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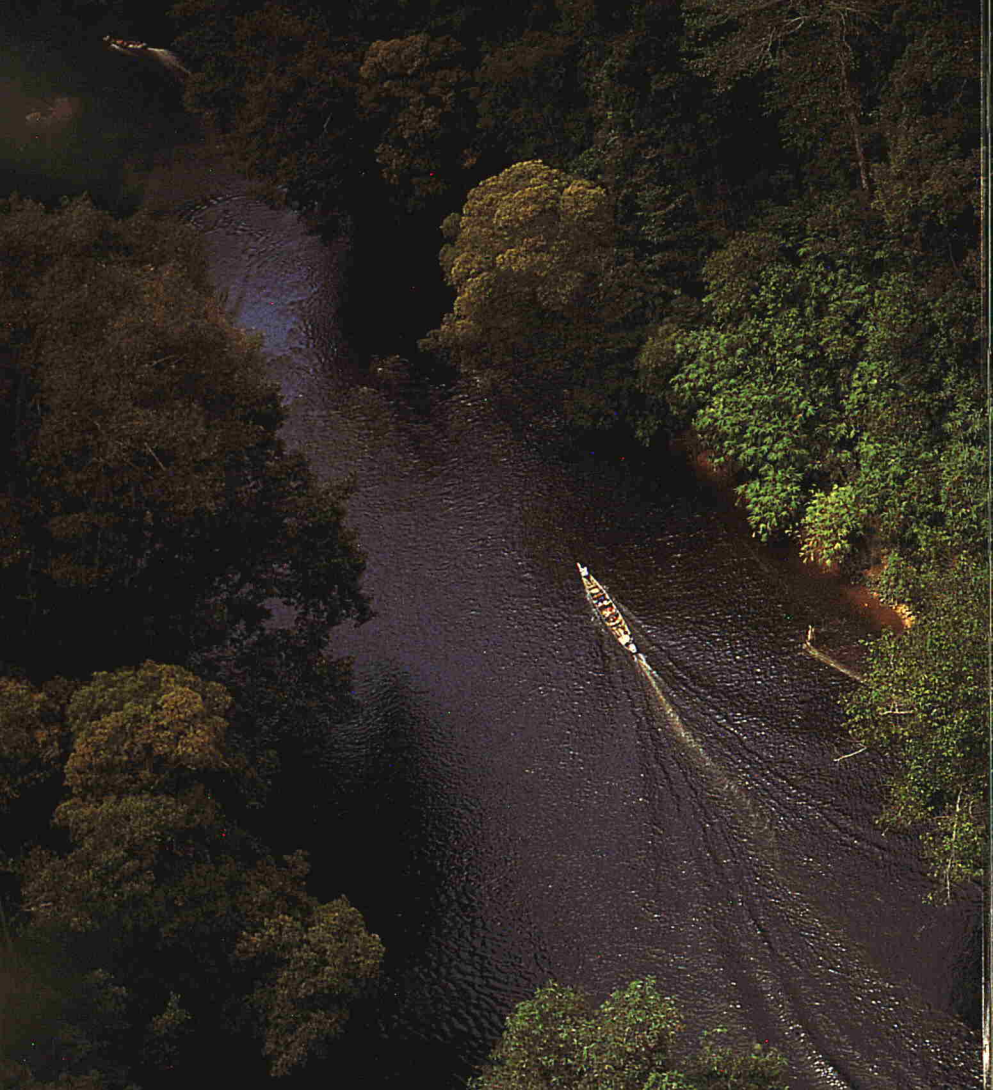
the Green horizon
MALAYSIA

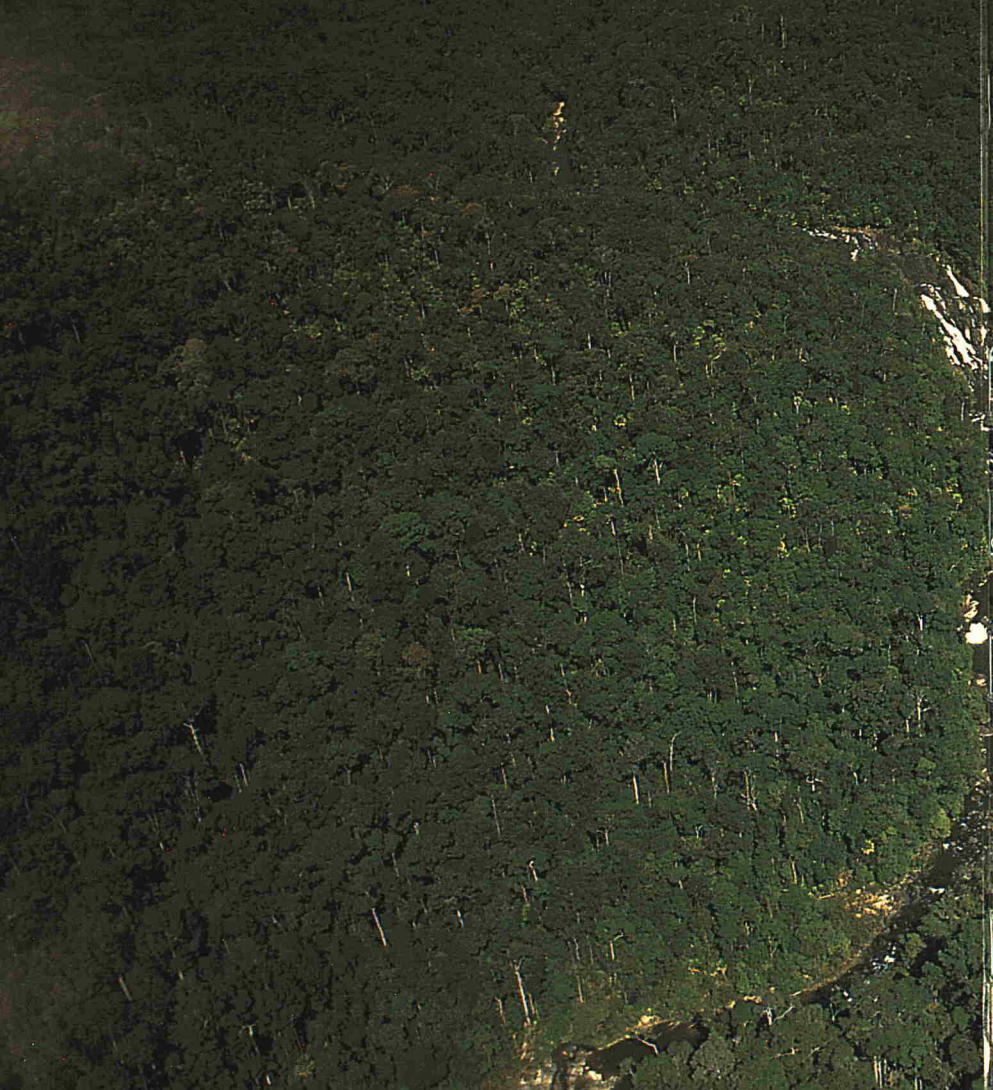
MTC
MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL



Contents

Left:
The Tahan River runs through Malaysia's oldest national park - Taman Negara - among the best managed in Asia.

Next Page:
75 % of Malaysia is under natural forest and tree cover.



Achieving balanced growth

Malaysia is fortunate. We are richly endowed with green forests, swift-flowing rivers, fertile soils, a mild climate and a country relatively free from major climatic upheavals.

We have achieved rapid economic growth since independence in 1957. The last decade has been remarkable by world standards with accelerated progress that has brought the country into world focus, with 75 per cent of the country under forest and tree cover. Malaysia is surely one of the greenest countries in the world.

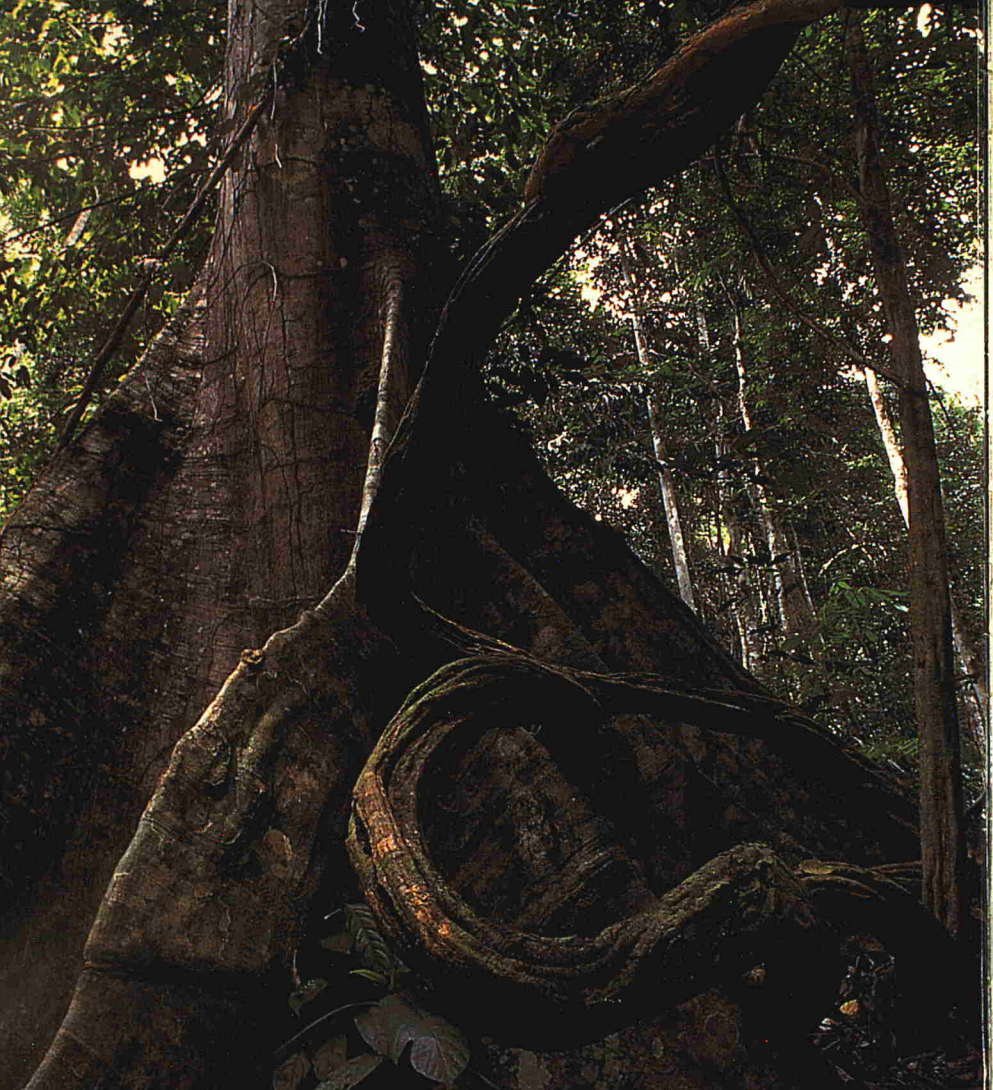
Malaysia has an agenda for growth till the year 2020. Incorporated into this agenda is sustainable development balanced with forest conservation and environment protection. Forest management has begun since 1901 when the first forest ranger was appointed. Not surprisingly Malaysia also has some of the best managed national and conservation parks. The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia is the foremost authority in tropical forest management, reflecting the science-based approach to our forest management.

Malaysia values and cherishes its green heritage. This book shows the splendour of our forest. We invite readers to flip through the pages and enjoy the beauty we have captured for your eyes.

Tan Sri Wong Kum Choon
Chief Executive Officer
Malaysian Timber Council

Right:
Taman Negara. Wide buttress roots are characteristic of many rainforest trees.

Next Page:
Sustainable forest management is actively practised to safeguard the forest.

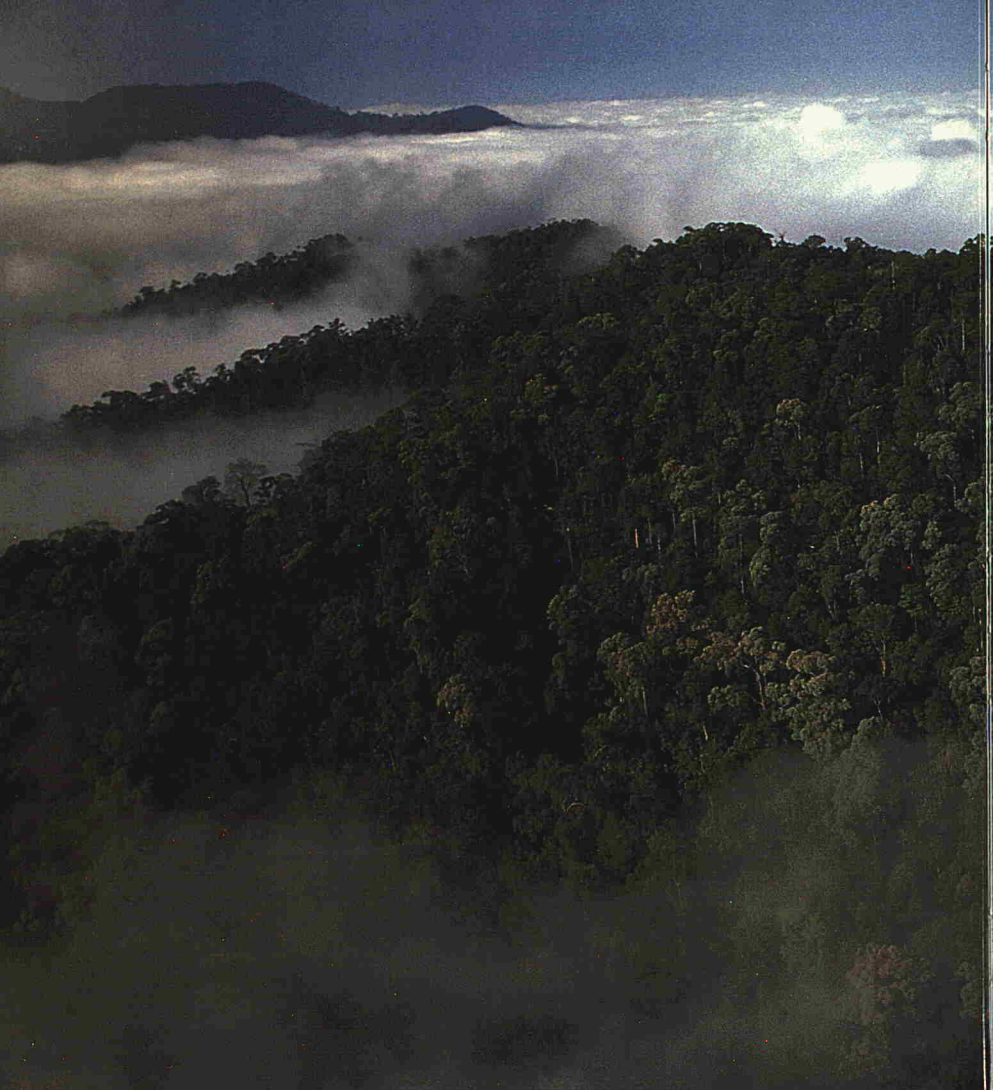


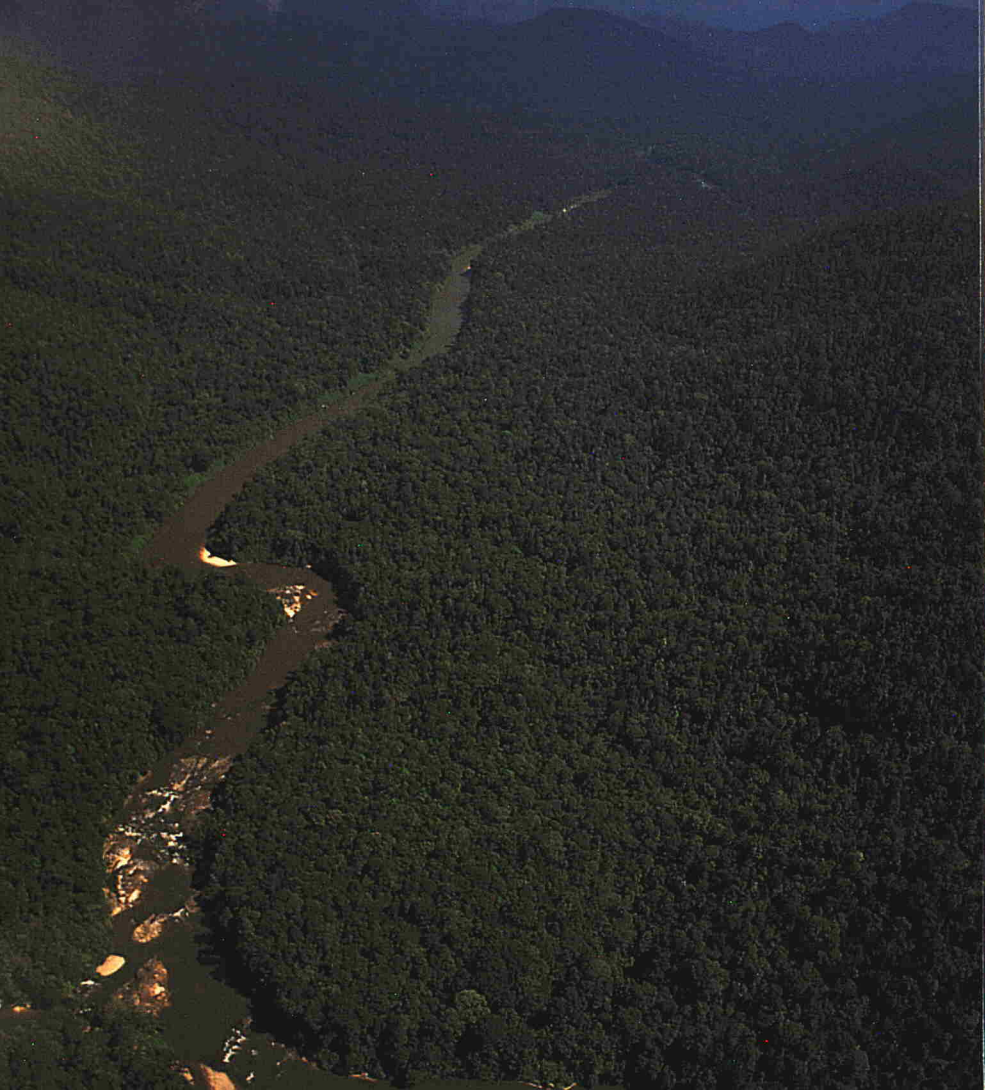
Millions and millions of years ago...

