NATURE AND NATION

Forests and Development in Peninsular Malaysia



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Preface and Acknowledgements

he most immediate obstacle to the growth of a pan-Malayan way of thinking on the part of the inhabitants was, perhaps, geographical limitation, suggested B. Simandjuntak writing on Malayan federalism in 1969. 'Mountain ranges clad with dense tropical jungle, and swampy plains, tended to inhibit popular movements'. Development, accelerated in the last half century, has almost entirely eliminated this supposed physical barrier that stood in the way of social integration. Yet the political and cultural plurality that dominated the Malayan mentality before Independence lives on intact. Perceptions of tropical forests, in the meantime, have changed profoundly. The emergence of environmental discourse during the last quarter of the twentieth century has generated a new social ethos. Indeed, far from standing in the way of integration, nature as common heritage offers a unique focus for national interaction, transcending ethnic divisions.

The elusive pan-Malaysian identity as this study suggests, might be sought not in commonplace notions of material development but precisely in society's changing but abiding interactions with the natural environment. The evidence rests on two critical themes, first, the enduring importance of the forest to Malaysian development and, second, the articulation of this reality through the rise and co-evolution of tropical ecology and the global conservation movement. The composite nature of a 'total' history of human-forest relations in the moist tropics has proved both daunting and challenging to represent. The wide chronological and thematic spectrum that the project spans has involved the study not only of historical sources but extensive literature on biology, ecology, forestry and conservation. Much of this, in the form of original manuscripts and rare scientific reports, remains scattered among institutional and departmental libraries in Malaysia. A treasure trove at risk of further dispersal and loss, it adds hugely to Malaysian historiography. The exploration of humanenvironmental relations through these sources, apart from contextualizing Malaysia within the development of global science and environmentalism, lends insights into social processes significant to nation building, conventionally overlooked.

The nature of the project attracted the interest of foresters and forest ecologists, who readily offered their knowledge and experience. Throughout the research phase, I was particularly fortunate to have had the help and advice of

John Wyatt-Smith and Tim Whitmore, who contributed extensively to the development of forest ecology and conservation in Peninsular Malaysia. Both read and criticized drafts of the manuscript but, sadly, neither lived to see the book completed. Peter Burgess has been equally generous in sharing his great store of forestry knowledge and recollection of important times in the Peninsula. He, too, gave of his time generously, read draft chapters with patience and commented meticulously. This notwithstanding, differences in interpretation of particular issues and policies are strictly my own responsibility. Precarious as it was for a non-specialist to tread the path of forest science, exploring the ground where the interests of the natural and the human sciences converge was a necessary risk for better understanding human-forest relations.

At various times the project had the generous support of the British Council (Kuala Lumpur), the British Academy and the Chevening Scholarships Programme under the British High Commissioner's Research Award scheme (Kuala Lumpur). The Geography Department and the South Asian Studies Centre, Cambridge University, generously extended their facilities to me. Ideas took shape at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS), Wassenaar, where a Fellowship provided material support and as warm and congenial an environment as any researcher might wish.

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A conference hosted by the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Copenhagen, on Asian perceptions of nature encouraged me to broaden the scope of my study. Aspects of my research benefited from presentations at seminars and conferences, in Leiden, Wassenaar, Bangkok, Cambridge, Kuala Lumpur, New Haven and London. The many contacts that resulted provided insight and facilitated my research in various ways. I thank especially: Chris Bayly, Richard

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Jeyamalar Kathirithamby-Wells Clare Hall, Cambridge

NOTE

B. Simandjuntak, *Malayan Federalism: A Study of Federal Problems in a Plural Society*, Oxford University Press: Kuala Lumpur, 1969, p. 2.

Glossary

MALAY TERMS

alam world, universe

alam semula jadi literally 'the world in its original state' or nature

asli original, aboriginal, genuine

bakau mangrove

belai meeting place, audience hall

belukar secondary forest, scrub

bendahara prime minister; finance minister

bendang see sawah

bomoh/ dukun medicine-man, magician

buah fruit

bumiputera literally 'son of the soil', a term officially used for Malays and all

indigenous people

damar resin

dato, datuk title traditionally borne by non-royal chief; title conferred in

modern times in recognition of services to the nation

dukun see bomoh

dusun orchard gembala mahout

getah latex, rubber gunung mountain

hantu evil spirit, ghost

harimau akuan/jadi-jadian were-tiger (cf. werewolf)

