving a haze-free ASEAN region collectively with the other member states.

2.2 Approaches in Malaysia

Malaysia has a range of policies and laws to guide the management of peatlands in the country.

2.2.1 Policies / Legislations

Policies are in place to integrate biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management in development and planning process. These include the National Physical Plan, which determines the general direction and trends for physical development in the country. Others include the National Policy on Climate Change (2010), the National Wetlands Policy 2004, the National Agricultural Policy, the National Policy on the Environment (2002), the National Policy on Biological Diversity (1998) and the National Forest Policy (1978, revised 1993). The promotion of the natural resource management is reflected in Malaysia's 5-year Development Plans. Land and natural resources in Malaysia are mainly managed at state level and as a result state governments have established their own policies and regulations. A listing of relevant policies and legislations is in **Annexes I and II**.

2.2.2 Implementing Agencies

Conservation and the wise use of peatlands is a cross-sectoral issue and involve various agencies as in **Annex III**.



Part 3: National Action Plan for Peatlands

- 3.1 Strategies for Enhanced Sustainable Peatland Management in Malaysia
- 3.2 Goal and Objectives
- 3.3 Institutional Framework
- 3.4 Action Plan

Part 3: National Action Plan for Peatlands

Malaysia has put in place laws and regulations for the sustainable management of peatland that covers prevention of peat fires and loss of biodiversity. Malaysia will continue to contribute to the achievement of the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI) and ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy (APMS).

3.1 Strategies for Enhanced Sustainable Peatland Management in Malaysia

Malaysian policies and regulations on sustainable peatland management are translated in the following strategies:

- (i) **Knowledge and Understanding of Peatlands**
Knowledge and understanding of peatlands in Malaysia through research, education and awareness.
- (ii) **Capacity and Coordination**
Sustainable management of peatlands should be enhanced through capacity building and strengthened coordination of government agencies at federal, state and local levels and different stakeholders including local communities. The awareness and understanding of the public and other stakeholders on sustainable peatland management should be strengthened through communication, education and public awareness.
- (iii) **Fires and Haze Prevention**
Methodologies and strategies for prevention of fires and haze will be strengthened. These could include prediction, prevention, patrolling and enforcement. Guidelines on sustainable management and stringent enforcement measures will be put in place.
- (iv) **Integrated Management**
Integrated management plans will be developed for each major peatland basin. These should include adequate buffer zones around peatlands and associated water bodies.
- (v) **National, State and Regional Cooperation**
National and state inter-sectoral coordination mechanisms will be established to harmonise approaches between different sectors. The exchange of key information relevant to peatland management between agencies and sectors will be coordinated.
- (vi) **Resources for Protection and Management**
Additional resources for enhancing manpower, financial, equipment and structural organization to strengthen protection and management of peatlands shall be made available.

3.2 Goal and Objectives

The goal and objectives of the National Action Plan are as follows:

Goal: To sustainably manage peatlands in Malaysia in an integrated manner to conserve resources, prevent degradation and fires, and generate benefits for current and future generations.

Objective 1: Enhance knowledge, awareness and capacity for sustainable peatlands management and development

Objective 2: Conserve peatlands resources and reduce peatland degradation and fires

Objective 3: Promote the sustainable and integrated management of peatlands

Objective 4: Ensure effective multi-stakeholder cooperation

3.3 Institutional Framework

In order to implement this Action Plan, it is important to establish an effective institutional framework. The first step is to establish a National Steering Committee on Peatlands (NSCP), led by Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment (NRE). The NSCP will be the focal point to coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan including identifying and allocating responsibilities to relevant agencies at federal and state level. The NSCP will report to the National Wetlands Committee which is chaired by the Secretary General of NRE.

In order to support the NSCP, task forces will be formed to address specific issues of the Action Plan such as biodiversity, climate change, water management, agriculture, environmental management, fire prevention, and local communities.

In states with significant peatland areas – state peatland working groups may be formed.

Agencies and other organisations proposed to be involved in implementation of the National Action Plan for Peatlands are listed in Annex III.

3.4 Action Plan

Please refer to the matrix for details of the action plan.

