

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **News Release**

### **WILMAR AND UNIMAS DEEPEN PARTNERSHIP TO ADVANCE BIODIVERSITY RESEARCH IN SARAWAK**

**Singapore/Kuala Lumpur, 27 August 2025** – Wilmar Plantations Sdn Bhd's (Wilmar) subsidiary, Saremas Sdn Bhd, has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) to conduct a comprehensive biodiversity survey of conservation areas in its oil palm plantations in Sarawak.

This marks a continued partnership between Wilmar and UNIMAS, which has been ongoing since 2014. The latest project will involve a detailed assessment of threatened medium- to large-sized mammals and bird species using camera traps, with research running from now until March 2027.

The collaboration aims to:

- i. Improve understanding of habitat and microhabitat use, species richness, distribution and ecology of the species of conservation importance;
- ii. Strengthen knowledge on local communities' dependency on natural resources near High Conservation Value forests;
- iii. Increase indexed publication under the theme of biodiversity conservation in oil palm plantation settings; and
- iv. Develop a generation of graduate students equipped with practical knowledge in biodiversity conservation within oil palm plantation settings.

"This project will deepen our knowledge and understanding of wildlife biodiversity and conservation within a plantation landscape. It also offers a strategic opportunity to contribute scientific data that can guide sustainable land-use practices," said UNIMAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Ahmad Hata Rasit.

He added that insights gained from this initiative could play a crucial role in pinpointing biodiversity hotspots, enhancing mapping accuracy and guiding the creation of conservation corridors within plantation environments.

Wilmar Plantations' Executive Director, Gurcharan Singh, noted that the company manages 1,725.35 hectares of conservation areas within its Saremas and Segarmas estates in Sarawak. These areas are actively patrolled and protected by 29 full-time conservation rangers.

"Collaborating with UNIMAS brings valuable scientific insight to our conservation efforts. It enables us to strengthen evidence-based approaches and ensure our management practices are aligned with the long-term protection of endangered and threatened species which can be used to improve how we manage these areas effectively," said Gurcharan.

Previous collaboration with UNIMAS had resulted in a joint publication titled "Bukit Durang: The Hidden Jewel of Ulu Suai, Sarawak" in 2023, which presents biodiversity findings in an accessible

format for nature enthusiasts. Bukit Durang is a 994-hectare conservation site within Wilmar's Sarawak estates. The book is available [here](#).

## **ABOUT WILMAR'S SUSTAINABILITY**

As a leading agribusiness group, Wilmar recognises that we have a fundamental role to play in developing quality products required by the world while ensuring that these products are produced responsibly and sustainably. We adopt a holistic approach to sustainability that is fully integrated with our business model.

Guided by the philosophy that our business must enhance stakeholder value while minimising our environmental footprint, our business practices are aligned with universally acceptable social and environmental standards. Wilmar's [No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation Policy](#) and [No Deforestation and No People Exploitation Sugar Policy](#), introduced in 2013 and 2021 respectively, underpin our aspiration to make a positive impact and drive transformation across the palm oil and sugar sectors.

For more information, please visit [www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability](http://www.wilmar-international.com/sustainability)

## **ABOUT UNIMAS**

Established in 1992, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) is a dynamic Malaysian public university that blends academic excellence with a bold and contemporary vision. In recent years, UNIMAS has grown exponentially, proudly emerging as one of the key universities in the local and global education arena, championing community and sustainability initiatives for a sustainable world. Located in the heart of Borneo—one of the world's richest site for biodiversity and indigenous knowledge—UNIMAS is a prominent global player in empowering communities, nurturing creativity and pioneering innovation for a sustainable world.

The Institute Of Biodiversity And Environmental Conservation (IBEC) is one of the earliest institutes within UNIMAS. It was established in 1995 when the term 'biodiversity' was newly coined, and is strategically placed in the heart of South-East Asia. Located amidst rich tropical diversity, the Institute aims to promote research and exploration of tropical biodiversity in Borneo and elsewhere, using innovative techniques for inspirational teaching, as well as consulting policy-makers on the conservation and management of biodiversity.

For more information, please visit <https://www.unimas.my/>

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