

UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM CAMPUS GREENING ROADMAP 2025-2030

TRANSFORMING UNIVERSITI BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
INTO A UNIVERSITY IN THE HEART OF
A LIVING FOREST

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Rahayu Sukmaria Sukri, Nurul Hazlina Zaini, Salwana Md Jaafar
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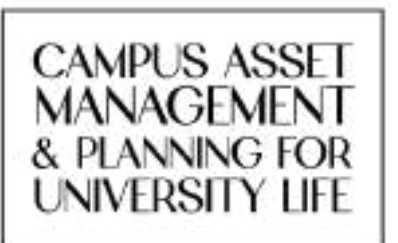


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FOREWORD

Dr. Hazri bin Haji Kifle
Vice Chancellor
Universiti Brunei Darussalam

I am pleased to present the Universiti Brunei Darussalam Campus Greening Roadmap (2025–2030), a flagship programme under the UBD Sustainability Masterplan. This ambitious campus-wide initiative advances our institutional commitment to climate action, biodiversity conservation, and the creation of a green and resilient campus.

UBD is privileged to be located within a rare and ecologically significant *Kerangas* (Bornean heath) forest landscape. This unique natural setting places upon us a responsibility not only to educate and innovate, but also to protect, restore, and learn from the environment that surrounds us.

The UBD Campus Greening Roadmap reflects our shared commitment to sustainability, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience. Guided by the UBD Sustainability Masterplan and aligned with national priorities such as the Brunei Darussalam National Climate Change Policy, the Brunei Darussalam National Biodiversity Policy and Strategic Plan of Action and Wawasan Brunei 2035, this initiative seeks to restore and enhance our natural ecosystems

and campus green spaces through a science-based approach, and strengthen UBD's role as a living laboratory for education, research, and community engagement.

Central to this initiative is the leadership of the UBD Botanical Research Centre, whose expertise ensures that greening efforts prioritise native species of high conservation, ecological, cultural, and educational value. Working with UBD's Campus Asset Management & Planning for University Life (CAMPUs) office, the UBD Campus Greening Roadmap team ensures that our approach is grounded in research, ecological integrity, and long-term vision.

As UBD continues to grow, we must do so responsibly by balancing development with conservation and ensuring that future generations inherit a campus that is resilient, biodiverse, and inspiring. I encourage our students, staff, alumni, and the wider community to take pride in and actively support this shared endeavour. Together, we are shaping UBD as "University in the Heart of a Living Forest".



THE UBD CAMPUS GREENING ROADMAP INTRODUCTION

The Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) Campus Greening Roadmap reflects the university's strong commitment to caring for the environment and integrating biodiversity and sustainability into everyday campus life. Guided by the UBD Sustainability Masterplan, the roadmap supports its two major pillars: Sustainability Pillar III - Futuring Sustainability through Green Campus, and Pillar IV – Sustainable Stewardship through Visionary Governance.

At the heart of this roadmap is the effort to restore, protect, and enhance the natural ecosystems found on campus by planting and managing native tree and plant species. Its vision is to transform UBD into a “University in the Heart of a Living Forest,” where biodiversity conservation, environmental education, and climate resilience go hand in hand.

UBD aims to create healthy, vibrant green spaces that benefit students, staff, and visitors by designing and planting with native species that support ecosystem services and biodiversity. These actions also align with Brunei Darussalam's Green Protocol and the Brunei National Climate Change Policy which call for increasing forest cover and reducing carbon emissions through activities like tree planting and ecological restoration.

The Campus Greening Roadmap also supports the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land), which focuses on protecting and restoring ecosystems and preventing biodiversity loss. Through these efforts, UBD not only contributes to national and global sustainability goals but also strengthens its role as a leader in biodiversity conservation, environmental research and sustainability education.

UBD CAMPUS GREENING AND THE UNITED NATIONS SDGS:

04

SDG 4 - QUALITY EDUCATION

Utilises the campus as a living laboratory to promote sustainability education, research, and experiential learning.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



11

SDG 11 – SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Encourages sustainable and green campus development, integrating biodiversity within urban planning and enhancing community well-being.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



13

SDG 13 - CLIMATE ACTION

Contributes to climate mitigation and adaptation through increased green cover, carbon sequestration, and climate-resilient landscaping.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



15

SDG 15 – LIFE ON LAND

Focuses on the conservation and restoration of native species and ecosystems, protecting terrestrial biodiversity.

