

IOI's Experience of Translocating Eastern Barn Owls from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah

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The eastern barn owl (Tyto javanica javanica) has proven to be an effective biological control agent for rodent pest populations in Malaysian oil palm plantations. To establish self-sustaining populations of barn owls in areas where their numbers are low or absent, a translocation programme was implemented. This paper discusses the process of translocating barn owls from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah. The study provides valuable insights into the factors that contribute to the success of translocation programmes, such as careful planning, monitoring, and preparation, including the construction of an aviary, installation of barn owl boxes, and adherence to export and import procedures, permit applications, and quarantine processes for barn owls from Peninsular Malaysia to Sabah based on IOI's perspective and experience. Overall, the translocation of barn owls to Sabah is a commendable initiative that not only helps conserve this natural pest controller but also demonstrates the feasibility of translocation as a means of species conservation.

Keywords: Barn owl, biological control, translocation, permit application, import-export process.