

# TURNING COMMITMENTS INTO CANOPIES: FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION IN SARAWAK

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## Abstract

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) has been recognized as a solution to the global forests loss, which simultaneously contributes to sustainable development through restoring the ecological, social, economic values and functionalities of degraded forest landscapes. As announced by The Premier of Sarawak in March 2019, FLR has been made one of the State's main agendas to ensure that forest remains vibrant, and its complex ecosystem could carry out its natural functions. Therefore, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) is at the forefront of implementing FLR in Sarawak, to protect, sustainably manage and restore the degraded forested ecosystem, while maintaining its self-sustaining functions to provide benefits to both people and biodiversity. FDS also advocates an inclusive FLR participatory process and encourages stakeholders and local communities to be the catalyst for FLR implementation through their active participation in any restoration activities. Hence, for a successful implementation of FLR in Sarawak, FDS as a leading agency is committed on strengthening diverse restoration strategies and other dynamic approaches. This paper will further elaborate on the FLR initiatives and programmes that have been planned and implemented throughout Sarawak as well as the FLR strategy and action plan for the future.

Keywords: Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), degraded forest