



SEKAR IMEJ CONSERVATION AREA (SICA)

NEWSLETTER

Vol 06 2023

Marasmius sp.

IN FOCUS

As time ticks away, the second half of 2023 has been hectic for the SICA team. The team has been working hard to establish the SICA nursery, while strengthening expertise and capacity in tree planting, forest restoration and wildlife monitoring. Additionally, we have focused on raising awareness among local communities and the younger generation living around Wilmar's estate through the Wildlife Awareness Outreach Programme (WAOP) initiative.

In this volume, we feature one of the planet's most essential organisms, fungi. Fungi are more than just the edible mushrooms found in various cuisines or the toadstools that sprout after rain. They also provide powerful medicines, including antibiotics, regulate many processes in soils and contribute to society by supplying numerous food staples. We also highlight the untold history of Kg. Kinadaan and its people, share the story of Sonsongon Mogis, showcase the conservation awareness programme, and present our first publication on HCV for Wilmar's operations in Malaysia – "Bukit Durang; The Hidden Jewel of Ulu Suai, Sarawak."

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Fungi



Scientific Expedition - Series 2

The sharing of the findings of the SICA scientific expedition is continued with one of the most widely distributed organisms on earth - fungi! Presently, there are 120,000 recognised species of fungi worldwide. However, scientists propose that this accounts for only approximately 8% of the total number of fungi in the world!

Fungi play a crucial role in ecosystems and are vital to human life in various ways. They participate in both beneficial and harmful interactions, serving as decomposers, contributing to food and medical production, and causing pathogenic infections in humans, crops and animals in the latter case.

A total of 142 macrofungi belonging to 12 Orders, 24 Families, and 43 Genus were identified during the expedition across five research sites within SICA, namely, Gerowong, Sinalaan 1 and 2, Kibundu, and Sg. Bokow. The highlight was when *Lignosus rhinocerotis*, commonly known as “kulat susu harimau”, was found at Gerowong. This particular fungus is recognised as a valuable medicinal fungus, commanding a significant price of RM 150 per stalk.



According to the researchers' observations, all research sites exhibited diversity in macrofungi, with Gerowong standing out as the most intriguing site due to the presence of *L. rhinocerotis* and the ectomycorrhizal fungi group, which plays a crucial role in forest sustainability and regeneration. Below is the table of the macrofungi found based on Genus.

Genus	Base camp	Gerowong	Sinalaan 1	Sinalaan 2	Kibundu	Sg. Bokow
<i>Amanita</i>	0	2	0	1	0	1
<i>Amauroderma</i>	0	1	0	0	1	0
<i>Auricularia</i>	0	0	1	0	1	0
<i>Bisporella</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Boletus</i>	0	4	0	0	0	0
<i>Clitopilus</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Cookeina</i>	0	1	2	0	1	2
<i>Coprinus</i>	0	1	1	0	0	0
<i>Coriolopsis</i>	0	0	1	1	2	0
<i>Craterellus</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Cyathus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Cymatoderma</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Earliella</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Filoboletus</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Favolaschia</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Fomitopsis</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Ganoderma</i>	0	0	1	2	3	2
<i>Geastrum</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Gerronema</i>	0	0	0	2	0	0
<i>Hexagonia</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Hygrocybe</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Inocybe</i>	0	1	0	0	2	0
<i>Lentaria</i>	0	0	0	0	1	1
<i>Lentinus</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Leucocoprinus</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Lignosus</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Marasmius</i>	0	0	0	4	7	2
<i>Microporus</i>	0	0	2	2	1	2
<i>Mycena</i>	0	3	0	0	1	0
<i>Panus</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Phallus</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Phylloporus</i>	0	0	0	1	0	0
<i>Pleurotus</i>	0	0	0	1	1	0
<i>Polyporus</i>	0	0	0	0	6	1
<i>Puffball</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Pycnoporus</i>	0	0	0	0	2	0
<i>Rhodofomitopsis</i>	0	1	0	0	0	0
<i>Russula</i>	0	1	0	0	0	1
<i>Schizophyllum</i>	0	0	1	0	0	0
<i>Stereum</i>	0	1	2	0	0	0
<i>Thelephora</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0
<i>Trametes</i>	0	0	1	2	3	4
<i>Xylaria</i>	0	0	1	0	2	0
Unknown	0	3	6	5	6	6
Total	1	24	23	22	47	25



