

# Status of Conservation in Malaya

by

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## A. General Data:

1. Area: c. 50,000 square miles.
2. Population: 7½ million.
3. Economy: Rubber and tin exports.

## B. Government Departments and Official Organizations concerned with Conservation:

1. Department of Forestry, Kuala Lumpur; with State Forest Officers in each State.
2. Game Department; Chief Game Warden, Seremban, Negri Sembilan.
3. Department of Fisheries: Director, Kuala Lumpur.
4. Department of Agriculture: Director, Kuala Lumpur.

## C. Organizations concerned with research into conservation:

All Departments listed above B have research branches.

## D. Private conservation organizations:

Malayan Nature Society (P.O. Box 750, Kuala Lumpur, Malaya, Malaysia) 600 members, general conservation.

## E. National Parks and equivalent reserves.

1. The organization responsible for the establishing and maintaining Malaya's National Park (Taman Negara) is the Game Department. The objective of establishing and maintaining of our Taman Negara is principally for the conservation of our country's fauna and flora.
2. Malaya has only one national park (Taman Negara). It was established in 1938, and named the King George V National Park. It is located in the three States of Pahang, Kelantan and Trengganu. The most significant feature of the park is that it contains a good representation of most of the fauna and flora found in our country.
3. Public information is offered in the form of a park brochure. However, not many of these brochures are available to the public due to lack of funds.
4. At present no training is given to park staff due to lack of manpower and funds.
5. At the present moment the Park has a modern 4 roomed rest house, two two-roomed chalets and five two-roomed halting bungalows.
6. The Taman Negara is under the charge of a superintendent who is a game warden. He is responsible for the administration and control of the park. The Superintendent is responsible to the Chief Game Warden who is the Officer in Charge of the Park. At present the emphasis is on recreation, tourism; conservation is sadly lacking due to shortage of manpower.
7. Ninety nine per cent of the Park is kept in its true wilderness.
8. No exploitation, except for fishing which is under license at \$5/- (Malayan dollars) per person for a period of 30 days.
9. The protection of the park is, sad to say, ineffective; there is poaching, both for fish and game, and the illegal collection of bamboo and rattan.

10. No exotic introduction.
11. The major problems facing our park are:
  - (a) The lack of training for the staff;
  - (b) Poaching and illegal collection of bamboo and rattan;
  - (c) Over-emphasis on the catering for tourists;
  - (d) Lack of personnel, and
  - (e) Lack of funds.
12. The Malaysian Government has approved a plan for the spending of (Malayan dollars) \$750, 000/- for the development of the park over the next 5 years - 1966 to 1970 - to build more facilities to cater for more tourists. With this development it is hoped that we could get funds to recruit more game rangers for conservation work.

F. Other areas:

The Game Department has two areas in mind which could be created Game Reserves. The area which is situated in Upper Perak along the Perak River has an area of 17, 808 acres. In this comparatively small area are situated 11 salt licks. Wildlife, especially the larger species like elephants, seladang and rusa, is abundant. The second area is in central Pahang in the Tasek (lake) Bera area which covers about 10 square miles. In this area, apart from land animals, there are also wild duck, coots, rails and crakes.

G. Forest conservation:

1. Forest Area: 67 per cent.
2. Forest Reserves: 26 per cent.
3. Types of Forest Reserves:
  - (a) Protective.
  - (b) Productive.

Within them are located virgin jungle reserves and other research areas.
4. Training provided for forestry personnel:
  - (a) Senior officers: 3-6 months training under the guidance of the officers of the F.R.I., Kepong, to orientate graduates from Forestry Institutions abroad in local forestry.
  - (b) Subordinate staff: 11 months elementary forestry training at the Forest School, F.R.I., Kepong. A refresher course catering for the senior grades of staff is being started covering selected subjects only.
5. Illegal clearing for shifting cultivation by the aborigines constitutes a significant forestry problem, although such a practice has also been common among the other races of the country. The main factors involved are difficulty of control and inadequate legislation. A weak policy might also be a factor.
6. Logging carried out by private industry.
7. There is a Forest Research Institute at Kepong. Although not too badly funded, it is inadequately staffed.
8. Reforestation:
  - (a) Program carried out by government.
  - (b) Generally reforestation is by natural regeneration aided by protection. Where natural regeneration failed or is inadequate, the forest is enriched by planting. Regular plantation is established where the area is decidedly poor but suitable for exotic tropical conifers.
  - (c) Selective poisoning is used.
  - (d) Averaging over the last four years (1961-64) the area cut annually is of the order of 66, 600 acres and the area reforested is 50, 800 acres. Thus the

area reforested amounted to approximately 76 per cent of the area cut. It should be realized that there is still a considerable amount of back-log brought about by the Japanese occupation of the country and the emergency that followed.

