RE-ENGINEERING CLIMATE CHANGE SOLUTIONS THROUGH MULTIPLE WINS – THE REWILDING AND CONSERVATION OF TERRESTRIAL AND MARINE TOTALLY PROTECTEDAREAS (TPAS) IN SARAWAK

Melvin Gumal[1]*, Oswald Braken[1], Connie Geri[1], James Bali[1] and Rambli Ahmad[1]

[1]*Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Sarawak (MALAYSIA)*

E-mails: melvint@sarawakforestry.com, oswaldtisen@sarawakforestry.com, conniegeri@sarawakforestry.com, jamesbali@sarawakforestry.com, rambliahmad@sarawakforestry.com

Abstract

In December 2020, a year after Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) became the sole custodian of Sarawak's National Parks, Nature Reserves and Wildlife Sanctuaries, andnine months into the Covid-19 pandemic in Malaysia, SFC re-aligned some of its thrusts, research and deliverables for conservation, sustainable livelihoods and climate change mitigation. In a series of management discussions, presentations andworkshops, the re-alignment included investing in competent skill sets of new staff, applied research directed towards management and conservation, and finally amalgamating objectives towards a series of collective conservation projects by harnessing the skills of its teams. These re-aligned conservation projects include "Earth, Sea and Sky", "Rewilding" and "Sarawak Reef Ball Project". Inherent in theseprojects is the: restoration of the environment through planting of native trees; creating wildlife corridors; working with B40 communities to offer alternative livelihood streams; use of environmentally-friendly technology, and engaging with the various parts of the corporate sector in a long-term working relationship via theirEnvironmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) goals. One of the wins in theESG working relationships is long-term carbon sequestration and the liberation of oxygen. The paper delves into potential outputs and outcomes from "Earth, Sea andSky", "Rewilding" and "Sarawak Reef Ball Project".

Keywords: Rewilding, Totally Protected Areas, wildlife conservation (plants and animals), climate change, livelihoods, stakeholders, projected outcomes.