

# ADENAN WANTS S'WAK FOREST MANAGEMENT TO BE RECOGNISED BY WORLD COMMUNITIES

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Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem

KUCHING: Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem's policy on the sustainable forests management are to ensure forest in Sarawak can be sustainable and managed based on international standards recognised by world communities, said Sarawak Forestry Department director Sapuan Ahmad.

According to Sapuan there are 12 forest timber licences within the Hope of Borneo (HoB) areas which are progressing towards forest certification by 2017.

Sapuan said a more comprehensive database on the richness of Sarawak's biodiversity within the HoB areas has been documented, adding that a number of new species of flora and fauna was discovered, which further enhanced the image and value of these HoB areas.

He said various scientific expeditions has been conducted which include scientific expedition to Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary in Sri Aman and Batang Balleh expedition in Miri in collaboration with the Sarawak Energy Berhad and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

"An Orang Utan strategic action plan has been drafted in collaboration with the various state government agencies and the wildlife conservation society," he said when officiating the Heart of Borneo (HoB) Government Agencies Workshop here today (Feb 23).

Besides that, he said the Sarawak Forest Department has also conducted specific focus research on salt lick ecology, Gunung Mulu orchids project, wild cat project that specifically focused on species 'Neofelis Diardii' are among the few plans that are still on-going.

Sapuan said this national and state mission needs support and cooperation from all the relevant government agencies and together as a team will effectively implement HoB activities in Sarawak.

Hence, he said the workshop serves to enhance government agencies' collaboration and consultation within the HoB areas in order to achieve sustainable land use and rural communities' development agenda of the state.

HoB Declaration was signed in Bali in 2007 between the government of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, which serves as a major testament to the world of these three countries sharing one noble conservation vision.

The HoB initiative is aimed towards enhancing conservation and sustainable development while minimizing forest degradation, the associated loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services, thus further improving the welfare of those living on the majestic island of Borneo which is approximately 20 million hectares of contiguous tropical forest. – Bernama