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THE
BORNEAN
EDITION

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Establishment of UNIMAS Field Research Station

Jayasilan Mohd-Azlan

Field research centres are integral to biodiversity-related research in tropical rainforests, providing a foundation for long-term ecological studies and conservation efforts. A dedicated research station enables continuous teaching, training, and research in fields such as ecology, biology, geology, and conservation, while supporting the study of complex ecosystems, including their ecological interactions, evolutionary processes, and functional dynamics.

Tropical ecosystems, characterized by their high biodiversity and sensitivity to change, require sustained research to monitor long-term trends, such as population dynamics, forest regeneration, and responses to conservation initiatives. Establishing a permanent research station ensures consistent data collection and provides an ideal platform for training researchers, students, and conservation practitioners in field techniques and analytical methodologies. Additionally, such centres facilitate collaboration among local and international researchers, promoting global conservation efforts and fostering valuable linkages.

In this context, UNIMAS, in collaboration with Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), is working to establish a research station at Bako National Park (BNP). Renowned for its rich biodiversity, visible megafauna, and well-documented flora and fauna, Bako is an ideal location within Sarawak's protected areas network. The park's diverse vegetation types make it particularly suitable for research, although access requires a combination of road and boat travel.

The establishment and maintenance of research stations in the tropics are critical for advancing scientific understanding and securing the sustainable future of these vital ecosystems. The long-term impact of the Bako research station will be the dissemination of knowledge, data, and experiences to like-minded organizations, both locally and globally. It will also strengthen collaborations with government agencies responsible for biodiversity conservation and the protection of Sarawak's unique geological features.



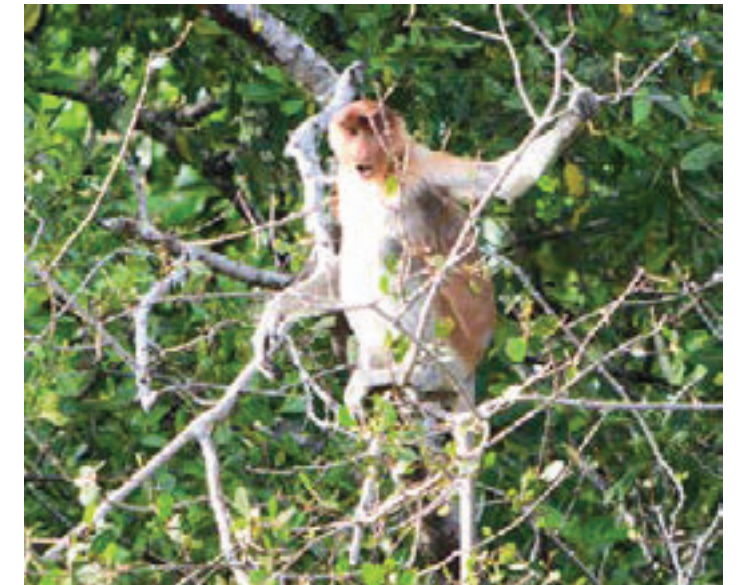
The Vice Chancellor, General Manager of Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Deputy Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation, along with staff from UNIMAS and IBEC, recently conducted an official visit to the proposed field station at Bako National Park.



Bako National Park provides diverse habitats for ecologists to study and unravel the intricate ecological connections between these environments and the species that rely on them. Park.



A recent visit to Bako National Park focused on installing essential facilities, marking progress in the ongoing effort to enhance research infrastructure in the area Park.



Bako National Park has been a hub for long-term research on Proboscis monkeys in Sarawak, significantly enhancing our understanding of the species' ecology.