

Forestry Dept working with UMS on SOP development

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KOTA KINABALU: The Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and the Faculty of Tropical Forestry, Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) signed a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop the standard operating procedure (SOP) for Sabah's forest above-ground carbon density mapping for incentive payment of REDD-Plus forest carbon projects in Sabah.

In accordance with the SOP of the current Covid-19 pandemic, the signing of the MoU was conducted through a digital solution in honoring the spirit of the collaboration which is essential in these challenging times to enable us all to achieve more and to emerge stronger together.

The main aim of the MoU is to evaluate the use of satellite remote sensing-based for aboveground carbon density

estimation in the tropical forest of Sabah. The works will involve a comprehensive evaluation on the use of the satellite remote sensing-based approaches in comparison to the airborne LiDAR approach in the tropical forest of Sabah based on existing field data.

The chief conservator of forests, Frederick Kugan, signed the MoU at the Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) headquarters in Sandakan on June 25 and was witnessed by Dr Robert Ong, the Deputy Chief Conservator of Forests (Research & Development). UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk ChM. Ts. Dr. Taufiq Yap Yun Hin and Luqman Ridha Anwar, the Registrar of UMS, signed the MoU in UMS, Kota Kinabalu.

The signing of the MoU was witnessed by Rosila Anthony, the

Head of Forest Sectoral Planning (FSP) Division cum the Sabah EU REDD+ Project Coordinator, Associate Professor Dr Normah Awang Besar and Professor Gs. Dr Phua Mui How, the Dean and Deputy Dean (Research and Innovation) of the Faculty of Tropical Forestry, UMS.

The MoU signing was also to support the development of the EU REDD-Plus Project Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System.

The EU REDD-Plus is an eight-year project (2014-2021) funded by the European Union (EU), with a specific objective to contribute to the sustainable and low carbon development in the State of Sabah and is currently working on three demonstration sites in Kg Gana, Kota Marudu, Kinabatangan and Kinabalu Ecolinc area.