

FOREWORD

This report is the fourth in the series published by the Commonwealth Secretariat. Each volume traces the development of tropical forest management in a Commonwealth country and illustrates the range of experience that has been gathered during the past century and more of Commonwealth forestry. Forest management is no longer the concern of forest managers alone, and the wise use of tropical forest increasingly depends on the understanding of interested people outside the profession, such as politicians, the general public, and the media. This series is intended to assist in a wider understanding of the historical basis which forms the point of departure for many of the new approaches and policy directions which are now being tried.

This series of reports is part of a Commonwealth Forestry Initiative which aims to foster linkages between countries which are actively developing new programmes in natural forest management. Brief reports have been published for Karnataka, India; Ghana; Uganda; and Sri Lanka. In addition, a more specialist volume dealing with timber utilisation has been published for Uganda.

This text has been prepared by the Director of the Asean Institute of Forest Management, based in Kuala Lumpur and provides an easily understood introduction to the characteristics of Malaysian forests and their importance to the economy and the environment. There are important chapters on the development of forest management since the beginning of the century and a review of present approaches to sustainable forest management. Finally, there is a look ahead to the challenges facing Malaysia and the role that the country is playing on the international forestry scene.

The views expressed in the publication do not reflect the position of the Commonwealth Secretariat or Commonwealth member countries.

Brian Kerr
Chief Programme Officer
Commonwealth Secretariat