- (e) Both native and exotic species are used in reforestation.
  - (f) Reforestation is quite successful generally. Where reforestation is in high forest by natural means or by enrichment planting it is adequately protected but where regular plantations of conifers especially are concerned, fires are still a serious threat.
9. Forest fires are not generally a problem but they are with regular plantations of conifers. Man is generally the cause and measures are being taken to prevent occurrences, such as constant clearing of fire breaks and the provision of adequate fencing.

#### H. Soil and Water Conservation:

A number of irrigation projects are in hand, intended to more than double the area of rice cultivation under controlled water supply within a few years. Major hydro-electric schemes are also in operation, under construction and planned. The Federal Land & Development Authority (Jalan Gurney, Kuala Lumpur) are probably concerned in some of this.

#### I. Conservation of wildlife:

1. The Game Department is responsible for conservation of wildlife.
2. The laws protecting wild life are found in the Wild Animals and Birds Protection Ordinance No. 2 of 1955. The present ordinance is considered to have many 'loop-holes' and requires revision.
3. Enforcement of this Ordinance is inadequate, as the Game Department is facing a serious shortage of staff and trained officers. Public support is also lacking.
4. No training at the present moment.
5. At present staff of the Game Department take action to drive animals away from the cultivation they are destroying as soon as such a case is reported. As a final resort 'leaders' of the herd may be shot and killed to drive the animals away.
6. (a) The CHIOR Game Reserve has an area of 14 square miles. It is situated north of Sungei Siput, north of Perak.
- (b) The Taman Negara has an area of 1677 square miles. In addition to being a game reserve, it is also Malaya's only National Park. The object of this Park is for the conservation of the fauna and flora indigenous to this country.
- (c) The Sungkai Game Reserve has an area of 15 square miles. It is situated southeast of Bidor, Perak.
- (d) The Krau Game Reserve is situated east of Raub, Pahang. It has an area of 252 square miles. In this Game Reserve are many Elephants and Seladang.
- (e) Sungei Dusun Game Reserve has an area of 10,700 acres. It is situated southwest of Tanjong Malim, Perak.
- (f) Bukit Batu Game Reserve has an area of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. East of Kuala Kubu Bahru, Selangor.
- (g) Gold Course Kuala Lumpur Reserve.
- (h) Port Dickson Island Bird Sanctuary is situated on Pulau Burong (2 roods), Pulau Babi (1 rood) and Pulau Perjudi ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  rood). They are situated to the southwest of Port Dickson.
- (i) Segamat Wild Life Sanctuary (146 square miles) and Endau-Kluang Wild Life Reserve (401 square miles). Both these reserves are situated on the northern border of Johore and Pahang.

- (j) Endau-Kota Tinggi Wild Life Reserve (878 square miles) is situated north of Kota Tinggi, Johore.
- (k) Kuala Pahang Bird Sanctuary has an area of 5 square miles situated to the east of Pekan, Pahang.

Note: The objectives of a c d f i j are for the conservation of wildlife. As for b above in addition it also serves as a place of recreation for tourists. g h and k are chiefly for the conservation of Birds. Finally, e the Sungei Dusun Game Reserves were created for the conservation of the Rhinoceros found there.

7. Wildlife Research:

- (a) Research projects are being carried out.
- (b) No research division in government body responsible for wildlife.
- (c) In addition to the rhinoceros, research on the elephants (*Elephas maximus*), gaur or seladang (*Bos gaurus*) and sambar deer (*Cervus unicolor*) are deemed most urgent.

J. Threatened species of animals and plants:

- 1. Javan and Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) and (*Didermocerus sumatrensis*). Both species are believed by both the Malays and Chinese to be a 'miracle animal' and that all parts of the animals have some medicinal value to cure all kinds of illness. It is believed that scrapings of the rhinoceros horns made into a brew and taken will cure cancer and other diseases! An ounce of rhinoceros horn would fetch anything up to \$350.00 (Malaysian dollars), dried rhino blood could be sold at \$45.00 an ounce and even its dung is readily bought by Chinese practitioners.

The gaur or seladang (*Bos gaurus*) is poached for its meat.

- 2. In the opinion of responsible officers of the Game Department, if no action is taken now the rhinoceros will disappear altogether from our country in 5 years time. The gaur or seladang can last a little longer – perhaps ten years time.

