



SEKAR IMEJ CONSERVATION AREA (SICA)

NEWSLETTER

Vol 08 2024



Thrixspermum centipeda

FEATURED CONTENTS

	page
Environment: Orchid (Scientific Expedition Series 4)	2
Social: Paitan	4
Sustainability Insight	6
SICA Project Activities	7
SICA Star: Miwes Masital	12
Other Wilmar Conservation Activities	13

In Focus

The Sekar Imej Conservation Area (SICA) made notable progress in conservation, community development and sustainability during the second half of 2024. This volume highlights orchids, one of the most captivating plants, and showcases their unique adaptations, ecological roles and cultural significance across Southeast Asia. We also highlight Paitan, an important town supporting the communities in the North Beluran landscape.

We also highlight a collaborative fauna study and training with local NGO HUTAN which has further strengthened our understanding of the fauna in SICA and Sapi-Sugut, while enhancing the research skills of SICA Rangers and the Sabahmas team. Additionally, 25 participants completed the Honorary Wildlife Warden training, bolstering local wildlife enforcement efforts. We continue to raise awareness and build capacity within local communities through the “Hari Santai Sara Hidup Pelbagai” programme, which focuses on sustainable livelihoods to enhance the economic resilience of local communities.

Orchid

Scientific Expedition - Series 4

In this fourth series of SICA Scientific Expedition, we focus on one of the most captivating plants - orchids.

Orchids, renowned for their stunning and diverse flowers, are part of the Orchidaceae family which is one of the largest plant families globally. Their adaptability allows them to thrive in various habitats, including trees, rocks and soil.

A preliminary four-day assessment in SICA focused on the basecamp and five riverside forest trails. The study recorded **40 orchid species from 18 genera**, with most being epiphytic orchids that grow on tree branches, relying on sunlight, rainwater and leaf litter for sustenance. These orchids were predominantly found along riversides where sunlight and humidity create optimal growth conditions.



Genus	Species	Location
Agrostophyllum Epiphytic	<i>Agrostophyllum stipulatum</i>	Gerowong
	subsp. <i>bicuspidatum</i>	
	<i>Agrostophyllum stipulatum</i> subsp. <i>stipulatum</i>	Sg. Sinalaan 2
Appendicula Epiphytic	<i>Appendicula</i> cf. <i>lucida</i>	Gerowong
	<i>Appendicula</i> cf. <i>uncata</i>	Sg. Sinalaan 5
Apostasia Terrestrial	<i>Apostasia</i> cf. <i>odorata</i>	Puncak Monjuk
Arachnis Epiphytic/Climbing	<i>Arachnis flos-aeris</i>	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
Bulbophyllum Epiphytic	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> sp. 1	Gerowong
	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> sp. 2	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> sp. 3	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
	<i>Bulbophyllum</i> sp. 4	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
Chroniochilus Epiphytic	<i>Chroniochilus</i> cf. <i>minimus</i>	Basecamp
Coelogyne Epiphytic	<i>Coelogyne</i> sp. 1	Gerowong
	<i>Coelogyne</i> sp. 2	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
	<i>Coelogyne</i> sp. 3	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
	<i>Coelogyne</i> sp. 4	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
	<i>Coelogyne</i> sp. 5	Sg. Sinalaan 8
	<i>Coelogyne</i> sp. 6	Sg. Sinalaan 9
Cymbidium Terrestrial	<i>Cymbidium</i> cf. <i>ensifolium</i> subsp. <i>haematodes</i>	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
Dendrobium Epiphytic	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp. 1	Gerowong
	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp. 2	Gerowong
	<i>Dendrobium</i> sp. 3	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
Dendrochilum Epiphytic	<i>Dendrochilum</i> cf. <i>longifolium</i>	Gerowong
Dienia Terrestrial	<i>Dienia ophrydis</i>	Gerowong
	<i>Dienia ophrydis</i>	Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak
	<i>Dienia ophrydis</i>	Sg. Sinalaan 10



