KEMENTERIAN TENAGA DAN SUMBER ASLI

KERATAN SURAT KHABAR

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3,000 tree saplings to be planted in Mersing forest reserve under greening initiative

THE Johor Forestry Department hopes that the greening of the Central Forest Spine (CFS) Corridor will ensure sustainable forest management and land use in Peninsular Malaysia as part of efforts to preserve biodiversity.

Department director Datuk Salim Aman said through the initiative, more than 3,000 saplings of non-dipterocarp species or forest trees such as *merbau*, *tampoi* and *kerdas* would be planted in the Mersing Forest Reserve.

The forest reserve, he elaborated, was part of the ecological corridor for the "Improving Connectivity in the Central Forest Spine" (IC-CFS) project and a subset of the Endau Rompin-Ulu Sedili Forest Complex, which is a wildlife habitat and an Orang Asli settlement.

The IC-CFS project was introduced by the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia in 2014, with the aim of conserving biodiversity in the CFS Corridor.

"Tree planting does not only benefit wildlife in the ecological corridor, but it is also among the methods to promote carbon absorption," he said at the CFS Corridor Greening 100 Million Tree Planting Campaign at the Mersing Forest Reserve.

Salim's speech was read by his deputy Abd Ramli Zauyahhudin.

Salim said greening of the 1ha CFS Corridor involved the cooperation of various parties, including the Wildlife and National Parks Department (Perhilitan), Forest Research Institute of Malaysia, the Orang Asli community and Felda.

He said the programme, among other things, provided a platform for biodiversity conservation and wildlife rehabilitation efforts, especially in enhancing IC-CFS ecological connectivity in Labis Timur-Lenggor-Mersing Forest Reserve with funding from the Global Environment Facility and United Nations Development Programme.

"Apart from that, the Endau Rompin Forest Reserve, as the country's second largest mega-microbial diversity area, is an added point towards the conservation of the critical IC-CFS network in the Endau Rompin-Ulu Sedili Forest Complex," he added.

The Johor Forestry Department plans to plant four million trees in five years to achieve Malaysia's greening agenda through the 100 Million Tree Planting Campaign by 2025, with an average of 800,000 trees per year. — Bernama

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