

PROTECT TEAM: TACTICAL AND STRATEGIC APPROACH IN STRENGTHENING BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN SABAH

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Abstract

Despite being blessed with the richness of flora and fauna, and becoming one of the key areas for conservation, Sabah has experienced challenges and issues on biodiversity preservation. Forest law enforcement is no longer involved with traditional forestry offences. Major threats of biodiversity extinction are not merely driven by habitat loss or impact of climate change, but also caused by poaching and illegal trading activities. As the main forest law enforcement agency, Sabah Forestry Department has strengthened its capacity in protecting biodiversity integrity. With the technical and financial supports from the State Government and credible local partners, a Special Enforcement Team has been established in 2017. By implementing new tactical approach, Sabah Forestry Department has increased its effectiveness and efficiency in countering and combating environmental crimes.

Keywords: To strengthen enforcement, Forest laws, Poaching of wildlife, Wildlife-trafficking, anti poaching, Native Customary Right, Protect Team, Firearms Unit; K9 Unit, Patrol Deployment Order (PDO)