

# Integrating biodiversity conservation into spatial planning in Malaysia:

Dr G <u>Bala</u>murugan ERE Consulting Group





### Contents

Spatial planning in Malaysia

 Incorporation of biodiversity conservation in the National Physical Plan

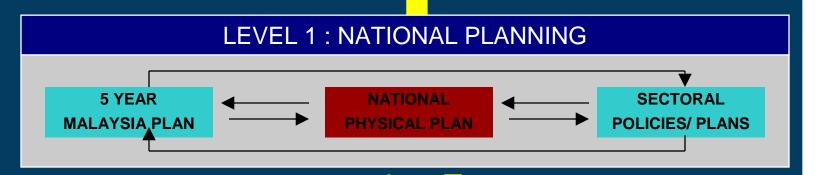
Lessons learnt



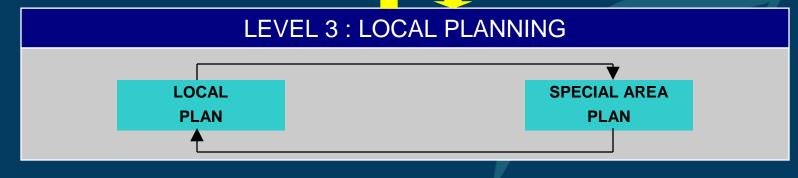


# NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING FRAMEWORK - MALAYSIA

**VISION 2020** 





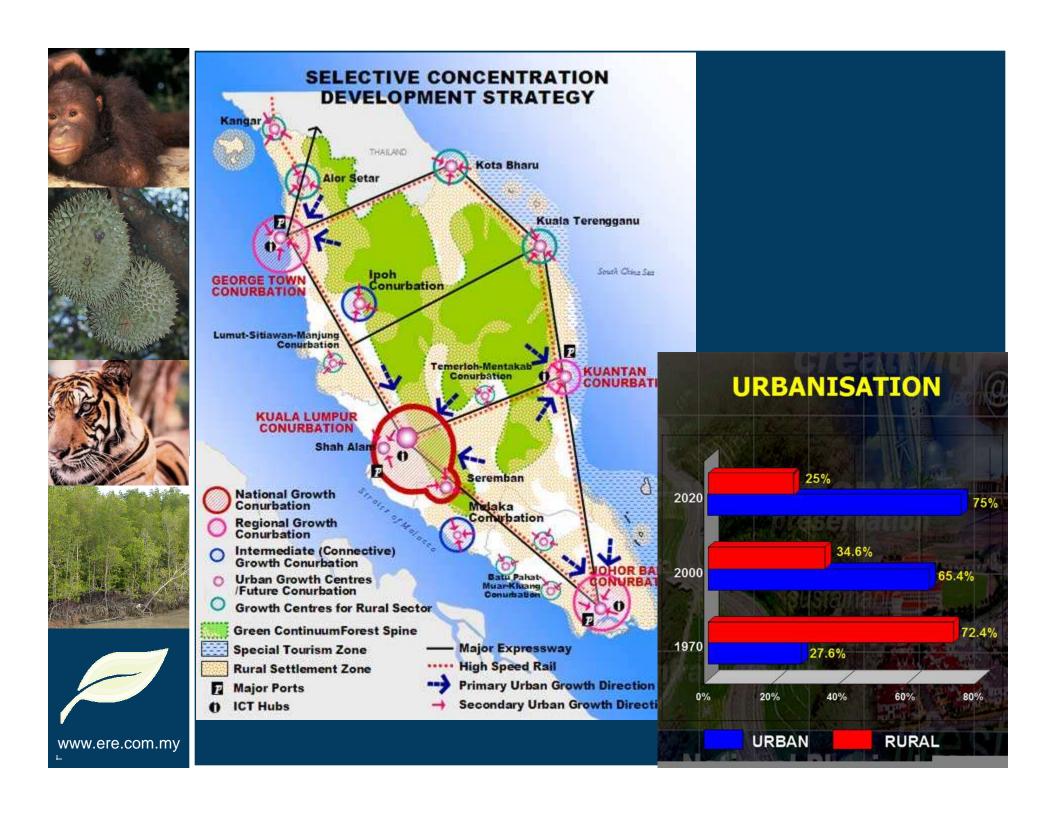




# National Physical Plan

- Provided for by the Town & Country Planning Act 1976
- Aims to strengthen national planning by providing a spatial dimension to national economic policies
- Provides general direction of physical development
- To be reviewed once in every 5 years in tandem with the 5-year national economic plans