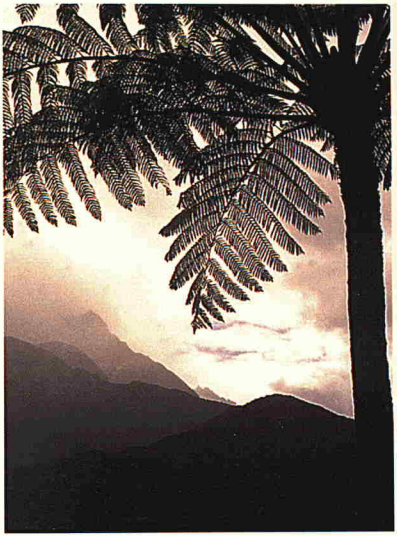
a mantle of green covered the earth harbouring all kinds of plants and animals - unique and forever evolving.

Left:
Belum. The Malaysian rainforest has evolved over millions and millions of years.

Next Page:
Taman Negara. In most parts of Malaysia rain falls for about 150 days of the year.



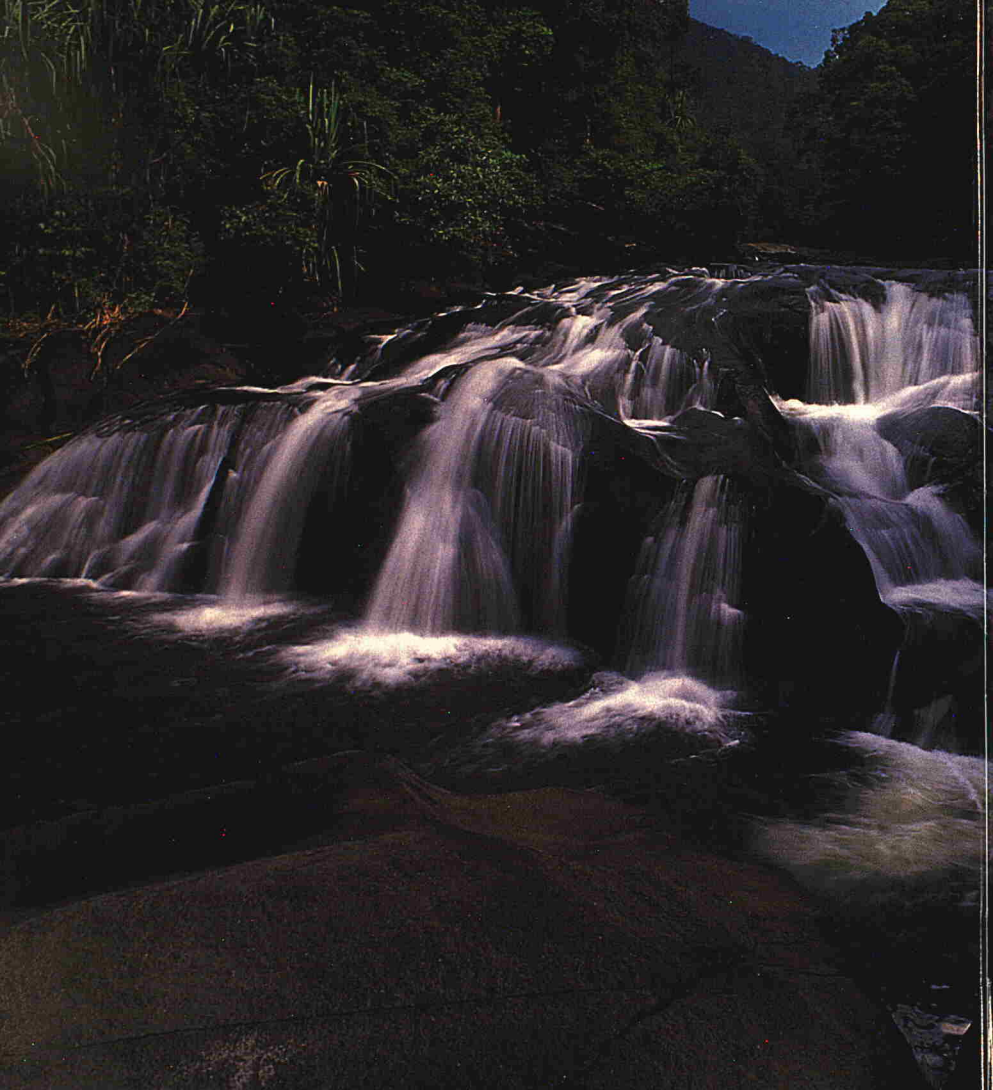




Malaysia - a stretch of land spilling out of Asia proper - was at one time a greater mass joined to the islands of Borneo, Sumatra and Java. But geological changes caused by the melting and later freezing of the icy polar caps millions and millions of years ago, resulted in the rise and fall of sea level. In the last ice-melt the water that flooded the earth created pockets of land, as we see them today. With the separation and isolation of land, forests evolved in their own distinct ways adapting to their immediate environments, developing according to climate and geographical conditions.

Left:
Taman Negara. A great diversity of plant and animal life is conserved in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

Next Page:
The Malaysian rainforest harbours about 650 species of ferns like this "garden" of nest-ferns.



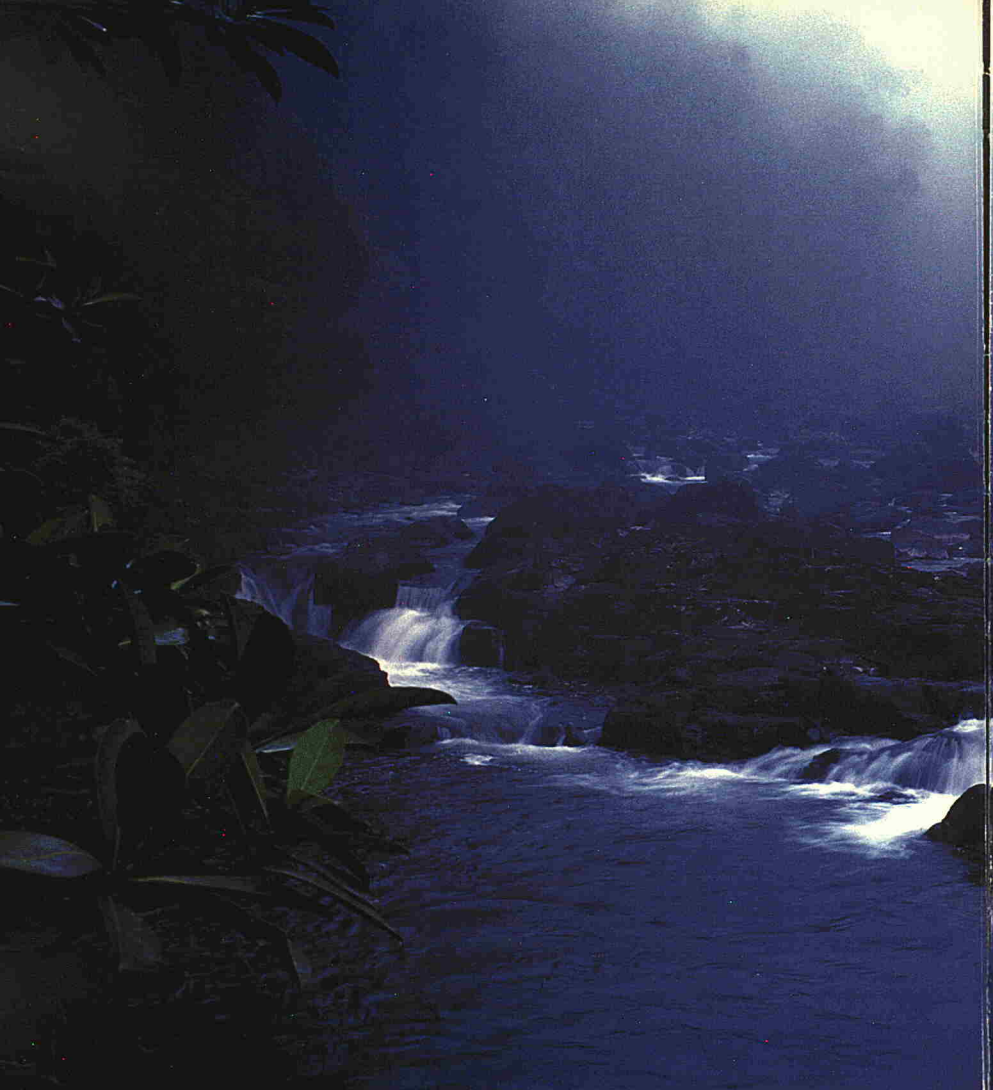
The tropical rainforest, the temperate and the boreal forests that comprise the forests of the world evolved in their own fashion. Till today Man is

still intently uncovering the secrets and mysteries of the plant and animal kingdoms. However, much of the temperate forests have given way to industrialisation as economies thrived and civilisation grew. The tropical rainforests located in the lesser developed countries of Asia, Africa and South America, however, remain in abundance.

Left:
Jeram Upeh Guling in Endau-Rompin flows over ignimbrite, a volcanic rock.

Top:
Bright, showy flowers like this are a rarity in the rainforest.

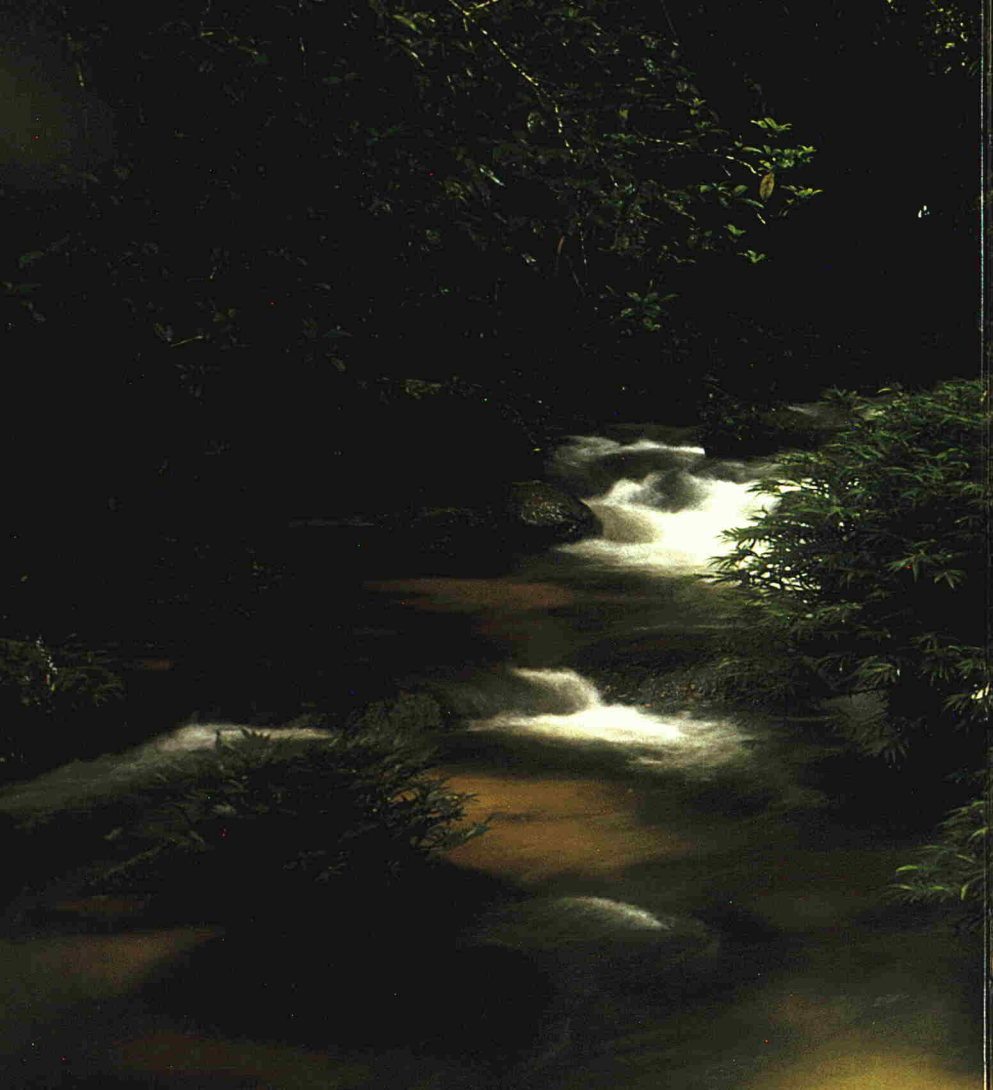
Next Page:
This Matonia pectinata is a mountain fern found only in the Malayan region.



It is these rainforests that contribute to the ecological balance of the world – the green lung with which the world now breathes, which produces the oxygen and persuades passing clouds and mists to unload their moisture that falls as precious rain, quenching the needs of all living things. This book begins a pictoral journey into the heart of the Malaysian rainforest, capturing glimpses of nature that has evolved over hundreds of millions of years. Plants, mammals, insects, reptiles and birds which have adapted to a unique way of life, enriching the forest with their diversity, bewildering the scientists with their peculiarities, co-existing in complex, wondrous relationships.

Left:
Endau-Rompin. Sungei Jasin. Freshwaters are an integral part of the rainforest ecosystem.

Next Page:
Forest streams like this are places of stunning natural beauty.

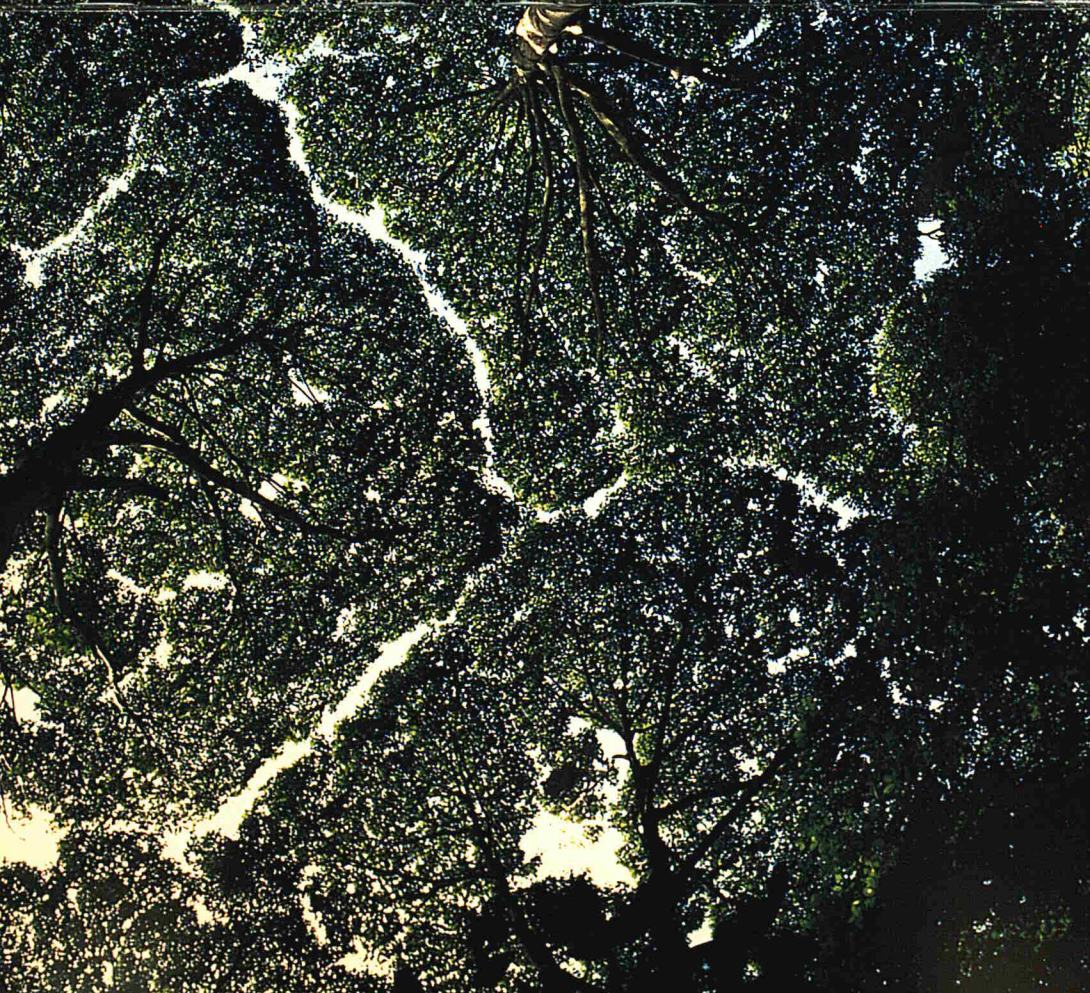


The Rainforest – The inside story

Tropical rainforests cover only about 7.7 per cent of the earth's land area. But within the1.2 billion hectares live at least half of the world's species of plants, animals, fungi and micro-organisms.

Left:
Endau-Rompin. Tumbling, torrential waterfalls support important aquatic life in the forest.

Next Page:
Trees maintain a boundary at the canopy which is referred to as 'crown shyness'.