Agrostophyllum stipulatum



Arachnis flos-aeris



Chroniochilus minimus

Environment

Genus	Species	Location
Eria Epiphytic	<i>Eria</i> sp. 1	Gerowong
Flickingeria Epiphytic	<i>Flickingeria</i> sp. 1 <i>Flickingeria</i> sp. 2 <i>Flickingeria</i> sp. 3 <i>Flickingeria</i> sp. 4	Gerowong Gerowong Gerowong Sg. Sinalaan 4
Grosourdyia Epiphytic	<i>Grosourdyia appendiculata</i>	Gerowong
Liparis Epiphytic	<i>Liparis gibbosa</i> <i>Liparis</i> sp. 1	Gerowong Sg. Sinalaan 7
Nephelaphyllum Terrestrial	<i>Nephelaphyllum pulchrum</i>	Sg. Sinalaan 3
Thrixspermum Epiphytic	<i>Thrixspermum centipeda</i>	Gerowong
Vanilla Epiphytic/Climbing	<i>Vanilla</i> sp. 1 <i>Vanilla</i> sp. 2	Gerowong Sg. Sinalaan 6
Indetermined Epiphytic	Unknown sp. 1 Unknown sp. 2 Unknown sp. 3	Gerowong Batu Dinding/Laimong Peak Sg. Sinalaan 11

All orchids recorded in SICA are protected under Schedule II of the Sabah Wildlife Conservation Enactment (WCE1997) and Appendix II of CITES, which means proper permits are required for collection and international trade to prevent exploitation.



Dienia ophrydis



Nephelaphyllum pulchrum

While the assessment was limited in scope and duration, it revealed the **rich orchid biodiversity** within SICA's High Conservation Value (HCV) areas. Researchers emphasised the importance of ongoing studies to uncover more species and further enhance conservation efforts.



Thrixspermum centipeda



Thrixspermum centipeda



Vanilla sp.

Sources: Nordin F. A. et al. 2022.
Notes on the Orchids of
Sekar Imej Conservation Area, Sabah.
Universiti Sains Malaysia.

Paitan District

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



Paitan, once a small Tombonuo tribe village, is located in the Paitan River Valley on the East Coast of Sabah. The name “Paitan” originates from the word *pait* in Tombonuo language, which translates to fish, reflecting its rich aquatic resources.



Today, Paitan's economy has evolved from subsistence farming and logging to modern agriculture and aquaculture. Fertile river plains now host large-scale oil palm and rubber plantations. The mangrove forests along the East Coast support fishing communities, with Jambongan Island emerging as a key landing base for fresh catches.

Notably, swiftlet nest production has gained prominence, adding to Paitan's economic diversity. With sustainable fishing practices and healthy riverine and marine ecosystems, economic resilience in the district continues to grow. The district showcases a blend of traditional practices and modern agricultural methods, reflecting the adaptability and resilience of its communities in the face of changing economic conditions.

From the 1960s to the late 1990s, Paitan gained prominence as a logging hub, using the Paitan River to transport timber to Sandakan. On 4 January 1994, it was declared a sub-district and on 1 August 2024, elevated to full district status — Sabah's 29th and youngest district. Improved road connectivity, such as the Nangoh-Paitan-Kanibongan route, has enhanced access to nearby towns like Kota Marudu (113 km) and Sandakan (230 km). The nearest towns are Pekan Pitas (69 km) and Pekan Beluran (198 km).

Economic Activities in Paitan District

Paitan District, located in Sabah, Malaysia, is characterised by its three primary rivers: Sungai Sugut, Sungai Paitan and Sungai Tangkarason. These rivers have historically played a crucial role in supporting the livelihoods of local communities. The fertile plains along these waterways have provided an ideal environment for agriculture, making farming the predominant economic activity among the residents. The tribes inhabiting the area are well-versed in traditional practices such as hunting and fishing, which have been integral to their subsistence for generations.



Paitan District

Continued

Social

Paitan Five-Year Plan

The Paitan Five-Year Plan stands as a pivotal initiative aimed at addressing the pressing infrastructural challenges faced by the Paitan District, which has recently been elevated to full district status. Currently, the district's hub, Pekan Paitan, is limited to basic amenities, including a secondary school, a healthcare clinic, a police station and a few inadequately planned commercial structures.

The proposed Nangoh-Paitan-Kanibongan road project plays a pivotal role in enhancing connectivity, attracting tourists and unlocking the region's natural beauty. This comprehensive blueprint focuses on strengthening infrastructure, boosting economic resilience and ensuring environmental sustainability, to transform Paitan into a vibrant and livable district that celebrates its cultural and natural heritage.