Source and Photo Credits: Mohd Nor, N. M. I. & Tajuddin, R. (2022) The Diversity and Distribution of Macrofungi on Selected Trails of Sekar Imej conservation area (SICA), Beluran, Sabah. Unpublished Report.

Table 1: Number of macrofungi observed from each research sites based on Genus

Social Kampung Kinadaan

Local community involvement is crucial in natural resource management. We feature key villages near SICA, in every newsletter, to highlight the history and culture of the people, the village, and its socioeconomic status, to foster better understanding and collaboration with stakeholders.



According to local tales, "Kampung Kinadaan" gets its names from the local term "Masyarakat Sungai", loosely translated to mean "River People". Local stories tell of Aki Manjungting and Aki Lapad as the first people who went into this place which was just wilderness then, to make a living. They were foraging for forest products like resin, rattan, rice cultivation and honey from "monggis trees" (Tualang / *Koompassia sp.*). They were also hunting animals, walking long distances throughout the day and night looking for means of survival. During hot weather, they would gather forest resources, equipped with a "bangkau" (spear) and accompanied by their pet dogs for hunting.

During a long walk along a rocky stream, the dogs suddenly started barking. As the group rushed to the spot, they found a wild boar massive in size like a buffalo, cornered by their dogs. The men tried to spear the animal with their "bangkau" but to no avail. Their spears fell into the river as the wild boar bolted for its life. And thus, the place came to be known as "Kinadaan," signifying "the place where the spear fell."

A BRIEF HISTORY OF KAMPUNG KINADAAN

In the 1960s, a logging company started its operations in Kampung Kinadaan, causing the villagers to relocate to Kampung Matanggal. However, by 1972, Kampung Kinadaan saw a resurgence as several families returned from Kampung Matanggal and various nearby villages, including Kampung Sungai Matanggal, Kampung Vaigan, Kampung Kilonsat, Kampung Tobobon, Kampung Mogis, Kampung Pinomuaan, Kampung Kedoroi and Kampung Kosaan. These villages are situated in the hilly areas extending up to Kota Marudu and have a history dating back to before World War II. According to local tales, these settlements have been in existence for hundreds of years.

The people started to return to Kampung Kinadaan after the construction of roads, contributing to the village's growing population. The development of essential infrastructure, especially roads which connected the village to neighbouring villages played a pivotal role in this population surge. Various logging companies, including Eupuk, Nasriu, Seribudaya, and Partingku, constructed roads connecting Kampung Kinadaan to the surrounding villages and extending up to Kota Marudu.

Kinadaan villagers speak in an accent slightly different from the people of Sungai Paitan or Sungai Sugut, despite identifying themselves as members of the Tombonuo River tribe. However, researching further, it has been revealed that they never had settlements along the riverbanks but instead they originate from the hill areas. Upon tracing their

roots, it was found that a majority of the villagers come from the tribe Sonsogon Mogis in Kota Marudu. In addition to Sonsogon Mogis, there are other Sonsongan sub-tribes, including Sonsogon Magandai, Sonsogon Paliu, Sonsogon Suyad, and Sonsogon Tikalod, collectively referred to as Dusun Sonsogon (Hill Dusun/Hill People (Dusun Bukit)) in Sabah. Through linguistic analysis, lifestyle observations and tracing of their original settlements, it has been established that the residents of Kampung Kinadaan are, in fact, from Dusun Sonsogon (Hill Dusun) and not from the Tombonuo River tribe.

