



KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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Action plan for elephant protection in Sabah

KOTA KINABALU: The Bornean Elephant Action Plan 2020-2029 will hopefully provide clear guidelines to all stakeholders in protecting the animal in Sabah.

Project Seratu Aatai founder Dr Nurzhafarina Othman said the plan was approved by the Sabah cabinet in February last year and acknowledged by the Asian Elephant Specialist Group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Species Survival Commission.

The state government had agreed, in principle, to allocate RM20 million to implement the plan over 10 years.

"The elephant habitat has changed. Therefore, we need to be dynamic with our actions based on the current situation.

"Generally, elephants are facing three main threats, which include habitat loss, fragmentation and poaching," she said during a webinar on the action plan on the

"5R Hidupan Liar" Facebook page.

There are four main objectives in the plan, which are improving protection and reducing elephant deaths; improving landscape connectivity and permeability; ensuring the best ex-situ practices for elephant management and conservation; and, monitoring and predicting elephant population trends.

There have been 188 elephant deaths between 2010 and this year.

The two most recent cases was when an elephant was dismembered and skinned in Tongod in January and another case involving an adult male elephant which was found dead at a Lahad Datu plantation in July.

Nurzhafarina said statewide educational and awareness programmes were important to encourage human-elephant co-existence in the long run.