hilir downriver hulu/ulu upriver hutan forest

hutan rimba primary forest, primeval forest

jadi-jadian see harimau akuan

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jenang assistant or representative of a chief or ruler

jerat noose, snare

kampung village

kayu wood, timber

kerabat di-raja royalty

keramat objects and people worshipped for their perceived magical powers

kongsi a partnership or Chinese business group

ladang swidden

lalang the grass Imperata cylindrica

maju progress
mandur overseer
menebang to cut down

minyak oil

mukimdistrictnegeristate

orang kaya literally 'rich man'; title borne by nobility and chiefs
palung Wooden structure with sluice boxes for collecting tin ore

panglung Chinese log-extraction system

pantang taboo

pantun improvised quatrain with inner assonance

pawang shaman, magician

penghulu village head pengkalan river jetty

pikul weight equivalent to 60 kg

pokok tree, plant

raja muda heir to the throne

relau furnace for smelting tin rimba primary forest, jungle

Rukunegara articles of faith of the nation

sakai term originally used for aborigines in general, now considered

pejorative and replaced by the term Orang Asli.

sawah paddy field: wet-rice cultivation semangat vital force, energy, spirit of life

semangat vital force, energy, spirit of lif

sungai river

tauke, taukeh towkay, Chinese businessman, shopkeeper

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temenggung minister traditionally in charge of defence, internal security and

affairs of the palace

tengku/tungku title for Malay princes

tengku mahkota crown prince

tongkang barge, vessel for transporting cargo between ship and shore

tungku see tengku

ubi edible root or underground stem

ulu see hulu

Yang Dipertuan Agung title borne by the constitutional head of state in Malaya/

Malaysia

MALAY NAMES FOR FLORA AND PLANT PRODUCTS

akar laka (Dalbergia parviflora)

asam gelugur (from Garcinia atroviridis)

bakau (Rhizophora spp.)

bakau kurap, belukap (Rhizophora mucronata)

bakau minyak (Rhizophora apiculata)

balau (Shorea spp.)

berembang (Sonneratia caseolaris) bertam (Eugeissona tristis)

bintangur batu, penaga laut red poon (Calophyllum inophyllum and C. lanigerum)

bulu pusi, penawar jambi (Cibotium barometz)

cengal, penak (Neobalanocarpus heimii)

damar laut merah (Shorea kunstleri)

damar minyak (Agathis borneensis)

durian (Durio spp.)

gaharu/karas eaglewood (from Aquilaria malaccensis)

gambir gambier (from Uncaria gambir) gelam paperbark (Melaleuca cajuputi)

getah perca gutta-percha (from Palaquium gutta)

getah rambung (from Ficus elastica)

getah sondek (from Palaquium maingayi) getah taban merah (from Palaquium gutta)

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getah taban putih (from Palaquium obovatum)

giam (Hopea nutans)

jelutung jelutong (from Dyera costulata)

jernang rattan (from Daemonorops didymophylla) kapur camphor (from Dryobalanops aromatica)

kayu arang ebony (Diospyros maingayi)

kedondong (Canarium spp.) kelat (Eugenia spp.)

kelubi/asam paya (Eleiodoxa conferta) kempas (Koompassia malaccensis)

kemuning (Murraya paniculata)

kepung (Shorea macroptera and S. ovalis)

keranji (Dialium spp.)

keruing (Dipterocarpus spp.)

kesumba keling annatto (from Bixa orellana)

kesumba safflower, false saffron (from Carthamus tinctorius)

kubin, telinga gajah (Macaranga gigantea) kulim (Scorodocarpus borneensis)

kumus (Shorea spp.)

lalang (Imperata cylindrica)

leban (Vitex spp.) mata kucing (Hopea spp.)

mengkuang screw-palm (Pandanus spp.)

meranti (Shorea spp.)

merbau (Intsia palembanica)

neram (Dipterocarpus oblongifolius) nibung (Oncosperma tigillarium) nipah nipa (Nypa fruticans)

nipah nipa (Nypa frutican:

palas (Licuala spp.) pandan see mengkuang

penak see cengal penawar jambi see bulu pusi pendarahan (Myristica spp.)

perah (Elateriospermum tapos)

petai (Parkia spp.)

piai (Acrostichum aureum) rami (Boehmeria nivea)

rambung (Ficus elastica)

resak (Vatica and Cotylelobium spp.)

resam (Gleichenia linearis)

rotan manau rattan (Calamus ornatus, Calamus manan)

rumbia sago palm (Metroxylon sagu)

sagu (from Metroxylon sagu)

sepang sappan (Caesalpinia sappan)

seraya (Shorea curtisii)
sondek see getah sondek
taban (Palaquium spp.)
taban merah (Palaquium gutta)
tembusu (Fagraea spp.)