The Sonsogon tribe is one of the ethnic groups unique to the remote areas of Kota Marudu and Pitas Districts in Sabah. This ethnic group reside in remote areas that lack connecting roads to the outside world. It was only in the early 2000s that Dusun Sonsogon gained recognition as an ethnic group, contributing to the limited awareness about them. The classification of Dusun Sonsogon as an ethnic group is based on their language, culture, and geographical location. Despite identifying as part of the Tombonuo River Tribe, the linguistic nuances, settlement patterns, cultural practices, and migration flow indicate a stronger affiliation with Dusun Sonsogon (Hill Dusun).

During the peak of logging activities in Kampung Kinadaan, a logging road was constructed leading to Sonsogon Mogis and extending to Kota Marudu. However, with the cessation of logging operations, access to Sonsogon Mogis from Kinadaan village is now limited and can only be accessed by foot.

SOURCES OF ECONOMIC INCOME IN THE PAST AND PRESENT

In the past, a significant source of economic income for the villagers was the collection and trade of resin, agarwood, and rattan, as these commodities proved lucrative in generating income. According to accounts from the elderly, the price of resin was RM13 per bag of 60kgs and 100 sticks of 20 feet-long rattan were priced at only RM7. It is important to note that during that period, the cost of goods was considerably lower compared to the present day.

Despite their involvement in the resin, agarwood, and rattan trade, the villagers of Kinadaan also engaged in agriculture. They cultivated crops such as rice, cassava, corn, sweet potatoes, and vegetables for personal consumption and had a barter system for trading purposes. This system involved the exchange of goods based on mutual needs and preferences. In addition, the villagers cultivate fruit trees for personal consumption, including durian, rambutan, tarap, langsung, jackfruit, and mango. Some of the villagers in Kampung Kinadaan developed the expertise in harvesting honey from Tualang tree created by the bees that built its honeycombs high in the Tualang tree.

Now, the primary economic resources for the people of Kampung Kinadaan include palm oil and rubber cultivation, along with planting of local vegetables and fruits. Additionally, many residents of Kampung Kinadaan have ventured into the construction of swiftlet houses, providing them with a sustainable source of income.



Training poles for rubber tapping

Despite these newer economic activities, traditional farming practices persist, with activities like tapioca, corn, sweet potato, and local rice cultivation continuing to fulfil daily needs.



Village shop - selling petrol & grocery items



Cassava & Hill Paddy (Padi Huma)



Villagers farm & farm house

TIES TO DUSUN SONSOOGON



Maritim bin Banir, Village Head of Kg. Kinadaan

Dusun Sonsogon (Hill Dusun) shares similarities with other indigenous communities in Sabah. Their historical connection to the surrounding forests has lasted for centuries, and this reliance on tropical forests remains in the present day. The construction of their houses continues to utilise wood sourced from the nearby environment.

Despite the availability of modern medicine, the villagers seek traditional remedies from the forest, preserving and utilising the natural resources that still thrive in their surroundings. This reflects the enduring importance of traditional practices and the rich ecological knowledge passed down through generations within the Dusun Sonsogon community.



Palm roof (Atap Rumbia) for housing



As a local saying goes, "You are not Dusun Sonsogon if you don't hunt!" Historically, their primary hunting activities focused on deer and wild boar. However, due to government regulations, changes in religious beliefs and the influence of modernisation, hunting has become less prevalent among them.

Nevertheless, the forest remains crucial for various aspects of their daily lives. It serves as a valuable resource for crafting handicrafts and tools essential for their daily activities. This includes the creation of items like mats, rice bowls, "bubuh" (fishing traps), "sikutan" (baskets), and various other tools, showcasing the continued significance of the forest in meeting their practical needs.



Traditional Fish Trap for fishing, made from Bamboo

KINADAAN VILLAGE PUBLIC FACILITIES

In the early 1990s, the Seven Day Adventist (SDA) church was established in the community of Kampung Kinadaan by Pastor Moris. It is worth noting that some villagers had already joined the SDA church before its formal establishment in Kampung Kinadaan, and Pastor Moris began his evangelism efforts from this existing group of villagers.