District Officer
Mr. Joloning Joe Majambu

Under the leadership of District Officer Mr. Joloning Joe Majambu, Paitan's Five-Year Plan aims to address infrastructural gaps and foster growth with key initiatives such as:

- Construction of government facilities (e.g. MPOB, Land & Survey office, Registration office).
- Establishment of hospitals and sports complexes.
- Development of Paitan Smart City, a visionary urban project combining governance, infrastructure and ecotourism.
- Positioning as an ecotourism hotspot, Paitan boasts attractions like Jambongan Island and surrounding forest reserves which are home to endangered species such as sun bears, orangutans and clouded leopards.

Culture, Customs, and Beliefs

Home to 45,000 people, Paitan hosts diverse ethnic groups, including the Tombonuo, Sungai, Sugut, Lingkabau, Bowang, Inokang, Puawang, Kadazandusun (Sandayo, Rungus, Talantang and Gobukon), and Bajau-Ubian tribes. Coastal, river valley and upland settlements reflect unique cultural identities. Festivals such as Aidilfitri, Christmas and the Harvest Festival, along with the traditional ceremonies like the Magahau and Togunggu Festivals, strengthen community bonds and highlight the rich cultural heritage of the district.

Traditional healing practices, such as the Tombonuo mugangu, showcase the community's deep connection to ancestral customs. Celebrations like Magahau and Togunggu further emphasise cultural pride, making Paitan a vibrant center of tradition and unity.



Mr. Asrif Bin Mahmud



Mr. Asrif Bin Mahmud
General Manager, Sabah Operation

Sustainability Insight

In an era marked by environmental degradation and the urgent need for sustainable practices, the role of a general manager extends beyond business operations to broader responsibilities, including support for conservation efforts. As the General Manager of Wilmar Plantations Sabah Operations, Mr. Asrif brings both local expertise and a forward-thinking approach to sustainability in the oil palm industry.

A Journey Rooted in Dedication

Born and raised in Sandakan, Mr. Asrif pursued higher education at Universiti Putra Malaysia before joining IPAS training and beginning his career at Sapi Plantations. Through perseverance, he rose to lead Wilmar Sabah's operations, championing innovations to overcome industry challenges.

Notably, to alleviate the challenges of labour shortage especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, Mr. Asrif spearheaded the mechanisation of field operations, such as Fresh Fruit Bunch evacuation and the Empty Fruit Bunch (EFB) 1-2-1 system in Sarawak. Despite initial challenges, such as gaining workers' acceptance of the machinery as an aid rather than a threat to their jobs, these advancements have reduced reliance on manual labour while promoting effective EFB management, a practice that improves soil health and minimises environmental impact.

Embracing Sustainability for a Resilient Future

Reflecting on his journey, Mr. Asrif acknowledges the transformative role of sustainability in securing the industry's future. He advocates responsible cultivation methods, biodiversity preservation and community engagement to balance economic growth with ecological integrity. By prioritising sustainability, Wilmar not only protects the environment but also aligns with global consumer demand for ethical practices.

The SICA Project: A Model for Conservation and Community Development

The SICA project exemplifies Wilmar's dedication to sustainability. This initiative integrates conservation efforts with community development, aiming to protect biodiversity through community-based conservation while supporting local livelihoods. Research plays a pivotal role in understanding both ecological needs and community aspirations, as well as guiding strategies that foster long-term harmony between conservation and the well-being of locals.

Looking ahead, Mr. Asrif envisions SICA as a collaborative model for stakeholders to protect forests and empower communities. Through education, engagement and innovative practices, the project aspires to inspire collective action for biodiversity conservation across landscapes.

"Balancing environmental protection with community needs is the key to sustainable harmony," he emphasised. By staying committed to these principles, Wilmar aims to position SICA as a role model for conservation management in plantations and community landscapes.

SICA Project Activities

FAUNA STUDY WITH HUTAN



From 23 April to 7 May 2024, 16 members from the HUTAN team collaborated with SICA Rangers to conduct a wildlife survey in SICA, namely Parcel 4 and Sapit Sugut estate.

The team conducted nine different types of studies including Vertebrate Species and Sign Survey (VESS), bird observation, small mammal surveys, recce walks, frog observation, night spotting, bioacoustics recording, drone surveys and camera trapping.

