For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

LATEST STUDY FINDS OIL PALM PLANTATIONS SERVE AS IMPORTANT CORRIDORS FOR SAFE WILDLIFE MOVEMENT

KUALA LUMPUR. 26 MAR 2026 – A recent study has revealed that forest edge areas within oil palm plantations are not merely transitional zones, but function as important ecological corridors that enable wildlife to move safely between forest reserves and surrounding landscapes.

Findings from a study conducted by experts from the Global Environment Centre (GEC) in the vicinity of Binsulok Forest Reserve and Klias Forest Reserve in Beaufort, Sabah indicate that these forest edges play a significant role in supporting the movement of various fauna species.

Wildlife recorded using these corridors include large mammals such as sambar deer, bearded pigs, leopard cats and proboscis monkeys, as well as smaller mammals, reptiles, resident birds and migratory bird species.

Over a 12-month period, a total of 13 camera traps were strategically installed along the boundaries of oil palm plantations adjacent to forest reserves to monitor wildlife movement patterns.

This biodiversity data collection project commenced in December 2024 and concluded in December 2025, involving several privately owned oil palm plantations as well as independent smallholders in the Beaufort district, located in southwestern Sabah.

The study, funded by the Malaysian Palm Oil Green Conservation Foundation (MPOGCF), was carried out in collaboration with various Sabah State Government agencies, including the Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Biodiversity Centre, as well as oil palm plantation companies and smallholders.

The primary objective of the study was to identify wildlife species present in oil palm plantations adjacent to forest reserves, and to further examine biodiversity presence in support of conservation management within peatland ecosystems.

The findings from this biodiversity assessment will serve as a reference to support wildlife conservation management within the Klias Peninsula Peatland Landscape (KPPL).

KPPL is a highly important peatland area comprising intact peat swamp forests and mangrove ecosystems, making it a critical habitat for diverse wildlife species. It also plays a vital role in climate change mitigation and flood management in Beaufort, Sabah.

In addition to biodiversity research, the project also implemented awareness campaigns on peatland fire prevention, promoted responsible land use practices and strengthened biodiversity conservation efforts by engaging local communities, including oil palm smallholders and school students.

The project further supports the important role of smallholders through the establishment of community patrol teams aimed at preventing peatland fires, as well as initiatives to form Community Fire Brigades under the supervision of the Fire and Rescue Department in Beaufort, Sabah.

About MPOGCF

The Malaysian Palm Oil Green Conservation Foundation (MPOGCF) is an initiative established by the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities Malaysia to support conservation efforts related to the palm oil industry and reflects Malaysia's commitment towards environmental sustainability.

Through its various conservation initiatives, MPOGCF aims to enhance the global reputation of the Malaysian palm oil industry by promoting sustainable practices. The Foundation focuses on critical conservation areas within the oil palm landscape, encompassing short-, medium-, and long-term environmental protection and the preservation of the nation's natural heritage.

For immediate release

MPOGCF remains committed to demonstrating that Malaysia's palm oil industry is environmentally responsible, with funding initiatives that support conservation efforts and promote a sustainable green landscape.
For more information, please visit www.mpogcf.org.

Issued by the Strategic Communications Department, MPOGCF.
For futher inquiries, please contact Tuan Nazuri Tuan Ismail (nazuri@mpogcf.org.my / 012-3479144) or Mohd Ariff Ikram Ariffin (ariff@mpogcf.org.my) / 019 259 2747)