During that period, most villagers practiced their ancestral belief known as "mugagu" and animism. In 1992, the influence of Christianity, particularly the SDA denomination, began to significantly spread in the village, prompting the construction of a permanent infrastructure - the church. With the advent of SDA Christianity, the villagers of Kampung Kinadaan made significant changes in lifestyle including abstaining from certain foods such as pork. This shift was notable, especially considering that pigs had been domesticated animals for "mugagu" purposes in the past.

The establishment of the church not only provided a place of worship but also served as a venue for young children to learn reading and writing through Bible study sessions. Considering the absence of schools at that time and the logistical challenges of sending children to schools outside the village, the church played a crucial role in education. Limited transportation options, mainly lorries operated by logging companies, made it difficult for villagers to access schools elsewhere.



Villagers house



Kinadaan river bridge - connecting between village and church



Students of SK Matanggal

In 2013, the proposal for a government school in Kampung Kinadaan materialised, with the school building donated by Datuk Hj. Surady Kayong. The initiative received approval from the Beluran District Education Department on January 28, 2013. Subsequently, SK Matanggal, Beluran commenced its operations on September 2, 2013. This school made possible by the support of Datuk Hj. Surady Kayong, has provided children in Kinadaan village and its surrounding villages with valuable learning opportunities.

Kampung Kinadaan boasts various essential amenities, including electricity, gravity water feed distribution system, football field, health clinic, and village hall. Some of Kampung Kinadaan residents are working as police officers, doctors, nurses and school teachers, both in government and private sectors. Some parents have also migrated to larger cities, seeking better education for their children.



Kinadaan Village football field, multi-purpose open badminton court and rest hut for villagers social activities

Sustainability Insight

Daphne Hameeteman, General Manager Sustainability - External Engagement



Brief intro about yourself and your sustainability journey.

My name is Daphne Hameeteman, born and raised in the Netherlands. My sustainability journey started at the beginning of 2014 when I joined Wilmar Europe as the Sustainability Manager, where I was the only person in the Sustainability Department. Having a background in Traceability and Sustainable Supply Chain helped me in my first assignment to implement the Wilmar NDPE policy in the European market. Today there are seven people working in the EU sustainability team, assisting customers, processing traceability, assuring certification, and engaging with other stakeholders like banks, civil societies and governments. On September 1st, 2023, I started in my new role as General Manager Sustainability - External Engagement, based in Kuala Lumpur.

What would you like to achieve in your new role?

One of the things I like to focus on in my new role is to gain more appreciation from our stakeholders for the sustainability and conservation work we are doing. We have so many good and effective nature programmes running, but we have not been active enough in sharing this with our wider group of stakeholders. We are currently working on a set of videos which will help distribute the message. On the other hand, we also need to make sure that we measure our achievements. This will help demonstrate in a factual manner the results of our investments and efforts in the field; *"Sharing is caring"*.

What is the pulling factor and motivation to support the SICA project?

The combination of 1) research activities in the conservation area, and 2) empowering the local communities to support the protection of SICA and at the same time improve their livelihoods, is the success factor of this programme. As mentioned, nowadays it is extremely important to measure and quantify the investments and efforts done in conservation projects. The SICA programme is managed and focused on transparent record keeping, which enables Wilmar to report concrete results.

For Wilmar Europe, where these types of programmes are not something people would be familiar with, it was a huge benefit to invest in and support this initiative. Secondly, these Newsletters helped our Europe colleagues better understand the objectives and challenges of such a programme. It brought the reality of sustainability challenges Wilmar is facing in its plantation operations, closer to the destination markets. Overall, following the SICA progress by means of these SICA newsletters is a great learning experience for our downstream stakeholders.

What is your view on SICA project?