15 LIFE ON LAND



17

SDG 17 – PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

Fosters collaboration among universities, government bodies, businesses, and communities to advance sustainability and environmental stewardship.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



An aerial photograph of a lush, dense tropical forest. The canopy is a vibrant green, with various tree species visible, including palm trees. In the upper center, a small, calm pond is nestled within the forest, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The text "HOW IT STARTED" is overlaid on the right side of the image in a white, sans-serif font. A teal horizontal bar is positioned behind the word "STARTED".

HOW IT STARTED

Brunei Darussalam is located within a global biodiversity hotspot on the tropical island of Borneo and is internationally recognised for its pristine rainforests and exceptionally rich plant diversity. As the nation's leading institution of higher education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) places biodiversity at the core of its research and academic priorities. UBD reinforces this commitment through its Sustainability Masterplan, where biodiversity features under Pillar III: Futuring Sustainability through a Green Campus.

Since its establishment in 1985, UBD has expanded rapidly, growing its campus infrastructure and physical footprint to meet evolving academic and research needs. This expansion has inevitably transformed the original forest landscape surrounding the campus. Notably, UBD occupies a rare Bornean *Kerangas* (heath) forest, an ecosystem that covers only a small proportion of the land area in Brunei and across Borneo.



Decades of campus development coupled with repeated wildfires have degraded this native vegetation, resulting in biodiversity loss, the establishment of invasive *Acacia* species and ecological imbalance.

UNIVERSITI
BRUNEI
DARUSSALAM
1985-2026



2026

1985

1996

2009

2018

2020





Degraded land behind the UBD Library targeted for ecological restoration.



Roadside *Acacia* invasion on the UBD campus, highlighting the spread of a fast-growing non-native tree.



Close-up of *Acacia* observed within UBD grounds, a fast-spreading tree often associated with disturbed heath forest habitats.

TRANSFORMING UBD INTO A UNIVERSITY IN THE HEART OF A LIVING FOREST

Recognising the ecological importance of its location, the Campus Greening Roadmap (2025-2030) aims to transform the UBD campus into a University in the Heart of a Living Forest. This initiative is led by the UBD Botanical Research Centre (UBD BRC) of the Institute for Biodiversity and Environmental Research (IBER), and Campus Asset Management and Planning for University Life (CAMPUS).

At the heart of this roadmap is enhancing natural ecosystems within the UBD campus. It focuses on

planting and managing native species to restore biodiversity, create green spaces, and support conservation efforts.

The greening effort prioritises the planting of native trees of high conservation value, culturally significant species, and selected non-invasive ornamentals. These plantings will help restore UBD’s ecological landscape, support local wildlife, store carbon, and support ecosystem resilience in the long term.

To achieve this vision, the roadmap focuses on four key pillars:

CAMPUS BEAUTIFICATION Enhancing the appearance and comfort of campus spaces through thoughtful landscaping with native plants and selected non-invasive ornamentals.	BIODIVERSITY SHOWCASES Creating areas that highlight local flora and educate visitors about Brunei’s natural heritage.
GREEN RECREATIONAL SPACES Developing nature-rich spaces for relaxation, active lifestyle, and social activities.	RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION Supporting hands-on learning, scientific studies, and outreach activities related to restoration, ecology, and environmental management

These efforts help shape a greener, healthier, and more sustainable UBD, where the campus itself becomes a Living Lab and a thriving biodiverse environment for future generations.



Jacaranda mimosifolia produces violet blooms that fall and lightly cover the ground, adding seasonal colour to the UBD campus.

FEATURED SECTION:

KERANGAS FOREST: UBD'S NATURAL HERITAGE



Bornean heath (*Kerangas*) forests are among the unique ecosystems in Borneo. They are characterised by sandy, acidic, nutrient-poor soils that support highly specialised and uncommon plants found nowhere else. The term *Kerangas* is derived from the Iban language and translates as “land where hill rice cannot grow,” highlighting the harsh environmental conditions that define this forest type. These fragile environments are particularly sensitive to disturbance, fire and invasion by exotic species such as *Acacia*.