National Action Plan for Peatland Management in Malaysia

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
1. Inventory and Assessment	1.1 Determine the extent and update status of resources of peatland areas in Malaysia	1.1.1 Develop harmonised definition and classification of peatlands	H	X	
		1.1.2 Determine the methodology and undertake national peatland assessment including review of values, functions and management options for peatlands	M	X	
		1.1.3 Review direct and indirect uses, values and functions of peatlands	L	X	
	1.2. Improve knowledge and understanding of peatland management	1.2.1 Based from findings from 1.1, review management options through multi-stakeholder consultations	H	X	
	1.3 Monitor and evaluate peatland status and management	1.3.1 Develop national guidelines for monitoring of peatland areas	M	X	X
		1.3.2 Undertake regular monitoring of peatland areas	M	X	X
2. Research	2.1 Undertake priority research activities	2.1.1 Identify priorities, undertake research work on peatland characteristics and functions including hydrology, ecology, carbon storage, GHG flux, biodiversity etc	M	X	X
		2.1.2 Undertake R&D to enhance sustainable management or develop new uses for peatland products and resources	M	X	X
		2.1.3 Research to assess and support livelihood activities of the local community	M	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
3. Awareness and Capacity Building	3.1 Enhance public awareness of peatland management	3.1.1 Develop and implement communication strategy for sustainable peatland management	H	X	X
		3.1.2 Develop and publish materials in appropriate local languages to create awareness and understanding of peatlands functions and values.	M	X	
	3.2 Strengthen capacity for sustainable peatland management	3.2.1 Strengthen capacity through allocation of resources and targeted training activities	M	X	X
		3.2.2 Strengthen existing or where appropriate establish 'centres of excellence' related to different aspects of peatlands	M	X	X
		3.2.3 Identification of options for sharing of technology on sustainable peatland management	L	X	X
		3.2.4 Establish National Working Group on peatlands	H	X	
		3.2.5 Establish Working Groups on peatland issues at state level	M	X	
4. Information Sharing	4.1 Strengthen mechanism for information storage and exchange	4.1.1 Strengthen existing information systems to manage and make available information related to peatlands	M	X	X
		4.1.2 support national and regional exchange of experience and networking	M	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
5. Policies and Legislation	5.1 Review and strengthen policies, legislations and guidelines and their Implementation	5.1.1 Designate specific lead institutions for different aspects of peatland management	L	X	
		5.1.2 Review and strengthen existing policies and laws for sustainable peatland management	M	X	X
		5.1.3 Strengthen enforcement of laws and regulations related to peatland use	M	X	
		5.1.4 Review and update National Wetland Policy	M	X	X
6. Fire Prevention, Control and Monitoring	6.1 Reduce Occurrences of Peat Fires and Associated Haze	6.1.1 Compile information at national and local level on fire prone peat areas and develop fire prone risk maps and prevention plans	H	X	
		6.1.2 Strengthen fire prevention, forecasting, monitoring and control measures	H	X	X
		6.1.3 Implement proper water management and control measures to prevent fires	H	X	X
		6.1.4 Establish peat fire prevention units in agencies, responsible for forestry and agriculture, private sector and local communities in fire-prone areas	M	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
		6.1.5 Strengthen capacity of local authorities and other agencies in areas with high fire risk and develop fire prevention and control programmes at local level	L	X	X
		6.1.6 Promote and implement zero-burning strategies for all commercial agriculture	M	X	X
7. Conservation of Peatland Biodiversity	7.1 Promote conservation of peatland biodiversity and ecosystem functions	7.1.1 Assess, identify and designate peatlands which are of national importance for conservation of biodiversity	H	X	
		7.1.2 Identify unique species of peatland biodiversity and strengthen protection and recovery measures	L	X	X
		7.1.3 Strengthen capacity for on-going conservation of peatland resources	H	X	X
		7.1.4 To consolidate adjoining peatlands as conservation areas	M	X	X
		7.1.5 Develop incentive to encourage State Governments to gazette of peatlands as conservation areas	M	X	X
	7.2 Sustainably manage species important for local livelihoods	7.2.1 Document peatland biodiversity and socio-economic, cultural and ecological uses for sustainable utilization of biological resources	L	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
8. Integrated Management of Peatlands	8.1 Promote integrated management of peatlands	8.1.1 Support implementation of the National Physical Plan in relation to peatlands	H	X	X
		8.1.2 Encourage sustainable management practices for development on peatland	H	X	X
		8.1.3 Develop integrated land use plans in major peatland areas	H	X	
	8.2 Promote enhanced water management in peatland areas	8.2.1 Establish baseline data for peat hydrology in peat basins	H	X	
		8.2.2 Promote a comprehensive approach to water management and utilization	M	X	X
	8.3 Enhance the sustainable uses of forest resources	8.3.1 Maintain the area of peatlands gazetted under Permanent Forest Reserve	H	X	X
		8.3.2 Develop integrated and sustainable forest management plans and guidelines for peatland forests (zonation based on function of the area)	H	X	X
		8.3.3 Develop and implement measures for post harvesting rehabilitation of peat swamp forests	M	X	X
		8.3.4 Enhance enforcement of relevant forest management regulations in peatland areas	H	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
	8.4 Increase productivity and sustainability of agriculture in peatland	8.4.1 Undertake detailed assessments of the environment including peat basin prior to agriculture development of on peatland	M	X	X
		8.4.2 Identify and promote best management practices for agriculture in peatland areas	H	X	X
		8.4.4 Promote incorporation of adequate buffer zones	H	X	X
	8.5 Improve standard of living of communities depending on peatland areas	8.5.1 Enhance local community knowledge of peatlands through awareness and education	M	X	X
		8.5.2 Support the protection and sustainable use of peatlands through application of traditional practices	M	X	X
		8.5.3 Promote market access for traditional products developed by local communities from peatlands	L	X	X
		8.5.4. Introduce alternative livelihoods to minimise impacts or dependence on peatlands	H	X	X
	8.6 Develop and promote options for recreation and tourism uses	8.6.1 Engage grassroots stakeholders in participatory management of peatlands	M	X	X
		8.6.2 Identify and promote areas of recreational and tourism potential in peatlands	M	X	X
		8.6.3 Develop relevant programmes for recreational and tourism uses	M	X	X
		8.6.4 Provide training for related stakeholders	L	X	X
		8.6.5 Promote local community participation in programmes identified	L	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
9. Establishment and Promotion of Demonstration Sites for Peatland Management	9.1 Promote best management practices through establishment of demonstration sites	9.1.1 Identify and promote demonstration sites for best management practices	M	X	
		9.1.2 Establish pilot project on sustainable management and fire prevention approaches for peatlands	H	X	X
		9.1.3 Promote the application of best management practices for peatlands through research and development	L	X	X
		9.1.4 Establish technical working groups to work on issues of common concern, such as peatland water management, peatland silviculture or rehabilitation options	M	X	X
10. Restoration and Rehabilitation	10.1 Restoration of degraded peatlands	10.1.1 Identify and promote restoration and rehabilitation measures	H	X	X
		10.1.2 Establish pilot projects and demonstration sites	H	X	
		10.1.3 Organise specific training programmes related to peatland restoration and rehabilitation	M	X	X
11. Peatlands and Climate Change	11.1 Minimize carbon emissions from peatlands	11.1.1 collect and analyse data/information on carbon sink, emission and storage of peatlands	M	X	X
		11.1.2 Promote and encourage measures for achieving net positive carbon balance	M	X	X
		11.1.3 Identify degraded peatlands and explore the possibility for restoration through climate change related funding mechanisms	M	X	X

