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Maju Forest: How To Fill in the EIA Feedback Form? 🤔

15 out of 23 ha of Maju Forest is proposed to be cleared for housing. HDB has carried out an **Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** of Maju Forest, to identify potential negative impacts on biodiversity and the natural environment (e.g. water quality, noise levels) and to propose mitigation measures. On 10 July, HDB published the EIA report, giving the public 27 days to read and comment on it.

Your feedback matters. Please read through this document if you need inspiration on what to write!

What this document contains, and how to use it:

1. Talking points

- Talking points have been compiled here, ranging from concerns about biodiversity to human impacts. You may submit these as feedback, and tick the relevant boxes under Question 1.
- Please rephrase wording to ensure non-identical responses
- If character limit is reached, you can break your feedback up into multiple submissions.

2. Template

- Refer to the template at the end for an example of a full feedback. Please try not to copy this; instead, use it as inspiration.

DISCLAIMER: As mentioned by @thoughtpartner.eco and @4one.sg in [this post](#), it's important to **submit distinct responses**.

- Copying the same template feedback is **less effective**. Hence, please use the templates below only as a guide. Feel free to edit/paraphrase talking points.
- Add your own **personal experiences & feelings**. Make this feedback your own!

➡ **Submit here:** [Maju Forest EIA Feedback Form](#)

⚠ **Submit by: 6 Aug (Thurs), 6pm**

📖 [Full EIA](#) and [Executive Summary](#)

🔍 [Maju Forest Action Guide](#): Templates for writing to MPs/ministers

🔍 [SG All EIA Resources/Links](#): Resources for other EIAs out for comment now

Question 1

1. Report Section

Please select which section(s) of the report your feedback is relevant to.

- ☐ EIA Approach and Methodology
- ☐ Environmental Baseline Conditions
- ☐ Impacts during Construction Phase
- ☐ Impacts during Operation Phase
- ☐ Mitigation Measures
- ☐ Others

How do I know what to tick?

Section	Explanation
EIA Approach and Methodology	• How was the scope of the EIA decided? • How was the EIA conducted (how were impacts measured and quantified, focus areas etc.)?
Environmental Baseline Conditions	Biodiversity and environmental conditions before the development begins (Wildlife and plants found in the forest, the types of habitats, water quality etc)
Impacts during Construction Phase	Impacts when forest is being cleared and housing is being built
Impacts during Operational Phase	Impacts when housing is ready and people are staying in it
Mitigation Measures	How the EIA proposes to reduce impacts, and monitor the effectiveness and progress of these mitigation efforts (i.e. the Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP))
Others	Tick this if you want to raise other concerns (e.g. impacts on people, comments on the public participation process)

Question 2: Talking Points

2. Feedback

Please provide your feedback here.

There is a character limit of 2000 characters. You can break your feedback up into multiple submissions.

Remember to paraphrase/edit points if you can, and feel free to add your own thoughts/ideas/experiences.

Special thanks to the writers of the sources listed!

1. Areas of High Ecological Value (AHEVs) are not adequately protected by the Proposed Retained Area (PRA)

Report Section:

- ☒ Impacts during Construction Phase
- ☒ Mitigation Measures



Figure 1-6 Areas of High Ecological Value (AHEVs) across Study Area

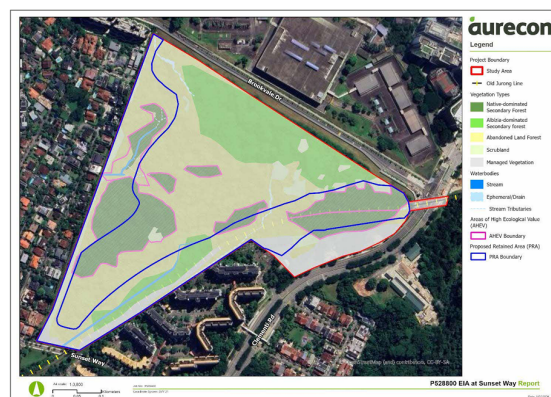


Figure 3-57 Map of PRA with Habitat Mapping

Despite the EIA identifying AHEVs (Area of High Ecological Value), a significant portion of these AHEVs are not protected under the PRA (Proposed Retained Area) and will be cleared.