Understory view of *Kerangas* forest vegetation, showing dense shrubs and slender tree trunks adapted to acidic, sandy soils.

At UBD, the *Kerangas* forest is especially significant with remnant patches found on the main campus and at the UBD BRC. These sites provide opportunities for conservation and scientific research forming a living laboratory that also supports education and create a deeper understanding of one of Borneo's threatened ecosystems. It is important to protect this forest type as it showcases Brunei's natural heritage and safeguarding for future generations.

Forest floor of the *Kerangas* heath forest, where fungi, leaf litter, and woody debris play a key role in nutrient cycling within the nutrient-poor soil.



Kerangas tree canopy seen from below, with tall, narrow crowns shaped by limited nutrients and open light conditions.



Aerial view of *Kerangas* forest fragments along a waterway, illustrating the layered vegetation and natural landscape within the UBD campus.

FEATURED SECTION:

THE UBD BOTANICAL RESEARCH CENTRE

The UBD Botanical Research Centre (UBD BRC) plays a central role driving the Campus Greening Roadmap (2025-2030). The UBD BRC is Brunei Darussalam's first recognised botanical garden and was officially inaugurated by His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien on 3 February 2018. The centre is located within an estimated 20 hectares of tropical lowland *Kerangas* forest on the UBD campus. It serves as both a research and educational hub dedicated to the study, teaching, and conservation of Brunei's native flora. The garden is estimated to house over 500 species of tropical plants with ongoing inventory efforts likely to reveal even greater diversity. Many of these species are indigenous to Borneo and Brunei, including high conservation value species such as *Gymnostoma nobile*, an indicator of a healthy *Kerangas* forest ecosystem.





The UBD BRC is an outdoor classroom for students right in the heart of UBD campus, offering hands-on learning in biodiversity and environmental sciences. The centre fosters collaboration with local and international institutions, government agencies and NGOs. Beyond research and education, it functions as a conservation and outreach centre, engaging the community through tours, educational programmes and public awareness initiatives. The UBD BRC continues to lead the restoration and landscaping of UBD's green spaces supporting Wawasan Brunei 2035 and the national climate, sustainability, and biodiversity goals.



An aerial photograph of a lush, dense tropical forest. The canopy is a vibrant green, with various tree species visible, including palm trees. In the upper center, a small, dark-roofed hut is nestled among the trees. Below the hut, a small, calm pond reflects the surrounding greenery, with some lily pads visible on its surface. The overall scene conveys a sense of a remote, natural habitat.

IMPORTANCE

Why Green the UBD Campus?

The UBD Campus Greening Roadmap is a university-wide effort to restore native biodiversity, reconnect people with nature, and improve ecological sustainability across the campus. Years of development have reduced natural vegetation and fragmented habitats, and the roadmap aims to reverse this by reintroducing native forest species, rehabilitating disturbed areas, and establishing green corridors that support wildlife movement. Key native species, such as high conservation value dipterocarp trees which represent the forest giants are being planted alongside culturally significant shrubs and small trees such as *Dillenia suffruticosa* and *Eurycoma longifolia*. These native tree plantings help recover natural forest structure, stabilise soil, support wildlife, and improve the campus environment.

Efforts also include removing invasive species such as *Acacia* and replacing them with native alternatives to support long-term ecosystem health. Each planted tree supports research and education activities via long-term monitoring of its growth, survival, and carbon storage. These efforts align with UBD's Sustainability Masterplan, Brunei's national reforestation goals and global Sustainable Development Goals. The greening of UBD represents both environmental restoration and academic enrichment, creating a healthier, more biodiverse campus for generations to come.



Dryobalanops aromatica (Kapur Peringgi) leaves. The name "aromatica" refers to the aromatic resin and scent released from its wood and fresh leaves.



Dillenia suffruticosa (Simpur Bini), the national flower of Brunei Darussalam.