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
	11.2 Assess impacts of climate change and develop adaptation measures	11.2.1 Assess the impact of climate change scenarios on peatlands	M	X	X
		11.2.2 Identify management strategies applicable to minimising peatland vulnerability to global climate change	M	X	X
		11.2.3 Integrate peatland issues into national climate change adaptation plans	M	X	X
		11.2.4 Source support for peatland management from adaptation funds linked to the UNFCCC	L	X	X
12. Regional Cooperation	12.1 Support the implementation of the APMS	12.1.1 Provide support through training, equipments, manpower/ technical assistance, networking / information exchange, and financing mechanism / insurance as appropriate	M	X	X
13. Financing of the Initiative	13.1 Ensure adequate allocation of financial resources	13.1.1. Develop a financing strategy for implementation of the NAP	H	X	X
		13.1.2 Establish a special fund to receive contributions from government , private sector and others to support NAP, APMS implementation	M	X	
		13.1.3 Explore and develop incentive measures to encourage states to maintain peatlands and rehabilitate degraded peatlands	M	X	X
		13.1.4 Develop funding mechanisms for peatland related activities including payments for peatland environmental services	M	X	

Focal Area	National Objectives	National Actions	*Priority (H/M/L)	**Timeline by Malaysia Plans (MP)	
				10 th MP	11 th MP
		13.1.5 Prioritise development of proposals for peatlands for submission to international / external supporters	M	X	
		13.1.6 Encourage private sector and multi-national corporations to support the implementation of the strategy	M	X	X
		13.1.7 Organise forums among stakeholders to review allocation of resources for peatland management	M	X	X
		13.1.9 Establish appropriate mechanisms to channel resources to local government or community groups to support sustainable management and rehabilitation activities	M	X	X

