

Headline	Draw up own biodiversity plans, states told		
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NATIONAL POLICY ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY 2022 TO 2030

Draw up own biodiversity plans, states told

PUTRAJAYA: State governments should draw up their own biodiversity plans in accordance with the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2022 to 2030.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the mainstreaming of biodiversity management could be strengthened at the state and municipal levels through the implementation of initiatives in the Malaysia Forestry Policy, National Physical Policy, National Coastal Zone Physical Plan and Central Forest Spine Ecological Master Plan.

"Efforts to improve the management of biological diversity are indeed challenging as they are under the jurisdiction of the state governments and the field covers cross sectors.

"Hence, several initiatives have been taken at various levels to strengthen and boost the biodiversity conservation agenda, such as the establishment of National Tiger Conservation Task Force by the NRECC (Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change) Ministry, Pahang Biodiversity Council, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre and Sabah Biodiversity Centre."

He said this at the launch of the National Policy in Biological Diversity 2022 to 2030 here yesterday.

His speech was read out by NRECC Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad.

Anwar said transformative steps in biodiversity conservation would be taken under the 2024 Budget, including in curbing encroachment of Malaysian forests, illegal logging and poaching.

"Biodiversity Protection and

Patrolling Programme has seen 1,500 community rangers appointed in 2023, comprising armed forces and police veterans, and Orang Asli.

"For 2024, community rangers would be increased to 2,000 people with an allocation of RM60 million."

He said Ecological Fiscal Transfer for Biodiversity Conservation had also been increased to RM200 million from RM150 million this year, aimed at empowering state governments in conservation and gazettement of protected areas.

The government is also planning to issue biodiversity sukuk of up to RM1 billion involving the replanting of degraded forests that would generate carbon credit.

This, Anwar said, is in line with Madani framework to create biodiversity assets in the carbon market through conservation and reforestation efforts.

"To encourage involvement of the private sector in charity projects in 2024, the government will also provide tax cuts for entities that sponsor tree-planting or conservation and rehabilitation awareness programmes that are recognised by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia.

"Organisations such as UMW Holdings Bhd, Yayasan Axiata & Edotco Group, Touch 'n Go, Telekom Malaysia Bhd and the National Cooperative Movement of Malaysia Bhd had contributed a lot to the Malaysia Greening Programme: Tree-Planting campaign (2021 to 2025)."

He said such efforts should be enhanced to ensure the country achieved its target of planting



Natural Resources, Environment and Climate Change Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad says the ministry has conducted engagements with state governments on climate change.

PIC BY AMIRUDIN SAHIB

100 million trees by 2025.

Anwar is expected to attend the World Climate Action Summit on Dec 1 and 2, held against the backdrop of the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

He is expected to deliver the country's statement in expressing views and efforts by Malaysia in addressing the climate change issue, particularly in forest management.

Nik Nazmi, at a press conference later, said the ministry had conducted engagements with state governments on the issue, with positive feedback.