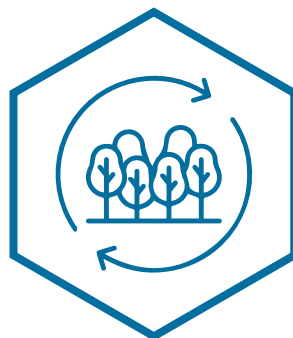


Eurycoma longifolia (Tongkat Ali), a well-known medicinal plant traditionally valued for its rejuvenating and anti-ageing properties.

THE UBD CAMPUS GREENING ROADMAP PROVIDES ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Restores native vegetation, improves soil stability, and enhances water retention.



SOCIAL & WELL-BEING BENEFITS

Green spaces improve comfort, encourage interaction, and support active lifestyles.



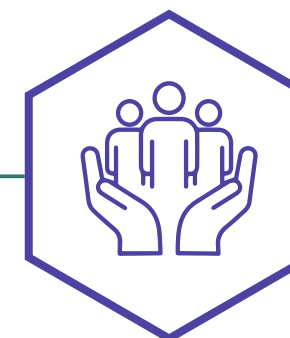
INNOVATION & SUSTAINABILITY IDENTITY

Strengthens UBD's role as a Sustainability Living Lab integrating research and practice.



COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Planting activities build shared responsibility and environmental stewardship.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

Collaborate with government, industry, and community to support national sustainability goals.



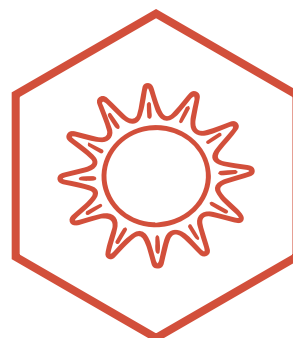
OUTDOOR LEARNING & RESEARCH

Campus acts as a Living Lab for fieldwork, data collection, and project-based learning.



HEAT REDUCTION & CLIMATE BENEFITS

Tree cover reduces temperature, absorbs carbon, and improves air quality.



BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Supports birds, pollinators, and native species by providing suitable habitat.



KERANGAS FOREST SHOWCASE

Represents Brunei's Kerangas ecosystem and contributes to conservation and monitoring.



FEATURED SECTION:

REWILDING UBD



Tree planting has long been a key part of UBD's commitment to creating a greener and more sustainable campus. Tree planting activities have been actively led by UBD BRC, involving collaborations with schools and community volunteers and UBD guests. Major tree planting events were carried out with industry partners such as Brunei Shell Petroleum Co. Sdn. Bhd., Dynamik Technologies Sdn. Bhd. and the Brunei Institute of Leadership and Islamic Finance. These activities have led to the planting of over 200 high conservation value native tree saplings.

A distinctive feature of UBD's tree planting approach is that we integrate research at every stage of the process. All plantings consider habitat requirements and ecological matching, and follow a clear science-based protocol, covering everything from sapling selection and site preparation to planting techniques and post-planting care. Each sapling is tagged, its GPS coordinates are recorded, and intensive regular censuses are conducted within the first year, followed by annual check-ups. These data help us track survival, growth, and tree health, enabling us to identify the most effective methods for different species and conditions.



UBD's tree planting initiatives also foster a strong sense of community. Students, staff, volunteers, schools, and companies all take part in planting and caring for the saplings. These hands-on experiences raise environmental awareness while helping participants contribute directly to the enhancement of UBD's green spaces. By combining scientific research with active community involvement, UBD's regreening efforts promote healthier ecosystems and contribute to a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable campus.

