



Sam (middle) with representatives from KTS, UMS, agencies and participants in a group photo.

160 join conservation expedition

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SANDAKAN: A total of 160 participants are joining the Sungai Rawog Conservation Area Scientific Expedition organised jointly by KTS Plantation Sdn Bhd and Sabah Forestry Department starting Wednesday until Aug 18.

The participants are from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Wildlife Department, Sabah Parks, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and other relevant agencies in the state.

They were flagged off by Sabah Forest Conservation Chief Datuk Sam Manan and Sabah KTS Plantation Region (Forest) Manager Collin Goh.

In his speech, Sam said the scientific expedition, which aimed at exploring and documenting the biodiversity in Sungai Rawog conservation area measuring 3,069 hectares, was the first in its series.

"The documentation of the biodiversity of Sungai Rawog conservation area is in line with the Heart of Borneo Initiative,

which emphasises on forest conservation and creating wildlife connectivity," he said.

Sam said the area was part of Lokan Segaliud Sandakan Forest Reserve measuring a total of 57,247 hectares and managed based on the sustainable forest management principles.

This forest reserve is managed by KTS Plantation since 1993 under the Sustainable Forest Management Licence Agreement, he said.

He added the implementation of the scientific expedition was also in line with the efforts to enhance conservation through the memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the Sabah Forestry Department, UMS and KTS Plantation two years ago.

Sam said among other programmes implemented through the MoU were research on wildlife, forest camps and forest rehabilitation assessments.