3. Measures to prevent extermination:

The creation of more game reserves in areas where these animals are found. A stricter law, for the maximum penalty under the present Ordinance is 6 months imprisonment and/or a fine of \$1,000/- for killing a totally protected animal which includes the rhinoceros, is insufficient to act as a deterrent. And finally the recruitment of more officers and Game Rangers to enforce the law.

K. Pesticides:

- 1. Liberally used. Sodium arsenite widely used as herbicide, in plant control in both forestry and plantation. We have no knowledge of the extent of the use of other poisons.
- 2. Not answered.
- 3. Such poisons can hardly be other than dangerous.
- 4. We believe research is being carried out on pesticides. Refer to Rubber Research Institute, P.O. Box 150, Kuala Lumpur, in addition to organizations listed under (B).

L. Public education on Conservation:

- 1-4. Generally there are no programs in conservation education; refer to Education Department.
- 5. Private bodies: See (D) above.
- 6. Little by little, success is being made in educating the public.
- 7. No texts as such are available.

M. Training of conservation personnel:

1. Training schools:
  - (a) There are training schools for forestry personnel. (see G, 4 above).
  - (b) None for wildlife management.
  - (c) None in national park management.
  - (d) None in other aspects of conservation.
2. No opportunity for advanced training in above subjects (as such).
3. Dr. Lee Talbot was here recently: his report has not yet been published.
4. For training we believe that it would be preferable to send local staff abroad to established institutes, rather than to bring in 'international experts' unacquainted with local conditions, without special sponsoring from the Government, but see N 1, and N 2 below.

N. Urgent conservation problems:

We give below comments of:

1. An officer of the Game Department

'In my opinion the most urgent conservation problems facing my country today are listed as follows:

- (a) the lack of staff of the Game Department;
- (b) no facilities and trained staff to do research work;
- (c) no facilities to train the staff of the Game Department;
- (d) lack of public support.

To approach the above problems particularly on a b c above, high officials of the Government should be made to see and understand the importance of the conservation of wild life to this country and the world at large by local individuals /organizations and international organizations like the IUCN and others. Once the high officials of the Government see the point and give us their support I feel sure the problem will solve itself. As for d above, once problems a b and c are solved then we could start on the 'education' of the public by running civic courses and lectures at schools, etc.

Presently international organizations could help immensely by sending us experts to help us in doing research work and the training of our officers overseas'.

2. An authorized spokesman of the Department of Forestry –

'Beside what has been indicated under G4 above, at present there is no other forestry training available in the country. Professional training has always been obtained from abroad. What are needed are training facilities for the intermediate and higher level in the form of a college and the establishment of a School of Forestry or a Faculty of Forestry within the existing University of Malaya. International assistance could help in the establishment of the faculty in the form of personnel for the teaching staff whilst in the case of the college, since it is going to be a completely new institution, both funds and personnel would be required. The possibility of a joint training at the existing College of Agriculture with the assistance of the Forest Research Institute might be investigated'.

In our opinion, public education is of crucial importance. Since this task has not been taken over by the Education Department, it falls on private bodies (D, above). Funds to support current conservation programs of the Malayan Nature Society would be extremely useful.

Acknowledgments:

In preparing our reply we have drawn fully on letters from the State Forest Officer, Negri Sembilan and Malacca, on behalf of the Chief Conservator of Forests, and from Mr. Bernard Thong, for the Chief Game Warden, States of Malaya. We gratefully acknowledge the help of these gentlemen.

## ANNEX 2

### Common Pesticides Used in Philippine Agriculture and Public Health Programs

#### I. Insecticides:

##### A. Chlorinated Hydrocarbons:

1. DDT
2. BHC (Lindane or gamma isomer)
3. Dieldrin
4. Aldrin
5. Endrin
6. Chlordane
7. Heptachlor
8. Methoxychlor

##### B. Organo-phosphates:

1. Methyl parathion
2. EPW
3. Malathion
4. Diazinon
5. Dimethioate
6. Diptorex
7. Lebaycid
8. Phosphamidon

##### C. Carbamate:

1. Sevin

#### II. Fungicides:

1. Zineb
2. Maneb
3. Captan
4. Copper (various forms)
5. Burdo mixture
6. Ferbam
7. Anti-biotics (Blasticidin, Agrimycin)
8. Mercurials

#### III. Herbicides

1. 2, 4-D
2. MCPA
3. Karmex
4. 2, 4, 5-T

#### IV. Rodenticides:

1. Sodium Fluoroacetate or '1080'
2. Fluoroacetamide or '1081'
3. White arsenic
4. Warfarin
5. HCN dust fumigant

#### V. Molluscide:

1. Metaldehyde