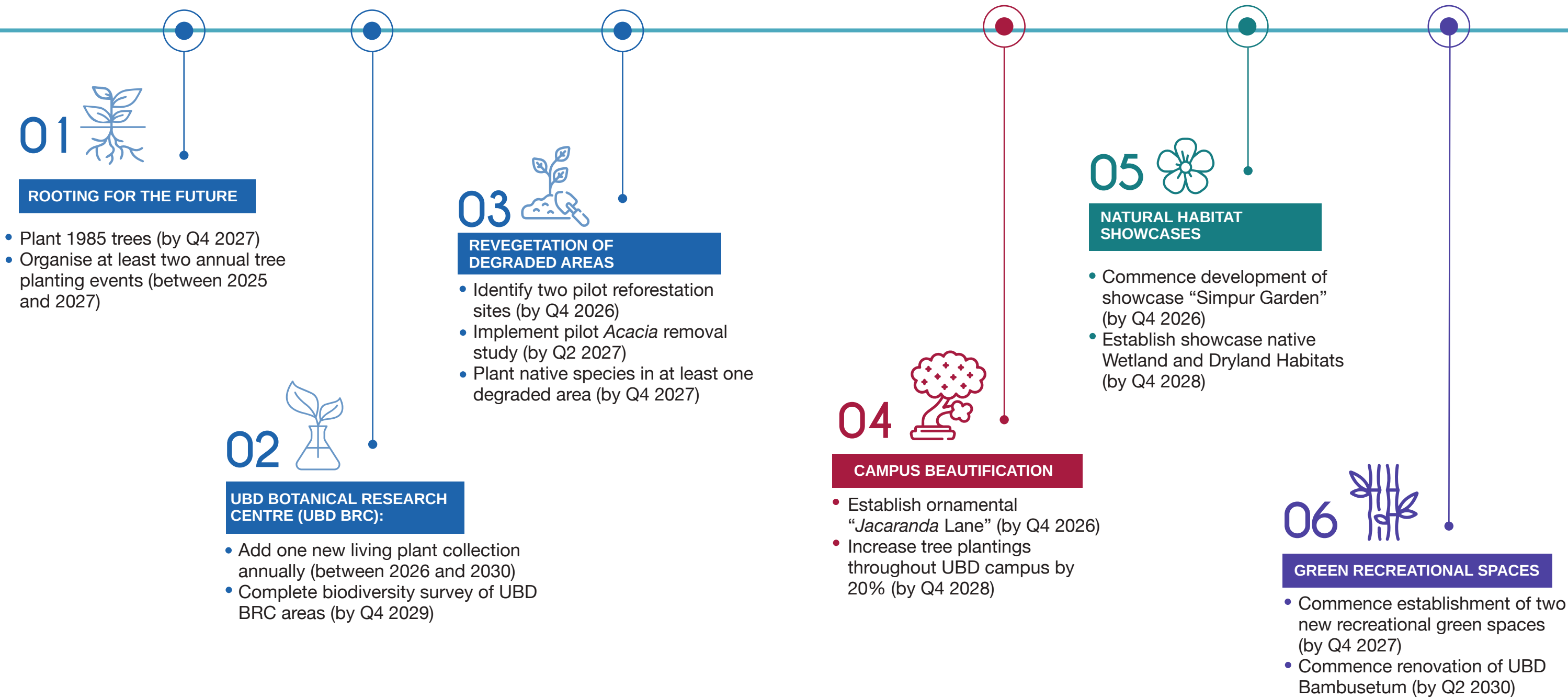


An aerial photograph of a lush, dense tropical forest. The canopy is a vibrant green, with various tree species visible, including palm trees. In the upper center, a small, dark, rectangular structure, possibly a hut or a small building, is nestled among the trees. Below it, a small, irregularly shaped pond or clearing is visible, surrounded by dense vegetation. The overall scene is a rich, textured expanse of greenery.