tongkat ali (Eurycoma longifolia) tualang (Koompassia excelsa)

tuba (Derris spp.)

tumu (Bruguiera gymnorhiza)

MALAY NAMES FOR FAUNA AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

ayam hutan junglefowl (Gallus gallus)

babi hutan wild pig (Sus scrofa)

badak berendam Sumatran rhinoceros (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis)

badak cipan Malayan tapir (Tapirus indicus)

badak raya Javan rhinoceros (Rhinoceros sondaicus)

banting banteng (Bos javanicus)

barau-barau straw-headed bulbul (Pycnonotus zeylanicus)
belibis lesser whistling duck (Dendrocygna javanica)

benturung bearcat (Arctictis binturong)
beruang sun bear (Helarctos malayanus)
berkuk large green pigeon (Treron capellei)
cecadu gua cave fruit bat (Eonycteris spelaea)
embalau stick-lac (from Laccifer lacca)

gajah

elephant (Elephas maximus)

guliga

bezoar

harimau

tiger (Panthera tigris)

kambing gurun serow (Capricornis sumatraensis)

kelip-kelip

firefly (Pteroptyx spp.)

keluang

Malayan flying fox (Pteropus vampyrus)

kijang

barking deer, Indian muntjac (Muntiacus muntjak)

kuang

argus pheasant (Argusianus argus)

merak

green peafowl (Pavo muticus)

merbuk balam zebra dove(Geopelia striata)

murai kampung magpie robin (Copsychus saularis)

musang

civet (Viverridae)

musang pulut

toddy cat (Paradoxurus hermaphroditus)

pelanduk, kancil lesser mouse deer (Tragulus javanicus)

pipit padi

munia (Lonchura spp.)

punai

green pigeon (Treron spp.)

punai tanah

emerald dove (Chalcophaps indica) sambar, sambhur (Cervus unicolor)

rusa seladang

gaur (Bos gaurus)

tiong air

moorhen (Gallinula chloropus)

Abbreviations

ACA Anti-Corruption Agency

Ad. F Adviser on Forestry

ADO A sistant District Officer

A kib Nasional /National Archives, Malaysia

APPEN Asia Pacific People's Environmental Network

ASEAN Association of Southeast Asian Nations

ASPA Amanah Saham Pahang

BKI Bijdragen tot de Taal-, Land-en Volkenkunde

CAP Consumers' Association, Penang

CBD Convention on Biodiversity

Cd. Command

CFC Conservator of Forests
CFC Chlorofluorocarbon

CFDT Committee on Forest Development in the Tropics

CFJ Conservator of Forests, Johor

CHOGM Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
CIDA Canadian International Development Agency
CIFOR Centre for International Forest Research

CITES Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species

(of Wild Fauna and Flora)

CO Colonial Office

CSBD Country Study on Biological Diversity
CSD Commission on Sustainable Development

CUP Cambridge University Press

DANCED Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development

DF Director of Forestry
DFO District Forest Officer

DID Drainage and Irrigation Department

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DO District Officer

DOE Department of Environment
DTAM Dutch Technical Aid Mission

DWNP/JPHL Department of Wildlife and National Parks/Jabatan Perlin-

dungan Hidupan Liar dan Taman Negara/PERHILITAN

ECE European Commission for Environment

EIA Environmental Impact Assessment

ENSO El Niño Southern Oscillation

EPSM Environmental Protection Society

EPU Economic Planning Unit, Prime Minister's Department,

Malaysia.

ESCAP Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Region

FELCRA Federal Land Consolidation and Rehabilitation Authority

FELDA Federal Land Development Authority

FMS Federated Malay States
FoE Friends of the Earth

FRI(M) Forest Research Institute (Malaysia)
FRRS Forest Resource Reconnaissance Survey

FS Federal Secretariat

FSC Forestry Stewardship Council

Ft. Perak S. Forestry, Perak South

GATT General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

GG Government Gazette

GIS Geographical Information System

GTZ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit

ha hectare

HC High Commissioner

HCOF High Commissioner's Office File HMSO Her/His Majesty's Stationery Office

IADP Integrated Agricultural Development Programme

IBRD International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

ICBP International Council for Bird Preservation/BirdLife

International

ICPN International Congress for the Protection of Nature

ICSU International Council of Scientific Unions

Abbreviations • xxiii

IFP Interim Forest Policy

IIED International Institute for Environment and Development,

London

ISIS Institute for Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia

ITTA International Timber Trade Agreement, 1983
ITTO International Timber Trade Organization

