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Tajuk : Scientists to study trade-offs effect of changing land use

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KUCHING: A partnership between scientists from United Kingdom and Malaysia to study and identify the trade-offs of changing land use for aquatic environment and socio-economic health, and facilitating sustainable solutions across tropical rivers and coastal waters of Sarawak will be carried out this year.

The partnership comprises Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), National Oceanography Centre, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus and University of Southampton.

The project aims to seek to understand the uncertainties about the environmental impact of changes in land use on the health of aquatic ecosystems in relation to the magnitude of changes observed in rivers and coastal waters.

This is possible through studying alterations in organic material, also known as organic matter, which is sourced from all living organisms and soils.

This project brings together scientists from a range of disciplines to examine the consequences of multiple land use for the health and socio-economic value of aquatic environments in Sarawak.

According to a template (information) issued by Unimas,

measurements were made in conjunction with ongoing long-term Malaysian research partner programmes taking place across tropical rivers and coastal waters of Sarawak. Sampling will begin in February 2017 with two extensive core field campaigns overarching two monsoon seasons.

The project will continue to close the gaps in scientific knowledge and improve global models studying land-use changes, from land to coasts and oceans.

The partnerships between UK and Malaysian scientists will promote engagement with politically and economically relevant stakeholders, with a view to safeguarding the local environment whilst enabling commercial activity to continue in a sustainable manner.

The project also aims to draw a clearer picture on the relationship and impact of organic material discharged from land on the health of the aquatic environment. It will also identify the impact of changes in the health of rivers and coastal waters on society and community livelihood.

Engagement with stakeholders (resource managers, policymakers and the community) will also create and develop solutions and also seek early action plans suitable for adoption.