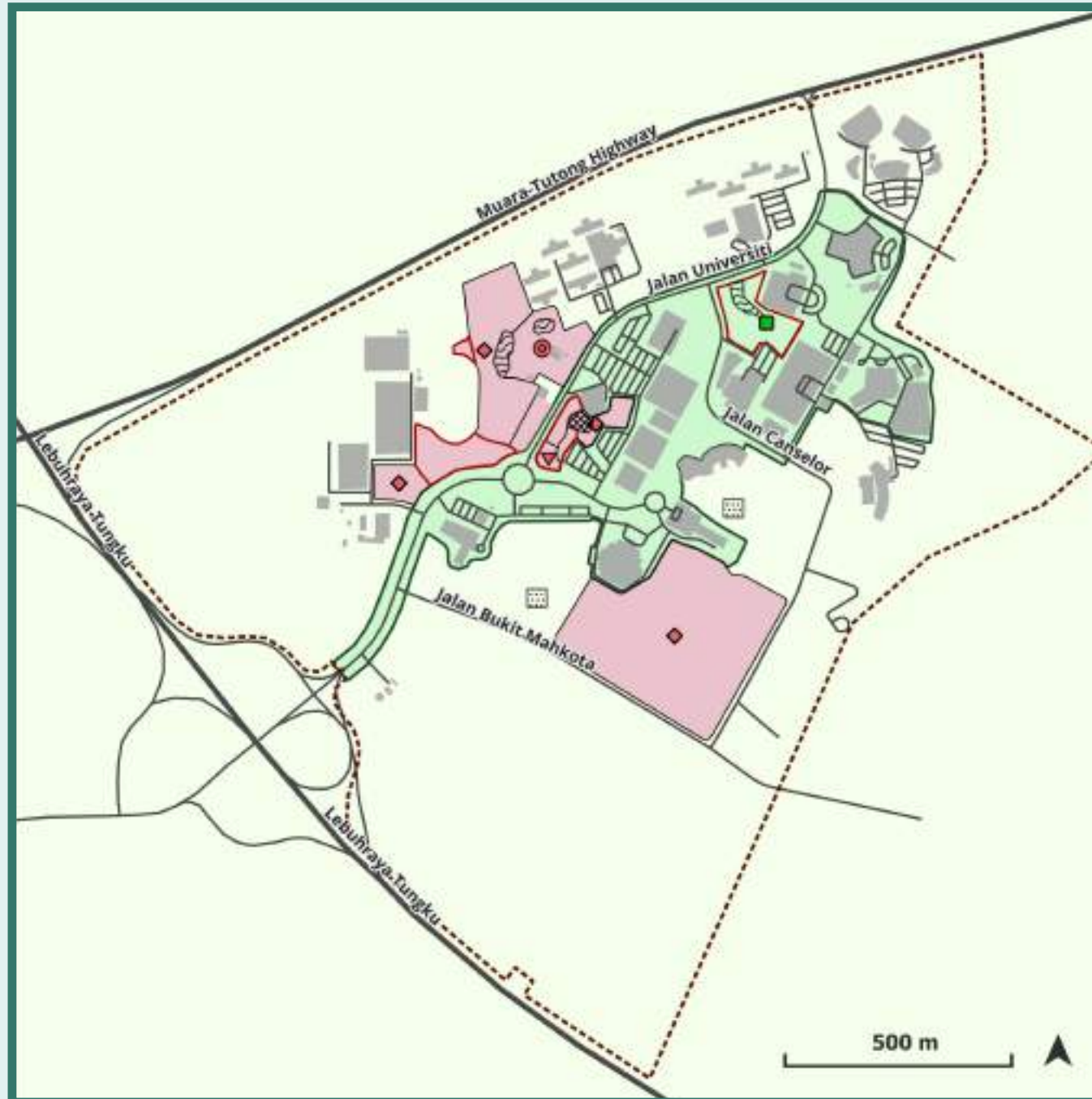
ACTION PLAN

UBD CAMPUS GREENING ROADMAP 2025-2030

The UBD Campus Greening Roadmap outlines a structured approach to creating an ecologically resilient and sustainably designed university campus through the integration of scientific research, education, and environmental stewardship. These focus areas and milestones will direct UBD’s greening efforts from 2026 to 2030.



DESIGNATED AREAS SELECTED FOR UBD'S GREENING CAMPUS ROADMAP



Greening Zones

- Green Zones
- Bambusetum

Ecosystem Showcase

- Dryland Area
- Wetland Areas
- Revegetation Areas

UBD Botanical Research Centre

- UBD BRC Areas
- Simpui Garden
- Educational Zone
- Ecological & Conservation Areas
- Recreational Areas



A distinct feature of *Gymnostoma nobile* (Bornean Rhu) canopy.

TREE SPECIES SELECTION AND ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE

At UBD, the tree species planted around campus are matched to suitable habitats and grouped by ecological and conservation importance, and cultural value. This helps us understand which species need the most protection and which ones play a meaningful role in Brunei’s natural and cultural heritage.