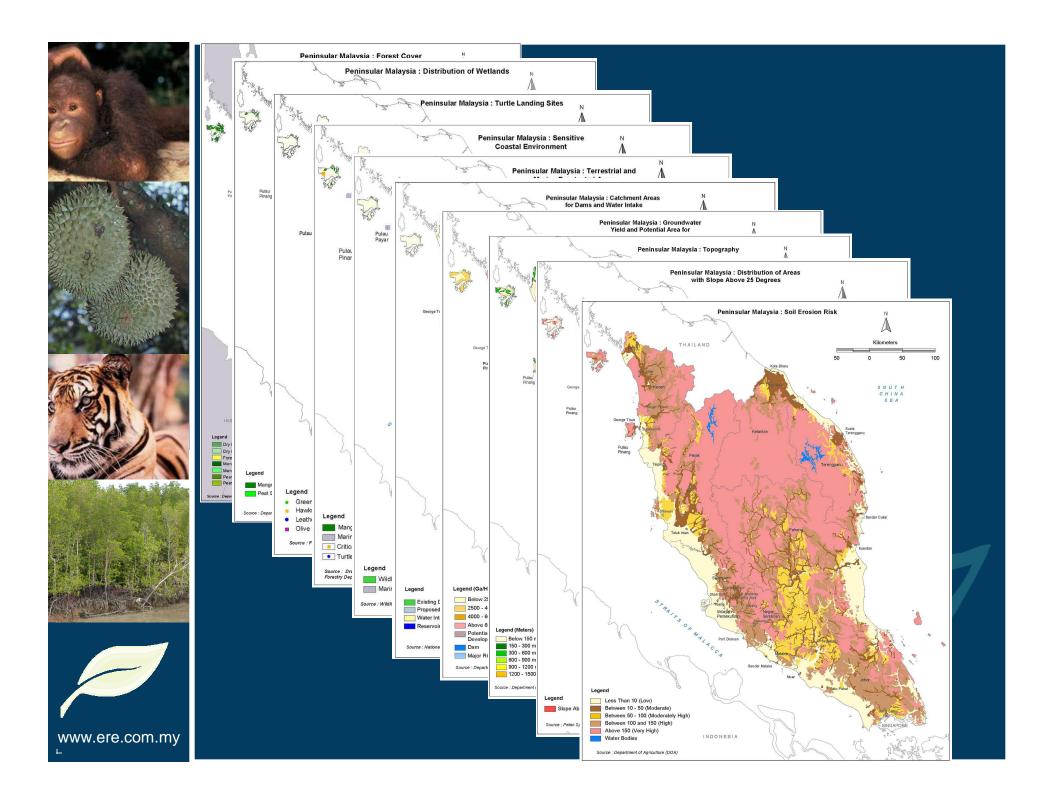




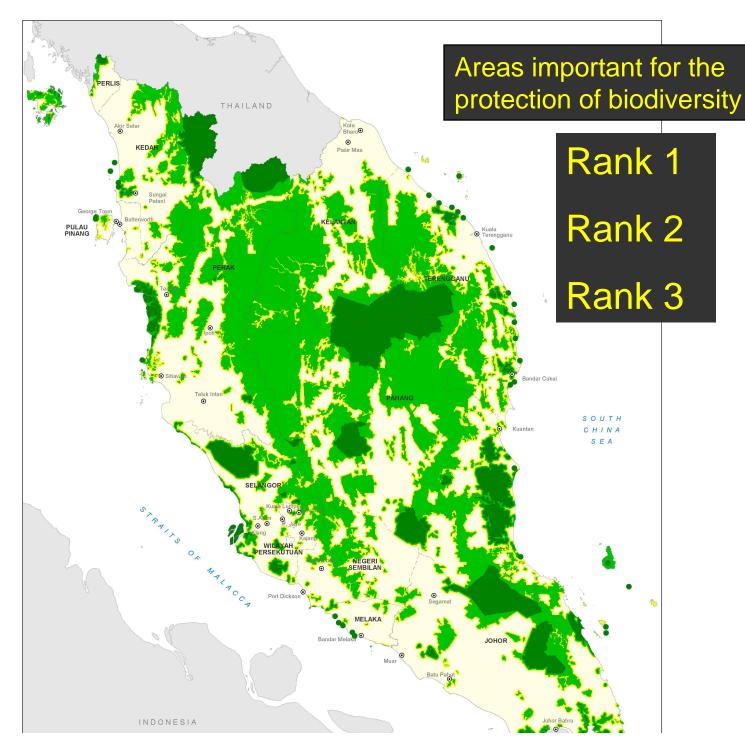
# National Physical Plan

- Because biodiversity conservation is so closely related to land use planning, the "environment team" had to be very <u>proactive</u> in guiding the rest of the spatial planning team.
- The main aim was to <u>protect</u> all the key "environmentally sensitive areas" (ESA) and to guide the direction of development growth.
- It was also important to portray the <u>hierarchy</u> of the ESA to enable the other sectors make informed decisions.

