

**ACTIVITY PROPOSAL TO THE
INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANISATION (ITTO)**

Submitted by the Government of Malaysia

**TITLE Capacity Building of Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia's Staff in
Identifying *Aquilaria* to Species Level and in the Grading of Agarwood**

SUMMARY

Aquilaria is regarded as the most precious tree in the world. It is valued in many cultures for its unique aroma and is used widely in rituals as well as perfumeries. Peninsular Malaysia is abundant with *Aquilaria* as the Fourth National Forest Inventory (2002-2004) estimated there are more than 3.0 million stems found in the Permanent Reserved Forests (PRFs). Sustainably managing this valuable resource is a challenge and remains a priority to the Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM). FDPM has identified a few aspects which are crucial to the sustainable management and conservation of *Aquilaria* in the natural forest. One of the key areas is to strengthen the competency and capacity of FDPM staff, especially in the identification of *Aquilaria* to species level and the grading of agarwood or gaharu as locally known. At such, the objectives of the Activity are to (i) develop training materials, including practical field manual to enable staff of FDPM to undertake identification of *Aquilaria* to species level; (ii) develop a manual for the grading of agarwood to be used by the staff of FDPM; and (iii) provide training to a core team of trainers, which consists of 30 persons from FDPM, in order to provide continuous training to all the other staff of FDPM when required. The expected outputs are to produce (i) 200 copies of field-tested manual for the identification of *Aquilaria* to species level in Peninsular Malaysia; (ii) 200 copies of field-tested manual for the grading of agarwood to be used by the staff of FDPM; and (iii) 30 persons from FDPM trained as trainers and who are proficient in the identification of *Aquilaria* to species level and in the grading of agarwood. Training based on the published manual/guideline will be conducted to a core team of trainers who will then be able to provide continuous training to all the other personnel of FDPM in the future.

Executing Agency	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Malaysia (MNRE).
Implementing Agency	Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (FDPM).
Collaborating Agency	State Forestry Departments (SFDs).
Duration	12 months.