

BRINGING LIFE ON BARREN LAND: PRELIMINARY POTENTIAL OF REHABILITATION ON COAL EX-MINING SITE THROUGH GREENING LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE

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ABSTRACT

The mining industry plays an essential role in economic growth and development for both State and National. Rehabilitation of ex-mining land is very crucial to lessen or eliminate environmental impacts. In Sarawak point of view, this effort has been seen unguided and without identifiable research-based approaches of rehabilitation. Moving forward to this endeavor, an initiative to embark on a research pilot project in rehabilitating a coal explored mining has been initiated. Apparently, the preliminary results of this pilot project are relatively promising. The pilot covers testing of various species of young trees onto different soil treatments. An early result indicates good survival rate of a month after planting at pilot site of coal ex-mined. After a year of planting, small animals such as birds and insects were seen noticeable at the pilot site. This elaborates a possible potential to rehabilitate a barren coal ex-mined area that has limitation of soil nutrition and in an extreme weather climate. Further to this, this early evidence of living flora and fauna developing at pilot site demonstrates the viability of bringing life through this rehabilitation efforts.

Keywords: Coal mining, rehabilitation, ex-mining land, greening landscape.