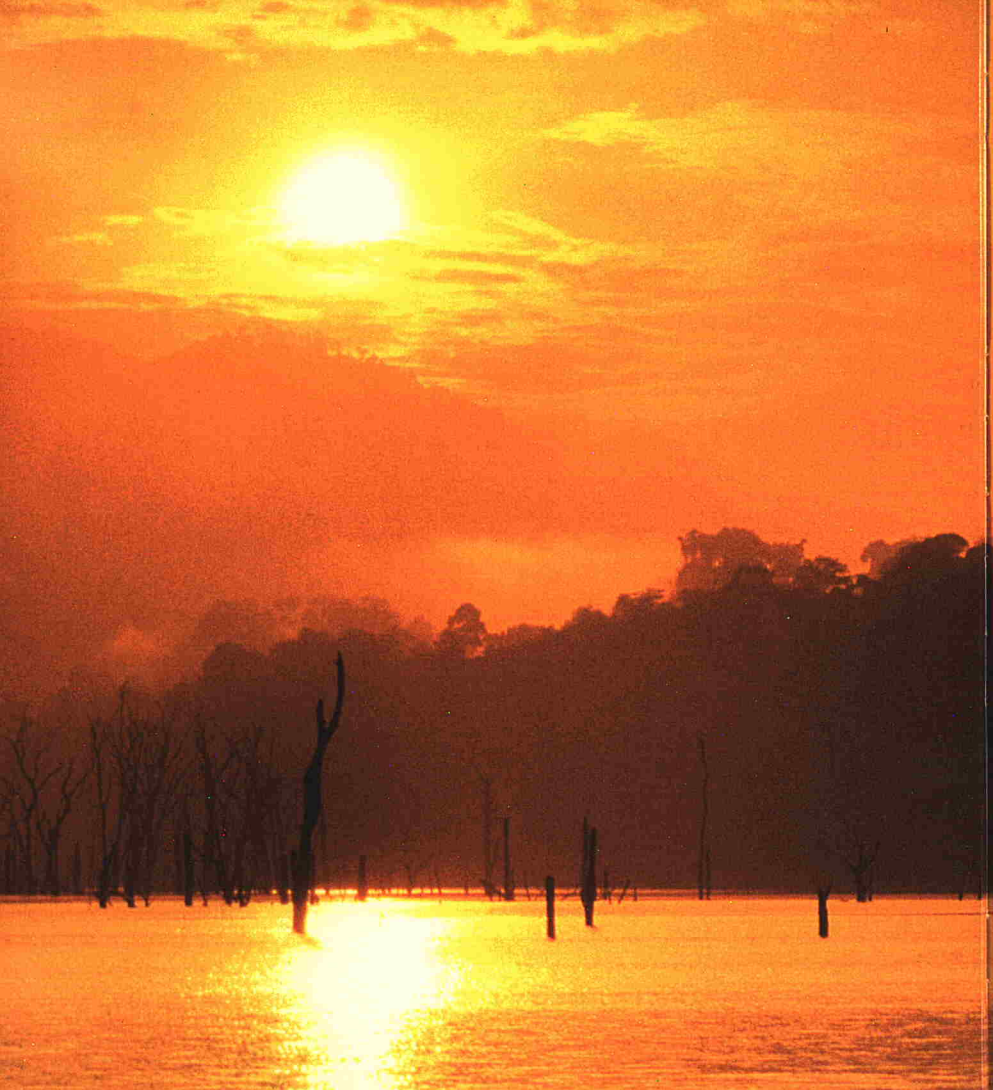
Here at the equatorial belt the power of the sun is absolute. The tropical rainforests grow tall and sombre. The intense heat and heavy rain encourage the growth of gigantic trees whose branches, bound with creepers, fuse into vast platforms of vegetation where monkeys, birds and snakes flourish in an upper treescape of their own. Below in the dim green twilight, insects find ideal conditions.

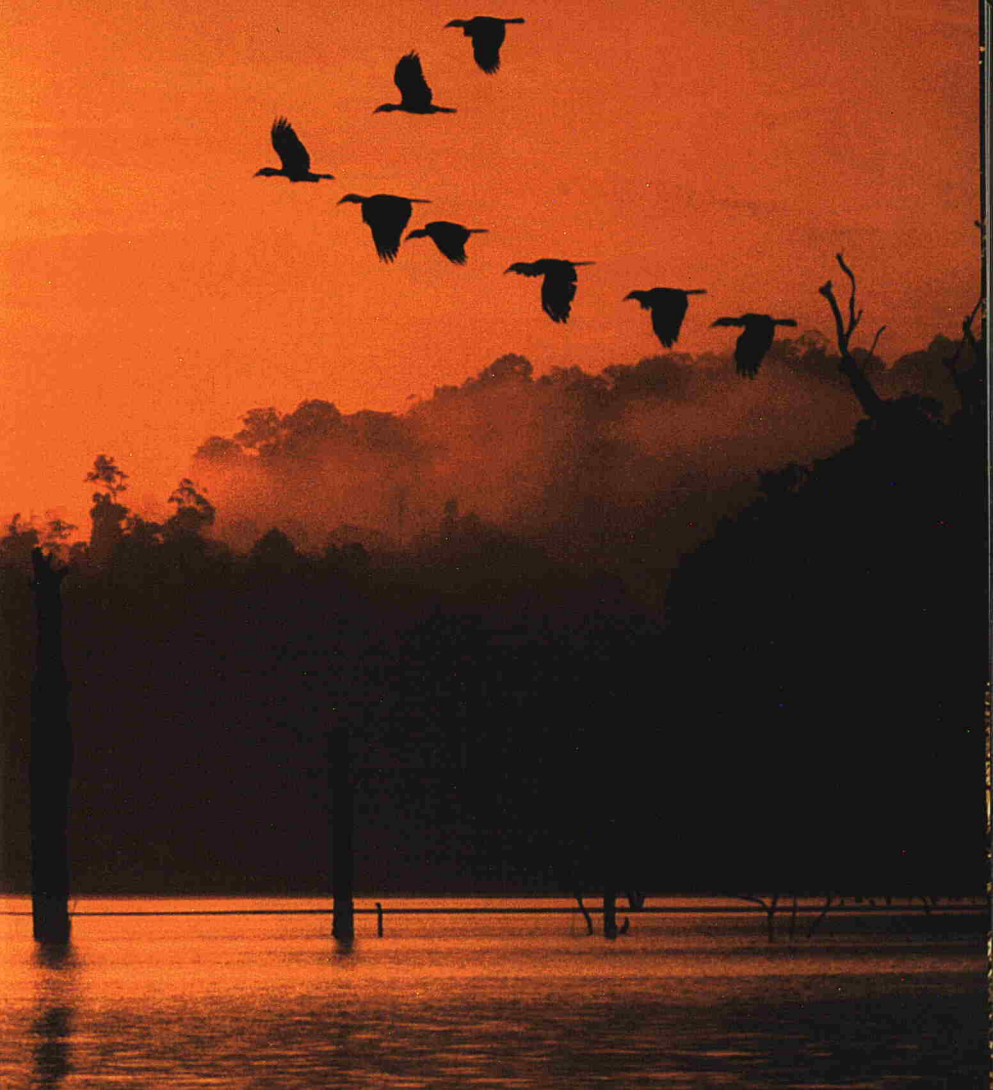
The canopy or crown of the rainforest blocks off much of the sunshine. Just below the canopy – the sub-canopy – smaller trees exist which have adapted to a regime of less light. Beneath this layer live the shrubs and where very little light penetrates, is the sparse ground layer where only the seedlings, fungi and herbs survive.

Far Left:
Endau-Rompin. Rainforest trees grow ramrod straight, some reaching a height of 17-storey buildings.

Left:
The forest floor harbours life that thrives in the dimness.

Next Page:
Spectacular sunset over Temenggor Lake in Belum.





Growth is slow and each species fights to reach the canopy to bask in the rich sunshine. The younger trees in particular find it hard to dislodge the older trees in their quest to reach the top. Epiphytes, especially ferns and orchids have, over the centuries devised their own unique ways of surviving. The ferns take firm root in the crevices of tree bark and as they grow they feed on the fine debris and moisture that gather on their leaves.

From the sea coast to the high altitude of the mountain peaks the rainforest, which still covers about 60 per cent of Malaysia, has adapted and thrives within the vastly differing ecosystems.

Far Right:
Perched atop a tree this bird's nest-fern survives on moisture trapped on debris.

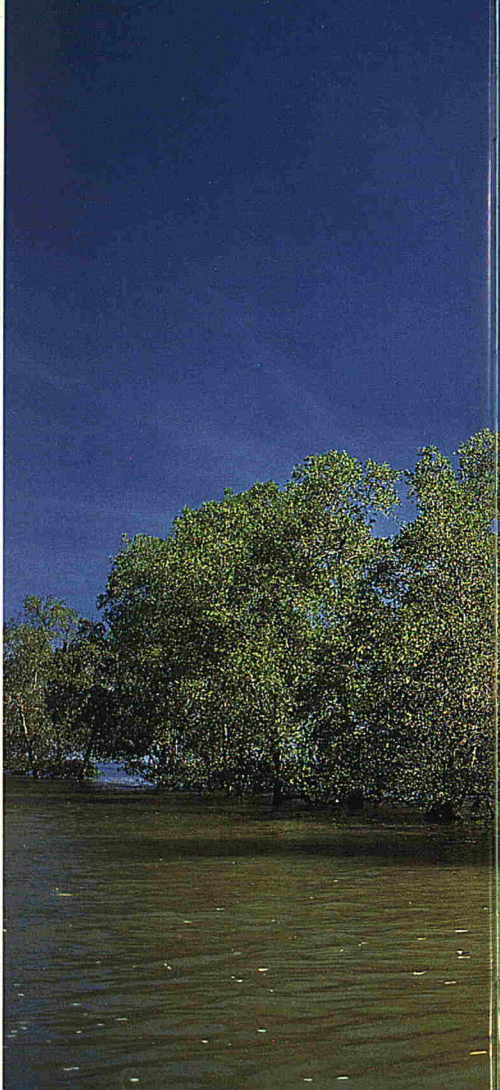
Right:
Plants of the ginger family like this Zingiber spectabile are often used in medicinal preparations.

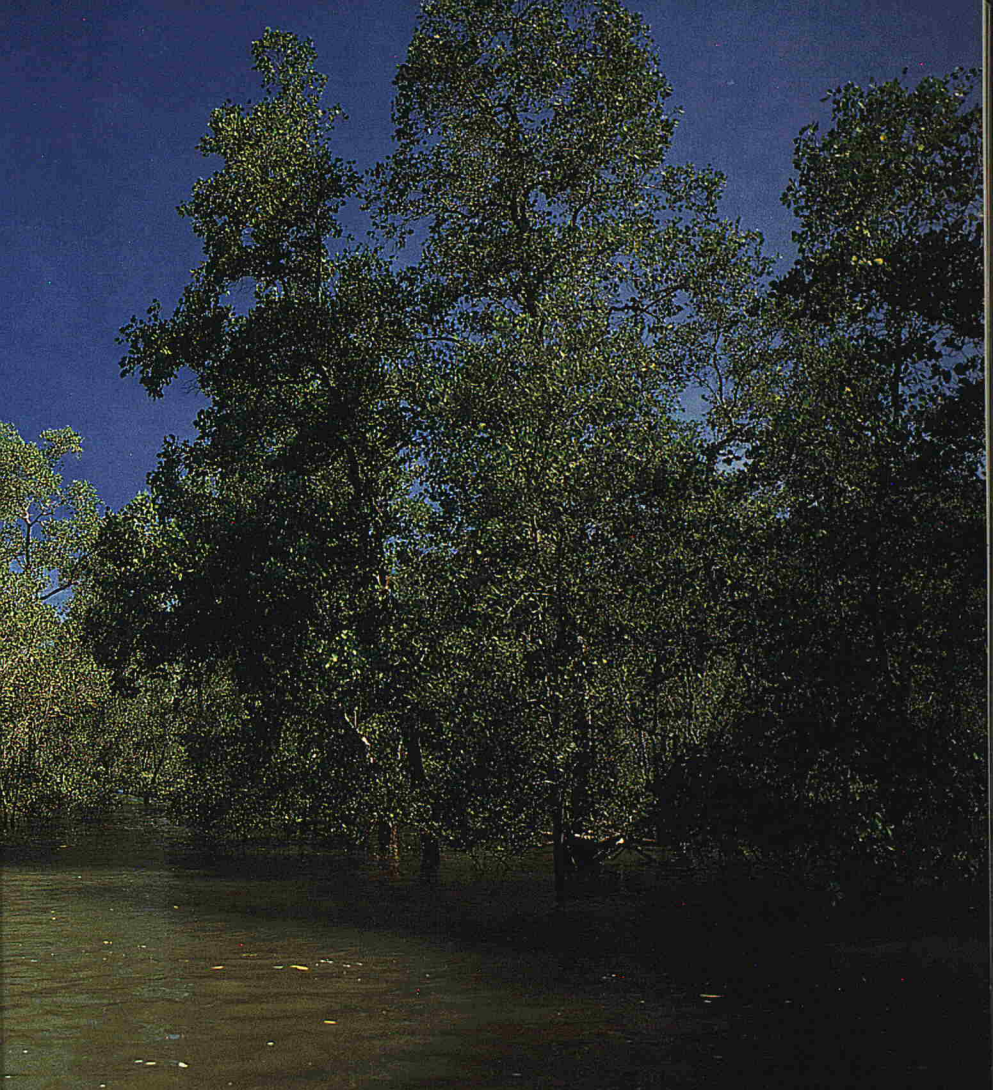
Next Page:
The Mangrove Forest flourishes in muddy areas where no other plants can survive.

At the coastline the aerial roots of the mangrove trees have adapted ingeniously to the muddy, oxygen-starved conditions where no other plants can survive. They play a vital role in supporting wildlife species and coastal fisheries. A nursery and feeding ground for up to 70 per cent of coastal fish and prawns, mangrove forests form an intermediate brackish zone between fresh water and the open sea. Covering some two per cent of Malaysian coastline the mangroves are also important in stopping coastal erosion and building new, fertile land by trapping sediment.

Right:
About 2% of Malaysian coastline is protected by mangrove forests.

Next Page:
Bamboos are giant grasses, the largest exceeding 30 metres, or 100 feet, in height.





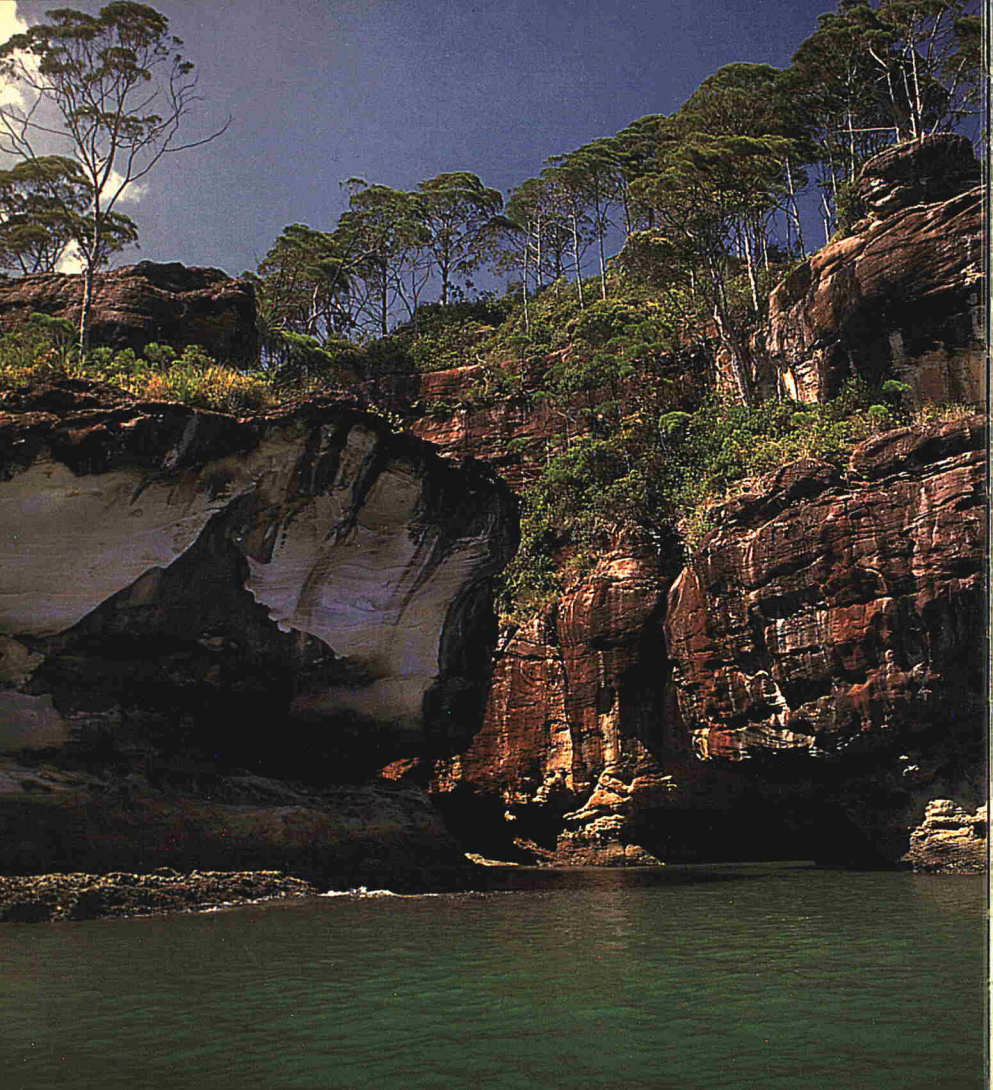
Further inland as salinity reduces, freshwater swamp forest develops in areas where there is inadequate drainage of water or where periodic

flooding occurs, especially near rivers and lakes. On dry land in the lowlands and mountain slopes of the rainforest the giant dipterocarps rule, some growing as high as a seventeen-storey building. The lowland forest is richest in tree species, supporting more than 2,500 types in Peninsular Malaysia alone. Wildlife is abundant and the large mammals find ample food and refuge here.

