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BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT IN MALAYSIA: ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

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ABSTRACT

There are two main issues/concerns of biodiversity: (i) sustainability- the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and (ii) conservation of biodiversity. Effective management is needed because (1) our biological/natural resources are not inexhaustible, (2) many components of biodiversity are being depleted systematically, (3) there is increasing occurrence of ecological/environmental disasters, and (4) there is over exploitation.

The primary purpose of biodiversity management is to contribute to the maintenance of genetic, species and community levels of biodiversity, and the processes that maintain that biodiversity. Its goal is therefore to sustain biodiversity. As it provides the raw material for biotechnologies and agricultural development, effective management is essential for continued progress and socioeconomic development and for a sustainable world and continued existence.

Biodiversity management encompasses biological and ecological dimensions as well as human dimension. It requires innovative and creative approaches and technologies. Of special challenge would be to develop approaches that are acceptable to all parties (stakeholders) to solve people-biodiversity problems and associated people-people conflicts.

Effective and successful biodiversity management cannot be achieved without good science, comprehensive legislation and dedicated practitioners. It requires close collaboration and cooperation of all sectors-regulatory agencies, industry, scientists and the public.

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With effective management, it is possible to realize the Vision “to transform Malaysia into a world centre of excellence in conservation, research and utilization of tropical biological diversity by the year 2020”.

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INTRODUCTION

Biodiversity or biological diversity has been generally accepted as “the variety of life and its processes in an area”, “the variety and variability