



# Ecotourism and environmental education potentials in urban forests of Malaysia

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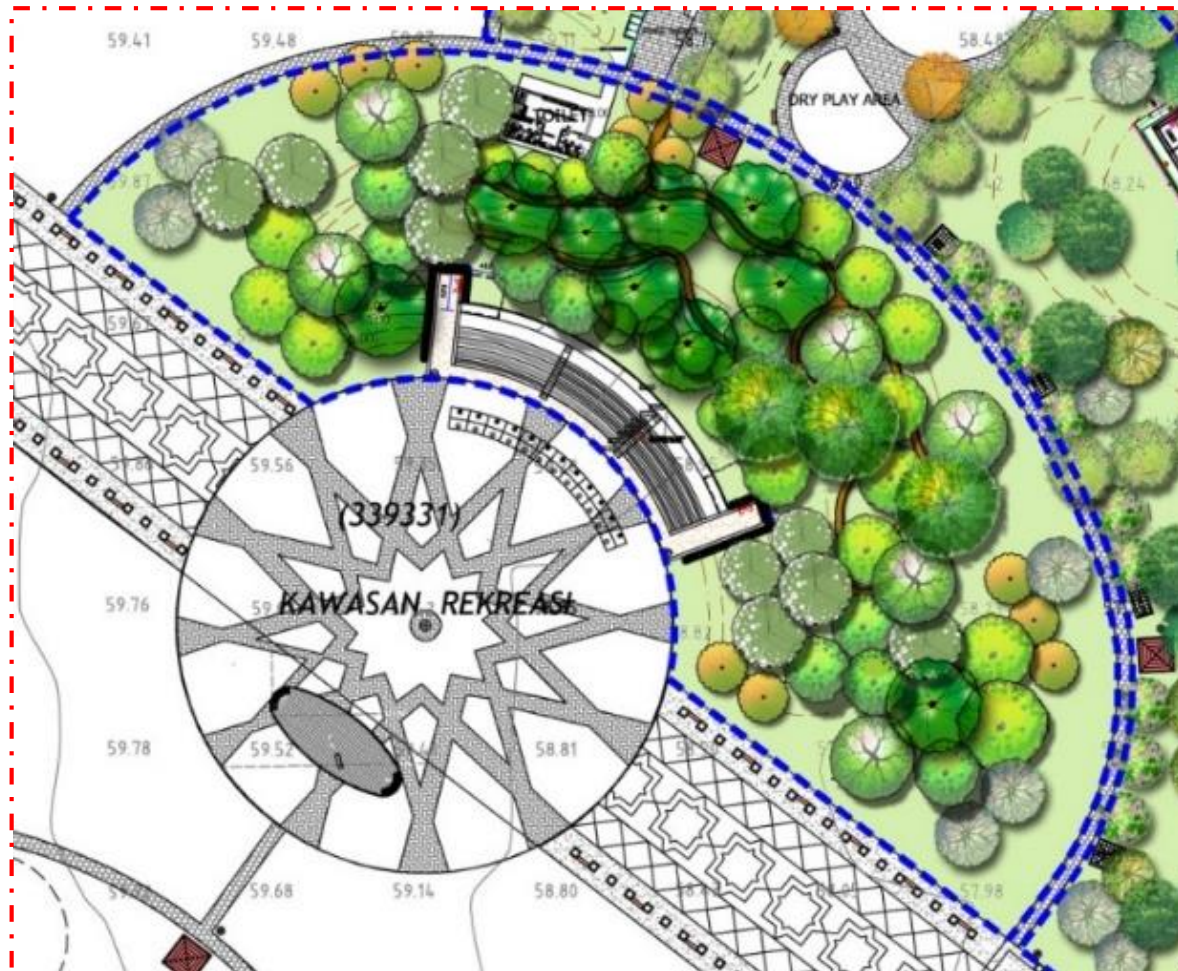






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# Ecotourism and Urban Forestry Program, Forest Research Institute Malaysia



**Research &  
Development**

**Collaboration  
with local  
authorities**

**Collaboration  
with other  
organisations:**

**Establishment of urban forests  
Planting of local species  
Arboriculture  
Awareness on forest benefits**



# Benefits of forests to people

- **Health benefits** associated with access to public open space and parks. Access to vegetated areas such as parks, open spaces, and playgrounds were associated with better perceived general health
- **Environmental sustainability/biodiversity**: Urban forests improve air quality, trees capture particles and toxic gases such as nitrogen dioxide and ozone
- **Cultural importance**: Many urban open spaces are important culturally and have a long history of use