Note:

* Priority: H=high, M=medium, L=low

**Timeline: 10th Malaysia Plan (2011-2015), 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020)



Abbreviations and Annexure

Abbreviations

APMI	ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative
APMS	ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
NRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

ANNEX I

Policies and Plans related to Peatlands Management in Malaysia

a. National Policy on Climate Change (2010)

The National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was adopted by the Cabinet on the 20 November 2009. The NCCP was formulated to coordinate, drive and determine the way forward for the country in addressing climate change. Being a cross cutting issue, climate change not only involves the environment sector, but also encompasses other key sectors like development, transportation, energy, lifestyle, health, agriculture and trade. Climate change will also heavily affect the economy's growth and the people's welfare. This Policy will help ensure the country grows and develops in a climate-resilient manner in order to achieve the country's sustainable growth aspiration.

The objectives of the NCCP are:

1. Mainstreaming climate change through wise management of resources and enhanced environmental conservation resulting in strengthened economic competitiveness and improved quality of life;
2. Integration of responses into national policies plans and programmes to strengthen the resilience of development from arising and potential impacts of climate change; and
3. Strengthening of institutional and implementation capacity to better harness opportunities to reduce negative impacts of climate change.

b. Common Vision on Biodiversity (2009)

The Common Vision on Biodiversity was adopted by the National Biodiversity and Biotechnology Council in 2009. The Vision aims at explaining what biodiversity is, why it is important and which measures are required to ensure a constant provision of ecosystem services essential for human livelihood. The Common Vision promotes a three-pronged implementation approach and outreach strategy as follows:

- i) Strengthening the protected area system,
- ii) Land/seascape management of biodiversity; and
- iii) Mainstreaming biodiversity.

c. The National Physical Plan (2010)

The NPP provides strategic policies for the purpose of determining the general directions and trends of the physical development of the nation. The NPP plays the role to strengthen national planning and coordinate sectoral agencies by providing the spatial expression to sectoral policies. One of the main objectives of the NPP is to optimise utilisation of land and natural resources for sustainable development. Its goal is: The establishment of an efficient, equitable and

sustainable national spatial framework to guide the overall development of the country towards achieving developed nation status by 2020.

The National Physical Plan (NPP) for Peninsular Malaysia (approved by the Cabinet and the National Physical Planning Council in April 2005) considers the wetlands are under-represented amongst all protected ecosystems and are under constant threat for short-term economic uses. The NPP recommends that all important wetlands should be conserved and gazetted as Protected Areas and managed as environmentally sensitive areas in which “Rank 1” requires no development, agriculture nor logging to be undertaken in this category.

a. **The National Wetland Policy (2004)**

Peatlands which constitute more than 50% of the area of wetlands in Malaysia are encompassed by this policy calling for sustainable and wise use of wetlands with respect to their ecological characteristics.

b. **The National Agricultural Policy (2003)**

Under this policy, there is an emphasis on increasing productivity through the efficient use of resources and the wise use of land for agriculture activities.

c. **The National Policy on the Environment (2002)**

The National Policy on the Environment aims at the continued economic, social, and cultural progress of Malaysia and enhancement of the quality of life of its people, through environmentally sound and sustainable development.

d. **The National Policy on Biological Diversity (1998)**

This umbrella policy on biological diversity aims to conserve Malaysia’s biological diversity and to ensure that its components are utilised in a sustainable manner for the continued progress and socio-economic development of the nation. It has 15 strategies which, among others, calls for the conservation and sustainable use of the different ecosystems that the country has including peatlands.

e. **The National Forest Policy (1978, Revised 1993)**

This policy has been formulated to ensure sustainable forest resource management and development including in peat swamp forests in line with national interests and goals. The objectives of the policy include:

- i) To conserve and manage the nation’s forest based on the principles of sustainable management
- ii) To protect the environment as well as to conserve biological diversity, genetic resources and to enhance research and education

ANNEX II

Main legislations in Malaysia that can be applied for the conservation and management of peatlands

