

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN PREVENTION AND ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES OF THE SARAWAK FOREST DEPARTMENT

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ABSTRACT

The use of information technology in various fields is growing and continues to progress in line with the needs and expectations of modern society. Information technology has greatly helped humans in different aspects such as education, science, art, management, business, medicine and many more. Over the past few decades, enforcement agencies have been actively using information technology approaches in an effort to improve the efficiency of management, prevention and enforcement operations. The Sarawak Forest Department, a forest enforcement agency in the state of Sarawak, Malaysia is also no exception in using information technology in forest law enforcement activities. The information technology that has been used has greatly benefited the department. This paper briefly discusses the use of information technology in prevention and enforcement activities used in the Sarawak Forest Department, Malaysia. Among the main information technology systems being used are Geographic Information System (GIS), Enterprise Forest Information Management System (EFIMS), Revenue Logging System (REVLOG) and Investigation Paper Tracking System (IPTS). GIS is a system used to monitor forest cover and forest surfaces throughout Sarawak. EFIMS is used for the management and mapping of forested areas or land use changes in Sarawak. REVLOG, on the other hand, is used to monitor the output of forest products and the production capacity of forest products (quota) for a licensed area in Sarawak while IPTS is used to help manage and monitor investigation papers related to forest offense cases. Overall, the use of information technology in prevention and enforcement activities in Sarawak Forest Department has greatly helped improve operational efficiency and facilitate the management of enforcement activities in line with the current situation and demands.

Keywords: Information technology, Sarawak, Sarawak Forest Department, prevention