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Suzairi collecting different plant species he found in logged areas to be replanted in his conservatory. – **BERNAMAPIX**

Lensman sets up conservatory for 2,000 endangered plant species

KUALA LUMPUR: Photographer Suzairi Zakaria's love for forest plants has led him to set up a conservatory for the endangered species in his house compound in Setiu, Terengganu.

Suzairi, 46, who has been involved in the tropical rainforest conservation efforts since 2015, has replanted more than 2,000 species of forest plants, including 200 wild orchids found in bris soil and logging areas in the state.

He said forest plants such as ferns, wild gingers, pitcher plants, hoyas and various other species as well as wild orchids were replanted in his house compound, which has been turned into a conservatory called WildDome Research and Conservation Centre.

The centre now becomes a reference for

conservationists, researchers and orchid enthusiasts from all over the country.

Suzairi, who is also known as the Dome, said his passion to conserve wild orchids and forest plants grew as a result of his frequent trips to the Setiu Wetland to capture the lush forest landscapes rich with flora and fauna.

"Some places that I revisited have changed due to land and forest exploration. Most of which are the natural habitats of wild plants and orchids.

"So, whichever forest plants and wild orchids that can be saved, I will replant them," he said, adding he has extended the conservation efforts to other logging areas, including Tasik Kenyir.

Suzairi has discovered several new species

such as pitcher plants, *Nepenthes latiffiana* and *Nepenthes domei* as well as wild orchids such as *Bromheadia petuangensis*, *Dendrobium ruseae* and *Dendrobium mizanii*, which was named after the Sultan of Terengganu, Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin.

"I need to work with qualified botanists to elaborate on the findings of the new species because each discovery needs to have a written research paper to confirm the findings in any scientific journal," he explained.

He is currently working with Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Forest Research Institute Malaysia and the Malaysian Agricultural Research and Development Institute. – Bernama