

## **The importance of ecological research for the forest resource managers**

LEE Hua Seng<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sarawak Timber Association

The forest resource manager is concerned about the management of the forest estate, its inhabitants and the people who depend on it for a living. He is also concerned with its rehabilitation and restoration in cases where degradation has occurred in the ecosystem. Restoration of the ecosystem obviously requires an understanding of ecosystem functions and such understanding can usually be gauged from ecological studies. Such a restoration exercise is essentially mimicry of the ecosystem. Although there may be limitations in the results generated by ecological research, they still provide a valuable guide to the forest resource manager.