

FGV Launches Sun Bear Conservation Programme

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FGV Holdings Berhad (FGV) today launched the Sun Bear Conservation Programme, which includes the setting up of the first Sun Bear Community Action Group (CAG) in Malaysia.

As part of the holistic approach in implementing the programme, FGV is also publishing guidelines for the CAG entitled *Garis Panduan Pelaksanaan Komuniti Sahabat Beruang*

Matahari and Pengurusan Beruang Matahari di Pusat Menyelamat Hidupan Liar Kebangsaan, which are the first in South East Asia.

FGV Group President and Chief Executive Officer, Dato' Zakaria Arshad said FGV is proud to be in the forefront of the first comprehensive conservation programme in Malaysia focusing on management, research and creating awareness on sun bears.

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"These conservation efforts and creating awareness amongst the local community on the importance of wildlife are in line with FGV Group's commitment to be a sustainable integrated plantation company.

"FGV also aims to have our plantations to become "Wildlife Managed Areas" due to their close proximity to natural forests," he added.

At the event, FGV also launched a book on sustainability entitled "*Kelestarian Alam Sekitar*", a collaborative output between FGV and UKM, which also includes a chapter on sun bear.

Under the Sun Bear Conservation Programme, five Sun Bear CAG communities have been established in areas earmarked to have high probability of wildlife conflict with humans in Kuala Lipis (Pahang), Kuala Terengganu (Terengganu), Sahabat (Sabah), Gerik (Perak) and Mersing (Johor) involving 151 members.

The CAG members have been trained on the technical aspects, planning and promotion of sun bear conservation in their respective areas. This will contribute towards FGV's aim to create a better understanding on issues of biodiversity and wildlife conflicts with humans.

Dato' Zakaria said FGV was also involved in providing sun bear conservation cages at the National Wildlife Rescue Centre (NWRC) since 2016 and so far has managed to save 36 sun bears with 25 having been successfully released to their native habitat after recovery processes.

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