# Benefits of forests to people

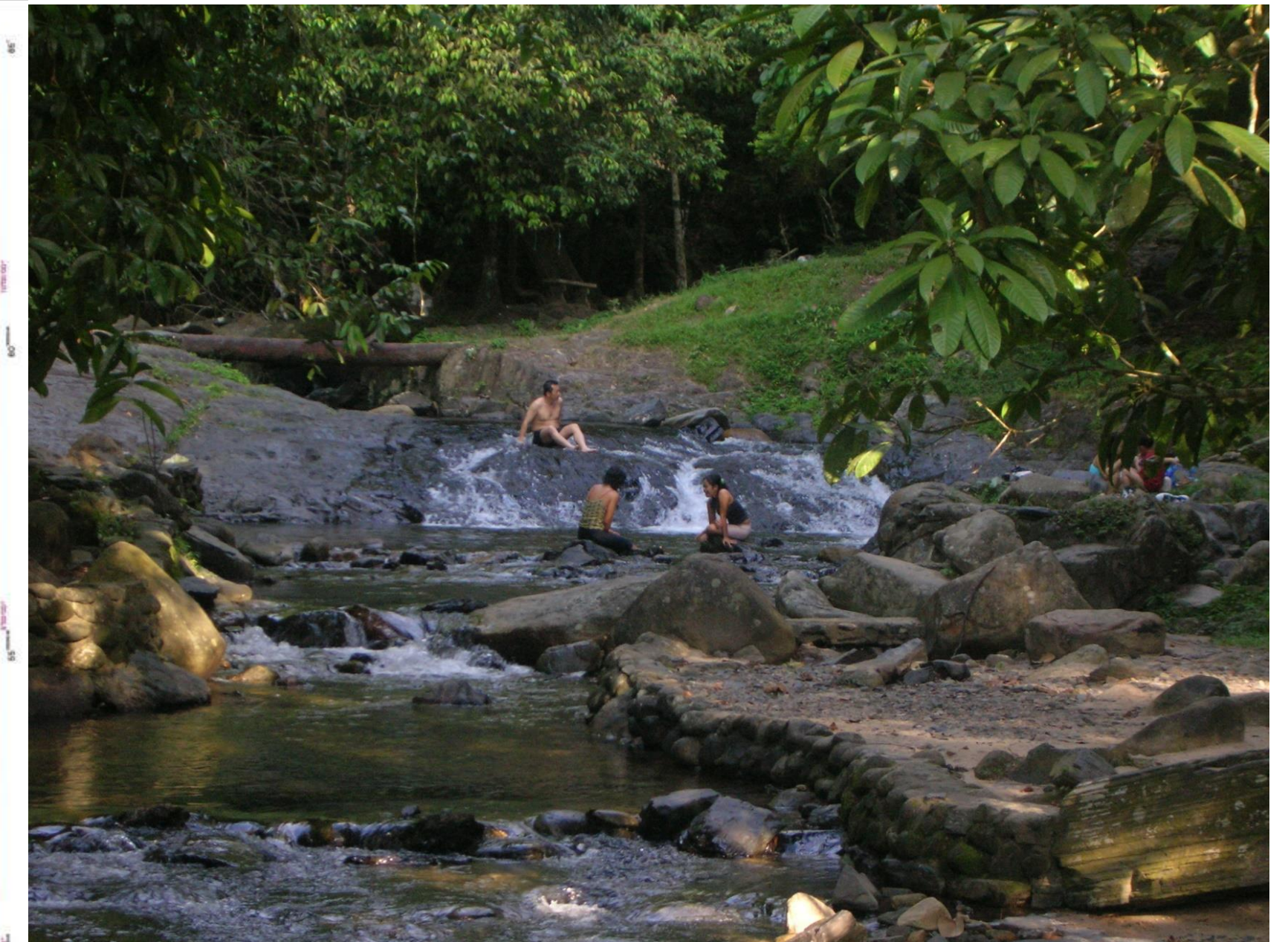
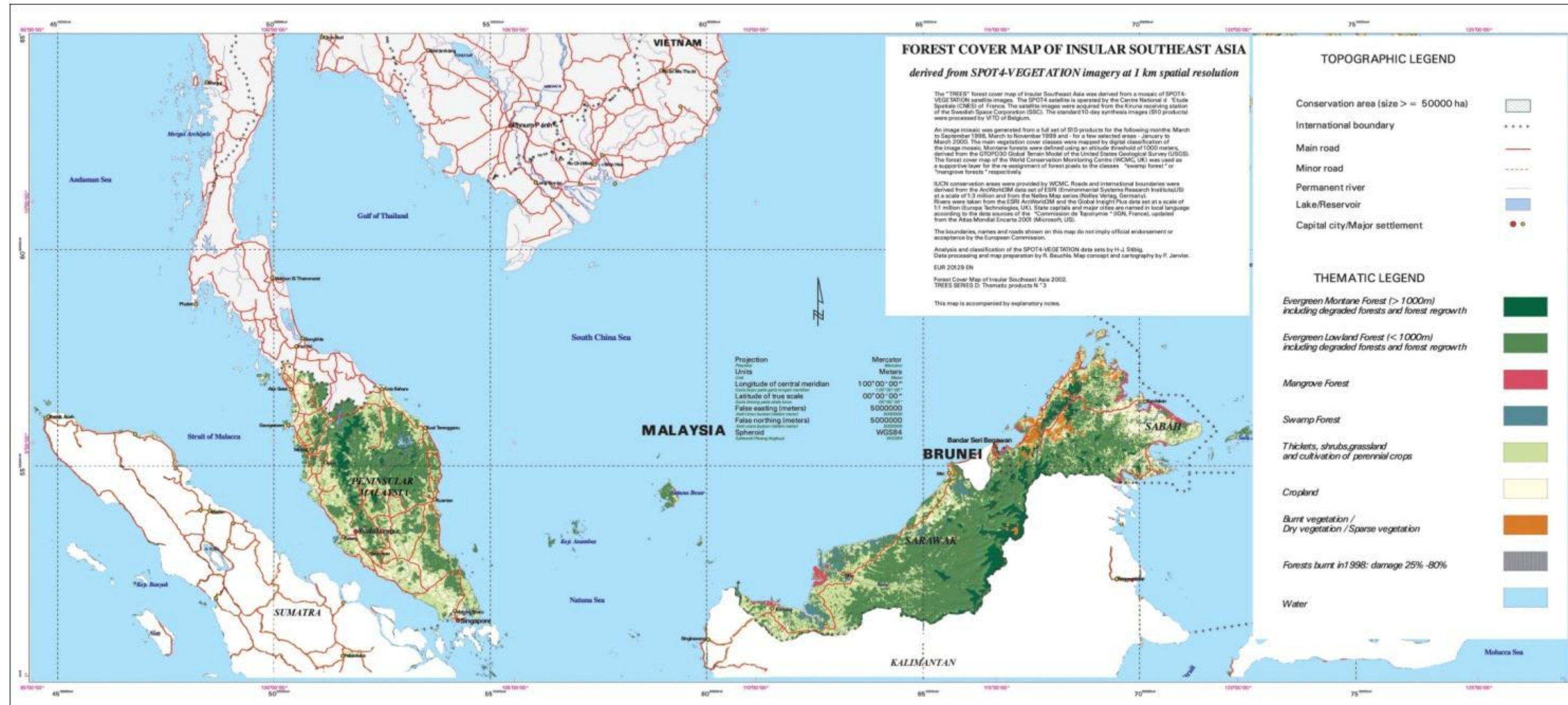
- **Informal learning benefits:**  
Environmental education in open spaces has become necessary to respond to environmental change
- **Benefits to the community:**  
Open spaces provide an opportunity to interact with other individuals in the community. Increasing levels of social contact and social integration, particularly in underprivileged neighborhoods. May also be in terms of **economy**







