

**UNITED NATION EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL  
ORGANISATION (UNESCO)**

**MAN AND BIOSPHERE PROGRAMME  
COUNTRY REPORT: MALAYSIA**

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**1. OVERVIEW OF BIOSPHERE RESERVES IN MALAYSIA**

As one of 12 mega-diverse countries in the world, Malaysia is blessed with vast arrays of ecosystems, ranging from highland forest to marine. As the member state of Man and Biosphere (MAB) Programme, Malaysia shares the responsibility to designate biosphere reserves sites within the country. To date, two sites in Malaysia have been listed and efforts have been made to nominate new sites. Tasik Chini with an area of 6,923 hectares has been listed as the first MAB site in Malaysia in the year 2009. In the year 2014, Crocker Range from the State of Sabah with an area of 350, 584 hectares has been listed as the second MAB site.

Tasik Chini in the State of Pahang is a tourist attraction due to its natural and tranquil environment, fresh air, amazing sight-seeing on boat and legendary dragon story. Crocker Range in the State of Sabah is the largest state terrestrial park known to harbour about 390 species of mammals including three most endangered species viz. the Orang Utan, Sun Bear and the Clouded Leopard, 631 species of birds, 263 species of reptiles, 1945 species of frogs and 717 species of freshwater fishes. Since the designation of Tasik Chini and Crocker Range, various programmes have been implemented to enhance the conservation efforts of the sites. In recognizing the importance of the sites, the Federal Government together with the State and the local authorities have initiated various conservation programmes in accordance with MAB's objective to establish a scientific basis for the improvement of relationships between people and their environments.

## **2. COORDINATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF MANAGEMENT**

Institutional management framework of MAB was developed to set policies and coordinate on site conservation efforts. It is also aim to engage multiple stakeholders to co-manage MAB sites in particular, and biosphere reserves as whole. At the national level, National Committee of MAB Malaysia has been established. The membership comprises of representatives from Federal ministries and departments, state agencies and research institutes. In ensuring top management support, the Committee is chaired by the Secretary General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE), who is the Malaysia's MAB Focal Point. Technical Working Committee of MAB has also been established to provide technical advices to the National Committee and discuss operational issues pertaining to sites management. In addition to the committees established at ministerial level, committees under National Commission of UNESCO Malaysia were also set up. Progress of MAB sites management and activities were frequently reported to these committees.

## **3. PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES (2015)**

Various programmes and activities have been implemented to enhance the conservation efforts of the sites. The programmes include:

### **3.1 Continuation of Tasik Chini Conservation Action Plan**

Tasik Chini Conservation Action Plan was formulated in 2010 which has outlined immediate, intermediate and long term strategies to conserve biodiversity and improve ecosystem of Tasik Chini. The Action Plan focuses on 3 main activities; improving water quality, regulated and sustainable land uses and river bank erosion control. Implementation of these activities involve multiple stakeholders including technical agencies and local community. Monitoring of lake's ecosystem is carried out regularly to assess any devastated impacts, if any, from the surrounding development. Apart from infrastructure upgrading projects, several studies to update baseline information of Tasik Chini is currently

undertaken. The data will assist policy makers at federal and state level in planning development at site.

### **3.2 UNESCO Malaysia Day 2015**

An exhibition of posters and bunting on the activities in MAB sites as well as performance by the aborigines were held on 22 – 24 May 2015 in conjunction with UNESCO Malaysia Day 2015.

### **3.3 Man and Biosphere Website - Malaysia**

A website link dedicated for the Man and Biosphere Program in Malaysia has been developed via:

<http://www.nre.gov.my/sites/MAB/Pages/default.aspx>

### **3.4 Implementation of Inventory and Profile Study of MAB Sites**

Malaysia is finalizing a study on inventory and profile of MAB sites in collaboration with the World Wide Fund (WWF Malaysia) which aims to update information on MAB sites. Inventory and profile study is important as a guide to management authorities in managing and developing MAB sites.

### **3.5 Communication, Education And Public Awareness Program**

A scientific expedition in Crocker Range was held on 25 – 29 May 2015 with the theme 'Biodiversity Education: Towards Sustainable Development for the Harmonious Coexistence'. The program is a collaboration with the Faculty of Applied Sciences, Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) and Sabah Biodiversity Centre (SaBC)

### **3.6 Establishment of Management, Coordination and Conservation Committee for MAB Sites**

Coordination committee was established to ensure the development of MAB sites is monitored and complied with the regulated guidelines. The establishment of Coordinating Efforts of Conserving Tasik Chini Committee is agreed by the state authority. As for the Crocker Range,

an Interim Steering Committee and Technical Committee have been established.

#### **4. ACTIVITIES PLANS FOR 2016**

##### **4.1 Submission Of Pre-Periodic Review Of Tasik Chini**

Periodic review of each biosphere reserve sites should be provided every 10 years for audit by UNESCO to ensure the maintenance of standards. Therefore, a pre - periodic review of Tasik Chini has been prepared in the year 2015 and is being reviewed by the Ministry.

##### **4.2 MAB Sites Management Plan**

The site management plan should be provided as a guide to the management authorities of the sites in planning and managing the MAB sites. Management authority of the Crocker Range has organized a seminar as a preparation in drafting a site management plan in April 2015. The state authority is finalizing the draft document of the site management plan. As for Tasik Chini biosphere reserve site, the Terms Of Reference are being prepared.

##### **4.3 Communication, Education And Public Awareness Program**

Tasik Chini's sign board will be installed in a location that will be identified as a landmark of the MAB Program. The state authority has also agreed to develop a specific website for Tasik Chini, to serve as an information medium for the public. As for Crocker Range, the state authority is strengthening the Community Use Zone which is a management option for communities living within the protected areas.