

Earth Lodge's Ecological, Environmental and Social Guidelines

The Kuala Labua area where Earth Lodge is located is a particularly important area for large mammal biodiversity. This is due to the presence of over 9 saltlicks located within a 5 five kilometer radius. No place else has such a large concentration of saltlicks. This large concentration of saltlicks attracts a lot of herbivores which in turn attracts many carnivores and omnivores. Thus, the area surrounding Kuala Labua is especially rich in large mammals. This fact alone requires Earth Lodge to be extra careful on how it operates in the area so as to have minimal impact on the area's wildlife.

Additionally, the surrounding forest is an important water catchment with the Muda River and its tributaries contributing precious water to the lakes of Muda and Pedu. These lakes are crucial for potable water supply for three Northern Peninsular Malaysian states. The Greater Ulu Muda area is also a Nationally important water catchment because it is the main source of water for the Muda irrigation scheme that provides the bulk of the nation's rice supply. It also provide vital water supply for three Northern Malaysian Peninsular states of Kedah, Penang and Perlis.

Earth Lodge also recognizes that the communities in the area play an important role in the conservation of the Uu Muda forests. Scientific data contributes to better knowledge and better management of the Greater Ulu Muda Forest.

Earth Lodge is committed to operating with the lowest ecological and environmental impact and constantly strives to improve by further minimizing its ecological and environmental footprint. Thus it pledges to the following:

1. Keep guests numbers to within an ecologically sustainable carrying capacity so as to have minimal impact on the fragile flora and fauna
2. Not to unnecessarily cut or remove plants at the lodge and the surrounding forests that it uses.
3. To not plant or introduce any non Ulu Muda native plants, animals or organisms.
4. To ensure all waste is properly disposed, recycled or reused.
5. To constantly strive to use water and energy in the most efficient manner possible and to continuously explore alternative renewable energy sources.

6. Constantly identify opportunities for local communities to benefit from the Earth Lodge's business where possible.
7. Promote research to learn more about Ulu Muda and contribute to its better management
8. Interpretation and the dissemination of information shall be the basis of all activities and tours conducted by Earth Lodge
9. Strive to have the Greater Ulu Muda area be better protected and managed for its water catchment, biodiversity and other ecological services while providing economic opportunities to the local communities.