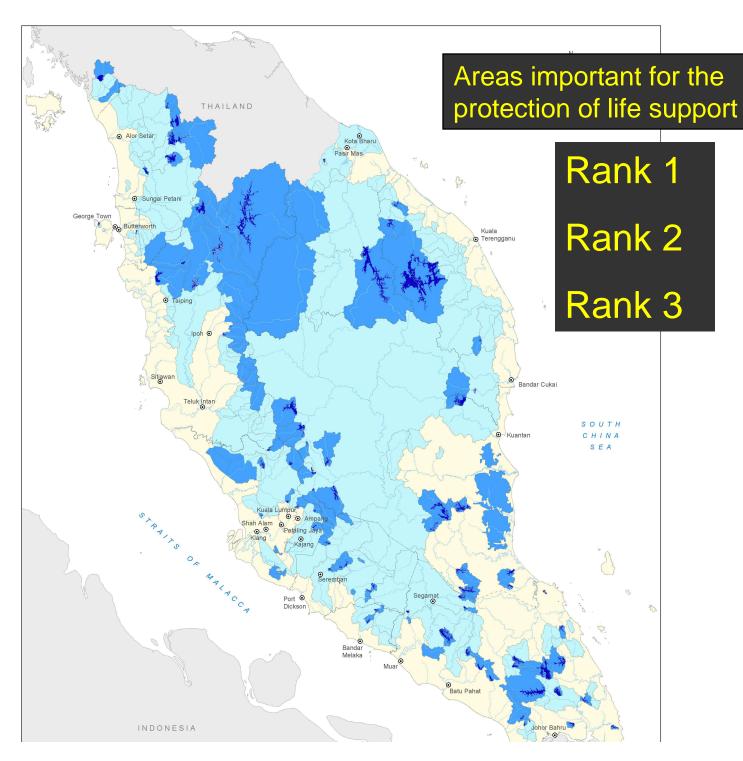




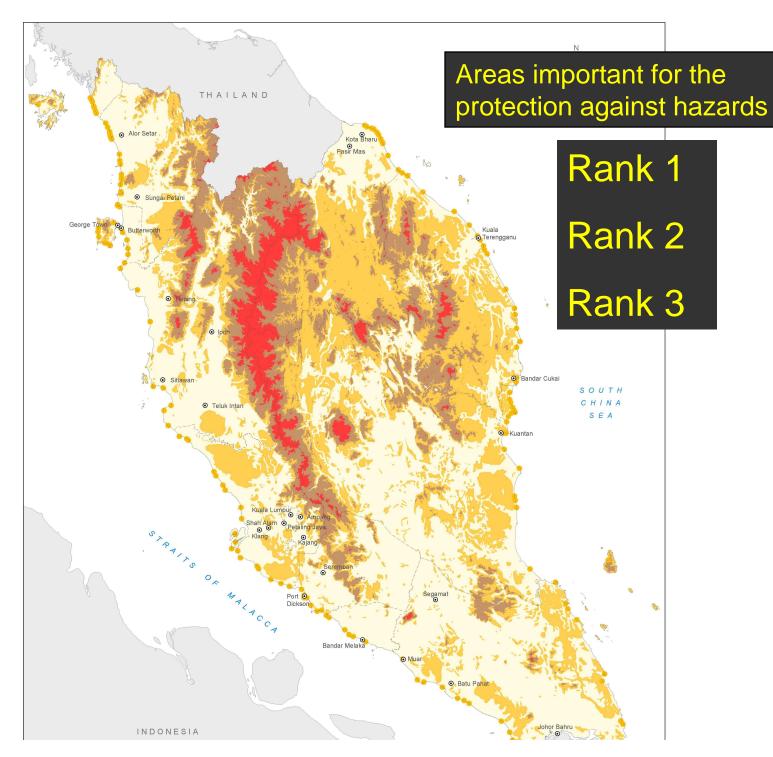




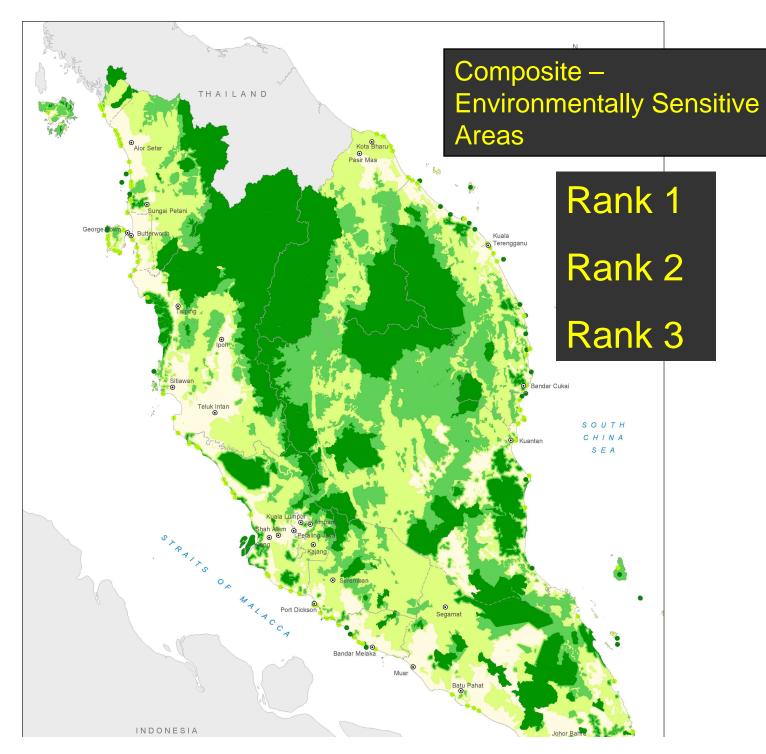














## Effect on lower-level plans

 NPP sets the minimum requirements – that the lower level spatial plans have to adhere

 Most of the <u>lower level plans</u> have since identified <u>more</u> environmentally sensitive areas – those that are important at the local level

