



KERATAN AKHBAR

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More forest reserves certified

SANDAKAN: Two more forest reserves in Sabah are now certified under the internationally recognised Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

In a statement yesterday, the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) said Trusan Sugut Forest Reserve and Ulu Kalumpang - Mt Wullersdorf Forest Reserve (FR) have successfully complied with FSC's requirements and have obtained certificates as well-managed forests for a period of five years from May 16, 2017 to May 15, 2022.

Trusan Sugut is a Class I forest reserve covering 8,680ha and is located in Sabah's east coast district of Beluran.

"This reserve consists of several unique forests as lowland mixed dipterocarps, fresh water swamps, mangroves and beach forests. It provides a safe haven for rare, threatened and endangered mammals, birds and dipterocarp trees and species," the statement said.

Meanwhile, the mainly lowland dipterocarp Ulu Kalumpang - Mt Wullersdorf FR with a total area of 64,953.74ha and last logged in 1986, serves as

an important water resource for the whole of Tawau and Kunak districts.

With these additions, Sabah now has 746,564.91ha of fully certified forests with 675,691.68ha under natural forest management and 70,873.23ha under tree plantations.

The FSC certificates were presented by SCS Global Services Dr Yap Son Kheong and Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman and was witnessed by chief conservator of Forests Datuk Sam Mannan and deputy chief Fidelis Edwin Bajau at the department's recent Innovation Night.

The department is now in the process of getting several other managed forests certified under FSC within the next three years.

These include Sook Lake FR, FMU 17B and D (Gunung Tinkar FR, Sg Radapan FR, Sungai Pinangah FR and Tawai FR), Pensiangan FR (FMU 12), and Sungai Lumaku FR with a total area of 129,422.26ha.

SFD said proportionate to the total size of land area, Sabah now leads in certified forest coverage in Southeast Asia. - Bernama