In 2022 I visited SICA and participated in the hike up to Laimong Peak. The wildlife, magnitude and density of the forest landscape were very impressive to me – coming from a flat country. During the hike, I learned that we don't have biodiversity baseline data due to the hilly terrain landscape, remote location and accessibility. The fact that we want to research this and make SICA a world class research centre, does not only benefit us in applying the learnings for better conservation management. It is also a huge resource for the wider palm industry or even the agri sector. It will provide better insights into safeguarding biodiversity in conservation areas surrounded by plantations.

Secondly, involving the surrounding local communities is the only way how such a long-term programme can succeed. While participating in a "SICA information day" at one of the local schools, I saw the enthusiasm with which the children absorbed the information about the different animals living in the neighbouring SICA forest area.

I'm extremely proud of this programme as it is managed in a very professional way, taking into account the different economic, social and environmental aspects.

What is your idea, hope & thought on the SICA project in the future?

The priority should be to establish SICA as the world class resource center, which we want it to be. Although very well on track, we still have a lot of planned milestones to go. My hope is that SICA will evolve into the main resource and knowledge center for conservation beyond Protected Areas (PAs) and promoting best management practices in the plantation landscape in the foreseeable future. We can only achieve this when we actively share our findings, progress, and results, in partnership with other research institutions and Universities.

Any message for SICA team?

Dear SICA team, keep up the good and extremely important work! I'm super proud that we, as a company, support your work and enable the process of maintaining and improving this beautiful piece of nature. In order to share the message, and therewith gain more understanding of challenges, share solutions, and obtain support, it is crucial

to be transparent. Therefore, continue to measure and administrate your progress, forward pictures and commit to timelines so that we can all see the deliverables achieved in this programme.

Terima kasih banyak!

SICA PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Wildlife Awareness Outreach Programme (WAOP) & Junior Ranger Programme (JRP) at Kampung Binsulung

June 7th and 8th, 2023

Sabah Wildlife Department, Rainforest Discovery Centre, Bornean Sun Bear Centre and Wilmar organized two community outreach programmes known as WAOP in the Sugut region on June 7th and 8th, 2023. A total of 355 participants from the Humana school in Hibumas 2 / Jebawang Estate and Binsulung Primary School with Kampung Binsulung community took part in this two-day initiative.



Fruit tree planting activity at Binsulung primary School



The primary objectives of the programme were to disseminate information concerning protected animals and emphasise the crucial role of the local community in safeguarding endangered flora and fauna species following Wilmar's biodiversity commitment. Wildlife officers conducted briefing sessions, updating the local community on their responsibilities in accordance with government policies. The event featured various exhibitions and nature-based activities designed to educate both school students and the local community. As part of the program, students from SK Binsulung participated in a tree planting activity alongside SICA Rangers, successfully planted 28 fruit trees around their school compound.

WAOP with student activities, tree planting and talks to students and Binsulung community

Camera Trap Training

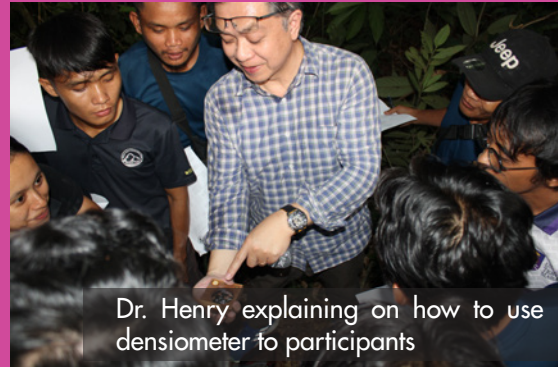
October 3rd, 2023

Collaboration with universities goes beyond the collection of baseline data during scientific expeditions, as it also involves enhancing the capacity of rangers and WILMAR personnel through various training initiatives. On October 3rd, 2023, a camera trap training session was conducted with an invited trainer from UMS, Prof Dr Henry Bernard.

This training encompassed both classroom and practical sessions, covering camera trap theory, methods, demonstrations and data analysis in wildlife monitoring. Participants actively engaged in the training, acquiring valuable knowledge on the effective use of camera traps. This newfound expertise will contribute to the improvement of conservation area management and wildlife monitoring efforts in SICA.