This initiative provided a valuable learning opportunity for the SICA team, enhancing their skills in using new research equipment and data collection methods. A variety of animal species were observed and identified, including protected species such as the sun bear and clouded leopard. The findings from this survey highlighted the rich biodiversity of SICA and its landscape and underscored the importance of continued conservation efforts in the area.



SOCIALISATION WITH BOUSTEAD ESTATE MANAGEMENT

A meeting was held on 4 July 2024 to brief Boustead estate managers and staff on Wilmar's conservation initiatives, including the establishment of SICA and the HCV in Sapi Sugut, while also exploring potential collaboration for areas connected to SICA. The discussion also highlighted pressing issues such as encroachment around Lingkabau Forest Reserve, which borders the Boustead and Wilmar estates. The meeting aimed to raise awareness among Boustead's workforce and foster collaborations to address these challenges effectively.



SICA Project Activities

HONORARY WILDLIFE WARDEN COURSE, SABAH WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT



From 13 to 15 August 2024, the Wilmar Sustainability team collaborated with the Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) and with the support of SICA team, to organise an honorary Wildlife Warden course at SICA Centre. A total of 30 participants attended the course, with eight Wildlife officers from SWD serving as trainers and facilitators.



The course included 15 SICA rangers, five community representatives, nine HCV personnel and three Conservation team members.



Participants were trained on the Sabah Wildlife Conservation Enactment 1997, focusing on the roles and responsibilities of honorary wardens. Key topics included pressing wildlife management issues, authority of honorary wildlife wardens, type of offenses and penalties, investigating and preventing wildlife-related offences, managing prohibited items, making arrests and preparing police reports. Trainers also addressed pressing wildlife management issues.



This initiative aims to raise awareness amongst local communities and establish a local enforcement team to tackle wildlife crimes like illegal poaching or hunting, keeping or possession of protected species under the Schedule 1, 2 and 3 or the Sabah Wildlife Enactment 1997. Participants must pass practical and written assessments to be officially registered as Honorary Wildlife Wardens. The course reinforces community-led conservation and strengthens the enforcement of wildlife protection laws in Sabah.



SICA Project Activities

WILDLIFE AWARENESS OUTREACH PROGRAMME (WAOP) – JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAMME

On 24 September 2024, the Junior Ranger programme was held at Sekar Imej Estate, involving 32 Humana school students and 26 hostel students in morning and afternoon sessions. The programme aimed to nurture a love for nature and educate students on wildlife conservation and environmental protection.

Junior Ranger Programme successfully inspired a new generation to protect and cherish nature.



Students explored practical ways to preserve wildlife and safeguard forest ecosystems from threats like illegal logging, pollution and habitat destruction. Hands-on activities, including tree planting, natural area clean-ups and wildlife observation, provided valuable learning experience. Level 1 students participated in creative activities such as colouring and nature art, fostering their understanding of nature's beauty and importance. The programme equipped students with knowledge and practical skills to become environmental stewards and encouraged them to spread awareness in their communities. By blending education with engaging activities, the Junior Ranger Programme successfully inspired a new generation to protect and cherish nature.



"When a child connects with nature, they discover their place in the world and the responsibility they have to care for it."

– David Suzuki

Canadian academic, science broadcaster and environmental activist

SICA Project Activities

COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME (CBCL) – “HARI SANTAI SARA HIDUP PELBAGAI”

The “Hari Santai Sara Hidup Pelbagai” programme was successfully held on 6 November 2024 at Dewan Besar Kg Mononood (Hall Jumlee Bakong). It was a gathering of 54 participants from three nearby villages: Kg. Mononood, Kg. Kaiboton and Kg. Matanggal (Kinadaan). The event was organised by the SICA team in collaboration with various government agencies including the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB), Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and SWD. The programme aimed to raise awareness and explore potential economic opportunities to improve and support the livelihood of the local community.

Key activities included the distribution of seedlings by Mr. Jamulan (community from Kg. Kaiboton), a briefing on Wilmar's No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation (NDPE) policy, SICA initiatives, and the formation of a Community Action Group to empower local communities and promote action on the ground. Expert speakers were invited to share their knowledge across various topics.



Mr. Jamali Parkata (MPOB)

Insights into incentive schemes and financial assistance for smallholder palm oil farmers.

Mr. Kelvin Pang (SFD)

Discussion on forest plantations as alternative income sources.

