



SDGs & MALAYSIAN RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY

Mobilising SDGs to ensure sustainable management of Malaysia's resources

August 2019

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sustainable management of
Malaysia's resources

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MOBILISING SDGs TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MALAYSIA'S RESOURCES

FOREWORD	iii
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iv
ACRONYMS	vi
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
Study Objectives	2
Sustainable Resource Management	3
Sustainable Development Goals	5
Linking SDGs With Sustainable Resource Management	6
Initiatives	7
Methodology	8
CHAPTER 2 SDGs AND THEIR LINK TO RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	9
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	9
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	12
SDG 7 Clean Energy	14
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production	16
SDG 13 Climate Action	20
SDG 14 Life Under Water	22
SDG 15 Life On Land	26
SDG 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	29

CHAPTER 3 HOW WELL HAVE SDGs CONTRIBUTED TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.....	31
SDG 2 Zero Hunger	31
SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation	33
SDG 7 Clean Energy	35
SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production	39
SDG 13 Climate Action	43
SDG 14 Life Under Water	46
SDG 15 Life On Land	49
SDG 16 Peace and Justice Strong Institutions	53
Sustainable Development in Malaysia	55
CHAPTER 4 IRONING OUT THE GLITCHES IN SDG IMPLEMENTATION	56
CHAPTER 5 POSSIBLE ACTIONS BY RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS	61
REFERENCES.....	65
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES [SUDI]	67
STUDY TEAM	70
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	70

FOREWORD

The concept of sustainability remains somewhat fuzzy and SDGs have not been applied well to the whole range of resources in Malaysia. This study decided to address the issue on a national basis and draw up recommendations on how this path could be undertaken.

The study recognized that Malaysia itself does not have many effective sustainable practices ranging from comprehensive and efficient resources management to maintaining adequate supply and quality of these resources.

Within SUDI's constraints, a team of two worked over 6 months to identify the relevant SDGs and whether they were being utilized by agencies and parties managing resources ranging from water to petroleum.

Many problems were identified but the division of powers between the Federal and State Administrations is a major hurdle to almost all forms of sustainability in Malaysia. The OSA hinders the access to much important sustainability data. The age of the internet has undermined secrecy somewhat but it has also generated false data.

The Executive Summary presents the findings as well as challenges that need to be overcome for sustainability to be entrenched in our resources management system. Weak political will has again been identified in the attempts to achieve sustainability of resource management.

Lack of enforcement of many regulations and overlapping of powers is the common complaint for the entire environmental field in Malaysia. It has to be seriously addressed by the Pakatan Government as well as civil servants at all levels since inefficiency and corruption have become pervasive in the country.

We hope that over the coming years the majority of this study's suggested actions are implemented. Malaysia can do with more effective and comprehensive SDG implementation!

Gurmit Singh,

August 2019.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study sets out to examine Malaysia's current resource management and how it links towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The approach was to work with available data in the public domain to assess the current status of Malaysia's resource management. Also, one national consultation between study team and stakeholders was held to gather insight on additional initiatives done by their relevant agencies. A draft paper was presented during the consultation.

Chapter 1 is compiled from literature reviews and discussions to set out the objectives of the study. Malaysia is rich in resources from fossil fuels to water and forests. Several initiatives and targets for each resource are set out based of the SDG targets. The SDGs act as a good guide for Malaysia to manage its resources sustainably.

Chapter 2 examines each SDGs and its link to resource management. The management of resources available in Malaysia is slightly complex due to the sharing of responsibility of several departments. This chapter highlights the resources relevant to each SDG and targets in the context of Malaysia. For some SDGs, though there is a main stakeholder that is responsible for all targets, but certain targets may require different stakeholders' involvement to achieve them. The relevant stakeholders are highlighted in this chapter.

Chapter 3 analyses how well have the SDGs contributed towards sustainable resource management. There have been many initiatives and programmes done in Malaysia to move towards achieving the SDG targets. This chapter highlights the major initiatives that have been undertaken and are currently being implemented for each SDG and resources in the country. This chapter also touches on how Malaysia views sustainable development.

Chapter 4 focuses on identifying the glitches in implementing SDGs in Malaysia. Many Malaysian agencies have not fully understood the concept of sustainable resource management, especially in terms of sustainable development. This chapter highlights the issues in regard to the SDG implementation to ensure a more sustainable management of all resources by the relevant stakeholders. Underlying all these glitches is the lack of a strong political will in support of sustainability.

In Chapter 5, suggested possible actions are laid out for relevant stakeholders to implement, in order to ensure that Malaysia's important resources are sustainably managed and conserved. The 12th Malaysia Plan must place strong emphasis on the observation of all SDGs, especially by the resource sector. NGOs and ordinary citizens must play a more active role. The OSA must go and a Freedom of Information Act be enacted.