



08 SEP, 2026

Sabah maintains 63 pct forest cover

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



Page 1 of 3

Sabah maintains 63 pct forest cover

SANDAKAN: Sabah has maintained its forest cover at 63 per cent, the highest among Malaysia's three regions, according to the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) 2025 Annual Report.

The 306-page report was showcased by the Chief Conservator of Forests Datuk Zulkifli Suara at the SFD headquarters here on Sunday, highlighted the department's achievements and activities throughout 2025.

Among the key achievements was the official recognition of the Pin Supu Forest Reserve in Kinabatangan as Malaysia's first terrestrial IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Area.

The recognition by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is awarded for excellence in conservation and protected area management.

The department said Sabah was also moving towards achieving 30 per cent Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) through gazettelement, in line with the State's efforts to address climate change and support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

In legislation, the Forest (Amendment) Enactment 2025 was passed to regulate forest-based carbon activities and establish a framework for carbon trading.

Forest-based carbon activities in forest reserves, State land and titled land will be licensed under agreed terms and conditions to protect the State's interests.

Sabah also recently passed the Climate Change and Carbon Governance Enactment 2025, strengthening its framework for environmental conservation and climate change resilience.

The Sabah Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) was upgraded to Sabah TLAS+, while the department's e-Removal Pass System was launched in December in line with the international standard under the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR).

Despite challenging global economic and trade conditions, the department collected RM164.7 million in forest revenue in 2025.

Throughout the five-year Greening Malaysia-100 Million Tree Planting Campaign from 2021 to 2025, nearly 27 million trees were planted in Sabah, equivalent to 67 per cent of the State's target of 40 million trees.

The department also organised various seminars, workshops, events, dialogues and training programmes, including the International Conference on the Green Heart of Borneo on Oct 22 and 23, themed "Advancing Climate Resilience, Conservation and Sustainable Livelihood".

The State-level International Day of Forests was held at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) on April 24, themed "Forests and Food", while the Majlis Apresiasi Perhutanan (MAPT) 2025 was also held during the year.

The department said it also organised a statewide Forestry Speech and Quiz Competition for secondary schools to raise awareness among younger people about the importance of forests.

It received several awards in 2025, including the Special Award for Best Human Resource Management and a five-star rating for its Human Resource Information System (SM2) from the State Public Service Department.

It also received the Best

Record Management award from the Sabah State Archives and was first runner-up for the Independent Web Innovator Award by the State Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The year also marked the inception of major activities under the Integrated Landscape Management for Sustainable Food Systems, Land Use and Restoration Project in Sabah (FOLUR).

Under the 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025), the department undertook 30 State-funded and 30 Federal-funded development projects.

Expenditure reached 99 per cent for State development projects and 99.8 per cent for Federal development projects over the five-year period.

On forest protection and enforcement, existing initiatives were enhanced, including drone-based aerial surveys, honorary forest rangers and forest checking stations.

The department also strengthened partnerships and training with government agencies, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and local communities, alongside amendments to relevant forest laws.

In research, 113 publications and scientific reports were produced in 2025, with more than 50 research collaborations involving local and international agencies.

The Forest Research Centre conducted more than 40 research-related activities, while the Rainforest Discovery Centre organised about 107 environmental education programmes.

Meanwhile, 38 individuals



08 SEP, 2026

Sabah maintains 63 pct forest cover

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



graduated from forestry courses at the Sabah Forestry Institute (FORiNS) in 2025.

The report, which documents the department's projects, activities and achievements throughout the year, is available

on the SFD website.

The department described the annual report as its key performance indicator or "report card" for 2025.

Zulkifli, meanwhile, acknowledged SFD personnel

and stakeholders for their contributions towards sustainable forest management.



Zulkifli (third left) and his deputies with the SFD 2025 Annual Report and members of the editorial team.



08 SEP, 2026

Sabah maintains 63 pct forest cover

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



SUMMARIES

SANDAKAN: Sabah has maintained its forest cover at 63 per cent, the highest among Malaysia’s three regions, according to the Sabah Forestry Department (SED) 2025 Annual Report. The 306-page report was showcased by the Chief Conservator of Forests Datuk Zulkifli Suara at the SFD headquarters here on Sunday, highlighted the department's achievements and activities throughout 2025.