



Silam Coast Conservation Area (SCCA) Restoration Project

Preferred by Nature and [Yayasan Sabah Group](#) have embarked on the "Silam Coast Conservation Area (SCCA) Restoration Project". This ambitious initiative is set in the heart of Lahad Datu, Sabah.

This eight-year project focuses on rehabilitating 100 hectares of the SCCA, an area severely affected by deforestation and land degradation.

The initiative aims to rejuvenate the forest ecosystem through enrichment planting of native trees and liberation treatments, fostering ecosystem restoration, sustainable development and climate change mitigation.

Aligned with the [Preferred by Nature Ecosystem Restoration Standard](#), this project not only aids in environmental recovery but also sets a benchmark for effective and impactful ecosystem restoration.

Key objectives



Forest rehabilitation: Revitalise 100 hectares of degraded forest by planting native trees, including species such as Shorea spp. (Dipterocarps), Hopea spp., and native fruit trees like Durio spp. (durian) and Artocarpus spp. (jackfruit).



Biodiversity enhancement: Improve habitat conditions for diverse wildlife and plant species, fostering a rich and resilient ecosystem.



Climate change mitigation: Combat climate change by increasing forest cover and enhancing carbon sequestration.

Impact and benefits

Environmental impact

- **Biodiversity enhancement and soil stabilisation:** Reintroducing native tree species will restore habitat diversity, supporting a wide range of wildlife and plant species. Fast-growing pioneer species will also stabilise soil, prevent erosion, and improve soil health, ensuring the long-term success of the forest restoration.
- **Climate change mitigation:** The newly planted trees will absorb carbon dioxide, helping to offset emissions and combat global warming.

Social and economic benefits

- **Job creation and infrastructure development:** The project will generate employment opportunities for local residents, including roles in tree planting, maintenance and monitoring. Enhanced infrastructure will improve local amenities and services, benefitting the community's quality of life.
- **Educational opportunities:** Workshops and training sessions will equip local communities with valuable skills in conservation and sustainable land management.

Long-term sustainability

- **Ongoing monitoring and maintenance:** Regular monitoring and maintenance will ensure the continued health and success of the restored forest.
- **Commitment to preservation:** Yayasan Sabah Group's commitment to preserve the project area for at least 30 years will provide stability and continuity, extending the project's benefits well beyond its completion.

Community involvement and empowerment

- **Local leadership:** The integration of local knowledge and leadership will enhance the project's effectiveness and relevance. Local stakeholders will play an active role in decision-making, ensuring that restoration activities align with community needs and values.
- **Cultural preservation:** By working closely with local communities, the project will contribute to preserving cultural heritage and traditional practices, further strengthening the bond between people and their environment.



Phases and activities

Phase 1: Preparation and planning (Year 1)



Invasive species removal: Eradicate non-native plants to prepare the soil for restoration.



Soil preparation: Improve soil conditions to support the growth of native species.

Phase 2: Initial planting and restoration (Years 2-4)



Tree planting: Introduce native tree species including *Shorea* spp., *Hopea* spp., *Durio* spp., and *Artocarpus* spp.



Pioneer species planting: Establish fast-growing pioneer species to stabilise soil and provide shade for slower-growing native trees.



Implementation of restoration techniques: Apply innovative methods to enhance soil and habitat conditions.

Phase 3: Ongoing maintenance and monitoring (Years 4-8)



Regular monitoring: Conduct periodic assessments to evaluate plant growth and forest health.



Weeding and pest control: Perform necessary weeding and pest control to maintain ecosystem health.



Additional plantings: Introduce further native species as the forest matures to increase biodiversity.

Phase 4: Community engagement and education (Throughout project)



Workshops and training: Provide educational workshops and training sessions for local communities on conservation practices and sustainable land management.



Community involvement: Engage local communities in restoration activities to foster a sense of ownership and responsibility.

What is the Ecosystem Restoration Standard

Our Ecosystem Restoration Standard is a global benchmark for assessing restoration performance across projects of all scales and stages.

The Standard provides a structured approach for field-level verification, encompassing a broad spectrum of techniques. It prioritises native species while accommodating the strategic use of alien species where they provide 'nursing' or similar qualities, leading towards the re-establishment of natural forest cover or ecosystem function.

[Learn more](#)

Project partners

Yayasan Sabah Group

Founded in 1966 and based in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, Yayasan Sabah Group focuses on social development and commercial activities within the education, economic wealth distribution and charitable aid sectors.

The Group offers education facilities, creates opportunities for equitable economic wealth distribution, and provides aid to charitable institutions and natural disaster victims. Its commercial activities span across sectors such as tourism, agro plantation, forestry, biotechnology, fisheries, property development and energy.

Preferred by Nature

Preferred by Nature is a non-profit working with farmers, foresters, businesses, NGOs and government bodies in over 100 countries to promote sustainable land management and business practices that benefit people, nature and climate. For 30 years, we have developed solutions to drive positive impacts in production landscapes and supply chains through projects, capacity building and sustainability services, with a focus on land use and supply chains for the greatest potential for positive change.

Preferred by Nature is also officially recognised as an Actor for the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030.