



Zurich Malaysia and TRCRC Collaborate to Protect Endangered Species and Restore Sabah's Rainforests

The Zurich Cares Initiative is a continuous collaborative commitment to biodiversity conservation, large-scale forest restoration, and ecological revival

Kuala Lumpur, 9 September 2025 – Zurich Malaysia has renewed its partnership with the Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC) for another year to continue its support for the Tropical Rainforest Living Collection (TRLC) Merisuli project in Sabah. This collaboration falls under Zurich Cares (a Zurich Conservation and Restoration Initiative), which champions environmental stewardship, building community resilience, and responsible business practices.

Through this renewed partnership, Zurich Malaysia and TRCRC are supporting forest restoration and biodiversity conservation, helping to ensure the long-term resilience of Malaysia's ecosystems. Key efforts include growing over 30,000 rare tree seedlings for replanting, restoring more than 50 hectares of damaged forest, and working with local communities to protect and reintroduce vulnerable species. Most of the project's workforce is drawn from nearby villages, supporting local employment and keeping the initiative community-driven.

"At Zurich Malaysia, we understand that protecting the health of our environment is crucial for a sustainable future. The Zurich Cares initiative represents our proactive approach to addressing the urgent challenge of biodiversity loss, and we are proud to stand alongside TRCRC in this mission. Guided by our commitment to care for what matters, Zurich Malaysia wants to contribute to initiatives supporting local climate resilience," said Junior Cho, Country CEO of Zurich Malaysia.

Since this collaboration began in 2022, the restoration of dipterocarp species has been at the core of Zurich Cares' efforts. With over 60% of Borneo's dipterocarp species threatened, their recovery is vital for rebuilding forest structure, enhancing carbon storage, and providing critical wildlife habitats. These efforts are already bearing fruit, with the [return of threatened species](#) such as the Borneo pygmy elephants, orangutans, hornbills, tarsiers, and sun bears. As the forest regenerates, it is expected to become an even stronger refuge for biodiversity.

Key achievements from the Zurich Cares initiative over the past three years include:

- 54,763 seedlings of fast-growing and dipterocarp species planted across the site.
- 1,000 seedlings planted under the 1 Pledge 1 Tree campaign.
- 53.14 hectares actively reforested, including 4.17 hectares of research planting plots.
- 34,335 seedlings of dipterocarp, non-dipterocarp, and wild fruit species currently maintained in the nursery.
- 63 Rare, Threatened & Endangered (RTE) species successfully nurtured at TRLC Merisuli.
- 619 excess seedlings contributed to other forest restoration programmes across Sabah.
- 90 hectares under active silviculture maintenance to ensure long-term forest health.
- 70% seedling survival rate recorded as of December 2023.
- 37 RTE mother trees identified and tagged for future seed collection.
- 12 new localities surveyed across Sabah for seed sourcing and biodiversity monitoring.



“Restoring tropical rainforests is an urgent yet highly complex endeavour. Many of the endangered tree species we work with face extremely low natural regeneration rates, making their survival dependent on science-based propagation and sustained long-term care. With Zurich Malaysia’s continued support, we can scale up our restoration efforts and create the right ecological conditions for these forests to thrive. This partnership ensures that nature not only recovers, but also flourishes for generations to come,” said Dr Dzaeman Dzulkifli, Executive Director of TRCRC.

To learn more about Zurich Cares and our ongoing sustainability initiatives, please visit <https://www.zurich.com.my/about-zurich/corporate-responsibility/zurich-cares>.

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Notes to editor:

About Zurich Malaysia

Zurich Malaysia is a collective reference term for the Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) business subsidiaries operating in Malaysia: Zurich General Insurance Malaysia Berhad, Zurich Life Insurance Malaysia Berhad, Zurich General Takaful Malaysia Berhad and Zurich Takaful Malaysia Berhad. Zurich Malaysia offers a broad range of comprehensive insurance and takaful solutions; helping individuals as well as business owners understand and protect themselves, their businesses and their assets from risk. Zurich Malaysia has an integrated branch network in major cities nationwide as well as dedicated agency and distribution channels nationwide to serve the needs of its customers. For further information on Zurich Malaysia, visit www.zurich.com.my.

About Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC)

Tropical Rainforest Conservation and Research Centre (TRCRC) is a not-for-profit non-governmental organization, focusing on the conservation and preservation of rainforests and endangered plant species, with an overarching aim to restore forests through economically sustainable viable restoration projects. We are driven by our core goal – to safeguard rare, threatened and endangered plant species, and reintroduce them back into their native habitats through landscape-level initiatives.

For more information, please visit www.trcrc.org.