# Forest for recreation and education near urban areas of Malaysia



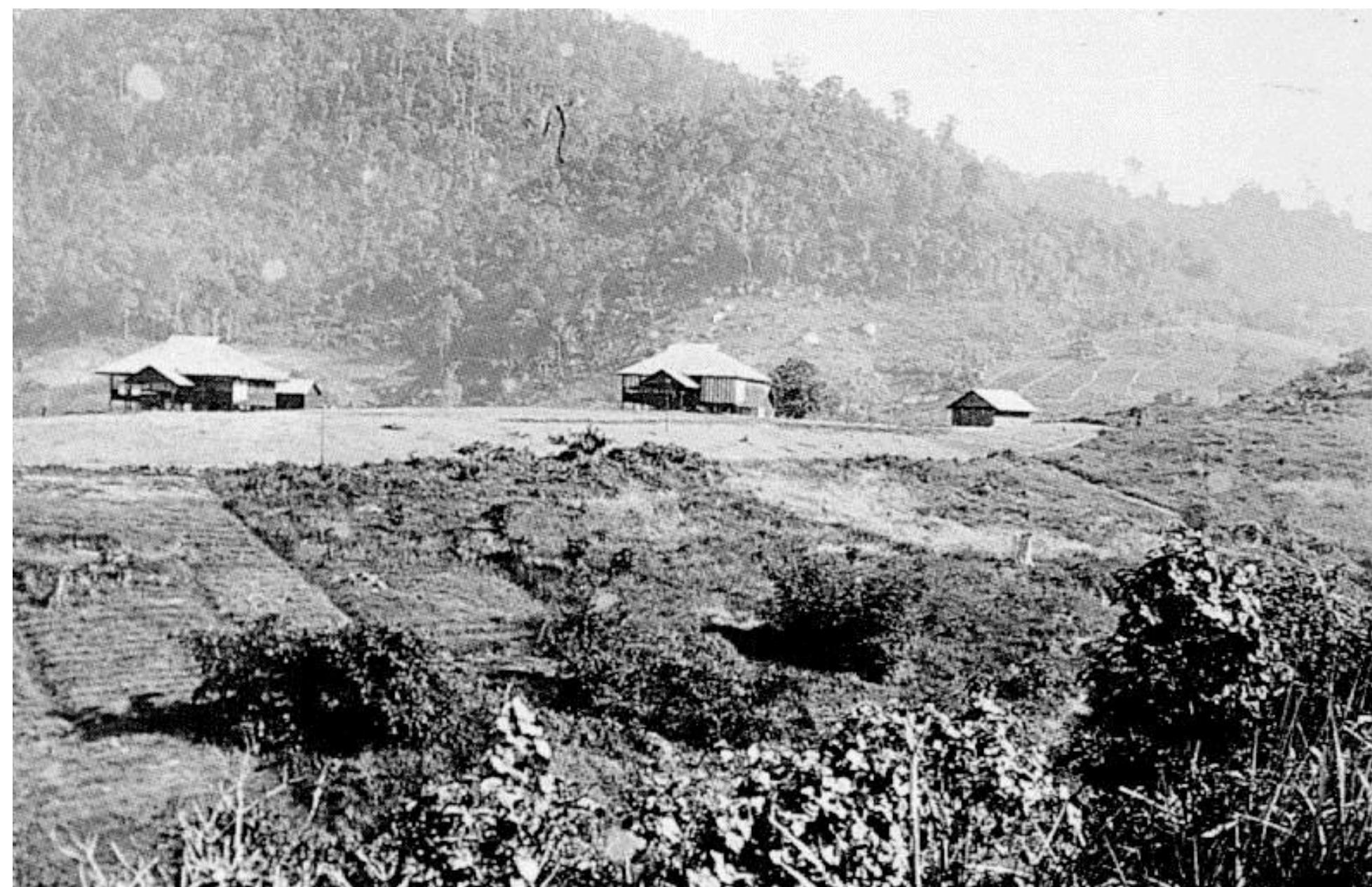
- Malaysian in urban areas: 1980, 35%; 1995, 55%, by 2020 75% of Malaysian will live in cities & towns
- The need for nature escapes while resources are to be protected, thus urban forests are important
- Malaysian Biodiversity: 1 of 12 countries of megadiversity
- Eco-parks - In accordance to National Forest Policy 1978 (Amendment 1992): To keep aside an area to be sustained for recreation, eco-tourism and increase public awareness on forestry.