IUCN The International Union for Conservation (of Nature and

Natural Resources)

IUPN International Union for the Protection of Nature
IFMSM Journal of the Federated Malay States Museums

JHEOA Jabatan Hal Ehwal Orang Asli / Department of Orang Asli Affairs

JIA Journal of the Indian Archipelago

JICA Japanese International Cooperation Agency

JMBRAS Journal of the Malayan/Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic

Society

JSBRAS Journal of the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

JSEAH Journal of Southeast Asian History JSEAS Journal of Southeast Asian Studies

JSFPE Journal of the Society for Fauna Protection in the Empire
KADA Kemubu Agricultural Development Authority, Kedah/Perlis
KESEDAR Kelantan Development Authority /South Kelantan

Development Authority/

KETENGAH Lembaga Kemajuan Terengganu Tengah/Central Terengganu

Development Authority

KITLV Koninklijk Instituut voor Taal-, Land- en Volkenkunde

KPK Kompleks Perkayuan Kelantan

KPKKT Kumpulan Pengurusan Kayu-Kayan Terengganu

LCC Land Classification Council

MAB Man and Biosphere (Programme) Malaysia

MARA Majlis Amanah Rakyat / Council for Rural Welfare

MARDI Malayan Agricultural Research and Development Institute

MBRAS Malayan Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society

MC & I Malaysian Criteria & Indicators
MCP Malayan Communist Party

MIDA Malaysian Industry Development Authority

MNJ Malayan/Malaysian Nature Journal

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MNS Malayan/Malaysian Nature Society

MOSTE Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment

MPAJA Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army

MTC Malaysian Timber Council

MTIB Malaysian Timber Industry Board

MUS Malayan Uniform System

n. note

n.p. not published

n.s. new series

NCS National Conservation Strategy NDC National Development Council

NDP New Development Policy
NEP New Economic Policy
NFA National Forestry Act

NFC National Forestry Council
NFP National Forestry Policy

NGO non-governmental organization

NLC National Land Council

NPAC National Parks Advisory Council

NSCB National Steering Committee on Biodiversity

NST New Straits Times

NTCC National Timber Certification Council

NTFP Non-Timber Forest Produce

ODA Overseas Development Authority

OFI Oxford Forestry Institute
OUP Oxford University Press

PAS Parti Islam seMalaysia/Pan-Malayan Islamic Party

PERHILITAN see DWNP

PFE Permanent Forest Estate; by definition Permanent Reserved

Forest (PRF)

PHDK Pejabat Hutan Daerah, Kedah Utara - Perlis / District Forest

Office, North Kedah - Perlis

Phg Pahang

PRF Permanent Reserved Forest

PTP Penyata Tahunan Perhutanan Malaysia Barat/ Annual Report,

Forestry, West Malaysia

Abbreviations • xxv

Royal Commonwealth Society RCS Report on Forest Administration RFA

Report on Federal Forest Administration RFFA

Rubber Growers' Association RGA

Rhodes House, Oxford RHO

Rural Industrial Development Authority RIDA Regeneration Improvement Felling RIF

Rubber Research Institute RRI

Sahabat Alam Malaysia/Friends of the Earth, Malaysia SAM Scientific Commission for Problems of the Environment SCOPE

State Conservation Strategy SCS

State Economic Planning Unit/Unit Perancangan Ekonomi SEPU/UPEN

Negara

State Forest Officer **SFO**

Société Générale de Surveillance Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. SGS

Syarikat Jengka Sdn Bhd SISB

Selective Management System **SMS**

Society for the Protection of Fauna in the Empire SPFE

Straits Settlements SS

Timber Exporters Association of Malaysia **TEAM** (International) Tropical Forest Action Plan TFAP

Tropical Forest Timber Agreement and Action Plan TFTAAP

Third Malaysia Plan TMP

Temporary Occupation Licence TOL

Totally Protected Area TPA

Trade Records Analysis of Fauna and Flora in Commerce TRAFFIC

Tennessee Valley Authority TVA Unfederated Malay States **IJFMS**

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia/National University, Malaysia UKM

United Malays National Organization **UMNO**

United Nations Conference on Environment and Development UNCED

United Nations Commission on Trade and Development UNCTAD

United Nations Development Programme UNDP United Nations Environmental Programme UNEP

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization **UNESCO** United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC