

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT NOTICE

TPAs (Totally Protected Areas) Increased by 95,031.22 Hectares and Approved at the State Assembly Sitting of 24 November 2016

1. At the last State Assembly Sitting of 24 November 2016, another 95,538.53 hectares were added to the network of TPAs (Totally Protected Areas) in Sabah making it a total of 1,874,061.54 hectares, or about 26% of Sabah's surface land area.
2. This augurs well for the long-term target of 30% of Sabah, or some 2.2 million hectares.
3. The recent reclassification and additions included notable parts of important lowland forests of High Conservation Value, such as Kuamut Forest Reserve, which had another 13,927 hectares added on giving the Northern Kuamut Forest Reserve (Class 1) (Protection), a total size of 83,381 hectares, with 69,454 hectares created in 2015.
4. The biodiversity rich central forests (Heart of Sabah) will eventually converge, representing some **1 million hectares of TPAs** in a contiguous conglomerate and unbroken. They include: Ulu Segama-Malua, Kuamut, Danum Valley and buffers, Imbak Canyon and buffers and Maliau Basin and buffers.
5. Mt Trusmadi (Protection) also had some 12,241 hectares added to its boundary and this tourism magnet is now some 90,000 hectares of Protected Montane Forests.
6. This exercise to identify new TPAs shall continue until the target of 30% is reached.
7. At this rate of success, there is a likelihood of full achievement in 2-3 years' time.

