

Climate Change Adaptation in Maliau Basin Conservation Area

The Maliau Basin Conservation Area (MBCA) is an undisturbed rainforest within the Yayasan Sabah concession area, officially gazetted as a Class 1 Forest Reserve. This status ensures strict protection of its rich biodiversity, unique landforms, and ecological integrity. Despite being remote—the nearest village is 80 km away—MBCA integrates sustainable recreation that allows visitors to appreciate its natural beauty without compromising conservation efforts.

Adaptation Strategies:

1. **Strict Conservation & Sustainable Management** – MBCA remains untouched, with eco-tourism carefully designed to support conservation goals.
2. **Scientific Research & Monitoring** – The basin serves as a valuable site for studying climate adaptation and ecosystem resilience.
3. **Eco-Tourism, Education & Outreach** – Awareness programs engage school children and local communities through environmental activities programs conducted at the Studies Centre and via the Environmental Education (EE) unit's outreach programs in surrounding areas. These efforts broaden understanding of environmental stewardship and sustainability.
4. **Collaborative Stewardship** – Yayasan Sabah implements eco-friendly policies to ensure the long-term protection of MBCA.

How Visitors Can Get Involved:

- **Guided Exploration** – Educational tours highlight MBCA's importance in global climate resilience.
- **Sustainable Travel Practices** – Visitors adhere to conservation guidelines, reducing waste and impact.
- **Supporting Conservation Efforts** – Fees, donations, sponsorships, and awareness programs contribute to MBCA's preservation.
- **Eco-Friendly Recreation** – Low-impact activities such as birdwatching, night walks, night drives, photography, canopy walks, and jungle trekking enhance appreciation of MBCA without harming its ecosystem.

As a Class 1 protected area, MBCA balances conservation and sustainable tourism, allowing visitors to engage responsibly while ensuring its long-term ecological preservation. Through educational outreach and community involvement, MBCA continues to promote environmental stewardship and climate resilience in the region.

Adaptation efforts in the Maliau Basin Conservation Area (MBCA) are guided by a structured hierarchy of strategic plans and policies. At the core of this framework is

the upcoming *Maliau Basin Strategic Management Plan (2025–2034)*—a comprehensive 10-year roadmap being developed through a collaborative partnership between the Sabah Foundation (Yayasan Sabah) and Preferred by Nature. This plan will provide integrated guidance for climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation, sustainable tourism, and community engagement, ensuring the long-term resilience and ecological integrity of the area