20TH SINGAPORE STRAITS REGATTA
Sailing action on the Straits

TURKISH DELIGHTS
Chartering in Turkey

ABA CRUISE TO ANAMBAS
Part II of voyage to Anambas Islands
Biosphere Foundation attempts to bust the invaders of the monsoon forest snatchers.

It moves in whenever and wherever there is destruction of the forest canopy.

Tree canopies are often destroyed by human intervention or fire, which allows the Lantana to grow quickly, creating a dense thicket that prevents the forest from regenerating. The habitat and feeding area for many local birds and animals are reduced, including the critically endangered Bali Starling, the exquisite Javan deer, and the long-tailed Macaque. The native trees, on which these creatures depend on for berries and leaves, can no longer grow through the clutches of Lantana.

In the spring of 2012, BF designated and marked out three research plots, each measuring 2,500 m². The aim was to find the best method of removing the Lantana and preventing its return. We soon found out that cutting it only made things worse. It re-sprouted four times as many shoots as we cut!

Last December, BF took another tack and uprooted the Lantana in two plots, replacing them with 1,200 local tree seedlings that were raised in a nursery for 18 months. Monitoring the trees over the next few years will show if they are effective in shading out the Lantana. It is also critical to find out if this method of control is economically viable: it all depends on how many times we have to clear it before the Lantana finally gives up!

The new plantations look beautiful and now we can actually see the forest again instead of a Lantana jungle. Their invasiveness is a worldwide problem in the tropics for forests, farmers and ranchers. Much of what we learn here could eventually help others band together in the fight to eradicate the same beautiful “beast”.

For more information about Biosphere Foundation, please see www.Biospherefoundation.org