- Habitats become **fragmented**, reducing biodiversity and impairing key ecosystem functions, with effects magnifying over time.
- With zero/insufficient buffer between retained AHEVs and the development, AHEVs are at risk of **edge effects**.
- EIA shows that **even after mitigation, biodiversity impacts remain high**, with the possibility of Major Negative Impact. According to the EIA, this rating stems from the loss of over 50% of high-value habitats.
- PRA should ideally encompass all AHEVs in its entirety.

- If developing AHEVs is truly necessary, **justification** must be made clear to the public, with diligent monitoring of ecosystem functions. For accountability, patch-level scoring data used to determine retention priority should be made available in the EMMP.

Sources:

- [Sunset Way Development Feedback](#)
 - [Habitat fragmentation and its lasting impact on Earth's ecosystems](#)
 - [Global impacts of edge effects on species richness](#)
-

2. Ecological Connectivity & Buffers

Report Section:

- ☒ Impacts during Construction Phase
- ☒ Mitigation Measures

Area allocated for ecological connectivity is insufficient for sensitive fauna to travel.

- The narrow stretch of PRA in the southwestern section is **<50m wide** (below the minimum width of forest buffer zones).
- The narrow V-shaped PRA splits the forest into 2 sections, connected only by a very narrow strip at the base, which is inadequate for habitat connectivity, wildlife movement and roaming.
- If development is necessary, we encourage HDB to protect 15ha of Maju Forest instead, retaining it as one continuous and connected forest block.

Sources:

- [Nature Hungry's feedback](#)
 - [Nature Society urges HDB to save more of Tengah new town's forests for wildlife](#)
 - [Brice Li's IG post](#)
-

3. Mitigation Measures

Report Section:

- ☒ Mitigation Measures

Connectivity to Clementi Forest is referenced clearly, but not yet detailed in implementation.

- The current recommendation to merely study the restoration of the OJL bridge across Sunset Way should be converted into a firm implementation commitment with a defined timeline.
- Other design specifications should be refined to include taxon-specific features, such as rope bridges for arboreal fauna or specific underpass dimensions for ground-dwelling species.

Limitations of Reforestation

- Replanting new trees cannot recreate the same ecosystem functions as mature forests that have taken decades to grow to what it is now.
- Halting the destruction of existing mature forests must take priority over new planting.

Mitigation claims would benefit from more evidence

- Measures like phased clearance, wildlife checks, salvaging, and retained green corridors help. There should also be evidence from Singapore or comparable local projects showing that each measure materially reduced harm in practice.
- The effectiveness of the measures should be measured against a fixed baseline to study survival, regeneration, and fauna movement, and inform future regeneration efforts after construction, and future projects.

Strengthen accountability

- Both **nature groups and the public** must be involved in the EIA/EMMP from start to end, and regularly updated to ensure that mitigation progresses as expected.
- The EIA relies on an adaptive management framework where measures are reassessed if mitigation does not go according to plan. The effectiveness of these claims **depends entirely on the accuracy and oversight of the Monthly Environmental Performance Reports (EPR)**.
- To ensure these measures reduce harm significantly in practice, EPR logs should be subject to independent stakeholder review or public disclosure, ensuring that the "adaptive" nature of the EMMP leads to genuine corrections rather than simply documenting ongoing degradation.

Sources:

- [Sunset Way Development Feedback](#)
 - [Feedback Guide for Sembawang N5 and Tengah Site 1](#)
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4. Limited Scope of Survey

Report Section:

- ☒ EIA Approach and Methodology

Baseline survey was limited in scope and risks overlooking key data.

- The EIA acknowledges its own "rapid nature". More time should be given for the survey, given the mature ecosystems at stake.
- Every field survey was **conducted within a single, 4-month window** from June to Sept. Camera traps ran for an average of 69 trapping nights, and bat bioacoustics ran for only 8 detection nights. The survey window **misses the Northeast Monsoon period** (around Dec-March) – which would affect water quality and hydrology conditions – and **peak migratory bird season** (around Sept-April), contradicting the EIA's own stated objectives to establish baseline conditions considering seasonal variations.
- The Sunda Pangolin was recorded in the 2022 EIA, but not detected in this survey at all. No roadkill was recorded, yet roadkills have been reported along Brookvale Drive. This shows the limited scope of the 2026 EIA in capturing critical species and danger to wildlife.

