

Pahang to make Sg Yu a permanent forest reserve

Move is a bid to help protect wildlife in the area

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KUANTAN: Pahang has approved 127.893ha of land in Sungai Yu, Mukim Batu Yon in Lipis to be turned into a permanent forest reserve to protect wildlife such as the Malayan tiger.

This will connect the existing permanent forest reserves of Ulu Jelai and Tanum to form an ecological corridor.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Wan Rosdy Wan Ismail said the "environmental and wildlife-friendly" decision was made at the state executive council meeting on Wednesday.

"Besides, the state government has also agreed to close the 5.2km Jalan Lama Sungai Yu and gazette 2.05ha government land as the Pahang development, research and Central Forest Spine (CFS) one-stop centre," he said in a statement yesterday.

Wan Rosdy explained that the closure of Jalan Lama Sungai Yu was acceptable as it was rarely used by villagers following the completion of the Central Spine Road in the area.

Even if Jalan Lama Sungai Yu was used, it was only as an alternative road to villagers' farms, he added.

"The closure is also appropriate based on suggestions by the Malaysian Conservation Alliance for Tigers (MYCAT).

"MYCAT informed us of a report that there are poachers,

trespassers and illegal loggers using Jalan Lama Sungai Yu.

"This move will prevent easy entrance into the forest beside the Federal Government's Eco-Viaduct project worth RM60mil."

Wan Rosdy added that according to MYCAT, there was proof of poachers targeting the Malayan tiger and other wildlife using the Eco-Viaduct between February and April.

"So, our decision is right and it also shows the high commitment of the state government to the success of the CFS Masterplan, which is developed in accordance with the tigers' need for a broad and connected forest landscape, especially in Pahang."

Wan Rosdy also said that the gazetting of the 2.05ha land involved the existing Sungai Yu recreational park.

"This decision was made as the basic facilities available at the Sungai Yu recreational park have deteriorated and the level of hygiene unsatisfactory due to the increased number of visitors during weekends and school holidays.

"By making it a one-stop centre, it will provide researchers, both local and foreign, the opportunity to conduct research on the flora and fauna.

"Furthermore, the management of the CFS ecological corridor can be performed more efficiently, including the financial aspects, through research fees to be charged," he added.