

Malayan Nature Journal

Foreword

It has been a long marathon run ever since the post covid period, mainly attributed to the relentless editorial tasks of curating every article in earnest, corresponding with each of our contributors who are based both far and near, all while spearheading this mighty flagship of Malaysian Nature Society (MNS), in its 76th volume (produced to date), dating back to 1940.

Currently, almost over 10,000 research articles have been indexed, primarily in print and now in digital, i.e., pdf format. This gigantic task is still an ongoing digitisation process, and while the MNJ team deploy their finest to uncover every hidden gem of the natural world inscribed in previous notes and letters. These documents described methods employed in the past and present, as well as the corresponding study results, while forming the conclusion of the findings. The team then analyses and synthesises the data, utilising simplified metrics commonly employed today, in order to present empirical evidence in the form of diagrams and charts.

MNJ often faces another daunting task after the completion of its quarterly volumes — post-publication efforts in leveraging each article to various external parties of academic interest, especially in prestigious databases such SCOPUS and Web of Science (WOS). This is essential to factor in the merits of the nature conservation subject and other topics of interest. The success of these post-publication efforts directly impacts the global ranking of the journal, in comparison to other similar publications. It also serves as a barometer of our future strategies, indicating whether we are expanding our reach beyond our intended scope while remaining relevant in today's challenges.

Starting from the present volume, MNJ articles are now registered with DOI (Digital Object Identifier). This will be displayed in each research article published from 2024 onwards. This was made possible through the funding from Microsoft Foundation. We anticipate that the DOI accreditation will enhance the credibility of our journal among authors and readers. It is important to note that MNJ is still a closed subscription for our dedicated readers who have committed to yearly membership. Consequently, MNJ do not distribute or publish the articles on any open access digital platforms, despite the abundance of scientific papers featured in MNJ. However, authors have the opportunity to do so after their work has undergone the necessary finalisation, confirmation and publication processes.

In the course of 2023, MNJ has presented two exclusive issues. The first was a special hardcover issue featured in March, focusing on Batu Caves, in collaboration with the Malaysian Cave and Karst Conservancy (MCKC). The second exclusive issue was published in December, compiling the proceedings deliberated in the International Conference on Biodiversity 2022, organised by University of Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) based in Johor and University Gadjadara (UGM) from Indonesia. Both of these issues were undertaken with gallant efforts by MNJ's new onset Editor-at-large, Ms. Vivian Soon, curating and refining each submitted article for this issue, and corresponding closely with the authors, locally and abroad. This accreditation also goes to the countless hours spent gleaning by our subject experts and curators concerned (refer to International Honorary Editorial Board and Honorary Editor members), many of whom are lifetime members of MNS. MNS are eternally grateful to our revered editorial members, as well to each author, who are the ultimate benefactor of our journal. Each of these reviewers never once flinches nor bat an eyelid of the magnitude of work presented to them for their comments. We at MNS are deeply appreciative of their servitude and performance beyond the kaleidoscope in ensuring that each content described is well understood before all these findings are placed into fine prints, whilst ensuring the study finds nuance in this fast changing

anthropogenic age, and maintaining the exceptional quality of natural history research and its discoveries, which are etched indelibly with utmost curiosity and matters to our current civilisation.

MNS/MNJ are also currently revisiting our status quo, i.e. **The State of Nature Conservation in Malaysia**, embarking once again on this similar theme since its original publication in 1991. This issue is tentatively earmarked for a Special Issue in 2025. We encourage all subject experts, past and present, with a deep understanding of flora, fauna, biomes, and related topics to contribute their findings or studies for this issue. The deadline for submissions for this important issue will be in March 2025. Studies should focus on the Malayan Archipelago, including Borneo, and other landscapes that extend beyond regional boundaries, as there are wildlife populations that freely roam and range without regard for our demarcated territories.

On to the thematic subjects forecasted for 2024, MNJ shall feature key topics addressing the climate change or emergency issues encompassing biodiversity aspects, especially on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) or Important Biodiversity or Bird Areas (IBA). This includes working towards habitat protection of critical wildlife losses, may it be for rewilding and reforestation of biomes, landscapes or policies. At present, MNS is earnestly establishing the groundwork for forest connectivity in the urban landscape and beyond, through a key project coined locally as **Rantaian Urban Green Spaces** or **RUGS**. Working alongside GEF-SGP-UNDP, with other notable key actors and stakeholders in Klang Valley, MNS is in the process of establishing a network of green corridors to promote coexistence between people and nature. Along with other nationwide IBA/KBA sites, MNS has established networks and foundations with various actors, non-actors and stakeholders, irregardless of local, national or international, to safeguard these key priority sites.

In conclusion, we invite scholarly works, such as research articles or literature reviews, to delve into the pressing concerns surrounding wildlife and landscape. It is crucial that these issues are examined through the lens of aligning with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which aims to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. Thus, ensuring the conservation efforts of our living natural heritage is safeguarded for the coming generations, who will inherit the responsibility of stewarding our planet.

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