

# environment conservation & sustainable development

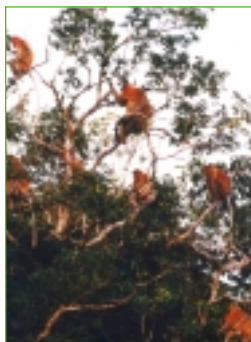


*Tree planting along both sides of Sungai Tenegang Besar, Sabah  
photo: courtesy of WWF-Malaysia*

Recognising that its business operations may have adverse environmental impacts if left unmonitored, the Group has over the years taken and adopted various measures and techniques aimed towards environmental management and minimising adverse impacts. Asiatic has made consistent efforts to uphold its long-term commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development by the implementation of eco-friendly practices in conducting its business activities.

Asiatic has always adopted good plantation practices, amongst others, the zero burning method for replanting in lieu of the “clear, fell and burn” method and the recycling of by-products from palm oil mills. The zero burning technique replenishes organic matter to the soil thus improving its fertility and more importantly does not pollute the environment. The processing of FFB to extract crude palm oil and palm kernel produces large quantities of bio-mass and organic waste products, particularly fibers and shells, empty fruit bunches and effluents. Fibers and shells are used as boiler fuel for co-generation of steam and electrical power for oil mills and living quarters while empty fruit bunches, which are rich in nutrients, are recycled for use as mulch and organic fertilisers in our estates. Effluents from palm oil mill operations undergo biological treatment as promulgated by the Department of Environment before it is recycled back to the estates to irrigate the palm trees.

The Group had in 1999 offered 15 hectares of land for a tree planting project to World Wide Fund for Nature-Malaysia (“WWF-Malaysia”) in support of its “Partners for Wetlands” programme. Asiatic, which was noted as the first plantation company to collaborate with WWF-Malaysia in its efforts to conserve the Kinabatangan floodplain, has since planted more than 2,400 trees along the Sungai Tenegang Besar, Sabah as part of the project. Continuing its support, the Group has dedicated a further 40 hectares during the year for WWF-Malaysia's conservation programme.



*Proboscis monkeys  
photo: courtesy of  
WWF-Malaysia*



*Mulching*



*Flat beds*