Mr. Aznandy Yakub (SWD)

Briefing on procedures and economic prospects associated with swiftlet nesting and licensing.



Participant feedback reflected a strong interest in the topics, indicating the programme's significant impact. This initiative not only empowered the community but also laid the groundwork for future programmes to support the growth and development of the local community.

SICA Project Activities

SICA NURSERY – RACP



The SICA Nursery & Tree Planting Programme recently marked a milestone with the planting of 900 forest trees in the Hibumas 2 estate. This accomplishment, led by the dedicated SICA Rangers, represents a key step in restoring and enhancing local ecosystems.



The SICA Nursery serves as a vital component of the tree planting programme. The nursery cultivates native tree species for the forest rehabilitation in the Sugut region while also educating the community on forestry conservation. By providing sustainable saplings for forest rehabilitation, it supports ecosystem restoration and promotes biodiversity, reinforcing Wilmar's commitment to ecological preservation and sustainability.

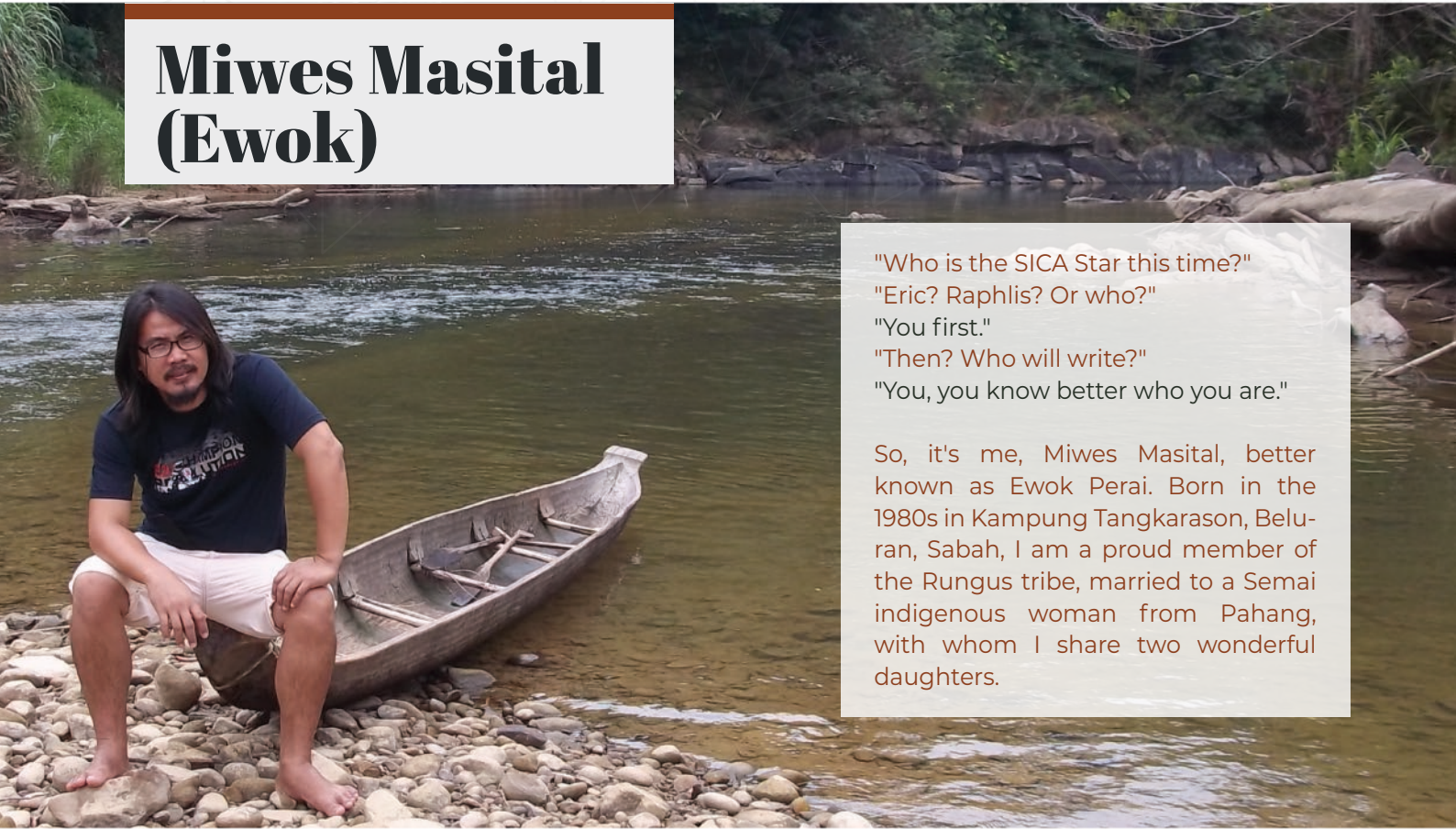


Forest Stewards - Who am I?

