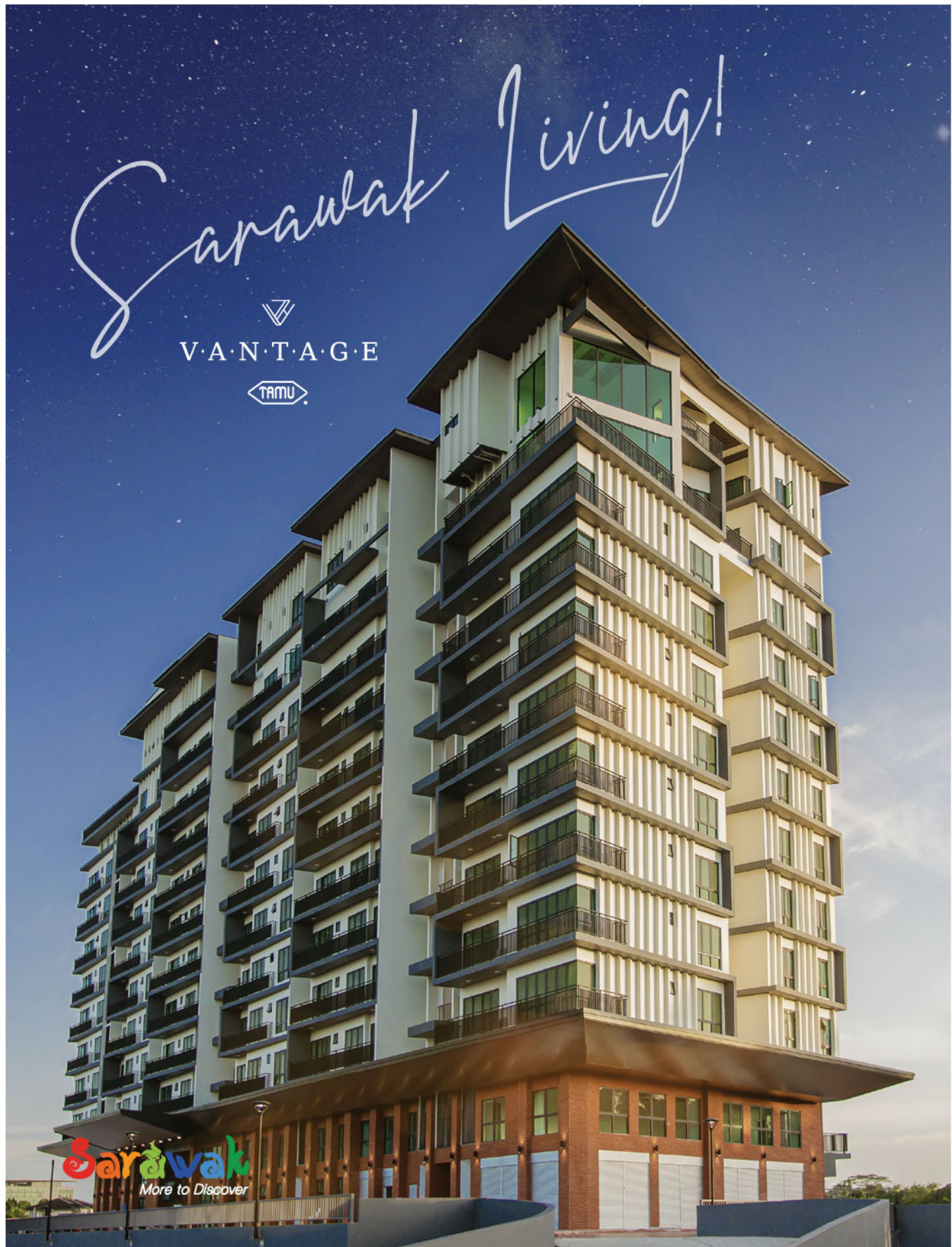


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# BorneoTalk®







## *A precious gift from Mother Nature*

Mother Nature's magical essence is perfected by science and came in the form of the AdenoSara® essential oil. It is extracted from a wild herb known to the Bidayuh of Penrissen as Bunga Ta'ang (*Adenosma nelsonioides*) and to the Iban of Rumah (Rh) Simon in Lubok Antu as Bangkit Engkerawan. This essential oil is known to have medicinal properties. Studies at the Sarawak Biodiversity Centre (SBC) found that the essential oil, commercialised under the trademark AdenoSara®, contains potent active ingredients.

Among hundred species of plant documented by SBC's Traditional Knowledge (TK) Documentation Programme in Kampung Semadang, Bunga Ta'ang stood out. It was first discovered in Kampung Semadang, and later in Lubok Antu by the Iban of Rh Simon. It has been used for many generations by both communities. The Bidayuh used it as a traditional treatment of skin ailments, including rashes and itch. Ibans commonly use the plant to treat headaches. Both communities use it as a repellent to ward off ticks and fleas in pets and farm animals.

This project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Finance through United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Malaysia's Orang Asli/Orang Asal Micro Grant Facility (OA MGF) for Conservation and Livelihood. The AdenoSara® project aims to unlock the potential of applying traditional knowledge to healthcare, agriculture, food and cosmetics. The main goal of this project is to learn from indigenous communities, their use of natural resources and finding new ways to generate sustainable income to the communities through commercialisation of the plants.

The partnership between Sarawak Biodiversity Council, Kampung Semadang and Rh Simon was established under the auspices of UNDP's OA MGF project. It has resulted in the successful production of AdenoSara® oil using a process managed by the communities in both villages. This new partnership is rooted in UNDP's principles of Leaving No One Behind. It aims to produce a high quality, high value product reliably and sustainably, build local infrastructure and capacity, empower the local people and generate a sustainable income flow for the community. The overall objective of this project is to enhance conservation efforts in Sarawak through sustainable use of natural biological resources, emphasising the

engagement of local indigenous communities in support of communities' livelihood and empowerment. It builds on lessons learned and upscales the success of an earlier pilot project to produce LitSara® essential oil.

Among the achievements of the partnership are the cultivation of the plant in a shortened four-month growth cycle, allowing up to three harvests per year instead of just a single harvest per year, and the building of a distillation facility to enable on-site extraction of the AdenoSara® essential oil. As a result of the partnership between Sarawak Biodiversity Council and the Bidayuh community of Kampung Semadang and Iban community of Rh Simon sealed on 17 October, 2020, they have been able to turn the traditional use of Adenosma plant for its medicinal properties into an income-generating activity of substantial value not only to their families but their community as a whole. The implementation of this UNDP Malaysia-supported project is in line with Malaysia's Access to Biological Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) Act 2017 and the 2010 Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, an international agreement that ensures the fair and equitable sharing of monetary and non-monetary benefits to communities from the use of biological resources in their environment.

This partnership is a continuation of SBC's Access and Benefit Sharing Project under the Sarawak Biodiversity Regulations 2016 which has resulted in the first ABS agreement of the LitSara® essential oil. The LitSara® project demonstrates how working with the local indigenous communities to cultivate, harvest and produce natural products can be sustainable to the environment and beneficial for the communities' livelihood. In addition, the process shows the importance of recognising and protecting the traditional ecological knowledge and customs of communities. The Sarawak Biodiversity Council's effort through SBC to partner with indigenous communities is an important step to transform their traditional knowledge into economically and environmentally viable products of global benefit.

For further information, visit SBC's website at [www.sbc.org.my](http://www.sbc.org.my) or UNDP Malaysia's website at [www.my.undp.org](http://www.my.undp.org)