By organising the trees in this way, UBD can focus its conservation efforts

where they matter most. It also provides an easy guide for donors and supporters who want to contribute to the greening roadmap that have real, lasting impact. Whether it’s helping to protect a critically endangered species or supporting culturally significant plants, this system ensures that every contribution helps strengthen the campus ecosystem and preserve Brunei’s natural legacy.



Hopea vacciniifolia - UBD has initiated the planting of saplings of the Endangered *Hopea vacciniifolia*, supporting ex-situ conservation efforts.



Dipterocarpus borneensis - *Dipterocarpus borneensis*, a Near Threatened canopy tree of Borneo’s lowland forests, plays a vital role in supporting biodiversity but faces increasing pressure from habitat loss.



Cotylelobium burckii - *Cotylelobium burckii* is an Endangered, slow-growing hardwood valued for its durable timber, particularly for construction.



Hopea pentanervia - *Hopea pentanervia* is planted to restore its Critically Endangered population and conserve this valuable native timber species.

CONSERVATION LEVEL

LEVEL 1 – HIGH CONSERVATION PRIORITY

- High conservation value
- Keystone / ecosystem-role species
- Critically Endangered / Endangered (IUCN)
- CITES Appendix I
- Protected by national law
- Endemic or rare in Brunei/Borneo
- Require intensive care

Plant types:
Rare or iconic plants of any size (herbs, large trees)

- Examples:
- *Agathis borneensis*
 - *Gymnostoma nobile*
 - *Dryobalanops aromatica*

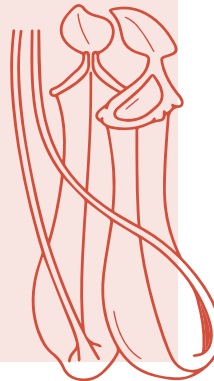


LEVEL 2 – MODERATE CONSERVATION PRIORITY

- Vulnerable / Near Threatened (IUCN)
- CITES II or III
- Support biodiversity and ecosystem function
- Need targeted but moderate conservation effort

Plant types:
Medium to large shrubs, mid-sized trees, significant herbaceous species

- Examples:
- *Tetramerista glabra*
 - *Calophyllum ardens*
 - *Nepenthes* spp.



LEVEL 3 – CULTURAL, MEDICINAL & ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

- Medicinal, cultural, economic or ethnobotanical value
- Often Data Deficient (IUCN)
- Still ecologically relevant

Plant types:
Small herbaceous plants, shrubs, useful native trees

- Examples:
- *Eurycoma longifolia*
 - *Tristaniopsis obovata*



ROOTING FOR THE FUTURE



The tree planting for *Rooting for the Future* was launched by His Royal Highness Prince Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Pro-Chancellor of UBD.

To commemorate UBD's 40th Anniversary celebrations, *Rooting for the Future* was launched on 5 August 2025 during UBD Pesta Konvo 2025 by Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Paduka Seri Pengiran Muda Mahkota Pengiran Muda (Dr.) Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah ibni Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Paduka Seri Baginda Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Pro-Chancellor of UBD. *Rooting for the Future* aims to plant 1,985 trees over a two-year period from 2025 to 2027, symbolising UBD's vision of becoming a university set within a living forest. The launching event was commemorated by the planting of 12 trees to mark the start of this long-term commitment. Most species selected were native to *Kerangas* forests to support local biodiversity, complemented by a small number of ornamental trees for landscape enhancement. The event brought together representatives from government ministries, industry partners, and UBD alumni, demonstrating strong collective support for the programme.

Continued support from partners and the wider community plays an important role in sustaining and strengthening the long-term impact of this initiative.



LEADERSHIP SERIES

As part of the *Rooting for the Future* programme, the Leadership Series was held on 15 April 2026 to support UBD's vision of creating a greener and more sustainable campus environment. A total of 40 tree saplings were planted during the event to commemorate UBD's 40th Anniversary, comprising 30 native species and 10 ornamental species. The activity provided a platform to promote environmental responsibility while contributing to the implementation of both the UBD Sustainability Masterplan and Brunei Darussalam's National Climate Change Policy (BNCCP).