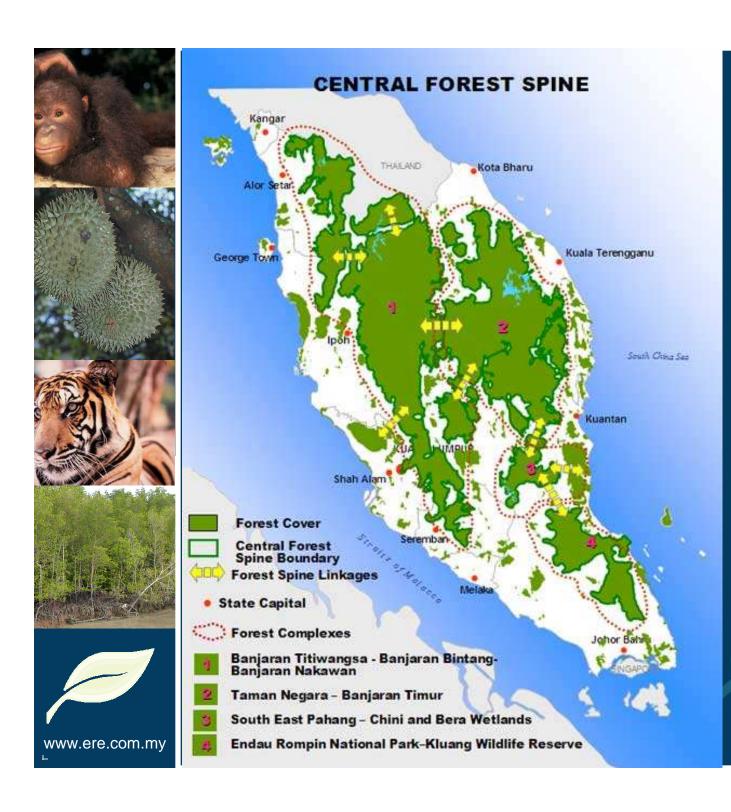




# Follow up projects

 Establishment of the Central Forest Spine (focus on establishment forest connectivity / biological corridors)





#### Objective

- Re-establish forest connectivity
- Overcome problems associated with forest fragmentation



- Traditional agencies (environment, etc) are weak in finance, manpower and jurisdiction.
- Therefore, when a "mainstream" agency stresses on biodiversity conservation, it has a greater impact than if emphasis is by conventional environmental agencies.
- Before NPP, low level of awareness amongst governmental agencies about the NBSAP. Many key agencies (town planning, agriculture, finance) unfamiliar with Protected areas, CBD, etc





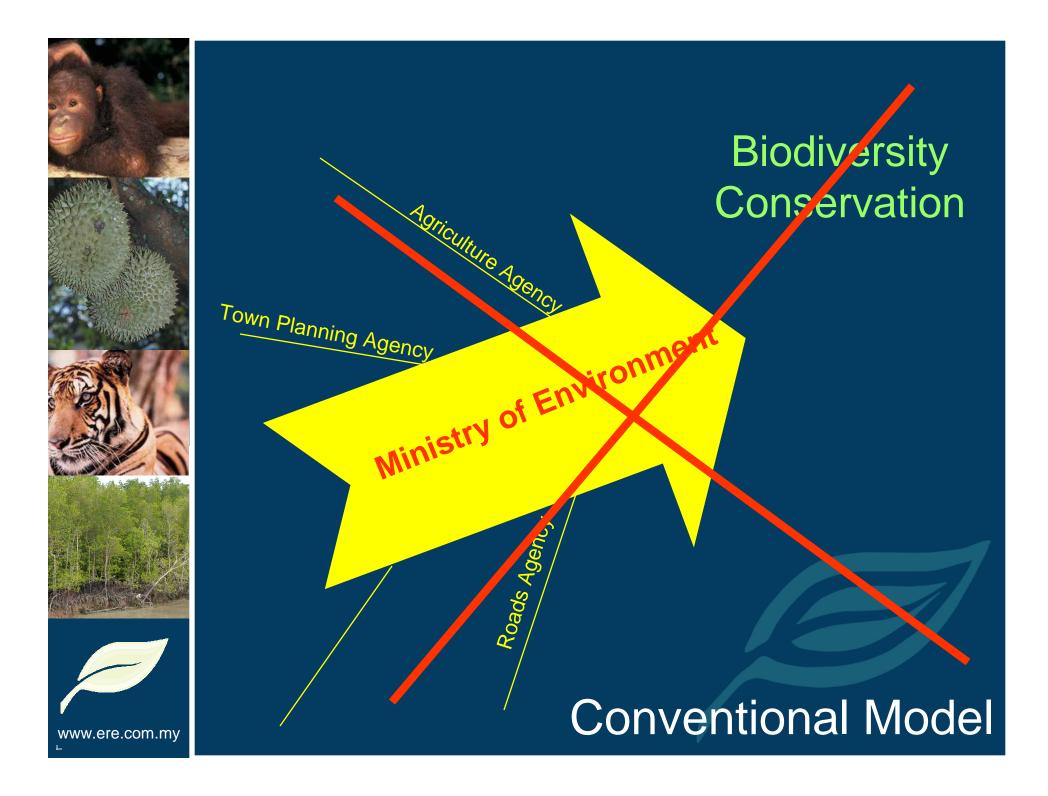
- Modest level of NGO participation but high level of buy-in and support. This led to greater dissemination of information about the NPP to the general public.
- Stakeholder consultation does not necessarily lead to stakeholder <u>ownership</u>.
- In the case of consultation with other government agencies, if consultation not done properly, could lead to turf war.