Left:
Belum. Rainforests often stand on thin, poor soils, so they require complex root systems for support.

Top:
Most frogs of the forest floor tend to be nocturnal.

Next Page:
Danum Valley. Fungi lack chlorophyll in their systems which is why they are never green like other plants.



Higher up in areas where the soil lacks in nutrients and the terrain is rocky many species survive in unique ways, gathering nutrients in strange, unusual ways. Limestone hills occur in several parts of this forest system. The plants that thrive here are very unique. Caves are often found here which harbour life that loves the dark interiors and cool atmosphere.

Tree ferns and even pine trees are encouraged by the cooler conditions of the upper terrain. In the mountains, especially the lofty peak of Mount Kinabalu, 4,101 metres above sea level, a subalpine climate provides ideal conditions for the growth of temperate species like the conifers and buttercups. Trees of the cloud forests – as the mountain top forests are called – are heavily laden with spongy mosses and lichens, giving the forest an unreal, fairytale appearance.

Far Left:
Sandstone cliffs of Bako National Park.

Left:
Stunted vegetation of the nutrient-poor mountain slopes of Kinabalu.

Next Page:
Jeram Upeh Guling has an out-of-this-world surface carved out by water over millions of years.

The rainforest of Malaysia is still very much a mystery. Explorers and researchers have for centuries studied and documented their findings, providing valuable insights. However new species of plants and wildlife are still being discovered, further encouraging the country to continue its

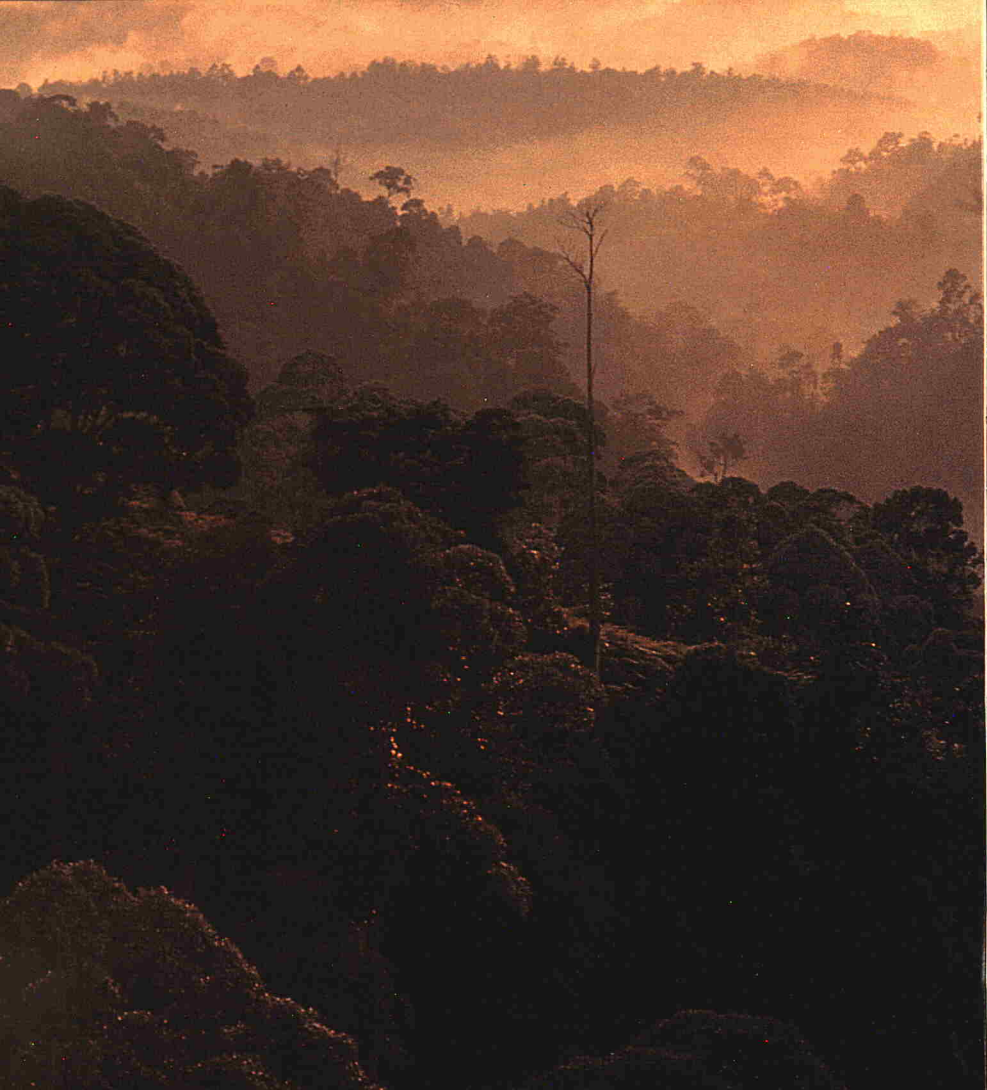
efforts to preserve and conserve this rich green heritage. Generations to come will continue to appreciate and cherish this vital part of the country, which will remain perpetually as protected forests for posterity.

Left:
Orchids, jewels of the rainforest, are now commercially cultivated for export.

Top:
The sun fern grows best in moderate to very high elevations.

Left:
Fungi help to recycle vital nutrients back into the soil by breaking down tissue of other plants, especially dead wood.

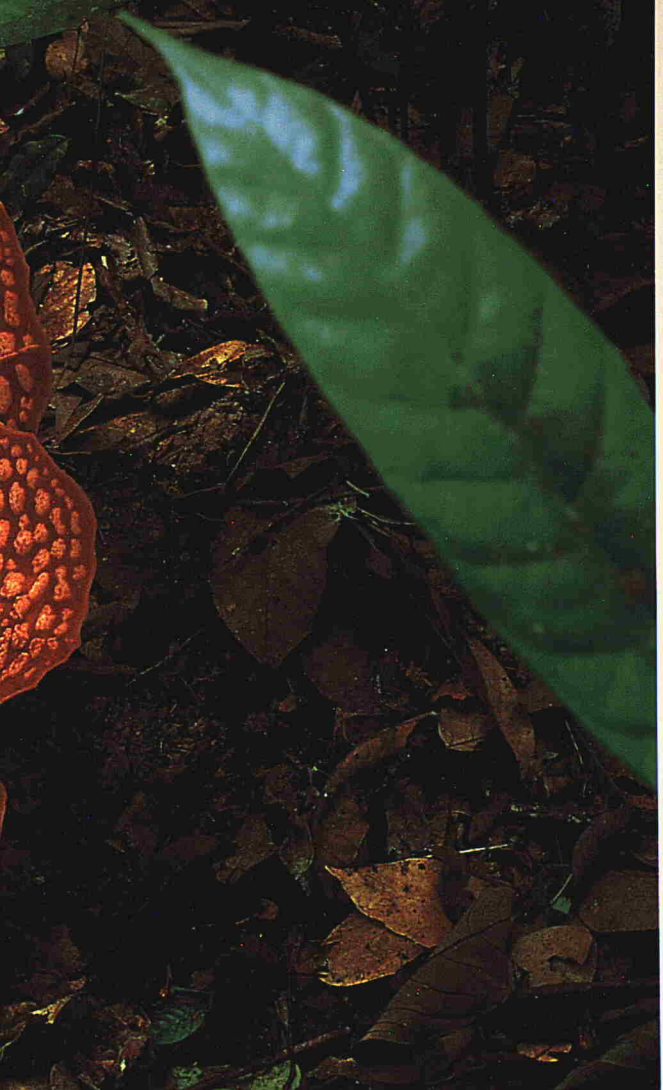
Next Page:
A distinct type of forest - Cloud or Mossy Forest - grows on mist-shrouded mountain slopes.



sense of timelessness

Dense, moist, humid. The tropical rainforest is a green kingdom ruled by the intense heat of the tropical sun and the deafening roar of torrential rain. Here the trees grow tall, reaching up like tall , green skyscrapers. Grass species like bamboo grow up to reach 100 feet or more. The world's largest flower Rafflesia – growing to about one metre in diameter – is completely at home bursting out of a host plant on the damp forest floor, displaying no leaves and draining all nutrients off the host.

Left:
Early morning mist over the rainforest are breathtaking displays.



Left:
Belum. The world's largest flower, Rafflesia, measures about one metre from petal to petal. The 10-15 species of this parasite can only be found in Southeast Asia.

Next Page:
Endau-Rompin. Moist forest conditions encourage the growth of mosses, lichens and liverwort that establish on surfaces of plants and trees.

A feeling of awe grips you as you leave the clear, sunlit forest fringe and enter the green confines of the rainforest. Time comes to a standstill. This is forest that has evolved and gathered strength through millions of years. The dim interior is full of strange noises of insects, primates and birds.

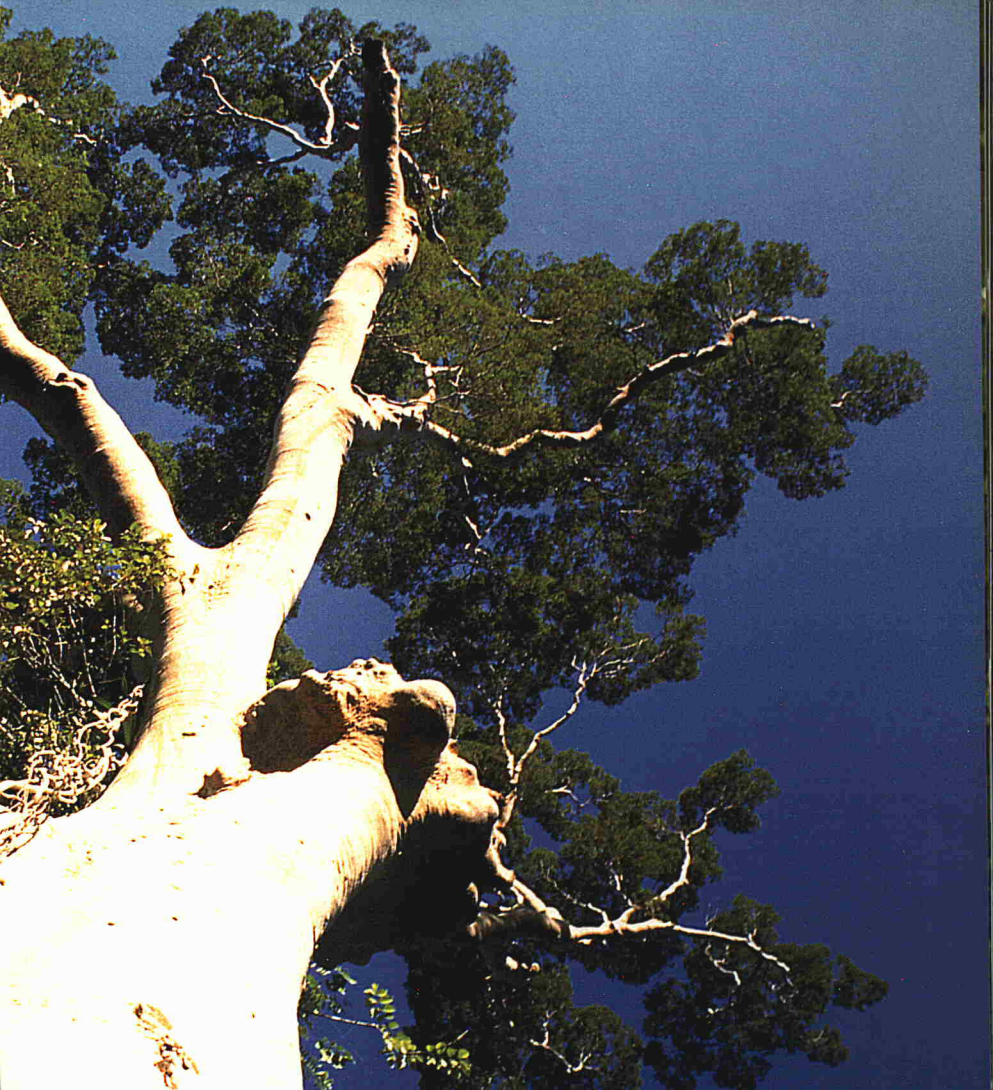
As your eyes adjust to the dimness you feel the power of nature, its richness of life as it throbs and weaves and creeps in its struggle to survive. The impossibly tall trees seem to reach for the sky. The huge buttresses block your way and you marvel at the ingenuity of these giants in their fight for life.

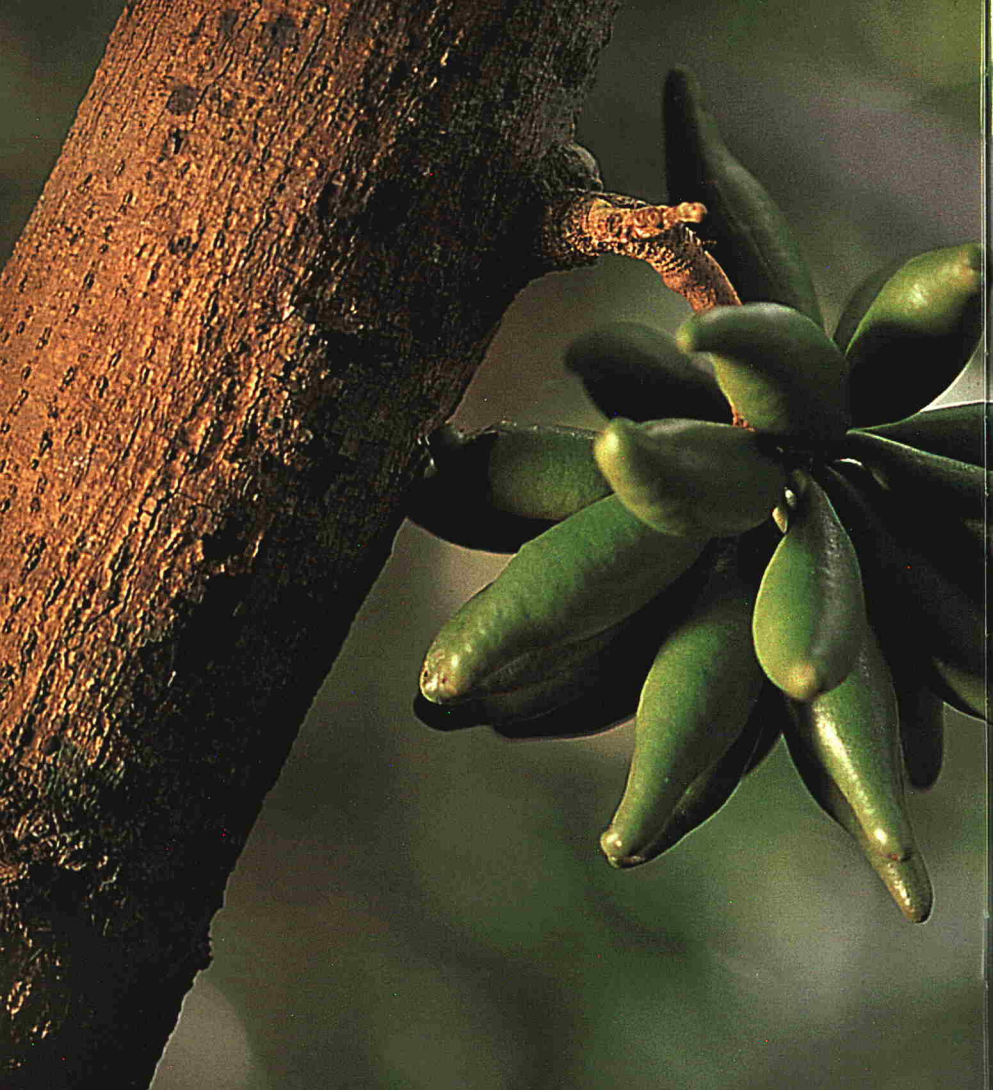
Right:
Riverine trees have root systems that provide stable support in unstable muddy conditions.

Despite the poverty of soils these trees, mostly dipterocarps, grow tall gaining from the nutrients supplemented by the interaction of insects who break down the fallen leaves and branches, and fungi that not only break down the thick leaf litter but directly bridge the gap between a root and a rotting leaf allowing nutrients to be recycled immediately. Unlike the root system of temperate forests which digs deep into the rich soil to feed on the nutrients, the trees of the rainforest have a unique root system that keeps close to the surface to gain immediate access to the decaying leaves on the forest floor. This explains why many rainforest trees have huge buttresses needed not only to support their weight but also to balance their height.

Left:
Taman Negara. This complex root system is necessary to trap nutrients at the surface of the forest floor.

Next Page:
Danum Valley Conservation Area in Sabah, among the more than 30 wildlife sanctuaries in Malaysia.





The trunks of some of these giant trees show signs of bleeding. The sap or resin is sticky to the touch but it is aromatic. This could be a resin that is used commercially to make paints or as fixatives in perfumeries. The wounds on the trunk seem to have been made by insects which had bored a few holes.

Other trees, along the way, had either huge fruits or smaller colourful ones growing out of their trunks. They looked so strange.

The flora of the rainforest lead complex lives, intertwined with each other, surviving in the best way that they can.

Left:
Endau-Rompin. Strange and unusual fruits found in the rainforest are sought by wild animals.

As you slowly make your way through the leaf-laden forest floor you'll notice the enormous vines and creepers that seem to join one tree to another. Sometimes it's hard to tell which is the vine and which is the tree. These vines which begin as frail

climbers work their way up the trees and once they have gained the vital warmth they hang on for dear life to their hosts. Others like the rattan palms simply hook their way up the tall trees to the canopy with their sharp thorns.

Right:
Belum. Plants survive in various ways. Vines, like this, use tree trunks as support to creep up to reach the warmth at the canopy.