The event was attended by the UBD Vice-Chancellor, Dr Hazri Haji Kifle, together

with Principal Officers, demonstrating strong institutional leadership and a shared commitment to sustainability. Their participation highlighted the University's collective responsibility in advancing environmental conservation and fostering a culture of sustainable practices across the campus.

Beyond the planting activity, the programme also encourages continued involvement through volunteer activities, tree monitoring, and environmental research, further strengthening UBD's vision as a "University in the Heart of a Living Forest."



THE UBD LIVING FOREST PROJECT



A key feature of UBD's campus greening efforts is the UBD Living Forest Project, led by IBER and the UBD BRC under the UBD Sustainability Grant, awarded in October 2025 through the UBD Sustainability Living Lab. This flagship initiative reflects UBD's vision of becoming a University in the Heart of a Living Forest, where sustainability, research, and community come together.

The UBD Living Forest Project: Restoring Native Trees for a Sustainable and Green UBD Campus will focus on restoring *Acacia*-invaded and degraded *Kerangas* habitats across the campus through the reintroduction of native tree species suited to UBD's unique heath forest ecosystem. In addition to ecological restoration, the project will introduce native micro-forests using the Miyawaki approach, creating

dense, multi-layered green spaces that accelerate forest recovery and enhance biodiversity.



As part of the UBD Sustainability Living Lab, the project will serve as a platform for applied research, long-term monitoring, and community engagement. Students, staff, and volunteers will be actively involved in tree planting, monitoring, and stewardship activities, fostering a shared sense of responsibility for the campus environment. Through these efforts, the UBD Living Forest Project will contribute to restoring native biodiversity, increasing carbon storage, and shaping a greener, more resilient campus for future generations.



An aerial photograph of a lush, dense tropical forest. The canopy is a vibrant green, with various tree species visible, including palm trees. In the upper center, a small, dark, rectangular structure, possibly a hut or a small building, is nestled among the trees. Below it, a small, irregularly shaped pond or clearing is visible, containing some lily pads. The overall scene is a dense, healthy forest.

CALL TO
ACTION

CALL TO ACTION

The UBD Campus Greening Roadmap succeeds through the shared involvement of students, staff, alumni, and the wider community. Everyone can contribute, whether by joining tree-planting days, helping maintain planted areas, integrating biodiversity into research, or adopting greener practices on campus. Visitors and families can participate through guided activities, while alumni and partners support the effort by volunteering, adopting trees, or funding educational materials such as signage and plant labels. Together, these collective actions build a greener, more biodiverse campus and strengthen UBD's long-term commitment to sustainability.

GET INVOLVED

Interested in joining us on our campus greening roadmap journey? We would love to hear from you!

Please contact UBD Botanical Research Centre (UBD BRC) at:

office.brc@ubd.edu.bn

For more information, please visit:



“
Each **tree** planted, each **volunteer** engaged and each **partnership** formed brings UBD closer to a **greener**, more **sustainable campus**.
Be part of the **movement**.
”

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED



STUDENTS

Take part in tree-planting days, assist with maintenance and monitoring and use campus biodiversity as a resource for research and academic projects.



STAFF

Adopt green office practices, support sustainability campaigns and mentor student environmental groups.



ALUMNI

Alumni can volunteer in greening activities, adopt a tree or support environmental outreach programmes.



COMMUNITY

Join guided planting and biodiversity walks, participate in outreach events, and help raise environmental awareness among families and schools.



PARTNERS

Sponsor tree planting activities and planting areas, support CSR and joint research initiatives, contribute tools and materials and support educational nature awareness programmes.

UBD CAMPUS GREENING ROADMAP TEAM

PROJECT LEADS:

Associate Professor Dr Rahayu Sukmaria
binti Hj Sukri (Curator, UBD Botanical
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Awang Aminor Syaidini bin Haji Abdullah
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UBD BRC & IBER



Close-up of *Gymnostoma nobile* (Bornean Rhu)
features needle-like twigs and scale-like leaves.



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A UNIVERSITY IN THE HEART OF A LIVING FOREST

