

WWF-M'sia, UMS to hold scientific expedition to Liwagu

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KOTA KINABALU: WWF-Malaysia in collaboration with Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will be holding a scientific expedition in the Liwagu sub-catchment area in Tambunan from November 10 to 14.

The objective of this expedition is to gather information that contributes towards building critical knowledge for supporting the management of the Liwagu Sub-catchment area and the natural resources within it.

The expedition will include surveys and investigations, as well as identification and establishment of sampling and research plots for future data collection.

The collaboration between WWF-Malaysia and UMS will

continue beyond the expedition and will extend throughout further research undertakings in the Liwagu sub-catchment area in the future, including in documentation and distribution of research findings.

"UMS is very excited to work with WWF-Malaysia and we believe that in this collaboration, we can complement each other in terms of expertise, skills and resources," says Dr Abdul Hamid Ahmad, director of ITBC (Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation), UMS.

Daria Mathew, WWF-Malaysia Freshwater Coordinator agrees and says that "this expedition will be an interesting one as this will be WWF-Malaysia's first scientific expedition that focuses on upland

catchment area in Sabah. With their scientific expertise, UMS is definitely a strategic partner."

The Liwagu sub-catchment in Tambunan has been WWF-Malaysia's project area since January 2010, and will end by December 2012. It is fully funded by HSBC Bank Malaysia Bhd. This project site focuses on sustainable management of freshwater resources and water catchment. Its core targets are to improve the protection and sustainable management of freshwater resources, enhance management, conservation and restoration of wildlife in the area as well as to enhance the capacity and participation of local communities in catchment and natural resources management.