In every newsletter, we invite a member of the SICA team to share his experience and aspirations.

SICA Star

Miwes Masital (Ewok)



"Who is the SICA Star this time?"

"Eric? Raphlis? Or who?"

"You first."

"Then? Who will write?"

"You, you know better who you are."

So, it's me, Miwes Masital, better known as Ewok Perai. Born in the 1980s in Kampung Tangkarason, Beluran, Sabah, I am a proud member of the Rungus tribe, married to a Semai indigenous woman from Pahang, with whom I share two wonderful daughters.

In 1998, after finishing secondary school, I moved to Kuala Lumpur and volunteered as a teacher for Semai and Temiar indigenous villages in Hulu Jerai, Pahang and Hulu Nenggiri, Kelantan. Living in remote rainforest areas, I taught writing, reading and counting while developing a deep connection with the indigenous people. Later, I pursued acting and filmmaking, but my relationship with the natives remained strong. In 2012, I co-founded a community school focusing on indigenous culture and traditions.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, I returned to Sabah, working with Wilmar as a daily-rate worker before being appointed as a Sustainability and Conservation Field Conductor in 2022. Though the salary is lower than in my previous roles in Kuala Lumpur, the opportunity to work with nature and local communities has been fulfilling. SICA is not just a project to me — it's a mission to restore degraded forests, combat illegal activities and educate communities on environmental stewardship.

The Tombonuo River People have become part of my journey, and working with SICA feels like a dream come true as it offers me the opportunity to collaborate with local communities while fulfilling my passion for protecting the mother nature. I hope this initiative inspires other plantations or farms, especially in the oil palm industry, to embrace conservation and community development.

I am a proud member of the Rungus tribe



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

PRIMATE MONITORING TRAINING, SABAHMAS



The training aimed to enhance knowledge and skills in primate monitoring, particularly for observing Proboscis monkeys. On the first day, the HUTAN team provided a detailed briefing on best practices for field surveys and data collection. Over the next three days, the Sabahmas team conducted morning and evening field observations, learning how to identify primate groups, record sightings and differentiate species.



The team also visited HUTAN's orangutan study site, engaging in recce walks and orangutan observation. On the final day, discussions focused on data collection, analysis and interpretation techniques. The training concluded with words of encouragement from HUTAN, leaving the Sabahmas team better equipped to apply their newfound skills in conservation efforts. This training not only strengthened their technical expertise but also reinforced the importance of preserving Sabah's unique primate biodiversity.



Other Wilmar Conservation Activities

From 21 to 25 September 2024, the Sabahmas Riparian team attended the primate monitoring training conducted by HUTAN in Sukau, Kinabatangan. The Sabahmas Riparian Team was led by William Paten (Lead Spotter) and comprises George Jamri (Data Recorder), Shahrul Ridzwan bin Hussin (Spotter), Zakheus Junus (Spotter) and Junus Duanis (Boatman).



HCV ASSESSMENT AT WILMAR ESTATES (KIABAU, SABAHMAS AND SARAWAK OPERATIONS)

In July and December 2024, the sustainability department embarked on a HCV Upgrade Assessment for Kiabau, Sabahmas and Sarawak operations. Conducted by the Malaysian Environmental Consultant (MEC), an organisation trusted for the quality and reliability of its reports, the assessment was undertaken to update the biodiversity data for the estates. The findings have enabled Wilmar to better understand HCV and its ecological significance. This ensures the sustainable balance of nature and supports the company's commitment to responsible land use and biodiversity conservation.



Other Wilmar Conservation Activities

ENVIRONMENT BOOKLET

In December 2024, we published a booklet to support the implementation of responsible environmental practices and the conservation of ecosystems.



