

“The forests of Singapore: seeing the beauty in the trees (and much more)”

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Singapore, despite its small size, is home to a large variety of plant species. The island is home to over 2000 native plants, found across a number of distinctive habitats from coastal forests and mangroves, to lowland rainforest and freshwater swamp forests. Rapid, large-scale habitat loss early beginning 200 years ago led to considerable loss of Singapore’s flora, but why most of Singapore’s native plants remains and why it is surprisingly resilient will be discussed. Singapore has experienced an awakening of interest in native plants, but its flora is even better appreciated in a regional context. How can Singapore work with regional and international counterparts to achieve local and regional conservation goals, and to promote sustainable development with a green focus? Finally, how can an understanding of geosciences help us to better understand, protect, and cherish our green heritage?