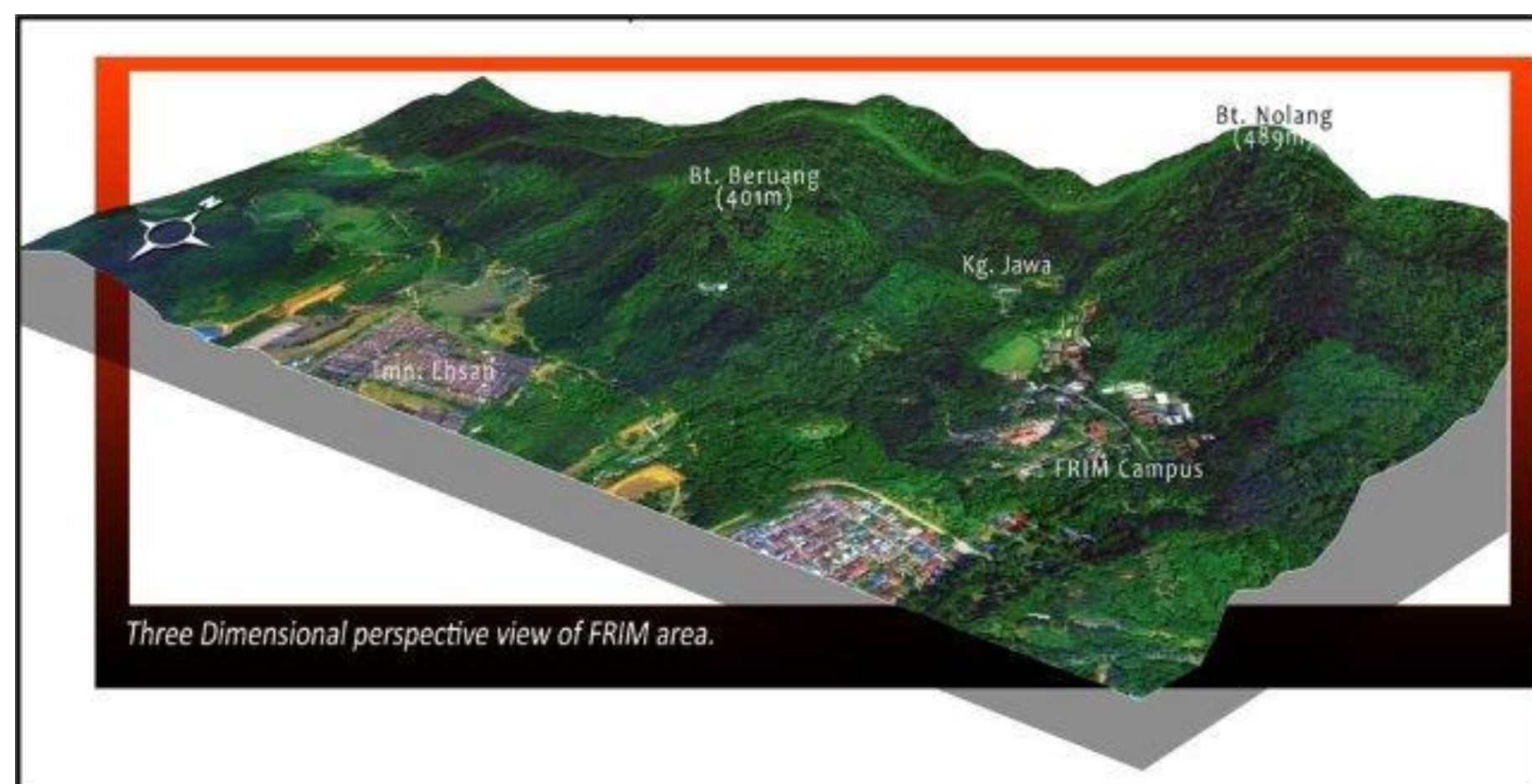


# Ecotourism and Education at FRIM

Year	Trees planted
1927 - 1930	372,471
1931 - 1935	220,025
1936 - 1940	150,178
1941 - 1945	20,429
1946 - 1950	125,000
1951 - 1955	46,481
1956 - 1960	71,944



- 20 km from KL City Centre
- Established as forest plantation in 1927
- Accessible for tourism and education site







## **Responsible Tourism, Sustainable tourism, Eco-tourism, Green tourism**

Low impact, environmentally-friendly  
tourism

- Due to people's love of nature
- Awareness that green space can help conserve earth's natural resources
- To improve the levels of biodiversity
- Protecting the planet against the agents of climate change.





# Environmental Interpretation as the Tool for Tourism and Outdoor Education

- Serves as a knowledge bridge to achieve important **objectives**, which are **educational**, **emotional** and **behavioural** change
- Entertaining and interesting to the audience
- Enhances visitor's sensitivity to site degradations and provoke the sense of attachments
- Positively changing the attitude towards environmental stewardship
- Managers of recreation sites could lessen their burdens through effective education
- **Effective education** ensures sustainable use of resources at the sites
- Managing to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits

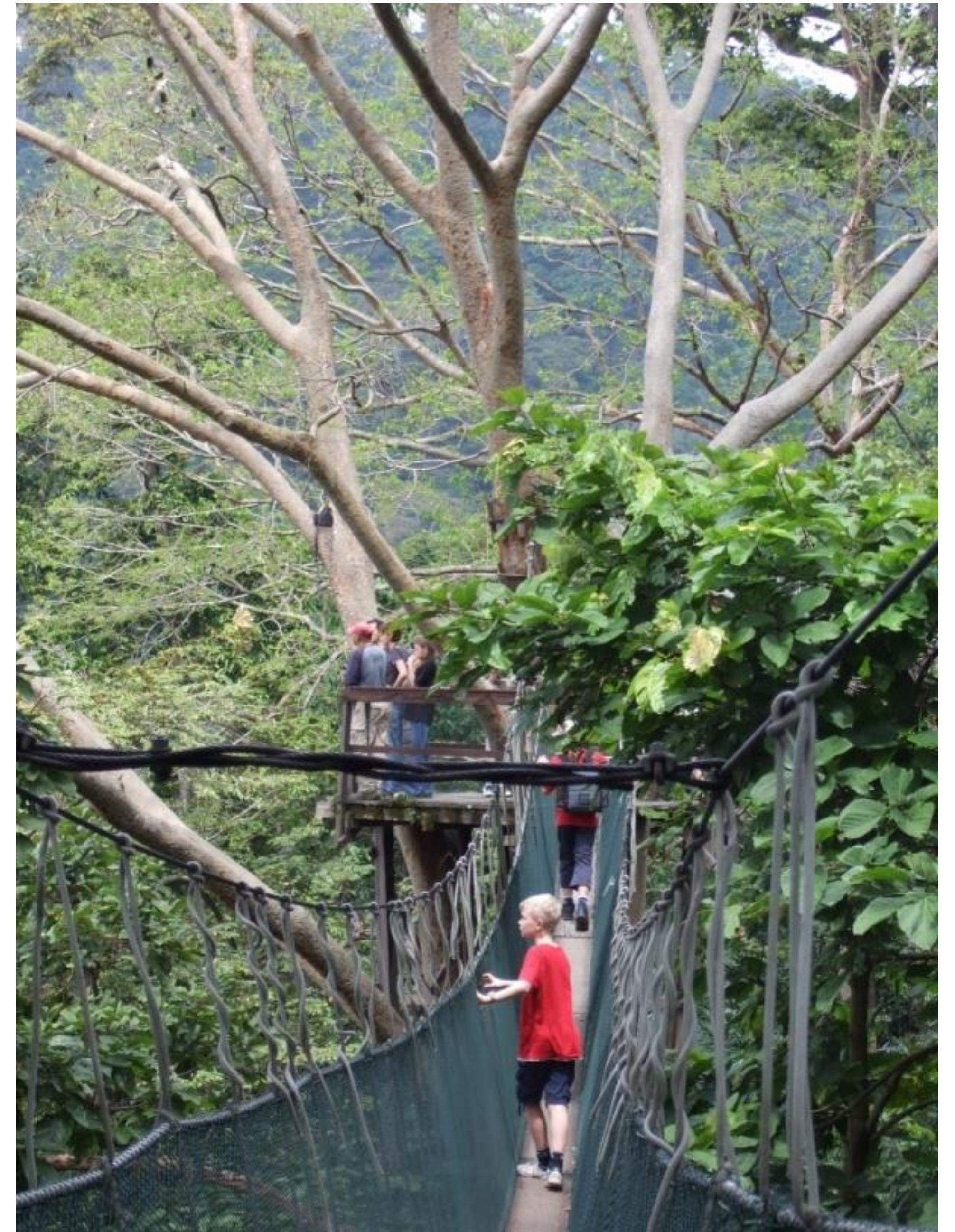
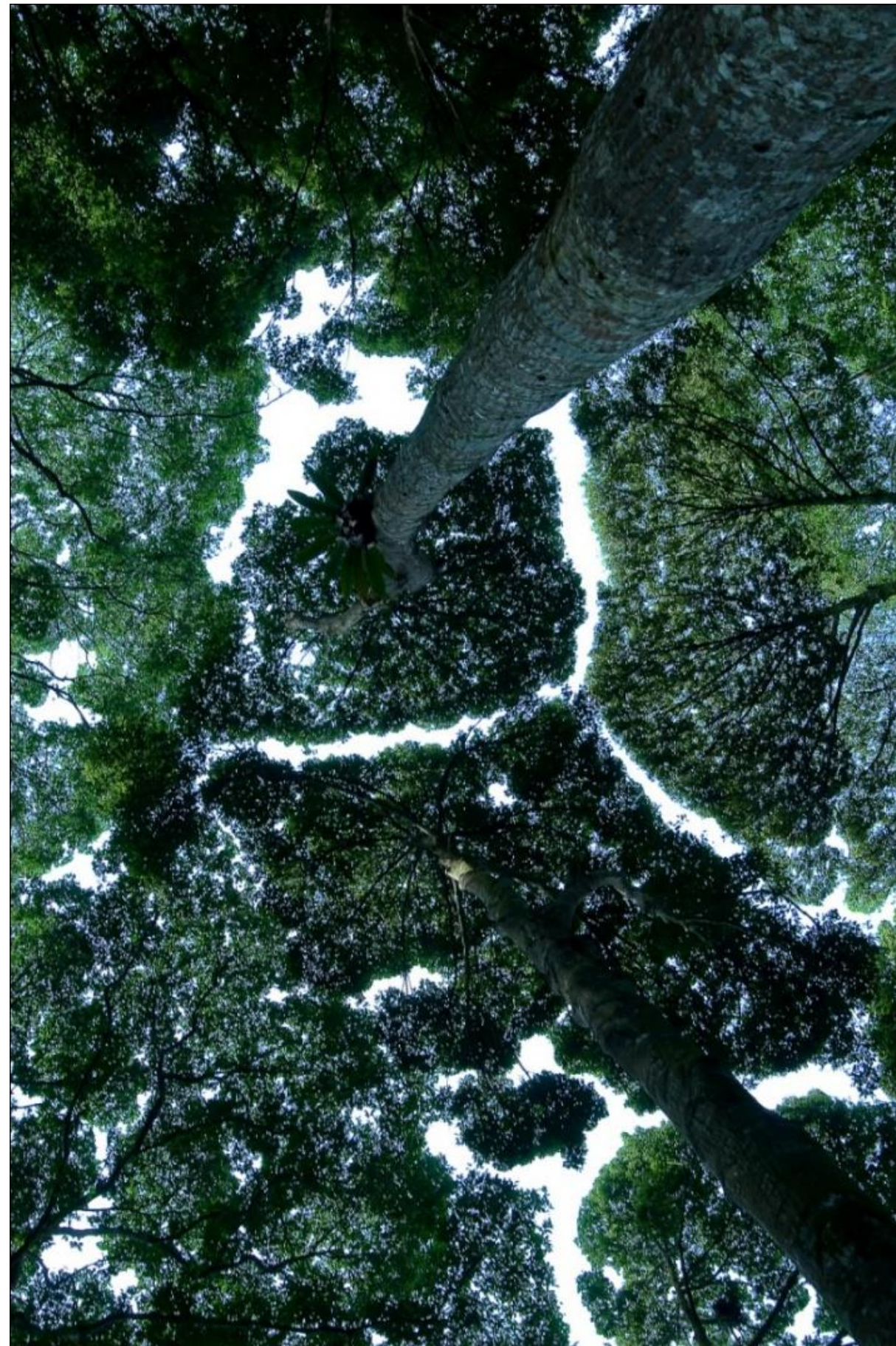






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# Nature Trails and canopy walkway







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# Environmental Education



**Wetland is NOT a Wasteland**

The importance of the wetland is to provide a habitat for many species of plants and animals. Wetlands are rich in biodiversity and provide many services to both dry land and aquatic life.