Participants learning on camera trap data analysis



Dr. Henry explaining on how to use densiometer to participants



Visiting Laimong peak for camera trap installation task



SICA Nursery

In our previous volume, we provided an update on the site selection process for the SICA Nursery at parcel 3 block 13. Following this, the nursery site has been cleared and levelled according to the nursery design.

With significant support from Sekar Imej Estate, the SICA team successfully completed the first phase of the nursery in September. This accomplishment was achieved with the assistance of Mr Jiman Arif, a skilled carpenter enlisted for the development of the SICA nursery. All construction work was carried out by the SICA team. Now, the SICA team is actively sourcing forest tree seeds from SICA for germination in the nursery. The nursery has the capacity to accommodate up to 6,000 polybags and there are plans in place to expand its size in the second phase of the project.

SICA STAR

We feature a member of the SICA Team in every newsletter to share their experience and what makes them special to the team.



Forest Stewards Who am i?

Jublin Mukreng

Jublin Mukreng, is also known as Emiew (almost like the sound of a meowing cat). Born at the Duchess of Kent Hospital in Sandakan on March 23, 2002, Emiew grew up in Kota Marudu, Sabah. Our youngest SICA ranger, he joined Wilmar in January 2022. Emiew has diverse roles, including field and boundary maintenance, as well as boundary peg at Sekar Imej and Sapi Sugut Estate.

"Boss, why am I being interviewed? Don't you already know me?" Emiew asked when he was about to be interviewed.

For those unfamiliar with Emiew, he may come across as quiet and shy, making it hard to start a conversation with him. But when discussing a topic of interest to him, he is happy to share his opinions. Once he is comfortable with people, he is friendly, helpful and works well in a group.

"I come from Kampung Kinadaan. Having just completed my pre-University (STPM) examinations at SMK Kota Marudu II, I wanted to pursue further studies. However, my sister is currently enrolled in a local university, and in appreciation of the sacrifices she made for me during my Pre-U studies, I am working now to support her education."

"While I initially applied for Trainee Field Assistant (TFA), the interviewer pointed out that my certificate may not have stood out, but what truly caught their attention was my energy and determination." Emiew shared. He was then advised to try and apply if there was a ranger recruitment. He was keen to join a place where there was potential for career development.

In August 2022, right before the SICA scientific expedition, there was a ranger recruitment for Wilmar. Emiew decided to give it a shot and was hired to be part of the team. However, he was initially hired as a "maintenance worker" akin to other farm workers. Since joining the ranger team, Emiew has demonstrated his potential and set a positive example for everyone. In addition to participating in various ranger activities, he is also active in sports, particularly in soccer and sepak takraw.

Emiew shared insights into his origins, highlighting the geographical and linguistic diversity within the region. "We in Kampung Kinadaan are different from the people in Kampung Mononood. Our roots are in the hills, and our language is also different. Our people are from Sonsogon Mogis. Nowadays, to get to Sonsogon Mogis we have to walk from Kampung Kinadaan."

"I remember carrying a 50kg bag of cement from Kampung Kinadaan to Sonsogon Mogis village. It was a day-long journey and I was paid only RM10.00 for school expenses," he said giving a glimpse to his humble life in the village.

"I am not a River Man, I am Dusun Bukit. Unfortunately, I didn't inherit my father's skills of the Dusun Bukit people. My father was a tree climber who was respected by many. He used to climb tualang trees (*Koompassia sp.*) to harvest tualang honey. The height of the tualang tree can reach up to 50 meters. I might have followed in my father's footsteps, climbing tualang trees, if it weren't for their disappearance due to logging."

When we arrived at Kampung Kinadaan, Emiew pointed to his new house and proudly said, 'Now, my parents live there. The house may not be big and it is not completed yet, but it is an improvement from the previous one, which was small like a chicken coop.'

