

PHOTO-ESSAY

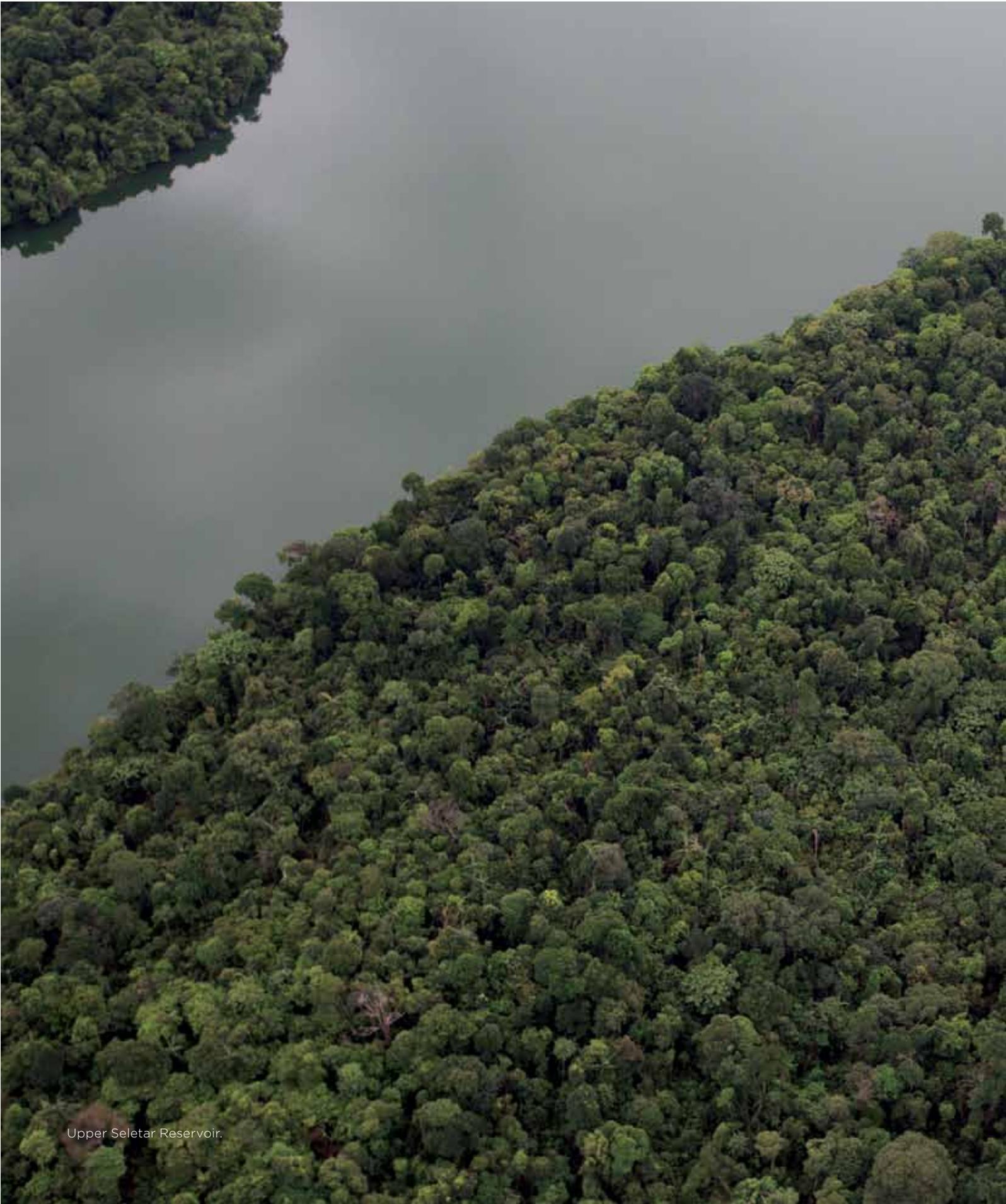
THE
GEOMETRY
OF
NATURE

Images by Ministry of National Development

If it is the nature of cities to concentrate and aggregate, then nature's tendency is the opposite to disperse and encroach. In city-state Singapore, there has been a determined and lauded effort to pace building with greening. Green and blue have been the vital colours of Singapore's evolution into a "City in a Garden" and her master plan for "clean, green, and blue" sustainable development.

Of Singapore's modest land area of 710 square kilometres, slightly less than half is green cover, including the 10 percent set aside for parks and nature reserves. That also includes Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, home to 840 flowering plant types and over 500 animal species, and the largest of four nature reserves, Central Catchment Nature Reserve. The latter occupies over 2,000 hectares of forest cover, including rare patches of Dipterocarp primary lowland forest and primary freshwater swamp forest. With no natural lakes or aquifers, Singapore designed reservoirs for water catchment the scale of two-thirds her size. These are impressive figures, which the urbanites in Singapore might know well by numbers but not experience.

This series of bird's-eye photographs taken over the Central Catchment Nature Reserve in 2014 documents pockets of Singapore's natural heritage from the privileged vantage point of Singapore's air space. These are spontaneous vignettes of Singapore's non-choreographed green and blue spaces, as few have glimpsed before. Green and blue brush and collide as they present new constructions of beauty and Singapore.



Upper Seletar Reservoir.



Upper Peirce Reservoir.





Upper Seletar Reservoir.





Forest around Upper Peirce Reservoir.





Forest and reservoir dam between
Upper and Lower Peirce Reservoirs.
Neighbouring golf courses are seen
at Singapore Island Country Club
(in the top right).





Upper Seletar Reservoir.





MacRitchie Reservoir.





Forest at Upper Seletar Reservoir
and fringe of Singapore Zoological
Gardens (in the top left).





Lower Peirce Reservoir (above)
and Upper Peirce Reservoir (below)
are separated by a dam.

