

BUSINESS TIMES

Forum stresses need to protect 3 iconic species

BENTONG. The Biodiversity Forum 2024, organised by the Malaysian Palm Oil Conservation Foundation (MPOCF), yesterday highlighted the importance of safeguarding three iconic wildlife species in Malaysia.

The inaugural weekend-long event at Gunung Highlands, held in collaboration with the Wildlife and National Parks Conservation Department (Perhilitan) and Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris as strategic partners, carries the theme "The Other Malaysian: Living Together harmoniously".

MPOCF chairman Datuk Md Zaidulridha Kerasud the forum, also known as Biodiversity 2024, served as a vital platform for conservation scientists and plantation sustainability professionals.

About 150 people attended, joined by another 150 online participants and represent more than 50 companies.

This forum not only platform for sharing knowledge and experiences but also an opportunity to foster collaboration and partnerships among individuals and organisations dedicated to biodiversity conservation.

"Biodiversity 2024 is packed with enlightening sessions across three days, covering a wide range of topics relevant to conservation science and practice," he said in his speech.

He noted that the objectives of Biodiversity 2024 were closely aligned with the key drivers of sustainability, focusing on issues such as the importance of biodiversity conservation, and showcasing



Plantation and Conservation Ministers Datuk Seri Ahmad Hishamuddin (left) visiting a tiger exhibit at the Biodiversity Forum 2024 organised by Malaysian Palm Oil Conservation Foundation at Gunung Highlands yesterday. BY M. SMO. DA. 11.6

success stories and inspiring them. As a major palm land use and agricultural specialisation in the country, tropical biodiversity conservation is an environment of responsibility to respect the rights of local communities, protect their habitats and species by actively engaging conservation efforts.

Conservation initiatives help to ensure palm oil cultivation is implemented in a sustainable manner that maintains ecosystem health, and fertility and productivity, thereby safeguarding the industry's future.

"The palm oil industry has a responsibility to respect the rights of local communities, protect their livelihoods and preserve their cultural heritage. Conservation efforts can help foster positive relationships with communities and demonstrate a commitment to social responsibility."

By actively participating in conservation projects and initiatives, palm oil companies can ensure compliance with regulations and standards, thereby enhancing their reputation and market access," he added.

Bruce Malaysia representative director Ahmad Hishamuddin kicked off the two-day forum with a keynote address.

The official launch was officiated by Plantation and Conservation Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Hishamuddin. The forum also held a side launch for the newly published MPOCF and Perhilitan titled "Palm Oil Conservation Program Tapis Hutan Lipur" book at the forum.

The book serves as guidance and reference for stakeholders and plantation managers on measures needed to manage wildlife on a plantation.

A gala dinner event will be held today to mark the achievements of the conservation programme.

As part of the forum side events, participants will have the opportunity to visit the National Elephant Conservation Centre in Kuala Gandah, Pahang, and the Malaysian Tiger Conservation Centre in Lanching, Pahang. Other activities include tree planting and bird walks.

The three-day biodiversity forum 2024, which ends tomorrow, will also be broadcast live on the MPOCF Facebook page.

BIODIVERSITY FORUM 2024

FOCUS ON ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION

Industry players urged to be proactive in extolling sustainability of Malaysian palm oil

SKILA AALI, BEYOND REPORTER

PALM oil industry players on a visit to the palm oil conservation forum in the country and social responsibility to the world, about Malaysia's efforts to conserve biodiversity.

Plantation and Conservation Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Hishamuddin yesterday led the panel of speakers at the forum, which was held at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. He used the two-day event to work with stakeholders, including the Malaysian Palm Oil Conservation Foundation (MPOCF), to engage with industry players to adopt sustainable practices.

"Something we can explore is to place orangutan on 2000 abroad, particularly in palm oil plantations, to demonstrate a commitment to environmental and social sustainability."

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Plantation and Conservation Ministers Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Hishamuddin (left) launching the Palm Oil Conservation Program Tapis Hutan Lipur book at the Biodiversity Forum 2024 yesterday. BY M. SMO. DA. 11.6

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"I will propose that to the big palm oil players, to encourage them to adopt conservation and work with NGOs (non-governmental organisations) to breed them. When you have a high reputation, we can place them across abroad."

At the Biodiversity Forum 2024, organised by the MPOCF, yesterday.

Hisham said Malaysia needed to highlight to the global community that it was capable of being an oil palm hub, adding that it was a key challenge to address the needs and to addressing the environmental, especially in terms of its impact on the environment, including the impact of its palm oil production on the environment.

He said the industry should be committed to biodiversity conservation, habitat protection and conservation and development, Malaysia would be a responsible and effective partner in the world.

"This will ultimately lead to increased market access, premium pricing and long-term competitiveness in a global economy that increasingly prioritises sustainability and green products," he said.

The minister noted that palm oil accounted for 3.7 million hectares, or 0.4 per cent of the total of 9.4 million

hectares of plantation in the country.

The palm oil industry contributed 10 per cent of the country's gross domestic product, with RM102 billion in export value and RM10 billion in tax revenue.

At the Biodiversity Forum 2024, the global oil palm market, being the world's No. 2 crude palm oil producer.

Palm oil is also known for its ability and land-efficient culture.

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He said the industry should be committed to biodiversity conservation, habitat protection and conservation and development, Malaysia would be a responsible and effective partner in the world.

"I am very happy to see that our industry players have made considerable efforts in promoting sustainability and biodiversity conservation. Currently, 94 per cent of Malaysia remains under forest cover. Forest conservation is reported to be the United Nations in December last year."

"Many of the large oil palm plantations have been established in biodiversity conservation projects, which in turn will help to produce the Malaysian palm oil industry as a global leader in sustainable products."

On the global front, Malaysia reported 11.1 million tonnes, or 81 per cent, of the 13.6 million tonnes of palm oil produced last year.

It points to the EU stood at 1.4

million tonnes, valued at 2.11 billion (US per cent share), followed by India (1.5 million tonnes) and China (1.1 million tonnes).

At the Biodiversity Forum 2024, Hisham said biodiversity was essential for maintaining ecological balance. It contributed to the economy of many countries, such as palm oil, rubber, and cocoa. He also noted that biodiversity is not only a natural resource but also a key to long-term economic growth and sustainable development.

"In this spirit, I would like to encourage you to be more proactive in promoting sustainability and biodiversity. We need to work together to ensure that our industry remains a global leader in sustainable products."

The Biodiversity Forum 2024 ends tomorrow.

