

From UNESCO's **Courier**, January 1989, comes an article about a US-funded project in Malaysia and China by a US ecological group called Integrated Conservation Research (ICR), aimed at demonstrating that rain forests are more valuable if used on a sustainable basis than if cut for immediate, short-term profit. The MAB-supported project is divided into agroforestry, ethnobotany, and natural history oriented tourism.

It was found that tea plants, when planted between rows of trees, become more productive and that two species together also supported a "community" of more than 100 species of spider – more efficient than insecticides as pest controllers.

Most striking among the animal species studied was the forest-dwelling cattle known as the gaur (*Bos gaurus*). These nearly extinct animals are highly prized for their meat, which is low in cholesterol and comprises 65 percent of the carcass – about 2 metric tons each. The gaur is the only species of bovid that sweats, and their sweat contains repellents against flies, ticks, and other ectoparasites. It does not require grass for food, being a browser of forest edge plant species; consequently, forests do not need to be destroyed to propagate the gaur.

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