Top:
Kinabalu Park. First discovered in 1838, the Slipper Orchid inhabits mossy, shady places in the hills.

The rainforest is truly a green world. Green of a myriad shade and shape. Although there are some 14,500 species of flowering plants and trees, the rainforest is not known for brilliant displays

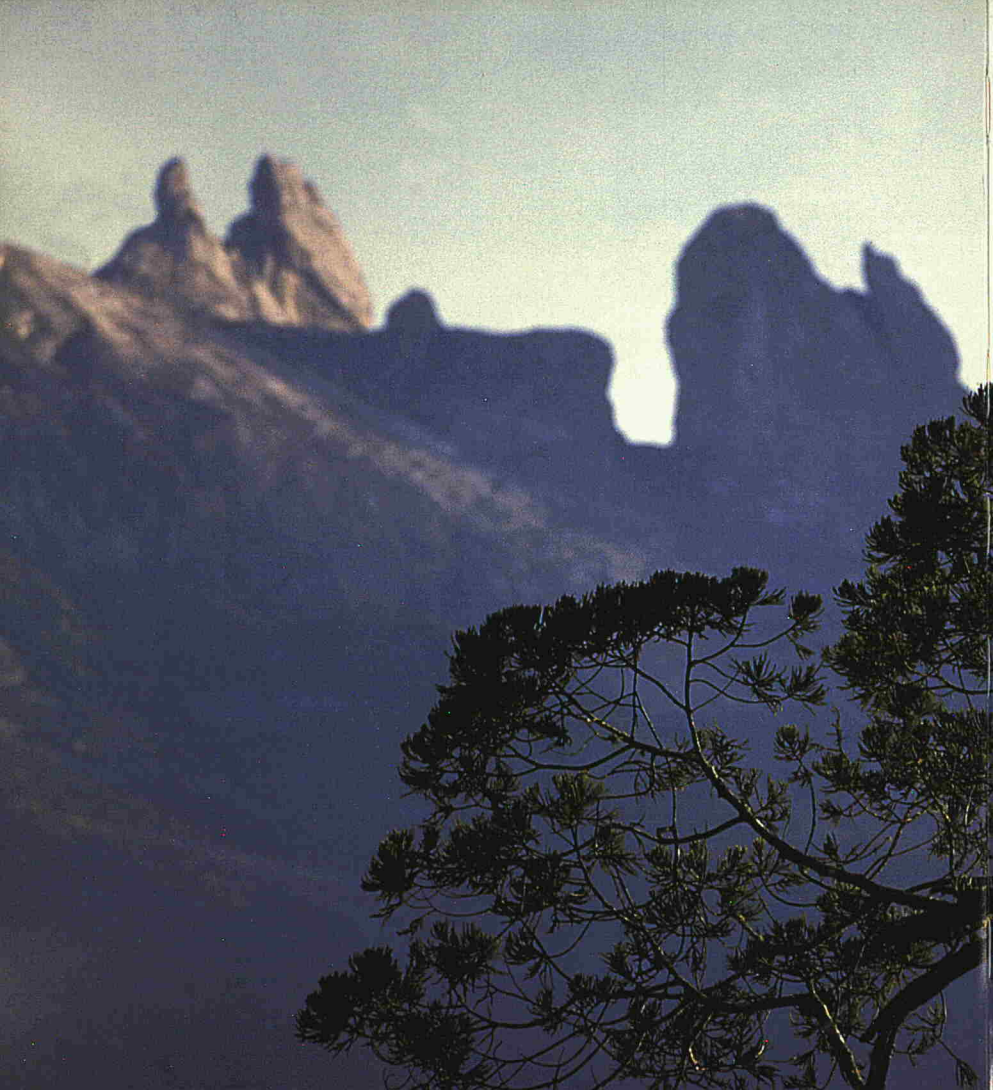
of colourful blooms. Forest flowers are, most of the time, small and pale and prefer to rely on scent to attract pollinating insects and others.

Young or new leaves of some trees are pink but they soon lose this as they grow bigger and other new leaves are formed.

Left:
Sungei Sendat, Ulu Yam. Detail of a tree trunk covered in moss and other epiphytic plants.

Top:
On mountain slopes the bright rhododendrons are prominent amongst the green of moss-covered trees.

Next Page:
Belum. A liana on a tortuous climb up to the top.



For brilliant colour the best displays come from the more than 3,000 species of orchids that remain high above the forest floor. The orchids and ferns that make their homes in the high branches of the giant trees are not so easily spotted. The orchids enjoy the warmth and use their brilliant colours to attract passing insects to visit.

During the early days when foreign explorers like Odoardo Beccari of Italy, roamed through the forests, they simply cut down huge trees, just to gather the epiphytes that only grew at the top branches, or shot down the animals they wanted to study. Despite the primitive methods (and what seems to our environment-conscious minds as careless methods) many plants were studied, given names and documented. These have been helpful especially since study of the upper treescape is still incomplete to this day.

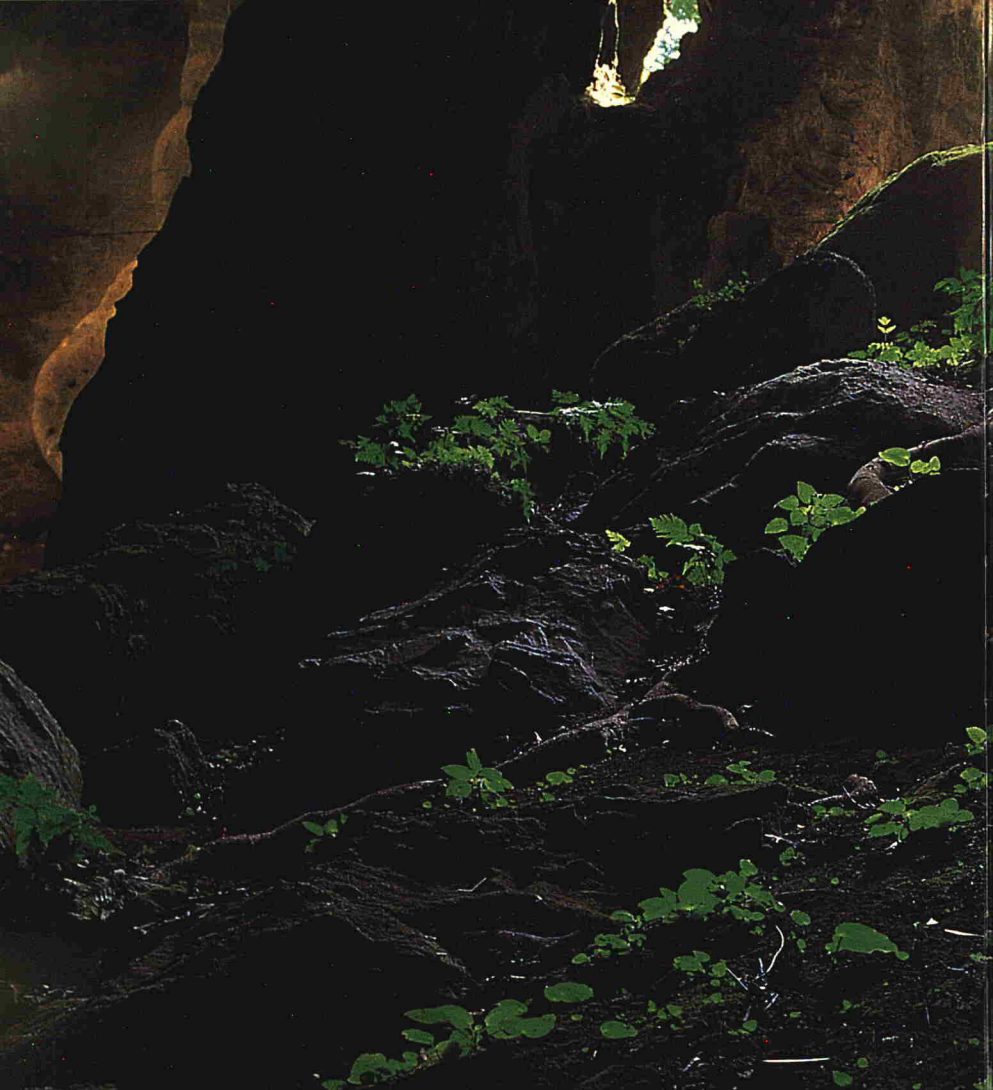
Left:
Kinabalu Park in Sabah has unique vegetation because of its subalpine climate.

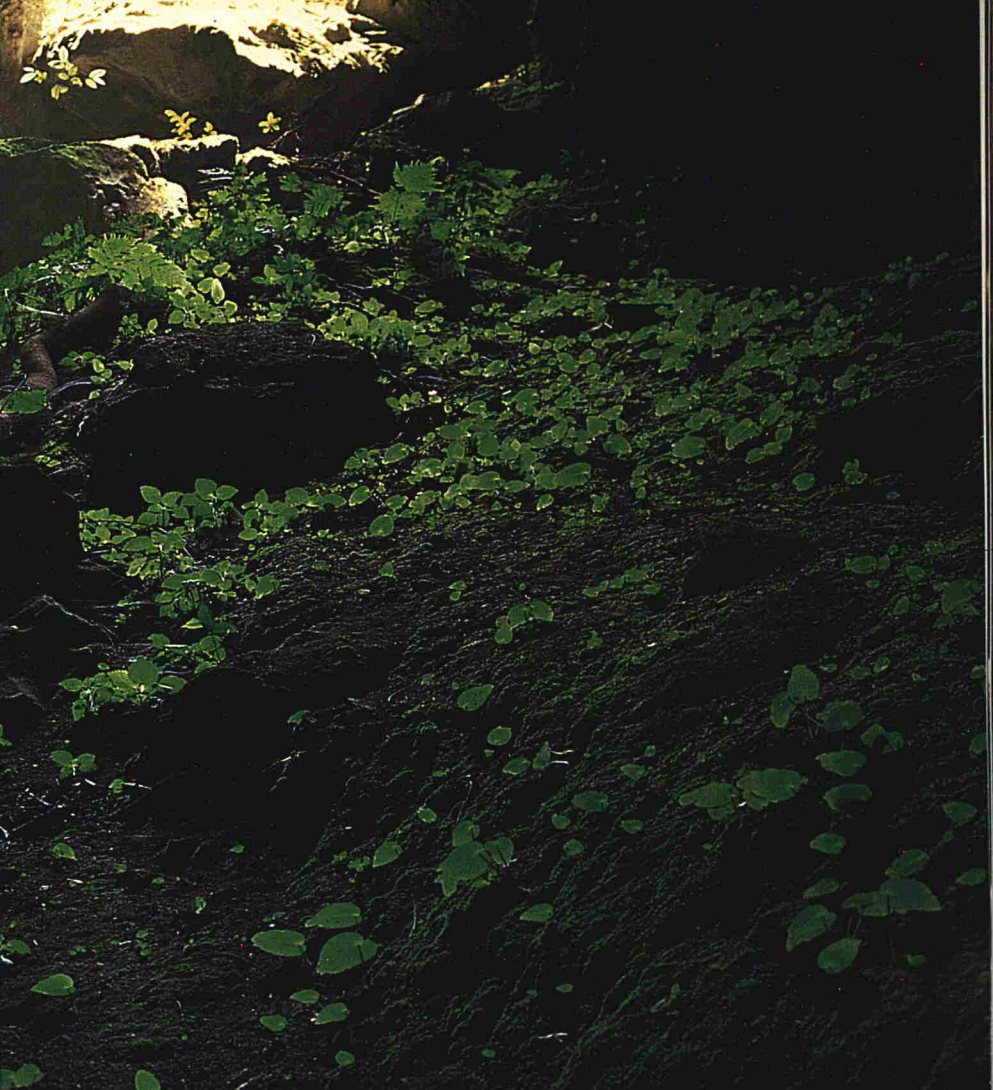
As you venture further in, up the slopes of a mountain range the terrain changes along with the flora. There is more light as the trees grow further apart. Trees that are not so tall, appearing more and more gnarled and knobbly. The forest floor is sandy and obviously the nutrient-value of this montane forest is very poor. Enterprising plants seem to survive in a unique way. There's the pitcher plants, so exotic in looks and carnivorous by nature. They entice insects by offering sweet, thirst-quenching water and by sheer ingenuity trapping them, thereby obtaining valuable nutrients vital for their continued survival.

Then there are these other plants which create tiny little homes or chambers within their stems for hundreds of ants to stay. These ants, in return, leave behind nutrients that help the plants to supplement what is lacking in the soil. One can't help but marvel at the uniqueness of nature.

Right:
These limestone pinnacles rise to 45 metres on the slopes of Mount Api at Mulu National Park in Sarawak.

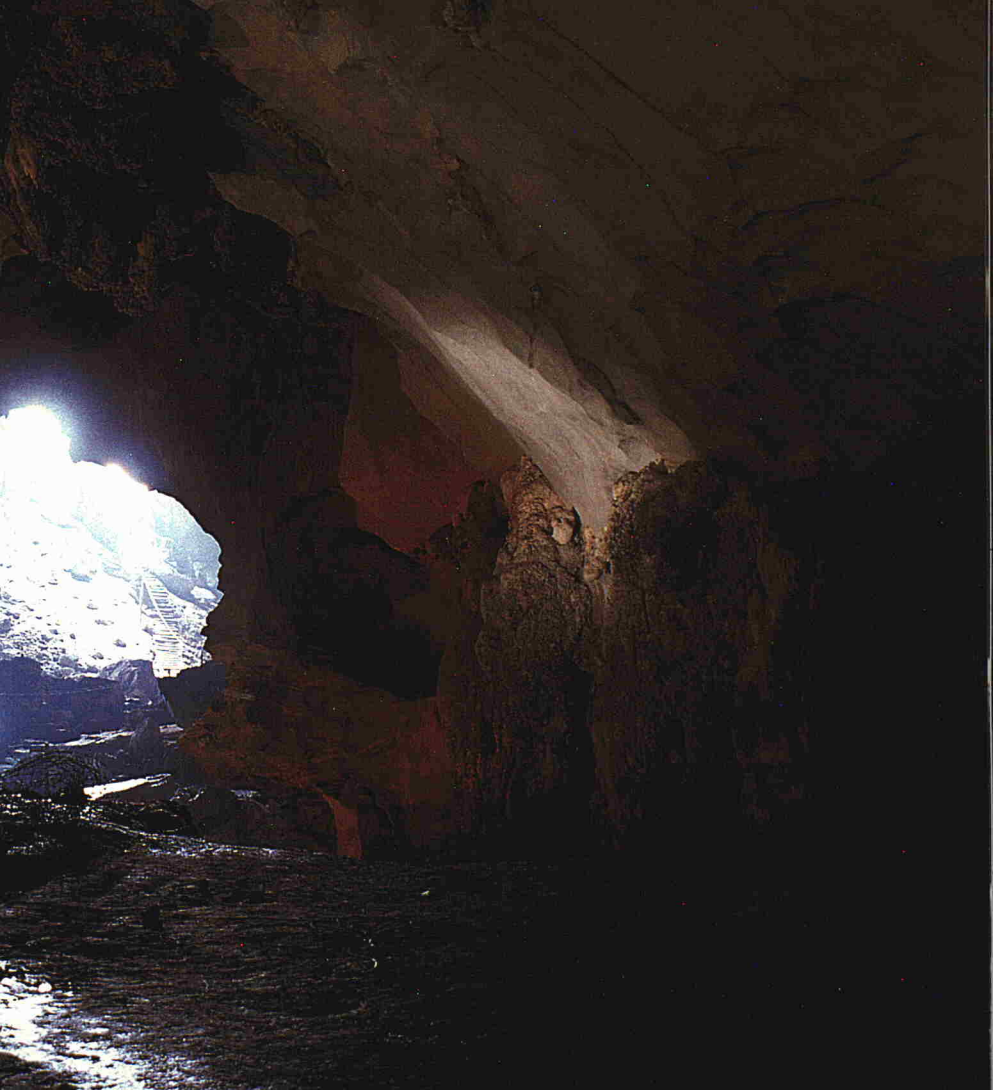
Next Page:
Cave vegetation is unique like these one-leaf plants that flourish in such poor soils.

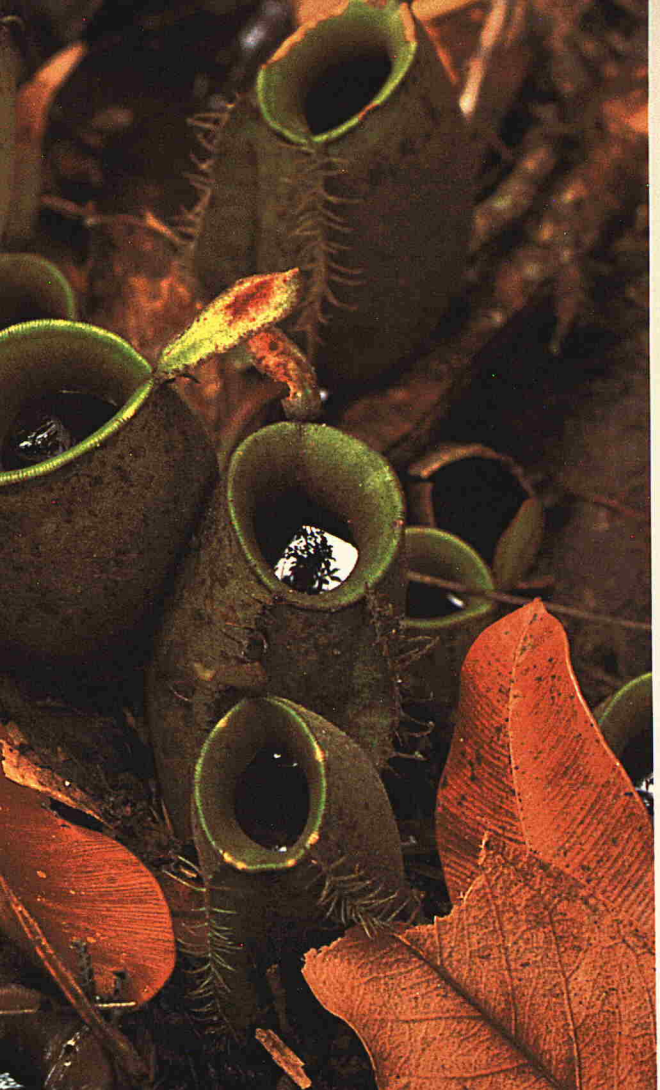




Left:
Taman Negara. Gua Telinga. At dusk these bats emerge to feed on insects in the forest.

