

MODULE 4: FOREST AND WATER

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INTRODUCTION

The tropical rainforest is the most extensive forest in Malaysia, covering about 60% of the area in Peninsular Malaysia and about 75% of the area in Sabah and Sarawak. Among all types of forests, tropical rainforests support the greatest diversity of living organisms on Earth. Our forest is a home or habitat for various species of flora and fauna and the aboriginal people.

Tropical rainforest trees grow in lowlands, hills and mountains with high slopes. The trees grow close together and have height differences. The tree grows upright, straight and has a huge canopy with deep roots. The prominent hardwood tree species are Meranti, Chengal, Keruing and sandalwood. Besides hardwood, our forests produce other plants, such as rattan and bamboo. Not only that, the forest offers non-timber forest products and services such as for recreational and watershed areas, provides oxygen and a place for diverse biodiversity of animals and plants.

The forest can be divided into several types by location and elevation level. Figure 4.1 shows the category of tropical rainforest in Malaysia.

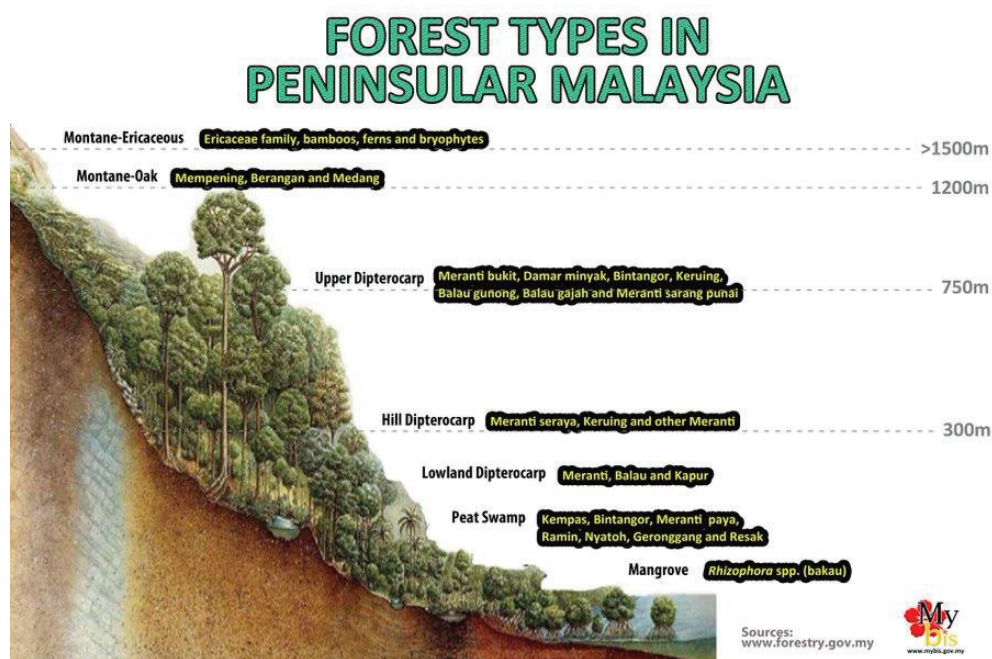


Figure 4.1 : Category of tropical rainforest in Malaysia
(adapted from: Jabatan Perhutanan Semenanjung Malaysia)