



MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

MEDIA RELEASE

RECOGNITION OF FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE MALAYSIA (FRIM) IN UNESCO SULTAN QABOOS PRIZE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION 2021

Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) was awarded the **2021 UNESCO Sultan Qaboos Prize for Environmental Conservation at the 41st UNESCO General Conference (41GC) in Paris, France, on 17 November 2021**. This prestigious award is conferred to recognise outstanding contributions by individuals, groups of individuals, institutes or organisations in the environment conservation and preservation's effort, consistent with the policies of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

FRIM was selected in this recognition for its initiatives in monitoring and preserving endangered species of national interest. This year, FRIM has published '**Malaysia Red List: Plants of Peninsular Malaysia. Vol. 1 (2021)**' in order to monitor the conservation of critically endangered species in Malaysia. FRIM also has documented the traditional knowledge of Orang Asli and the public community. These are some of the important publications towards the country's conservation effort.

Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources (KeTSA) is proud of this recognition because Malaysia has won this award for the first time since it was introduced in 1991. Apart from FRIM this award is also given to Universidad para la Cooperacion International (UCI), Costa Rica.

FRIM is one of the leading institutions in tropical forest research in the world. It has developed not only research work in biodiversity, forest landscape ecosystems, forest produce, economy, and pre-commercialisation of new or improved products, but also contributed significantly to biodiversity conservation at the national level.

The FRIM campus in Kepong, Selangor is one of the oldest man-made tropical forests and a world model for forest regeneration and reference for tropical forest conservation. This campus has a unique ecosystem in storing diverse tropical flora species and the largest centre for the collection of dipterocarp germplasm.

I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to FRIM for this achievement. Indeed, this achievement is a success for Malaysia in general and particularly to FRIM in reflecting the commitment to create a balance between the conservation of natural resources and development activities through the sustainable development approach.

The ministry will continue to give full support in research and development activities which are crucial in conserving and ensuring the sustainability of the country's rich forest biodiversity.

**YB DATUK SERI TAKIYUDDIN BIN HASSAN
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

NOVEMBER 18TH 2021