**Soil Feyer**

Soil feyer is a natural process that occurs in wetlands. It is caused by the decomposition of organic matter in the soil. This process releases carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. Soil feyer is a natural part of the wetland ecosystem and is essential for the health of the soil.

**Art and design**

Wetlands are a source of inspiration for artists and designers. The unique shapes and colors of the plants and animals in wetlands can be used to create beautiful art and design. Wetlands are also a source of inspiration for architects and urban planners. The natural beauty and tranquility of wetlands can be incorporated into the design of buildings and public spaces.

**Extra Feyer**

Wetlands are a source of many valuable products. They provide food, medicine, and raw materials for many industries. Wetlands are also a source of recreation and tourism. They provide a place for people to enjoy nature and learn about the environment. Wetlands are a valuable part of our world and we must protect them for future generations.

**SEBASAH TRAIL**

The Sebasah Trail is a 1.5 km long trail that starts at the Sebasah Wetland and ends at the Sebasah Forest Reserve. The trail is suitable for all ages and is a great way to enjoy the natural beauty of the wetland. The trail is marked with signs and is a great place to learn about the wetland ecosystem. The trail is a great place to enjoy the natural beauty of the wetland and to learn about the environment.

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**Includes  
TEACHER'S GUIDE,  
ACTIVITY SHEETS &  
IDENTIFICATION  
GUIDES**