"In addition to sending my sister to school, I also built the house for my family with the wages I earned from working with Wilmar. As a Sonsogon Mogis person, I am happy to work as a Ranger and protect our nature from any encroachment." Emiew's pride in his heritage, family, and commitment to environmental conservation was inherent from the tone in his voice.

Other Wilmar Conservation Activities

Wildlife Awareness Outreach Programme (WAOP) SK Ulu Sapi & SK Tangkungan

Apart from the SICA project, the conservation team is actively promoting best conservation practices and supporting various sustainability initiatives in Wilmar's operations.

Due to the positive and encouraging feedback received from the WAOP and JRP in the Sugut region, we have expanded the program to other regions in Sabah. The most recent WAOP took place at Sapi Community Hall on August 9, 2023, with the participation of two schools from the Labuk region, SK Ulu Sapi, Beluran and SK Tangkungan, Telupid.

In this WAOP, there was a talk and visit to a riparian site and the EMU nursery. This allowed the participants to witness and experience some of the conservation efforts undertaken by Wilmar. This series of WAOP was a success, effectively engaging and promoting conservation awareness among 80 students and 20 teachers.



Visiting Sapi estate riparian area and learning on riparian management



WAOP group photo

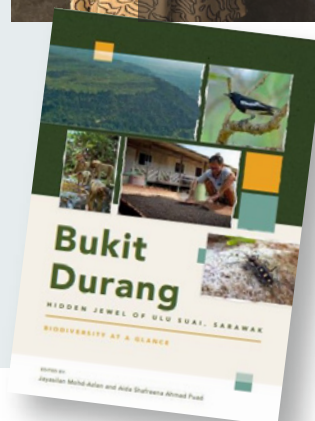
Launching of Bukit Durang Book Kuching, Sarawak

We were proud to present the book entitled **“Bukit Durang: The Hidden Jewel of Ulu Suai, Sarawak”**, jointly published by Wilmar and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS). An outcome of a long-term and ongoing collaboration between Wilmar and UNIMAS, the book is a first-of-its-kind that provides insights and research into a High Conservation Value area managed by a private company.

Research findings on the Bukit Durang Conservation Area (BDCA), which is a 994-hectare conservation site located within Wilmar's oil palm operations in Sarawak, showed that BDCA is home to a significant number of species, including the critically endangered pangolin as well as the Malayan Sun Bear and Marbled Cat. Conservation areas, such as BDCA, play a crucial role in safeguarding native species diversity in addition to the valuable ecosystem services they provide such as flood and fire control and disease prevention, among many others.



Ms. Daphne explaining on Bukit Durang book to Premier of Sarawak YAB Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Tun Abang Haji Openg



The book was launched at the 2023 East Malaysia Palm and Lauric Oils Price Outlook Conference held in Kuching, Sarawak on 5th September 2023

Learn & Share by NTU - SICA Expedition and Riparian vs Pest Control in Singapore Office

Wilmar recently had the privilege of hosting Prof Dr Eleanor Slade and Dr Chew Li Yuen from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) on 21st September, 2023 to share insights with our colleagues about our collaborative efforts to study, protect and rehabilitate the conservation areas within our oil palm concessions in Malaysia. The focus of their presentation was on the findings from the scientific expedition to SICA and research on riparian zone.

Prof Dr Eleanor highlighted the rich insect biodiversity in SICA, having discovered 26 species of dung beetles, 22 species of butterflies, 11 species of moths and 10 species of odonata, and its importance. Insects provide ecosystem services and are bioindicators of habitat quality. Dr Chew spoke on the significant role of riparian buffers in maintaining biodiversity, water quality and connectivity and its relationship to pests in the oil palm.



