

**OR229**

*Conservation of stingless bees through beescape (landscaping for bees)*

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Much has been studied on the pesticides effects on bees, but little has been studied on the impact of the birds nest industry on the survival of the Indo-Malayan stingless bees in South East Asia. How the rapid growth in major agricultural land developments are also rapidly decreasing the wild colonies of stingless bees. For every 100 acres, there are an average of 30 bee colonies (personal encounters) that need to be contend with. major developments involving vast virgin areas for clearing need to look into saving wild bee colonies prior to clearing. These log hives can be removed and placed in forest reserves or new Apiaries and Meliponaries established . Considering the fact that birds usually capture bees above the canopy of trees, we can tell our stingless bees not go where the birds frequent. We do this by planting downward blooming flowers like *Syzygiums*, low flowering shrubs and beneficial ground covers like *Portulacas* and *Zephyranthes* and numerous types of flowering weeds. Palm tree flowers are favourites of stingless bees and are always under the protection of the Palm canopy. The height of these Palm blooms are a great deterrent to frogs and toads and cleverly designed barriers on the Palm trunks can deter lizards as well. Concentrating the bees efforts in hive temperature regulation and nest building and brood health. Avoiding predating birds and freeing themselves from spider webs are a stressful day in the life of a stingless bee. Reducing this stress for them, allows them to pool their efforts into building stronger colonies. Assuming that the bee colonies as a single super organism will require all the help it can get to muster survival in the three dimensional zone of varied and endless predators and dangers.