SIRI ALAM DAN RIMBA NO. 11

# Activities in Wetlands

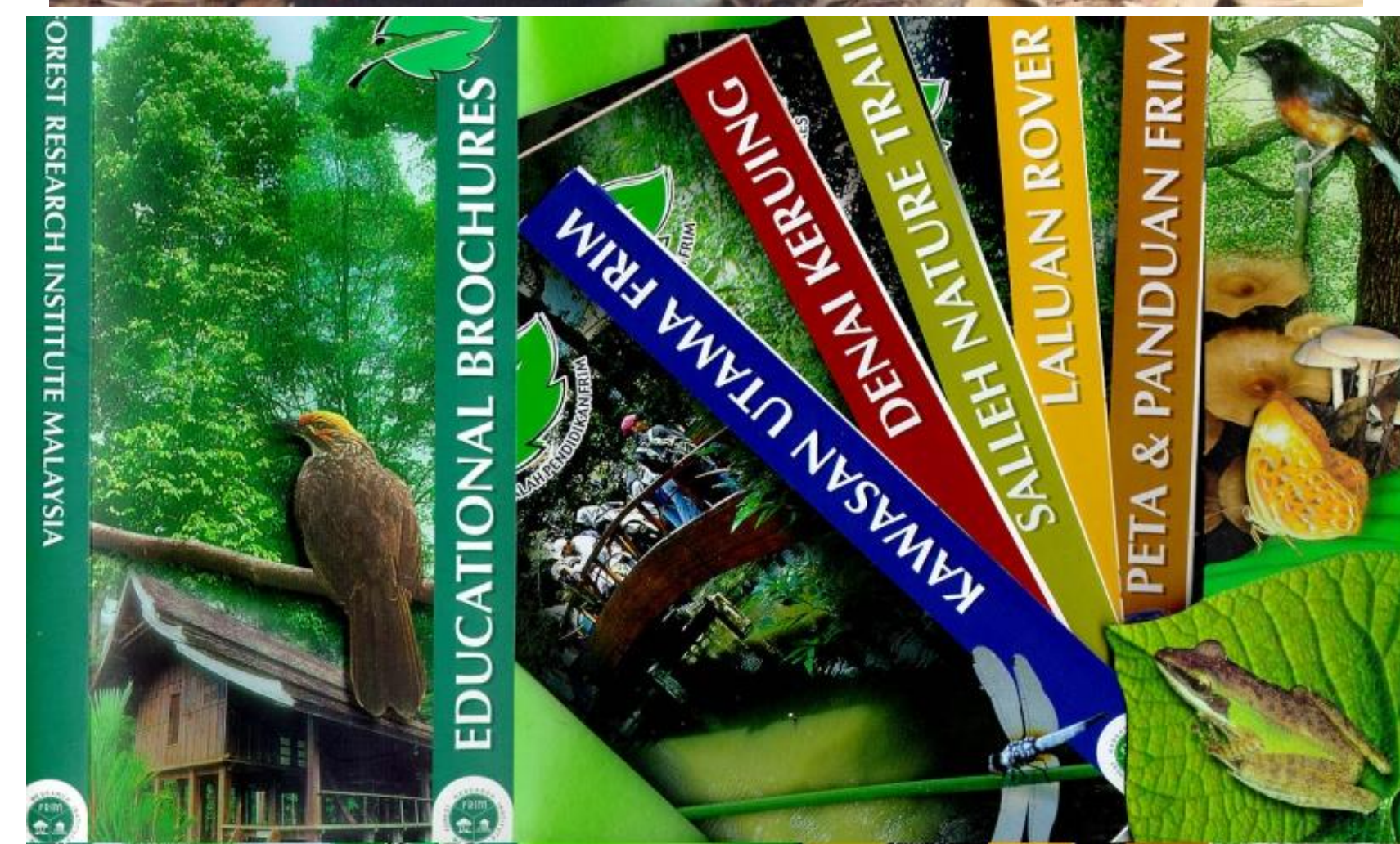
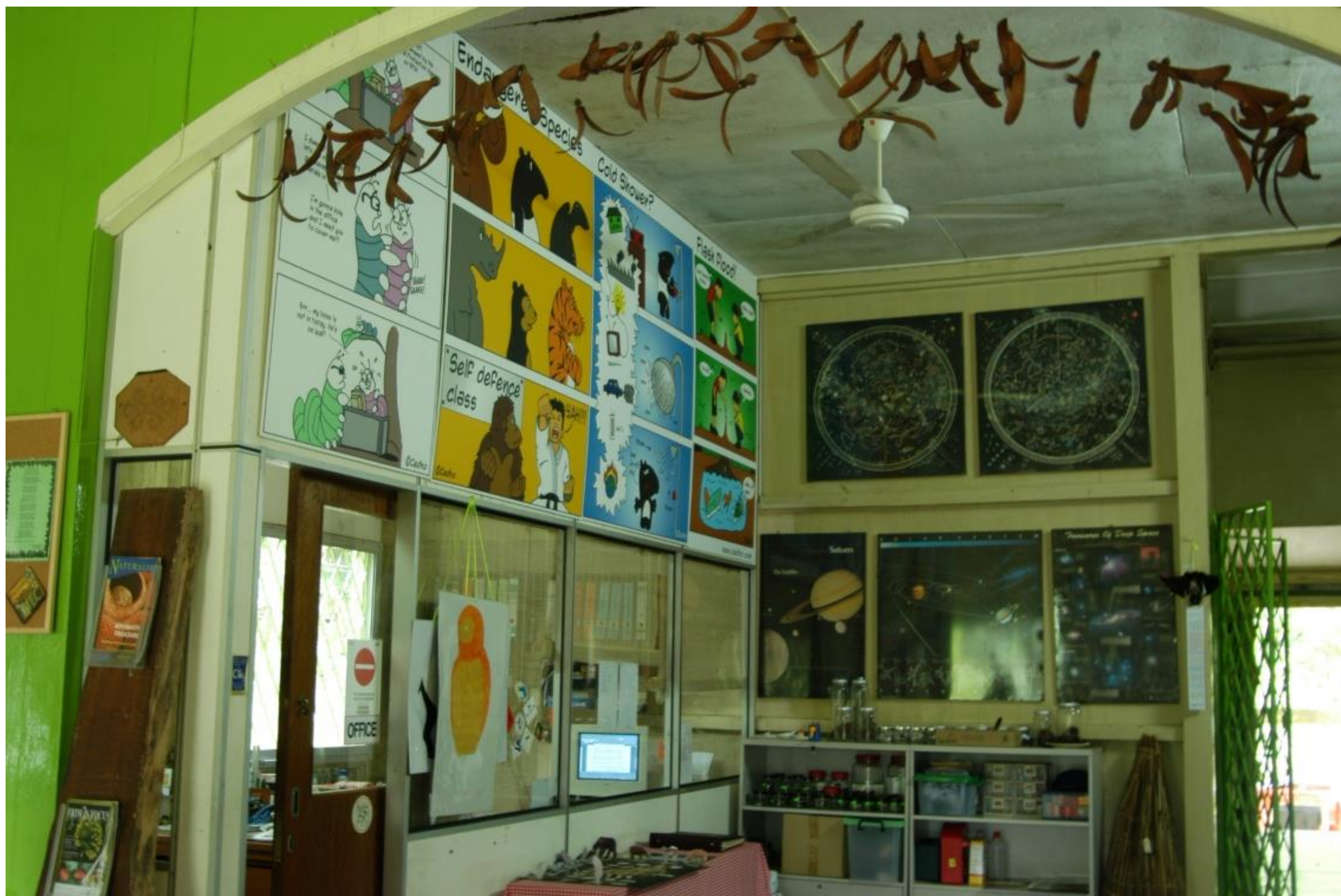
TERESA ONG • CHONG MEW IM • NOOR AZLIN YAHYA







# Nature Education Centre used as an environmentally friendly learning facility







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# Learning about indigenous plants such as the Dipterocarps







# Tools for conservation of urban forest resources

- Habitats for conservation of biodiversity
- Relate to cultural values
- Interpretation: an interesting method of historical and environmental education





# Conclusion: Benefits of forests to people

- Tourism: significant proportion of gross national product, employment opportunities and value-added services especially for the local community.
- Environmental education/Urban green tourism on should be promoted in urban forests to promote conservation and sustainability







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May we and our children  
be blessed in forest bliss

**Terima kasih**

