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# SIARAN MEDIA

## [ MEDIA RELEASE/STATEMENT ]

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **INIKEA RESOURCES & WILDLIFE SURVEY 2023: GUIDING FUTURE CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**

**KOTA KINABALU (Tuesday):** The ongoing first Innoprise-IKEA Tropical Forest Rehabilitation Project (INIKEA) Resources & Wildlife Survey 2023, conducted from 7 to 20 August 2023, is a groundbreaking survey, designed to traverse a vast area, will be an essential milestone in the continuing conservation efforts in Sabah.

The Director of Yayasan Sabah, Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar @ Yusuf Bin Khan Bahadar, commented, "The Resources & Wildlife Survey is not just about data collection. It's about creating a sustainable blueprint for the land and the rich biodiversity it hosts. We envision the INIKEA Strategic Management Plan as the beacon guiding our steps towards preserving and uplifting this precious area."

The survey's objectives include compiling data for the INIKEA Strategic Management Plan, documentation of wildlife abundance and distribution, assessing potential threats such as poaching, forest fires, and impacts from surrounding land use, determination of possible tourism developments and Identifying research questions for future explorations.

Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar added, "The survey's magnitude mirrors the significance of our objectives. With over 150 participants, including eminent researchers, government agents, and supporting personnel, we aim to leave no stone unturned."

Ten campsites have been identified for the survey, with participants allocated to ensure comprehensive coverage within a 2.5 km radius.

Spearheaded by the Sabah Wildlife Department, the Organising Committee comprises distinguished members, including Sabah Forestry Department, Sabah Parks, Sabah Museum, HUTAN-KOCP, WWF-Malaysia, Sabah Environmental Trust, and various universities.

After the survey concludes, a seminar will spotlight the findings. Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar shared, "This initiative will culminate in a comprehensive report, illuminating the path for the INIKEA Strategic Management Plan. Our vision is clear, a conserved, thriving ecosystem that benefits nature and humanity."

The INIKEA collaboration dates back to 1998 and was initiated following an agreement between Innoprise Corporation Sdn. Bhd. and the Sow-A-Seed Foundation (Insamlingsstiftelsen SåttFrö). With an area spanning 14,300 ha in the Sungai Tiagau Forest Reserve, INIKEA is a testament to sustainable forest rehabilitation.

The project's core lies in aiding the recovery of degraded forests. Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar remarked, "Through INIKEA, we are not just planting trees. We are planting hopes for future generations. By reintroducing native tree species lost to logging and fire, we're reviving the heartbeats of these forests."

INIKEA's success is monumental, and it's the most extended active forest and one of Malaysia's most expansive enriched planted areas. "The INIKEA model represents the kind of sustainable development we envision for the state and potentially other concession areas within Yayasan Sabah," stated Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar.

However, a gap remains. "Despite its successes, the INIKEA area remains largely uncharted regarding wildlife diversity. This survey is vital to understand our progress and the life that now thrives in the rehabilitated forests," concluded Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar.



The Director of Yayasan Sabah,  
Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar @ Yusuf Bin Khan Bahadar

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