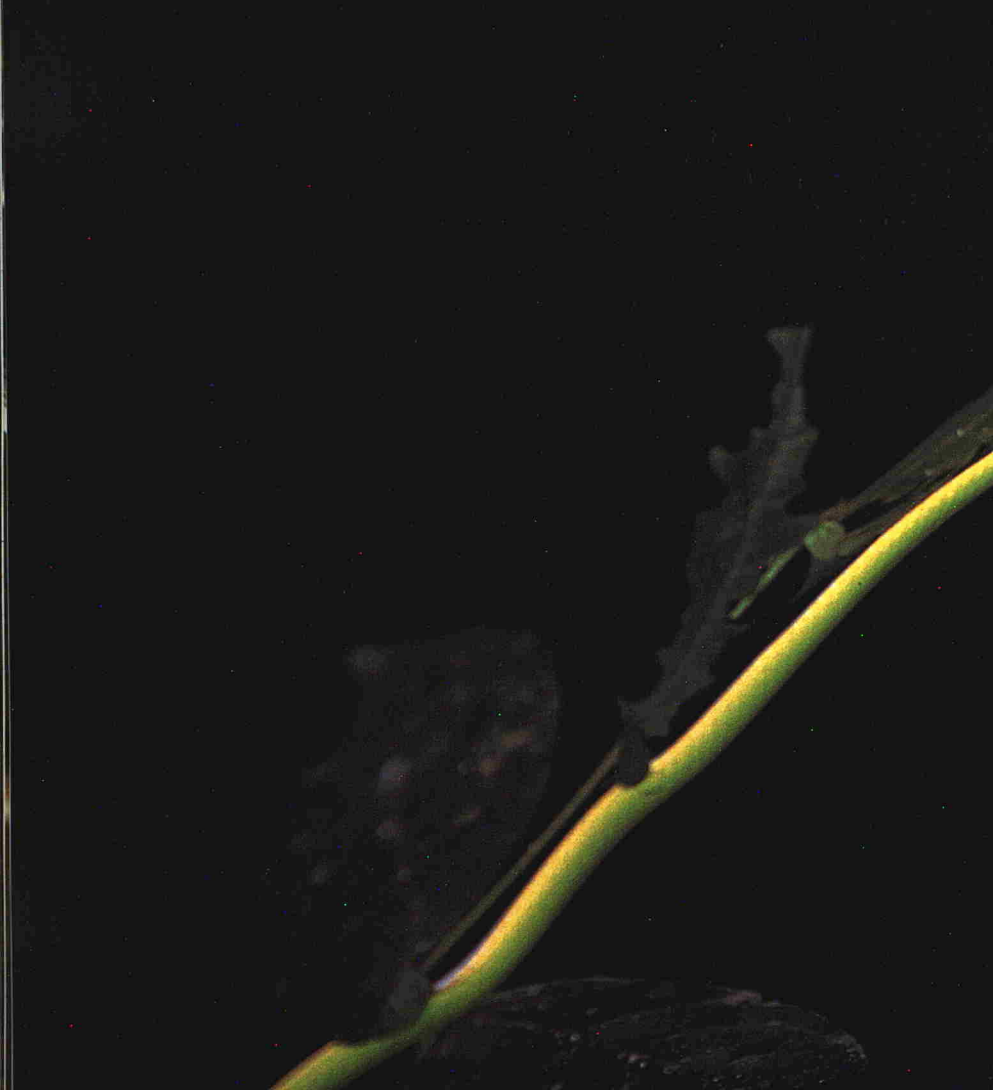
Next Two Pages:
The world's largest underground caves are found in Borneo.





Left:
The pitcher plant or monkey cup, survives on poor soil. It traps small insects for essential nutrients.

Next Page:
Taman Negara. The Green Whip Snake is a graceful, non-poisonous inhabitant of the rainforest.



A Wild, Wild World

Life within the rainforest is intertwined, interdependent and yet independent in some ways. Nature has been most creative within the rainforest, generous with the diversity and surprising in the harmony.

Left:
Tigers, found in Peninsular Malaysia, do not exist in Borneo. They love to swim and are quite adept at catching fish.

Next Page:
Kinabatangan, Sabah. The Crested Green Lizard is quite easily seen in the forest.

The wildlife of the Malaysian rainforest is most often heard than seen. The whooping of the primates can be quite unnerving and its hard to tell the difference between the call of the birds and the hooting of the monkeys. The wildlife of the Malaysian rainforest blends into the green world. Each of the species leads complex lives, breeding, consuming and contributing to the complicated web of life as it exists in the rainforest. Many of the species have evolved over millions of years, perfecting ways of life, adapting, changing with the environment, surviving.

Left:
The lowland dipterocarp forest is the primary habitat for the Asian Elephant.

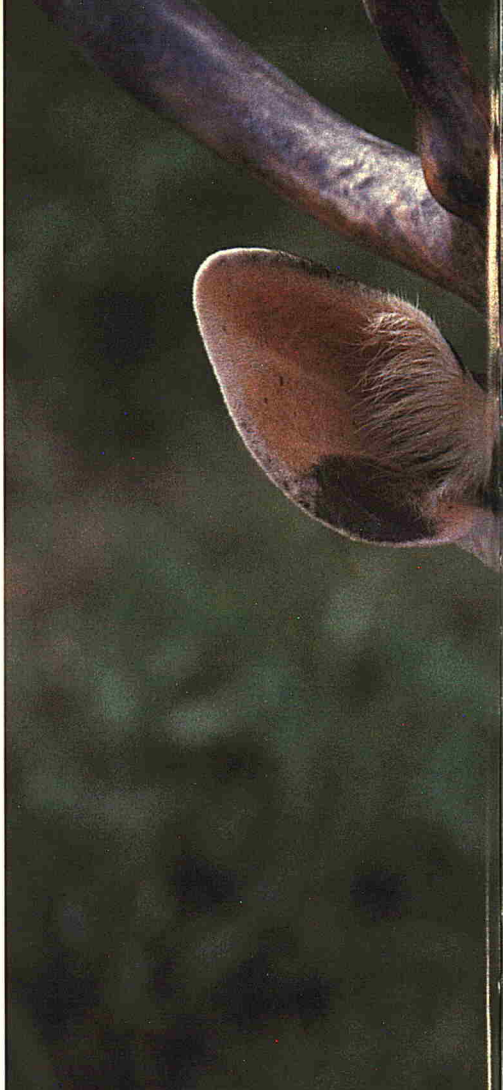
Thousands of species of insects, crawl, fly or roam the forest interior. Over 200 species of mammals make their home here, many of them preferring the

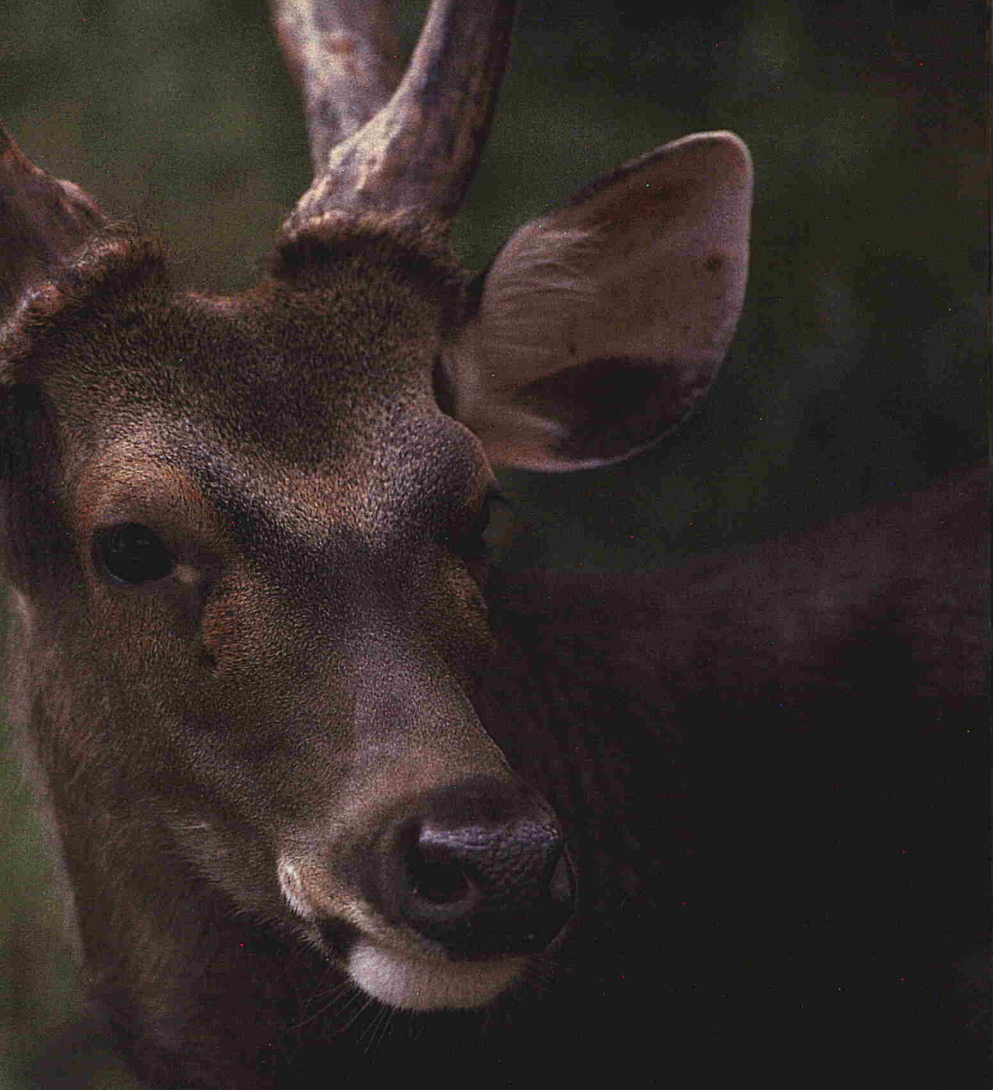
darkness and the cool of the nights or the early dawn to forage for food. Some 600 species of birds and 140 species of snakes lend colour and vibrancy to the sombre green of the rainforest.

Right:
Taman Negara. The Sambar Deer is the largest deer found in Malaysia.

Top:
Danum Valley. A pair of rare kingfishers.

Next Page:
Bako National Park. Gracefully gliding from tree to tree is the unique Proboscis Monkey.





Some of the insects, like the dragonflies, date back their existence about 300 million years, without much change in their structure. Insects make important contributions to the healthy maintenance of the rainforest. They process forest waste and convert them into valuable nutrients needed to energise and generate the growth of trees. Much is still being discovered by scientists as they probe the rainforest and the vital role insects play in the chain of life. They inhabit every inch of the forest – from the canopy right down to the floor. Active, industrious, ingenious they even have symbiotic relationships with plants, providing protection to the plant in exchange for a place to stay and sometimes getting food and water as well.

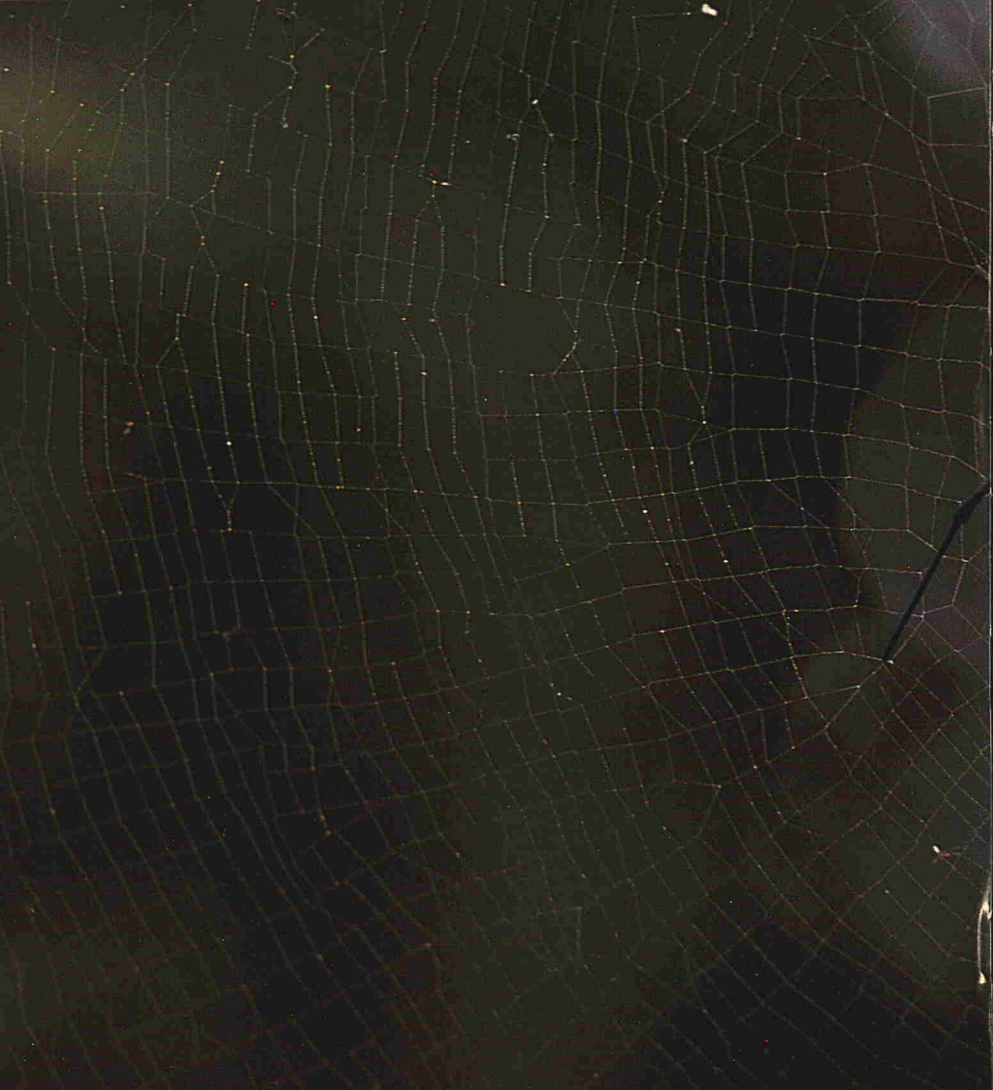
Left:
Danum Valley. The Lantern Bugs, despite their name, never light up like the fireflies.

Top:
Endau-Rompin. The Archduke butterfly is quite a common sight in the jungle.

Below Top:
There are about 100 species of frogs in Malaysia.

Next Page:
Kinabatangan, Sabah. Spiders are everywhere - from the forest floor to the canopy.

Following Page:
A nesting Fairy Bluebird.

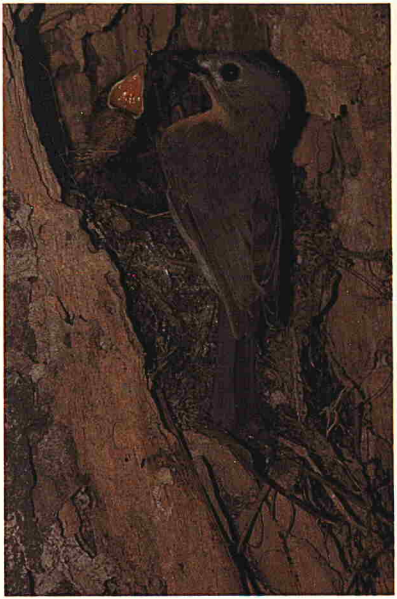


The prettiest insects are, of course, the butterflies, and Malaysia has more than 1,000 species. They flit through the forest from the canopy to the forest floor, their glowing colours are even more beautiful against the dark green backdrop. Little waifs that flitter, unafraid and settle for awhile on rocks and leaves as you marvel at the intricate patterns. Most species are active in mid-morning and late afternoon. They prefer the treetops where they spend the rest of the time when they are not feeding. However there are a few species that one can spot at the break of dawn and at dusk.

Right:
Endau-Rompin. Caterpillars use bright colours and distinctive markings to frighten off predators.

Top:
Kinabatangan, Sabah. The Stick Insect hides by day and feeds by night. It can grow to the size of a man's forearm.

