Research Article

Association between Soil Fertility and Growth Performance of Planted *Shorea macrophylla* (de Vriese) after Enrichment Planting at Rehabilitation Sites of Sampadi Forest Reserve, Sarawak, Malaysia

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1. Introduction

Many countries throughout the world are facing acute scarcity of lands for food production due to the rapid increase of population and limited land resources, which causes people to convert forestland into agricultural, horticultural, plantations, and pastoral land for cattle settlements or mining [1]. Such human activities have led to the depletion of existing forests throughout the world, particularly in Asian countries. In the tropics, approximately 60% or 850 million hectares of the total forest area between the year 1950 and 2000 have been degraded and are difficult to regenerate due to chemical, biological, and physical barriers [2]. Consequently, this has led to the attention of developing restoration or rehabilitation practices on degraded secondary forest [3–7] as to preclude further degradation [8, 9] by means of improving the site productivity and quality [10, 11]. According to Doi and Sakurai [12], measuring soil quality using soil indices is essential to estimate the soil productivity or to rehabilitate degraded lands. Enrichment planting system has been used as one of the promising techniques to recover and restore the degraded forestland in the tropics [3, 13, 14]. Restoration of degraded forestland is indispensable to reduce soil nutrient loss and improve vegetation composition.