

# Ecosystem Approach for Natural Resource Management

## MENGO – Focus Area Group 5

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### Introduction

The fast developing nature of business especially after the industrial age and the introduction of globalization have increased the business capacity and created extensive demand for natural resources. Expounding further is the rising again of world population rate to 79.4 million per annum in 2007 (Wikipedia, 2009) and the consumption of natural resources (which) has increased to 125% of global carrying capacity and could rise to 170% by 2040 (Social Fund, 2009). Various measures have been constantly researched and implemented by world bodies such United Nations, IUCN (World Conservation Society), WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) and many more organizations. One of the approaches being promoted vigorously is Ecosystem Approach (EsA). The extent of significance and trust on EsA is recognized in the UNEP's fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (UNEP/CBD/COP/5/23) held in Nairobi, Kenya, where it was decided to adopt EsA for Natural Resource Management.

### The Ecosystem Approach

The current management of the natural resources which are still either by natural resources or spatial with less consideration of a particular biological organization such as wetlands ecosystem, forest ecosystem etc are rather considered as fragmented management and does not reach a balance on a conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources. The *EsA* <http://mengo.org/articles/EsA.pdf> is a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable manner (MENGO, 2008). The EsA involves the comprehensive integrated management of human activities, based on best available scientific knowledge about ecosystems and their dynamics, in order to identify and take action on influences which are critical to their health, thereby achieving sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services and maintenance of ecosystem integrity (EU Marine Strategy Stakeholder Workshop, Denmark, 4 – 6 December 2002).

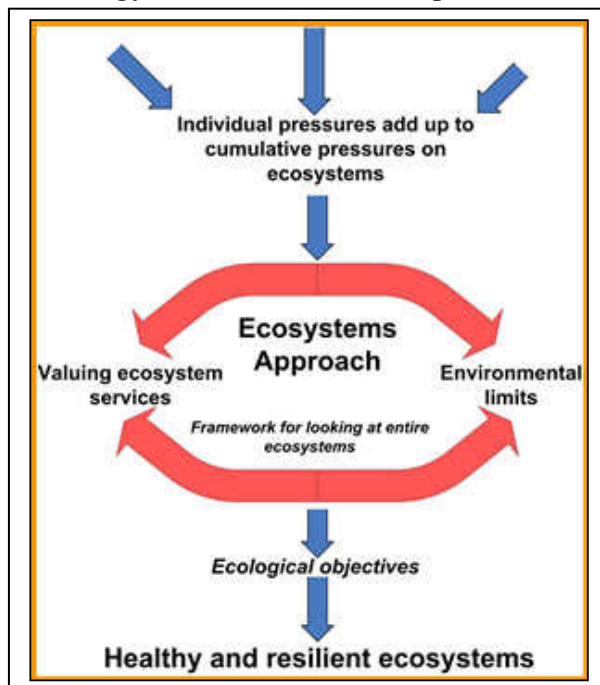


Figure 1: EsA Framework

## **MENGO and EsA in Malaysia**

MENGO has been entrusted by the government of Malaysia, which has entered in an agreement with DANIDA (Danish International Development Assistant) to assist the implementation of the Civil Society Sub-component that comprises of 5 themes of (a) Urban Environment & Sustainable Consumption & Production, (b) Climate Change, (c) Responsible & Accountable Governance, (d) Biodiversity: Indigenous people and Gender and (e) Ecosystem Approach Applied to Natural Resource Management. This article will focus on the work planned and done by the fifth theme only from 2007 until 2009. Some of the major works completed by the EsA group are:

1. A study of Malaysia's experience on EsA.
2. Conducted a seminar to raise awareness on EsA

Some of the major works that have planned for implementation for 2009 are:

1. National Workshop on EsA to further raise the awareness and strengthening path for implementation.
2. Resource Material Development on EsA.
3. Conduct training for a local community on EsA.

To view the full detail of work plan of the EsA theme, please click

<http://mengo.org/articles/Workplan.pdf>.

## **Synopsis of the work done by MENGO Focus Area 5 group on EsA**

1. Study of Malaysia's experience on EsA.

EsA in Malaysia is rather a new concept in comparison to the existing approaches that being utilized. A research on the environment and biological diversity related policies at the Federal and State level were conducted. They are categorized at Policy Compliance Level by complied, implied, not complied and at Implementation Level by not undertaken, partly undertaken and undertaken was analyzed and documented. Mixed results were observed at the policy compliance and implementation level for each of the policies at both levels. To view the full report, please click

[http://mengo.org/articles/Esa\\_Study.pdf](http://mengo.org/articles/Esa_Study.pdf).

2. Seminar on EsA

The workshop attracted the MENGO members, government agencies (such as and civil society members. Three topics were presented, namely Ecosystem Approach in Malaysian Biodiversity Conservation by Mr. Gopinath of FanLi Marine and Consultancy Sdn. Bhd., Ecosystem Approach and the Terrestrial Environment by Mr. Lee Kian Foh and Ecosystem Approach in Aquatic Environment by Ms. Puvanesuri of FanLi Marine and Consultancy Sdn. Bhd. To view the proceeding, click

<http://mengo.org/articles/ESASeminarProceeding.pdf>.

## **Reference:**

Concept Paper on National Seminar on the Ecosystem Approach for Natural Resource Management, MENGO, 2009 (unpublished)

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Wikipedia, 2009 - [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population\\_growth](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Population_growth) Accessed on 19/1/09