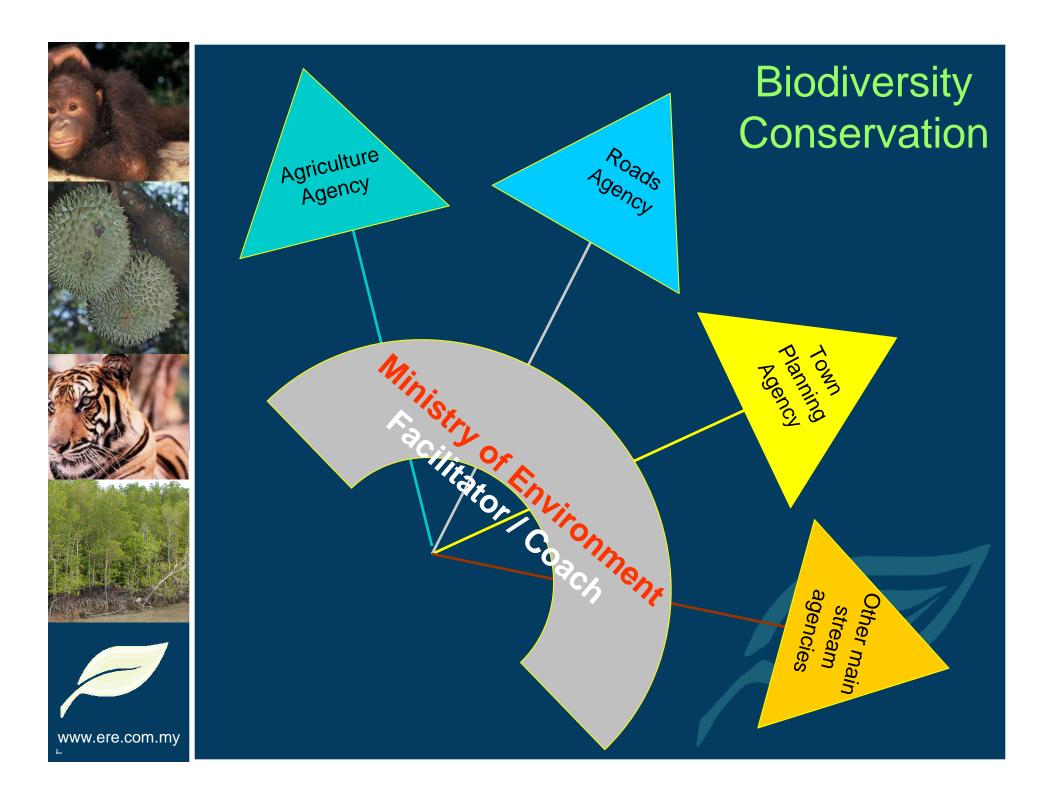


The role of traditional environmental agencies should be to facilitate and to provide appropriate information.

Identify and nurture champions in key agencies









People should be trained on how to plan and conduct stakeholder workshops. This is now taken for granted. No workshop may be better than a poorly organized one.

 Preach to the "infidels" – to overcome lack of bioD awareness outside the traditional sectors





Mainstreaming is <u>competitive</u>. All other sectors are also trying to mainstream; e.g. tourism, health, safety, etc.





# Thank you