Sharing of Wilmar Experience in HCV Management – RSPO-Monash Symposium & PIPOC 2023

The 1st RSPO-Monash Joint Symposium was held at Monash University Malaysia from 25-26th September 2023. The event witnessed active participation from over 100 attendees, representing both industry and academic institutions. Wilmar delivered a presentation titled “HCV management in Plantation Landscape – Challenges or Opportunities?”. This presentation shed light on Wilmar’s experience in managing HCV areas and challenges faced by of growers in HCV management. It also highlighted potential research opportunities for researchers to contribute to the improvement of HCV management practices. The symposium served as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and collaboration in this important field. In addition, Wilmar also presented “Identification and Management of HCV Areas in the Palm Sector in Malaysia in the PIPOC 2023 on 9th November 2023 in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.



BMP on Conservation – Identification and Management of HCV-HCSA

11-12th October and 23-24th October, 2023

The Best Management Practices (BMP) Training Workshop for Suppliers on Conservation - Identification and Management of HCV-HCSA was held from 11-12th October and 23-24th October, 2023 in Sibul, Sarawak and Sandakan, Sabah respectively, with trainers from Proforest.

A total of 79 participants from 21 companies of Wilmar suppliers and staff attended the training. The training workshop aimed to enhance the understanding of participants on HCV and HCSA and strengthening the HCV management and monitoring through theory, interactive learning, group discussion, experience sharing and field work to Bukit Lima Forest Reserve (BLNR), Sibul and Rainforest Discovery Centre, Sandakan.



BMP on Conservation – Identification and Management of HCV-HCSA

Practical session included conducting Forest Integrity Assessment (FIA) for forest monitoring purpose, High Carbon Stock (HCS) forest inventory and engaging with local stakeholders on identifying HCV values.



This is part of Wilmar's effort in promoting BMP on conservation amongst suppliers that contributes to wider landscape conservation efforts and protecting our natural resources within the production landscape and supply chain.

Conservation & Recreational Landscape Project (CRLP)



Since the commencement of the CRLP in 2020, all operation units in Sabah and Sarawak have been continuously planting varieties of trees in available vacant spaces to support the project. As of October 2023, a total of 20,452 trees have been planted in Sabah and 12,017 trees in Sarawak, with a combined total of 32,469 trees in the Sabah and Sarawak operation.

After 3 years of the project, some tree species have achieved notable growth, such as *Eucalyptus deglupta* (rainbow tree) and *Swietenia mahagoni* (mahogany).

Examination and Dental Health Education Program for Rural Community

15th October, 2023

Sandakan Dentistry Clinic and Rotary Club of Sandakan North (RCSN) conducted the 4th Community Social responsibility initiative at Kampung Kaiboton in Paitan on 15th October 2023, in collaboration with Sekar Imej Estate. This community outreach programme represented a noteworthy partnership between Wilmar and Rotary Club, aimed at providing dental services to rural communities in the Paitan region. A total 100 people were provided dental services and around 150 kids have participated in kid's programme "Way's to take care your teeth".

Dr Wong Yun Leong, President of RCSN, was interviewed about dental health and said, "According to the WHO, dental treatment should be done at least twice a year. Sadly, in Paitan area, the clinics do not provide dental services. Dental care is only available in main health centers such as Beluran Hospital, Telupid Hospital and Sandakan Hospital. So, it is difficult for the villagers to get treatment because they need to travel around 4-5 hours for treatment."

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Sandakan North



The only way forward, if we are going to improve the quality of the environment, is to get everybody involved.

– Richard Rogers

SICA SUPPORTERS

The Sekar Imej Conservation Area (SICA) is the largest conservation area in Wilmar's operations in Malaysia, spanning a total of 2,469 hectares in the interiors of the Beluran District in Sabah. Located within our plantation's concession boundary, the SICA project is an ongoing joint effort between Wilmar and our stakeholders, including the surrounding local communities, to protect and preserve the largely Lowland Mixed Dipterocarp Forest. The initiative aims to develop SICA as a Biodiversity and Carbon Research Center by 2030. The key components include biodiversity conservation, capacity building and community-based conservation approach. SICA project is partially funded by Wilmar Europe from 2022-2024.


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List of Contributors

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