

Wildlife crossing

The Eco-Link@BKE will be open for public tours from the end of this month. The Straits Times takes a closer look at how the bridge enables wildlife to cross between Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and Central Catchment Nature Reserve.

GREENING OF THE BRIDGE

August 2013



November 2013



June 2014



Fence

- A fence is erected at this side of the bridge to prevent large mammals such as the wild boar from crossing over to the BTNR, as they may destroy the habitat of the ecological bridge.
- There is a 30cm space at the bottom of the fence to allow smaller mammals such as pangolins and civet cats to traverse freely between the two sites.
- Cameras installed in the planted area and along the length of the fence capture images of animals that use the link.

Guided walks

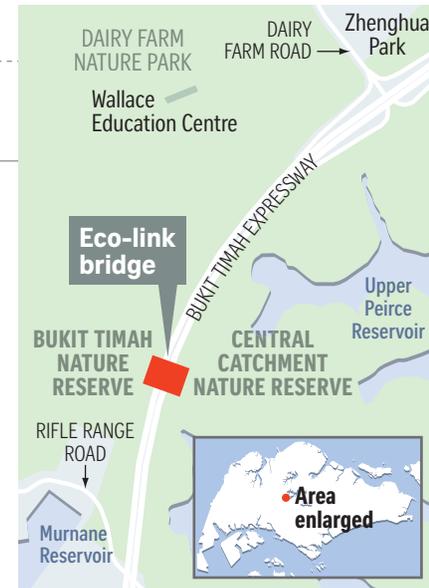
People taken on guided walks will not be treading on the planted area but on a gravel pathway along the bridge's side.



All trees and shrubs planted around and on the bridge are native species.

BUKIT TIMAH NATURE RESERVE (BTNR)

CENTRAL CATCHMENT NATURE RESERVE



FACTS AND FIGURES

- Cost of building bridge: \$16 million
- Length of bridge: 62m
- Number of cameras: Eight

No pangolin roadkills

from April last year to October this year (compared with an average of two annually from 1994 to 2013).

More than 3,000 native plants

planted along the corridor.

More than 15 species of mammals and birds

have been spotted using the green corridor. They include the common palm civet and the critically endangered sunda pangolin – all captured on cameras installed at the site.

ANIMALS CAUGHT ON CAMERA

Common palm civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)

It is a good seed disperser as it eats mostly fruit and passes out the seeds in its faeces.



Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*)

It can also be found in forested areas in Bukit Batok, the Western Catchment Area, and on the islands of Pulau Ubin and Pulau Tekong.



OTHER ANIMALS THAT USE THE LINK

Glossy horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus lepidus*)



Emerald dove (*Chalcophaps indica*)



When the trees are taller in another **five to seven years**, they will provide adequate cover for canopy animals such as the banded leaf monkey (above) and Malayan colugo to cross the bridge.

Source: NPARKS PHOTOS: NPARKS, JAMIE KOH, NICK BAKER, DR LEONG TZI MING ST GRAPHICS: LIM YONG