This initiative is part of our efforts to build capacity and share knowledge with small-holders and suppliers across the wider landscape where we operate, as well as workers in Wilmar-owned operations.

The booklet is available in three languages: [English](#), [Bahasa Indonesia](#) and [Bahasa Melayu](#). By promoting the adoption of best management practices, it aims to mitigate environmental impacts associated with production processes.

The booklet covers some of the following topics:

- Protection of ecosystems
- Use and conservation of water
- Soil protection
- Protection of biodiversity
- Precautions during replanting
- Management and disposal of waste
- Adherence to legal compliance

Other Wilmar Conservation Activities

AWARENESS TALK TO STAKEHOLDERS AND SARAWAK OPERATION BY UNIMAS

Engaging stakeholders and raising awareness about biodiversity is essential for conserving natural treasures within plantation landscapes. In collaboration with UNIMAS, awareness talks were held in Saremas from 18 to 19 September 2024, attended by 24 participants from five longhouses and 40 Wilmar estate staff.



Prof. Dr. Mohd Azlan Jayasilan bin Abdul Gulam Azad, Director of the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, delivered an inspiring talk on the rich biodiversity of Sarawak and Bukit Durang. He highlighted Borneo's exceptional endemism, threats to biodiversity and species distribution within oil palm-forest landscapes. The findings emphasised the critical role of the Bukit Durang Conservation Area in preserving Sarawak's natural heritage.



HERPETOFAUNA AND PYTHON STUDY IN SAREMAS AND BUKIT DURANG

From 16 September to 10 October 2024, the Institute of Biodiversity and Environmental Conservation, UNIMAS, conducted herpetofauna research in the HCV areas and drainage systems of Suai, Saremas 1, and Saremas 2 Estates. Led by Prof. Dr. Indraneil Das, the study aimed to assess herpetofauna diversity and habitat usage, with support from a dedicated team including Mr. Izneil Nashriq, Ms. Shreya Bhattacharya, Ms. Veronica Leah and Mr. Jerry Wong Sia How.

The key study titled *Spatial Use in a Metacommunity, Thermoregulatory Behaviour, and Threat Response of The Bornean Short-tailed Python (Python breitensteini)*, employed advanced radio telemetry and temperature data logging to analyse spatial use, movement patterns and thermoregulation of *Python breitensteini* and *Malayopython reticulatus*. The research was strongly supported by the Wilmar HCV team and its findings will play a crucial role in shaping future conservation strategies in the region.



Other Wilmar Conservation Activities

CONSERVATION & RECREATIONAL LANDSCAPE PROJECT (CRLP) AND PLASTIC WASTE ZERO CAMPAIGN

Wilmar's operations in Sabah and Sarawak have shown strong support for the CRLP through increased tree planting efforts. From April to October 2024, 4,928 trees were planted in Sabah and 2,171 in Sarawak, primarily as part of riparian and conservation area restoration. Key units involved include Sabahmas, Reka Halus, Sapi, Sapi Sugut, Saremas 2 and Suai. To date, a total of 65,629 trees have been planted under this initiative.



Complementing CRLP is the Plastic Waste Zero Campaign, initiated by both Mr. Gurcharan Singh and Mr. Kiaw Che Weng in 2021 to promote sustainability and environment stewardship among employees. Management, staff and workers actively participate in activities like gotong-royong and plastic-free days. Recyclable plastics are segregated internally and then collected by contractors. This helps to reduce landfill waste, protect ecosystems and contribute to healthier surroundings. As of October 2024, a remarkable **116,162.50 kg of plastic waste** has been collected in Sabah operations alone.



Both initiatives underscore Wilmar's strong commitment to environmental conservation and its responsibility to foster a clean and sustainable environment for its employees and surrounding communities.

"Living sustainably is not about perfection but about making small, consistent choices—like planting trees and saying no to plastic—that create a big impact."
- Unknown

"When we protect biodiversity, we safeguard the foundation of livelihoods, food security, and resilience for all people."

– Elizabeth Maruma Mrema
Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)



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 to 2024.

List of Contributors

Asrif Bin Mahmud | Chin Sing Yun | Juanan Jamulan | Jublin Mukreng | Maichal Isthyben | Marliane Babit | Mc Millan
Miwes Masital (Ewok) | Nur Farahin | Owen Niexrickzon & SICA Rangers