Additional baseline monitoring should be done after finalising construction methods

- This ensures that the finalised Wildlife Shepherding and Response Plans are informed by a more complete understanding of migratory and resident species

movement.

- Results should be made public for transparency and accountability.

Sources:

- [Sunset Way Development Feedback](#)
 - [Observed Climate Change over Singapore \(Meteorological Society Singapore\)](#)
 - [NParks' FB post about migratory bird season](#)
 - [Jimmy Tan's FB post](#)
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5. Cumulative effects

Report Section:

- ☒ Impacts during Construction Phase
- ☒ Impacts during Operational Phase

The cumulative effects of Maju Forest's development should be analysed.

- In the EIA, "cumulative effects" appears only as a scoring sub-criteria that "does not individually alter the final classification" of the impact, even though cumulative effects assessment has been deemed **one of the most essential stages of EIA**.
- While it is commendable that the 2022 EIA for Clementi & Maju Forest assessed the joint impact with other concurrent neighbouring developments, **why does the 2026 EIA not apply the same rigour**, especially given that a methodology and precedent for assessing has already been established?
- A **cross-project** assessment of the 2026 development's cumulative effects should be assessed.

Cumulative national forest loss

- The Maju Forest development should be situated within the **broader pattern of forest clearing and fragmentation in Singapore**.
 - 84 Maju Forests-worth of secondary forest cover has been cleared from 2011 to 2021 in SG. 54.3% of Singapore's remaining secondary forests could be lost to development.
- With multiple forests slated to be cleared in the next few years (Tengah Site 1, Sembawang N5, Gillman, Maju etc), HDB must assess what the *total* impact of these developments are – on biodiversity, ecological connectivity, carbon sink loss etc.

Sources:

- [Cumulative Effects in Environmental Impact Assessment are more important than ever says ISEP](#)
 - [ckw.ada IG post](#)
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6. Alternative Sites

Report Section:

- ☒ Others: Consideration of Alternative Sites

The development of brownfield and lower-impact sites should come before any forest clearance.

- HDB should consider alternative sites raised by the public, such as ~~Maju Camp~~, Police Special Command (zoned for residential use in the 2025 Masterplan), Albert Winsemius Lane, Clementi Blk 109A Multi-Storey Carpark, SUSS (moving out by mid-2030s), 53 Mt Sinai Road, Medway Park, former Blks 513-520 West Coast Rd, former Blks 321-323 Clementi Ave 5, and the vacant field behind Masjid Darussalam at Clementi Ave 2.

If forest clearance is ultimately necessary, **HDB should explain why alternative sites cannot achieve the same planning objectives.** Current public information does not explain this.

- HDB should publicly share these information: the expected timeline of development, sites evaluated, planning criteria, comparative housing yields, the housing demand they are responding to, implementation constraints and reasons why Maju Forest was chosen.

Sources:

- [Maju Forest Development Proposal by Sunset Way residents](#)
 - [David Hoe's IG post](#)
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7. Transparency and Meaningful Public Participation

Report Section:

- ☒ Others: Transparency and Meaningful Public Participation

Greater transparency is needed.

- These information should be communicated publicly:
 - **Timeline**
 - HDB said that other alternative sites cannot fulfil the needs in time – so what exactly is the projected timeline for developing the forest that justifies that other options are not fast enough?
 - **Alternatives considered** (including brownfield and lower-impact sites, reduced-footprint layouts, and a **no-development option**)
 - Could HDB publicise a list of alternative sites?
 - **Reason for final decision**
 - Why are the alternative sites not viable?
 - Can HDB publish the current housing demand and yield of the site, and explain why BTO in Clementi needs to be built even though there may be undersubscribed BTOs elsewhere?
 - Give accurate and clear reasons why BTO demand in *Clementi* specifically is high? → Is it because its prime land? Near schools? Children of Clementi residents want to live near their parents? Publish exact numbers and survey results.
 - With post-mitigation impact still remaining high, the final development decision should include an **explicit justification for accepting this level of loss.**
- In EIAs, a key step is considering "alternative means" and "alternatives to". The former assumes the project happens and explores ways to minimise impact, which is what this EIA reports on. The latter considers different ways of meeting the project's

purpose (e.g. brownfield), and critically, the option to not proceed with the project at all.