- Waters Act 1920
- Animal Act 1953 (Amended 2006)
- Aboriginal People Act 1954
- Land Conservation Act 1960
- National Land Code 1965
- Protection of Wild Life Act 1972
- Environmental Quality Act 1974
- Pesticides Act 1974
- Local Government Act 1976
- Plant Quarantine Act 1976
- Town and Country Planning Act 1976
- National Parks Act 1980
- National Forestry Act 1984
- Fisheries Act 1985
- New Plant Variety Protection Act 2004
- Biosafety Act 2007
- International Trade in Endangered Species Act 2008

Sabah

- Land Ordinance Cap 68
- Land Acquisition Ordinance
- Mineral Enactment
- Interpretation of the Native Ordinance 1952
- Fauna Conservation Ordinance 1963
- Forest Enactment 1968
- Forest Rules 1969
- Sabah Forestry Development Authority Enactment 1981
- Parks Enactment 1984
- Native Court Enactment 1992
- Native Court (Native Customary Laws) Rules 1995
- Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997
- Cultural Heritage (Conservation) Enactment 1997
- Sabah Water Resources Enactment 1998
- Sabah Biodiversity Enactment 2000
- Environment Protection Enactment 2002
- Environment Protection (Prescribed Activities) Order 2005
- Environment Protection (Prescribed Activities)(Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 2005

Sarawak

- Local Authorities Ordinance, 1996 (Cap. 20)
- Forest Ordinance (Cap. 126-1958 Ed.)
- Forest Rules 1962
- The Forests (Planted Forests) Rules 1997
- Native Courts Ordinance 1992 (Cap. 9)
- Natural Resources and Environment Ordinance 1993 (Cap. 84- 1958 Ed.)
- Public Parks and Green Ordinance 1993 (Cap. 3)
- Sarawak River Ordinance 1993 (Cap. 4)
- Water Ordinance 1994 (Cap. 13)
- Sarawak Forestry Corporation Ordinance 1995 (Cap. 17)
- State Land Code 1958 (Cap. 81-1958 Ed.)
- Wild Life Protection Ordinance 1998 (Cap. 26)
- National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance 1998 (Cap. 27)
- Protection of Public Health Ordinance 1999 (Cap. 30)
- Veterinary Public Health Ordinance 1999 (Cap.32)
- Mining Ordinance (Cap. 83-1958 Ed.)
- Sarawak Biodiversity Centre Ordinance 1997 (Cap.24)
 - Sarawak Biodiversity Regulations 2004

ANNEX III

Agencies and other organisations proposed to be involved in implementation of the National Action Plan for Peatlands

Federal

- Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
 - Department of Director General of Lands and Mines
 - Department of Environment
 - Department of Irrigation and Drainage
 - Department of Wildlife and National Parks
 - Forest Department of Peninsular Malaysia
 - Forest Research Institute Malaysia
 - Minerals and Geoscience Department Malaysia
 - Malaysia Centre for Geospatial Data Infrastructure
 - National Hydraulic Research Institute Malaysia
 - National Mapping and Survey Department
- Ministry of Plantation Industries and Commodities
 - Malaysia Timber Council
 - Malaysian Palm Oil Board
 - Malaysian Rubber Board
 - Malaysian Timber Certification Council
 - Malaysian Timber Industry Board
- Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry
 - Department of Agriculture Malaysia
 - Fishery Department
 - Malaysian Pineapple Industry Board
 - Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovations
 - Malaysia Meteorological Department

- Malaysia Remote Sensing Agency
- Ministry of Housing and Local Government
 - Federal Department of Town and Country Planning
 - Fire and Rescue Department
- Ministry of Rural and Regional Development
 - Department of Orang Asli Affairs
- Ministry of Higher Education
 - Universities and Institutes of Higher learning
- Ministry of Information
- Ministry of Tourism
- Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister Department

Sabah

- Chief Minister's Department
 - Sabah State Economic Planning Unit
 - Sabah Forestry Department
- Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry
 - Sabah Agriculture Department
- Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment
 - Environment Protection Department

Sarawak

- Chief Minister's Department
 - State Planning Unit (SPU)
 - Tropical Peat Research Laboratory Unit
- Ministry of Modernisation Agriculture
 - Department of Agriculture Sarawak
- Ministry of Planning and Resource Management
 - Forest Department
 - Land and survey Development

- Ministry of Rural Development
- Ministry of Land Development
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
- Ministry of Environment and Public Health
 - Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB)

Peninsular Malaysia

- As specified by the relevant state government

Others

Non-government organisations

Private sector

Local communities

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