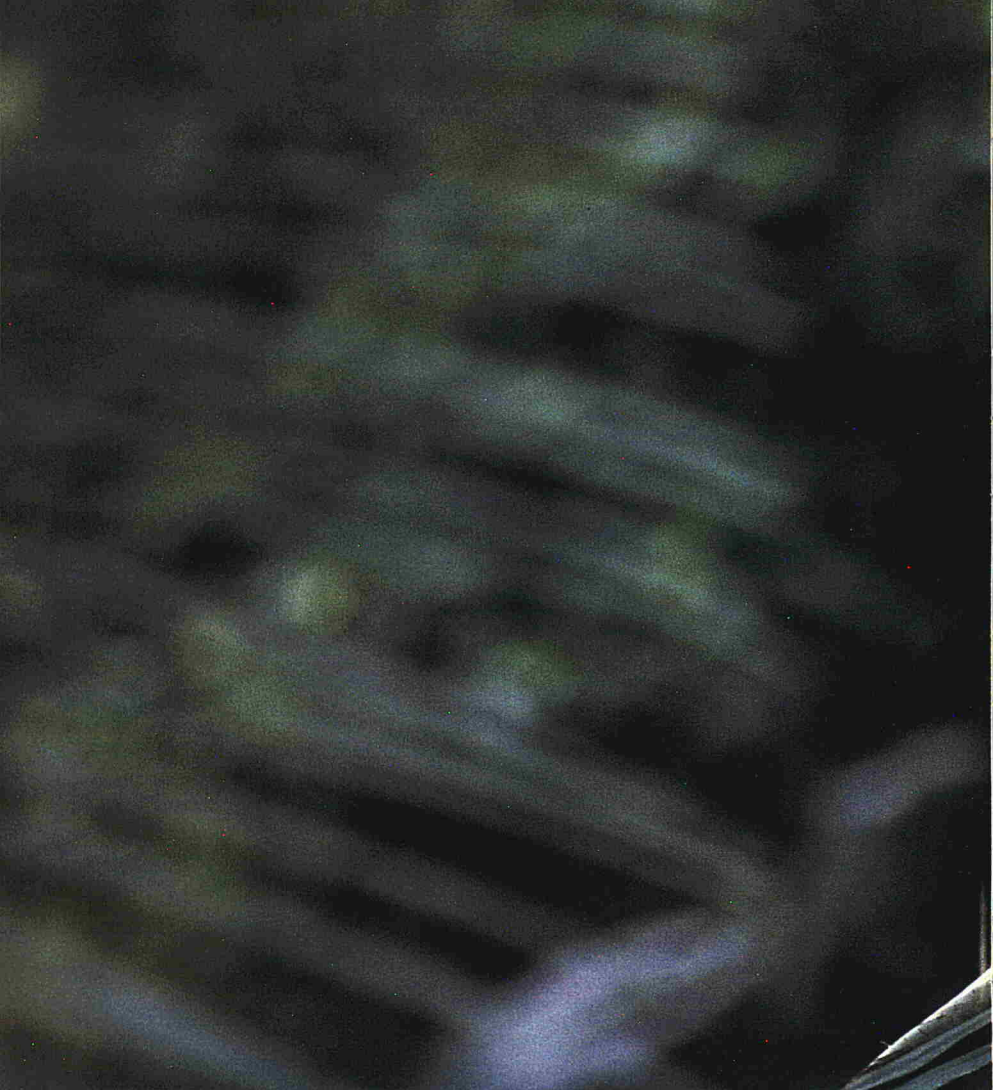
Next Page:
Colourful and green in the foreground is the Birdwing butterfly.



Flashes of colour also belong to the many birds that make the forest their home. Strange sounds can be heard - from sweet cooings of the Green Broadbill to the loud screechings of the hornbills. The forest, especially the lowland dipterocarp, is rich in birdlife. The more than 600 species fill the forest with their beauty.

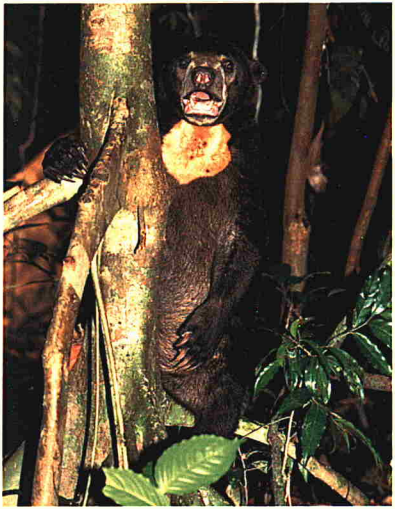
Left:
As many as 60 species of birds can be spotted in a day's walk through the lowland dipterocarp forest where many of them abound.

Next Page:
The Dusky Leaf Monkey can be quite easily spotted at the Kerau Wildlife Reserve in Pahang.



Mammals have existed from the time of dinosaurs. The environment and the many changes that had taken place over the millions of years have influenced the structure and habits of the mammals that we see in the forest today.

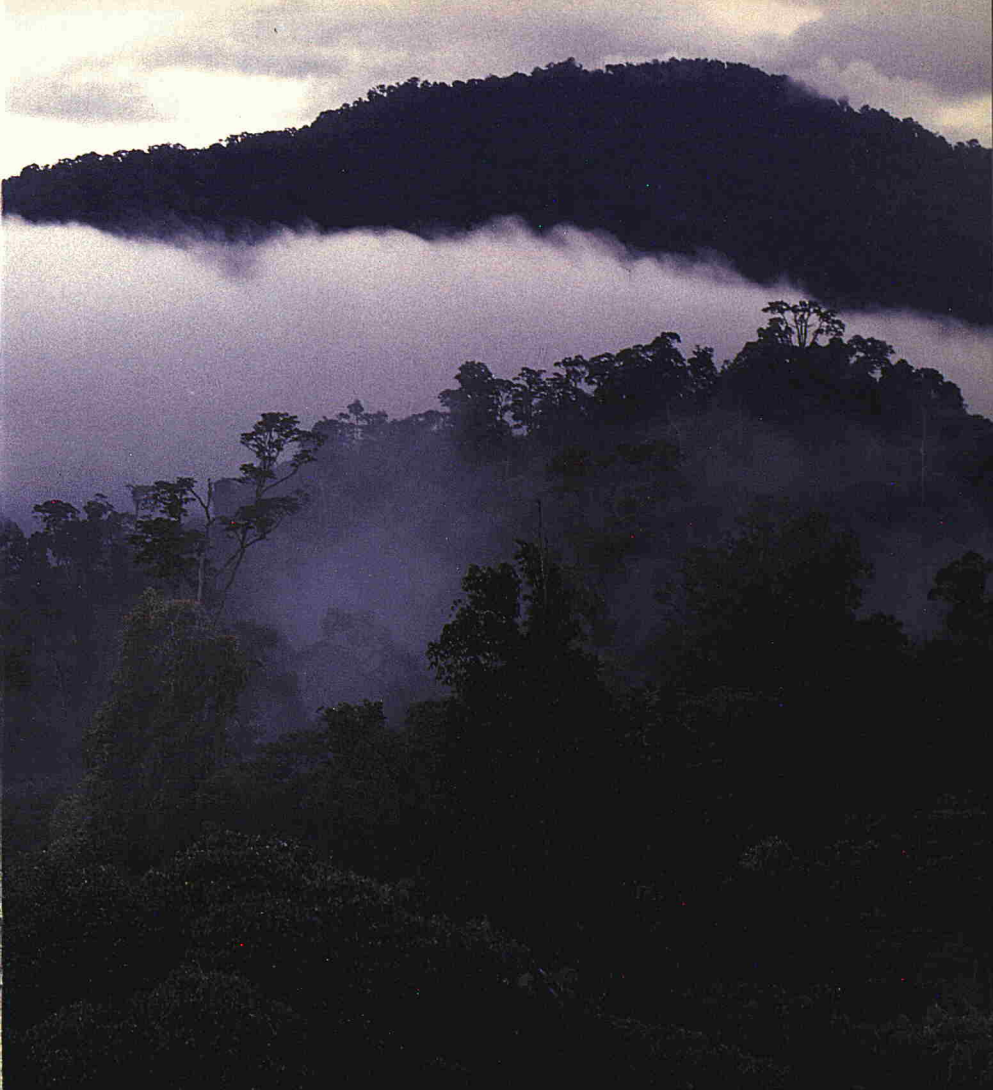
While tramping through the rainforest a stopover at an observation tower is a must. A glimpse of wildlife can be a thrilling experience, whether it is a skulking tiger, a shy deer, a mud-covered wild boar, a trumpeting elephant, scampering monkey or even a stocky, ungainly rhinoceros!



Far Right:
Danum Valley. A rare shot of a wild baby Orang-Utan snug in its mother's arms.

Right:
The Sun Bear, or Honey Bear, is the only kind of bear found in Malaysia.

Next Page:
Lake Chini in Pahang, is the second largest in the country. The 144 species of fish found here provide food for jungle dwellers who live at its fringe.



Co-Existence
Man and Nature

Life on this planet is a tale of co-existence. The forest is an important part of Man's life and has been since the dawn of time. It continues to sustain life in various ways. Many communities still continue to eke out a living either through shifting cultivation or trading forest products, like damar, to villagers.

Left:
Hunting and food gathering takes up the most time for these forest dwellers.

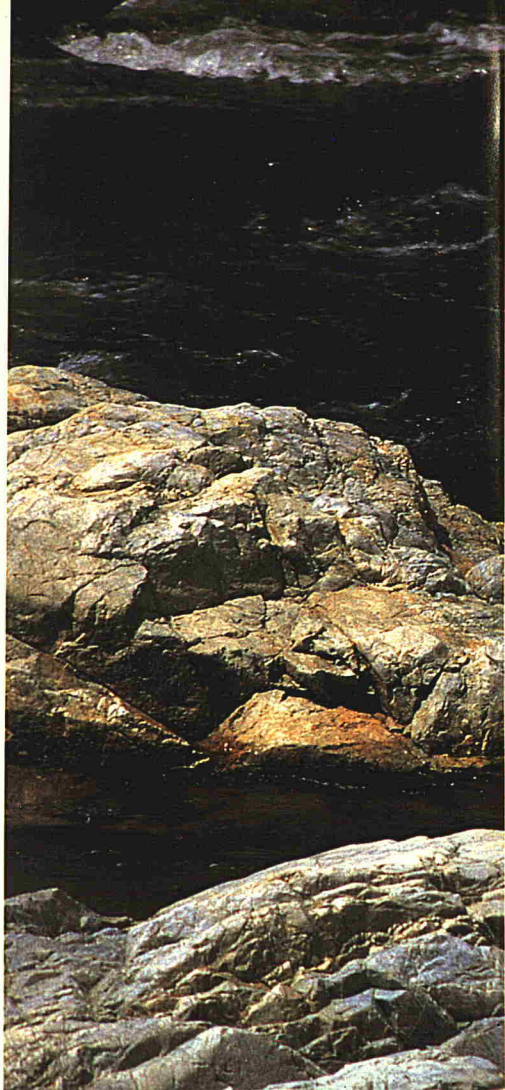
A ramble through the forest sometimes brings you face to face with the indigenous people who seem to be equally curious about you. Barefooted and agile the Orang Asli (Original People), as they are known in Malaysia, lead simple lives. Their days are dominated by the gathering and preparation of food. The different communities under three main groupings in the Peninsular and ten in Sabah and Sarawak, have their own languages, customs, music and religions that are peppered with taboos and omens. While the Penans have become well-known there are many more communities like the Bateq, the Che Wong and the Temuan of the Peninsular, the Bidayuh and Kelabit of Sarawak and the Rungus and Murut of Sabah, just to mention a few.

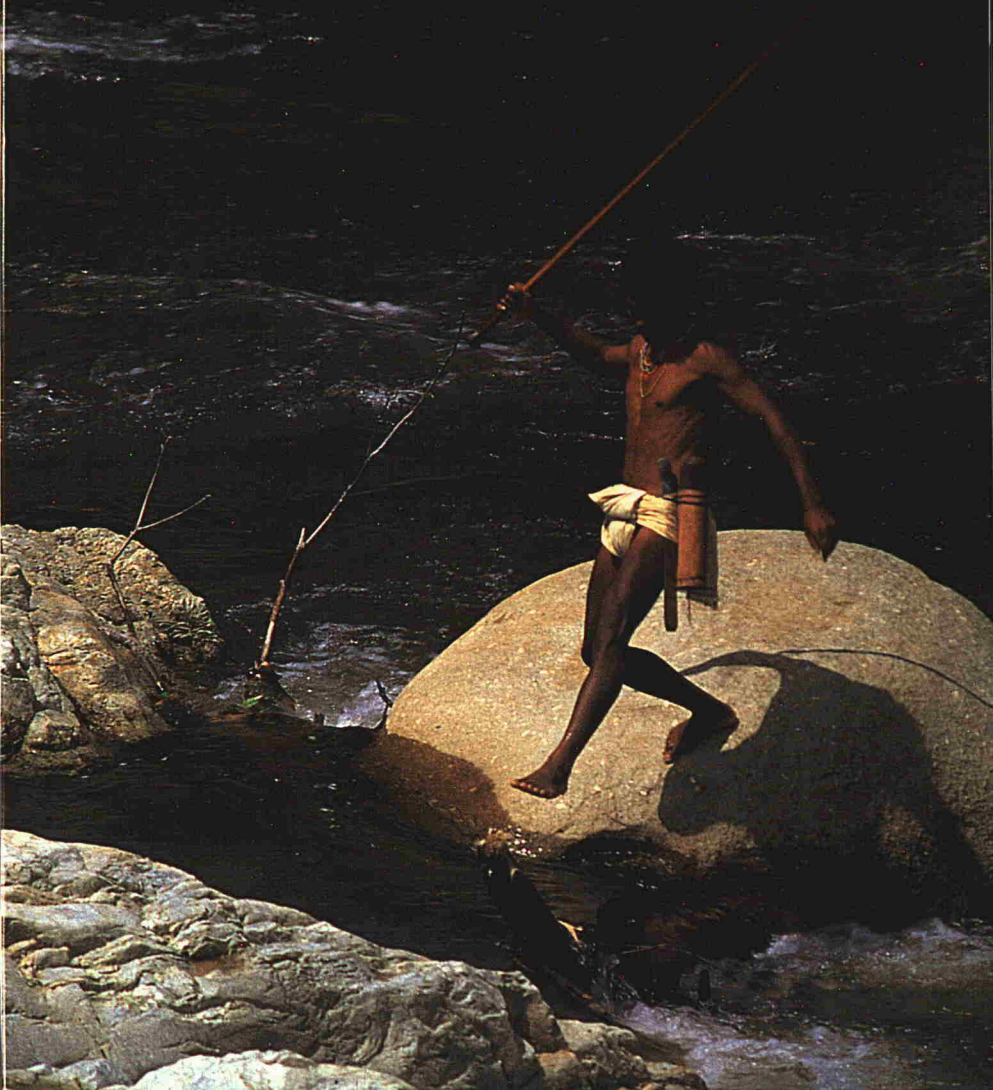
Left:
Belum. Rattan is extensively utilised by forest dwellers to make fish traps or woven into baskets and other various uses.

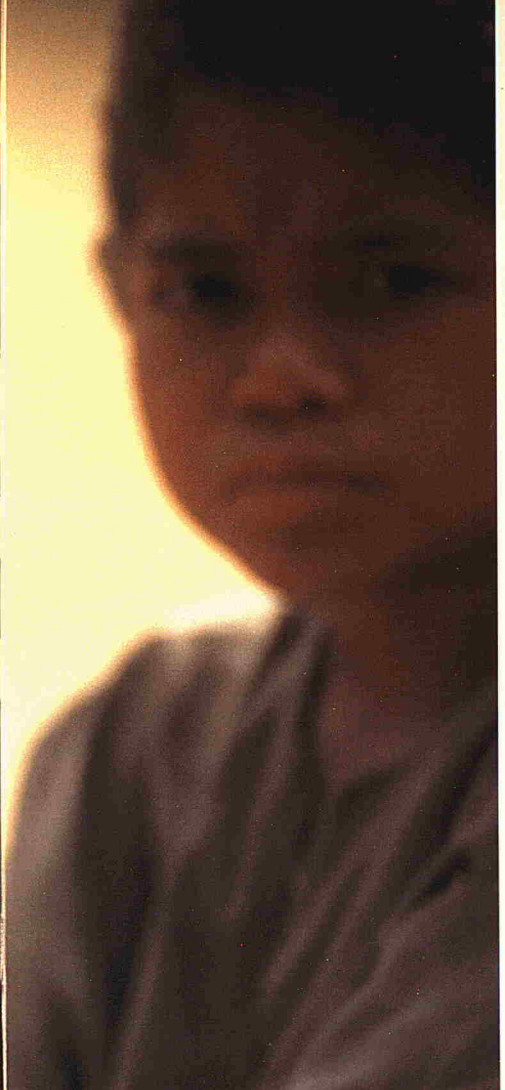
Their dwellings, if you get a chance to be invited into, are simple makeshifts that can be easily dismantled as they move from one part of the forest to another. It is possible to visit a community which has settled into an area. Conversations with some of them will reveal a depth of knowledge of plants for medicinal use.

Researchers have been making forays into the forest, as far back as the late 19th century, to gather information about the many communities that live in the forest and to study the plants. Today research continues to gain new insights using scientific methods to further analyse and document traditional usage. Of the more than 25,000 species of plants about 2,000 have been found to have medicinal use.

Right:
Belum. A small number of forest dwellers continue to eke out a living hunting, fishing or trading forest produce.







The forest dwellers are also very well versed in the different types – and peculiar habits – of the many animals that live in the forest. Their knowledge is invaluable to forest rangers and game wardens whom they assist, occasionally. Despite its romanticism, the tropical rainforests are harsh and inhospitable. While they lived in the forests, the Muruts, for example, were a dying race. The small number of Penans who still roam the Sarawak forests are no better. Life expectancy is a mere 40 years.

