



KUMPULAN YAYASAN SABAH

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YAYASAN SABAH GROUP RECEIVES THE GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE TOURISM COUNCIL'S CERTIFICATION FOR MALIAU BASIN CONSERVATION AREA

KOTA KINABALU (Tuesday): Yayasan Sabah Group (Maliau Basin Conservation Area) was awarded the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) on 23 August 2022 at Sabah International Convention Centre.

The ceremony was officiated by Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister of Sabah, Datuk Abidin Madingkir.

The Maliau Basin Conservation Area is a Class I (Protection) Forest Reserve with a gazetted area of 58,840 ha; under the Maliau Basin Forest Rules 1997 and is the first in Malaysia to be certified by GSTC.

The Maliau Basin Management Committee (MBMC) was established in 1998 by the MBCA Forest Rules, which includes several government agencies in Sabah, local universities, and non-governmental organisations to oversee and execute biodiversity protection, research promotion, education and training, and the integration of conservation, forestry and nature tourism to create a model sustainable forest management area. While Yayasan Sabah Group is responsible for the day-to-day management of MBCA, which in consultation with the MBMC may determine the procedures for the organisation management of the reserves, the regulation access to it, the establishment of facilities within it, and any other matters necessary for its day-to-day management.

Among others, one of the Maliau Basin Conservation Area development guidelines is to ensure that its tourism facilities meet the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) Criteria.

MBCA entered an “in-kind collaboration” agreement with the company Vireo Sustainable Certification (M) Sdn. Bhd. to seek Global Sustainable Tourism Council’s certification for Sustainable Accommodation on 6 July 2020.

Vireo, an organisation recognised for handling the Global Sustainable Tourism Council’s eco-tourism auditing and certification services, performed a pre-audit on the Maliau Basin Studies Centre from 12 to 17 July 2020, and the main audit on 26 April 2022.

On 16 June 2022, Yayasan Sabah Group (Maliau Basin Conservation Area) was certified to meet GSTC’s international requirements and criteria. As a result, the Maliau Basin Conservation Area has been listed among the Global Sustainable Tourism Council Vireo certificate recipients.

The requirements include sustainable management, maximising social and economic benefits through community integration, preserving cultural heritage and environmental sustainability to reduce negative environmental impacts.

This exemplifies that the Maliau Basin Conservation Area complies with the world’s highest social and environmental standards. Yayasan Sabah Group intends to apply for this recognition for relevant areas, particularly the Imbak Canyon Conservation Area (ICCA) and Danum Valley Conservation Areas (DVCA).

It is hoped that this recognition will attract more local and international visitors to the Maliau Basin Conservation Area, which will benefit the Yayasan Sabah Group and the state of Sabah.



Pix 1: Regional Managing Director, Vireo Asia Pacific, Encik Danny Ng (right) presenting the GSTC certification to the Director of Yayasan Sabah cum Executive Chairman of Innoprise Corporation Sdn. Bhd., Dato’ Sri Haji Gulamhaidar @ Yusof bin Khan Bahadar (left), witnessed by Datuk Abidin (centre).

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