- The EIA treats the development as a given, but more transparency on the "alternatives to" is needed. What alternatives to clearing a forest were considered, and why does it need to happen now, alongside many other natural spaces slated to be cleared like Gillman Forest, Tengah Site 1, Sembawang N5 etc?

A longer public consultation period and greater accessibility of the EIA report is needed.

- Except for Dover Forest, most forest clearance in SG has a public consultation window of only 27-28 days, regardless of the site's size. This is not enough for the public to read through a lengthy document and comment meaningfully.
- Accessibility is not just about having physical access to the EIA, but also about whether people *understand* it.
 - The length and technical jargon of the EIA makes it hard to give constructive feedback. Plain language versions of the report, more explainer/Q&A/engagement sessions allow residents to better understand competing objectives and contribute more informed feedback.

The nature of public participation

- Public engagement should happen earlier. When the public is only engaged in the later stages of a project, with no knowledge or participation in other planning options, it sends the message that our participation has limited potential to influence outcomes, as the terms of participation are already dictated.
- HDB should release the feedback from resident engagement sessions and this form, address the responses, and explain how they are factored into further decisions of Maju Forest.

Sources:

- [Public feedback windows of forest clearing and coastal reclamation works in Singapore](#)
 - [Commentary: Gillman Barracks - can we rethink how the public participates in decisions on redevelopment?](#)
 - [Feedback Guide for Sembawang N5 and Tengah Site 1](#)
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8. Climate Change

Report Section:

- ☒ Impacts during Operational Phase
- ☒ Others: Climate Change Adaptation

2026 is the Year of Climate Adaptation. Singapore's forests should all the more be valued and preserved for its ability to cool our environment.

- 10ha of dense forest can cool surrounding air by 1-2 degrees Celsius for up to 350m. Planted trees on a building facade can only cool the surrounding air by up to 4m.
 - These benefits for climate change adaptation should be analysed and weighed against development outcomes.
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9. Human Impact Assessment

Report Section:

☒ Others: Human Impact Assessment / Health/Social Impact Assessment

Forests benefit humans too. A Human Impact Assessment should be carried out to account for the impact that the loss of Maju Forest brings to people.

- In some other countries, a **Health Impact Assessments (HIA)** and **Social Impact Assessments (SIA)** are conducted on top of an EIA.
 - Besides capturing tangible concerns (e.g. traffic congestion, increased risk of flooding), these IAs are able to highlight the more overlooked & intangible impacts of forest loss for nearby residents and the wider population. Justifiable because projects affect not only ecosystems, but also **health and sociocultural values**.
- Ecosystem services consist of **regulating** (purifying air, protection against erosion) and **cultural** (recreation, education) services too.
- Negative impacts on physical and mental health.
 - Forests provide opportunities for outdoor exercise and have a calming effect on the body, promoting healthy living and wellbeing.
 - A **cost-benefit analysis** of the development should be done, which includes calculations for health outcomes (e.g. less sick days, more productivity, less strain on healthcare system) and heat mitigation outcomes. This positions the forest as an **asset** for people, especially when forests are becoming more and more scarce.
- Lost opportunities for environmental education.
 - At the rate we are deforesting, the children of today will grow up with fewer truly wild and natural green spaces, and may even witness it in progress. This is incongruent with the increasing focus on environmental education in schools.
- Sentimental value

Sources:

- <https://iaia.org/what-is-impact-assessment/>
- <https://forest.eea.europa.eu/topics/society/ecosystem-services>

Template

I am deeply concerned about plans to deforest Maju Forest for housing, given that it is a thriving secondary forest which serves as a crucial ecological stepping stone linking Clementi Forest, Toh Tuck Forest, and Bukit Batok Nature Park. The EIA has also indicated that this forest is home to 49 flora and 6 fauna species of conservation significance. While I appreciate HDB's effort in conducting an EIA, there are several areas of concern and issues I would like to highlight.

[1st Talking Point – Related to the EIA's technical details, e.g. **Point 1/2/3/4/5**]

[2nd Talking Point – Related to human impacts, transparency and public participation, e.g. **Point 6/7/8/9**]

Nature groups and the public must be consulted at every stage of the EIA for accountability and transparency. HDB should release the feedback collected from resident engagement sessions and this form, address the responses, and explain how they are factored into further decisions of Maju Forest.

Thank you