

SFD inks LA with FAO for assessment of RIL guidelines

By Churchill Edward on March 30, 2019, Saturday at 12:17 AM



Hamden (seated), during the L A signing ceremony, with Cammaert (second right), Hon (third left), Murray (second left), Abang Ahmad (right) and Mohd Shahbudin (left).

KUCHING: The Sarawak Forestry Department has signed a Letter of Agreement (LA) with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations to facilitate a gap assessment of the newly harmonised Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) guidelines for Sarawak against international best practices and through multi-stakeholder consultation.

The harmonised RIL Guidelines for Sarawak is an important step to standardise timber harvesting method in Sarawak in order to regulate the state's timber industry.

The LA was signed by FAO- EU FLEGT (European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) Programme's Asia and the Pacific Regional Office forestry officer Bruno Cammaert and Director of Forests Sarawak Hamden Mohammad last Wednesday.

The event was witnessed by Head of Conservation from WWF-Malaysia Dr Jason Hon, Consultant for the FAO EU FLEGT Programme in Asia Pacific Josil P. Murray, Deputy Director of Forest Department Sarawak Abang Ahmad Abang Morni and its Head of International Affairs Division Mohd Shahbudin Sabki.

FDS and WWF-Malaysia will work together to ensure successful implementation of the project, a statement from SFD said yesterday.

Together, both parties will ensure that the RIL guideline for Sarawak is improved following international best practice and through a consultative process, the department added.