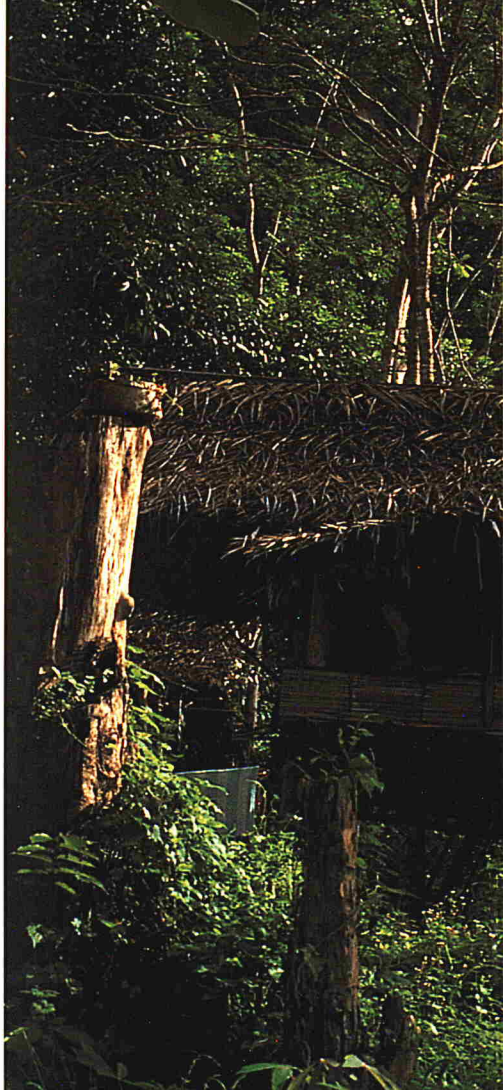
While some of the communities are content to live within the confines of the forest most have left to become part of modern society. Assimilation takes time. Many communities live at the fringe of the rainforest, straddling two ways of life. The younger generation, exposed to schools and education find it easier to make that transition to city life.

Left:
Belum. Younger members of forest communities, through education, find it easier to make the transition into modern society.

A number have excelled and hold important positions in academic, economic and political sectors of Malaysian society. Those that have partaken in the more settled lifestyles of the villages and the towns never return to live in the forests again.

Right:
While some forest dwellers are content to live in the forest most have left to become part of modern society.

Top:
The Rungus, a forest community in Sabah.



Safeguarding The Rainforest

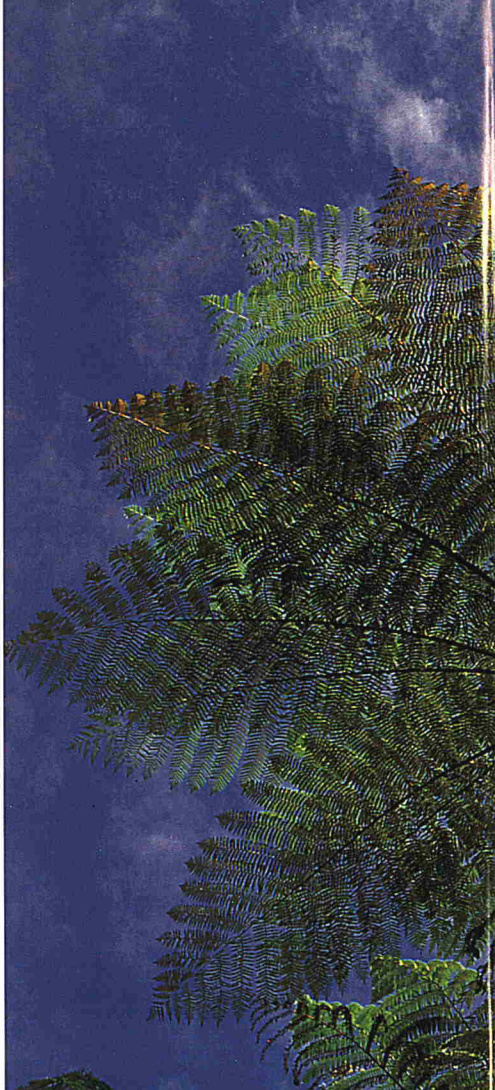
The forest has been all things to all people. A food source. A shelter. A medicinal resource. A getaway for recreation, a carbon sink, a research laboratory. The realisation that the forest has much more to offer is more true today than ever before.

Left:
Ecotourism has made the rainforest more appreciated and accessible to people.

As our knowledge increases with the years and our technological expertise advances, we make new discoveries. We know more about this planet and the way it functions. We appreciate the workings of Nature because we begin to understand how intricate, complicated and complex a system it is.

The rainforest is a part of this natural system of checks and balances. A rich resource, the rainforest fulfils many of our needs. Undoubtedly it enriches our lives and we in turn must protect and safeguard our green heritage which still covers some 7.7 per cent of the world's land area.

Right:
Tree ferns like these at Cameron Highlands look like gigantic umbrellas .



In Malaysia more than 19 million hectares or

60 per cent of the country is under natural forest

cover. More than 14 million hectares of land are

sustained in Malaysia as Permanent Forest Estates

and another 2 million hectares conserved in their

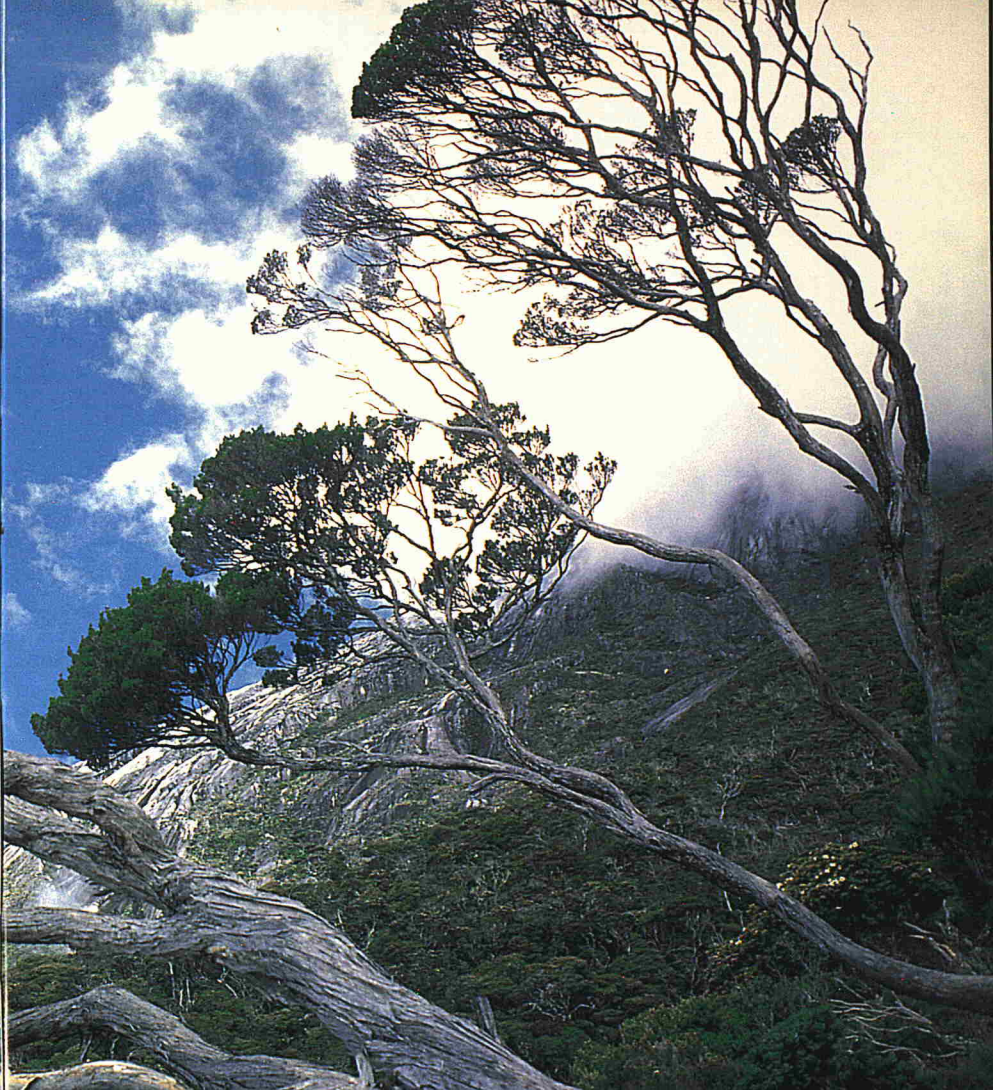
pristine state as national parks, nature reserves,

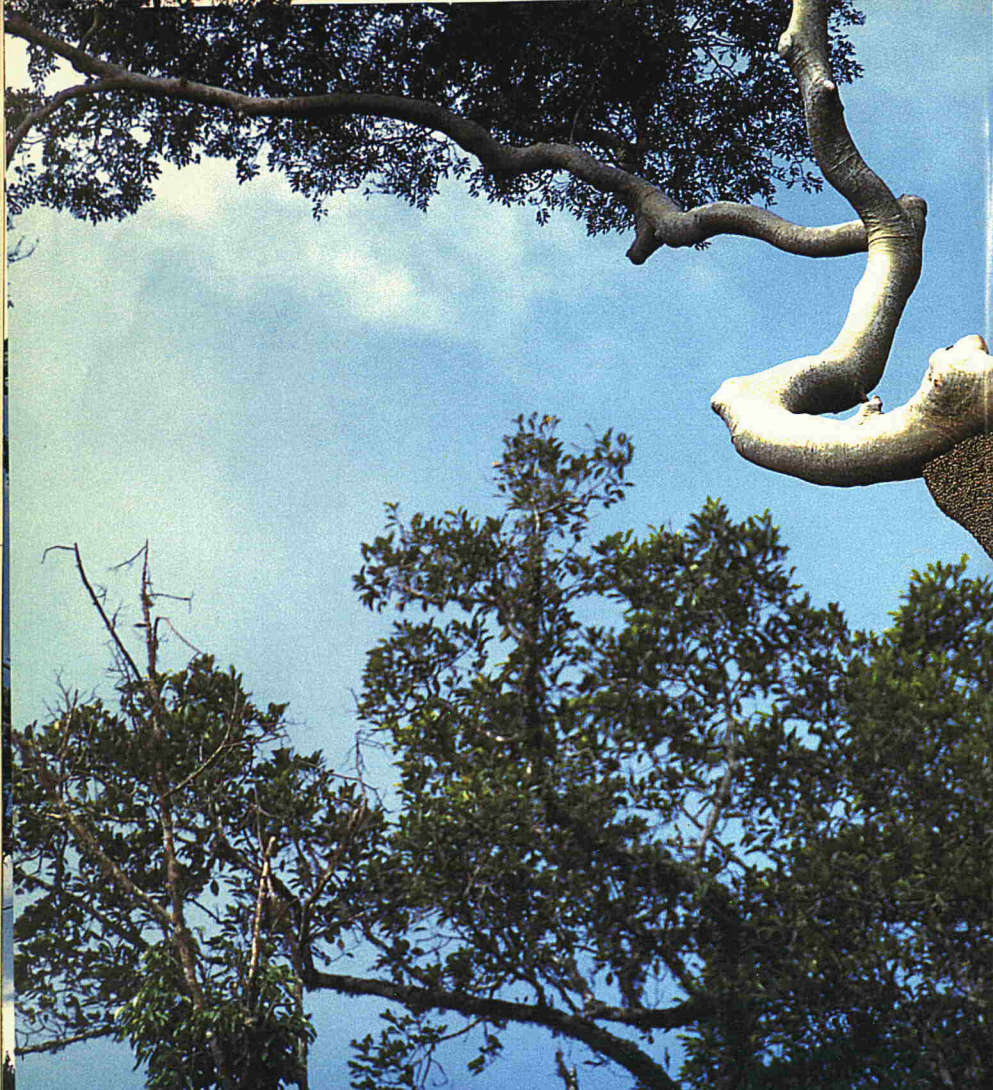
habitats and wildlife sanctuaries.

Left:
Ginger flowers like this Earth Ginger, bloom on the forest floor adding a touch of brightness to the dim interior.

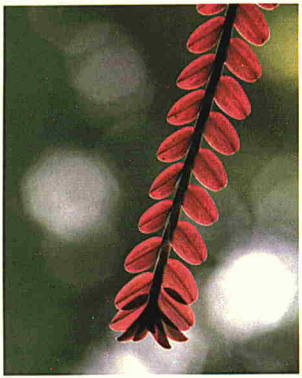
Next Page:
Trees that grow on the rocky terrain of Mount Kinabalu appear gnarled and stunted.

Following Page:
The tallest trees of the Malaysian rainforest belong to this Tualang species.

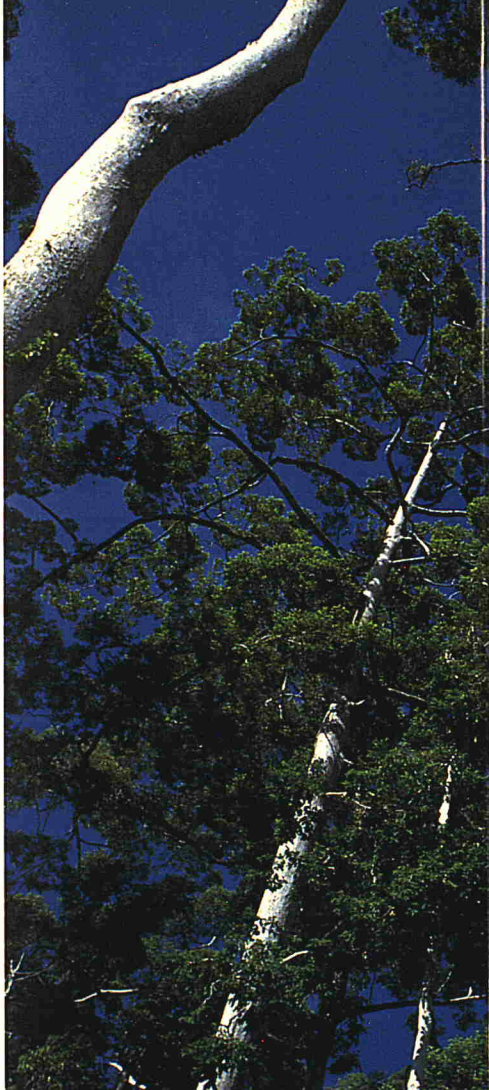




Policy makers have, as long ago as 1901, recognised that the forest must be managed to ensure conservation. Sustainable forest management is actively practised to safeguard the forest for the future. The growing trend of eco-tourism has seen the development of more nature-oriented resorts that offer trekking and mountain climbing as a welcome change for visitors.



Right:
Emergent trees at the canopy tower above all the other dipterocarps.

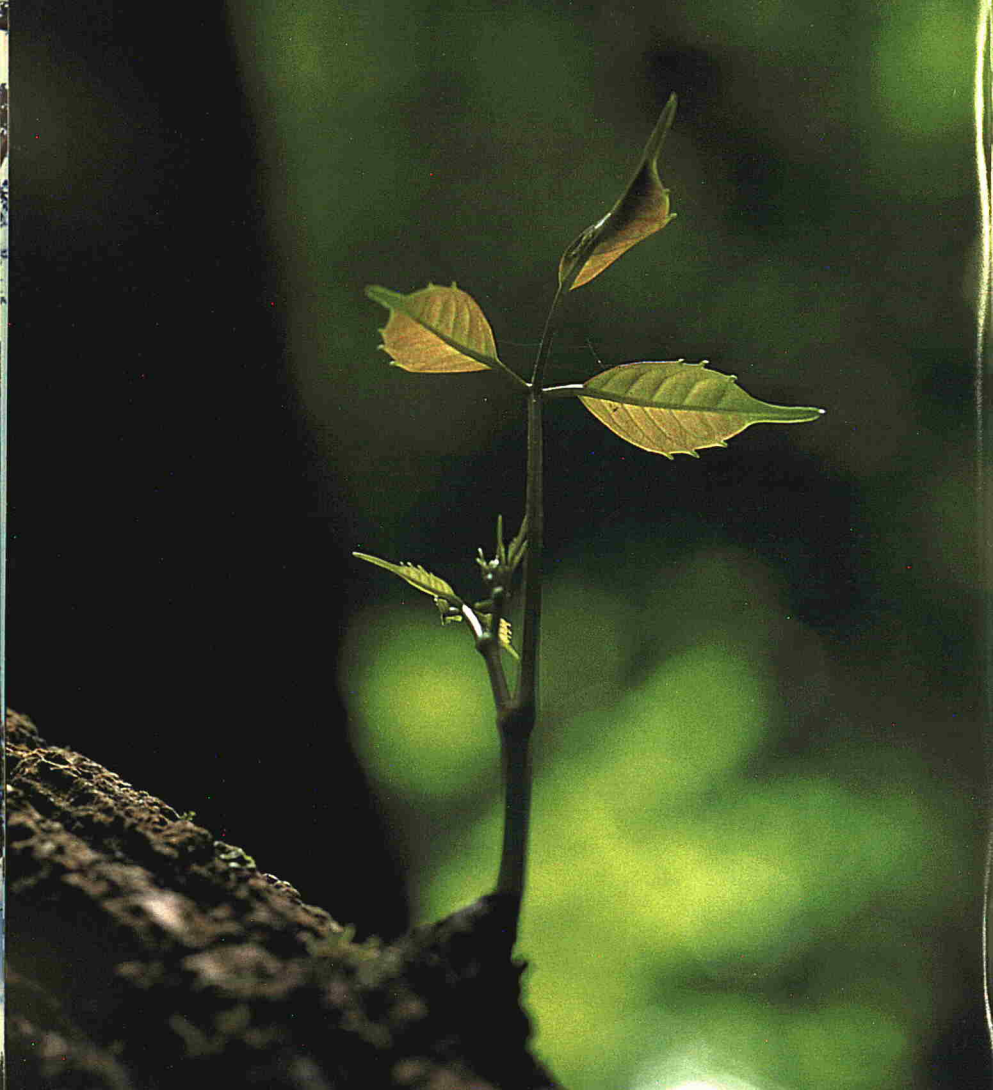


In the 1992 Environment Summit in Rio, Malaysia pledged to maintain half of its land as permanent forest cover. The country had suggested that other nations have a greening target so that in the longer term, the world would have maintained a certain level of forest cover. Although a fast developing country Malaysia, on its part, will ensure that forests are wisely managed to balance the progress we make. Malaysia is firmly on the path where "green" and "growth" are in harmony.

Left:
Malaysia has pledged to maintain half of its land as permanent forest cover.

Next Page:
The tubers of this Black Lily are used as medicine by villagers.

Following Page:
Within this limestone forest at Taman Negara is an intricate cave system.



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