

## **Stakeholder Consultation in the Development of Climate Change Policy: Malaysia's Approach**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Climate change is cross-sectoral in nature, transcending traditional takes on environmental issues, as it affects human well-being and economic growth. The impacts of climate change transcend all levels and sectors, whilst effective collaborative participation, grounded on indigenous and scientific knowledge should serve as a mainstay for institutional capacity building. Stakeholder participation and consultation is, therefore, a crucial component in a climate change policy process. While ensuring transparency in policy-making, improve communication and increase acceptance in long run, the participatory and consultative approach could also provide support to decision makers throughout the process. Given the scale of issues and options, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment Malaysia in collaboration with the Institute for Environment and Development (LESTARI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, is currently conducting a Policy Study on Climate Change, with a view to formulate a national policy to ensure concerted holistic responses to climate change challenges. The study adopts broad stakeholder participation and consultative processes. Stakeholder viewpoints gathered in overlapping phases at national and regional meetings, interviews and peer-review sessions provided crucial inputs to refining the study recommendations in formulating the National Policy on Climate Change for the country. Phase 1 was carried out through eleven meetings over a period of four years, focused on documenting viewpoints of over 1150 participants. Stakeholders were kept informed of the policy formulation during the Phase 2 and referrals were made throughout the process in seven meetings with over 400 participations in the last two years. Once the initial policy framework was derived, it was subjected to stakeholders' reviews; this during Phase 3 of consultations, and the activities covered seven meetings. Inputs were then reviewed to refine the national policy framework. At present the draft policy is undergoing the Fourth Phase of stakeholder scrutiny, prior to its finalisation for adoption by the Cabinet Committee on Climate Change.