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PETALING JAYA: Malaysia Airlines (MAS) is prepared to use biofuel as an alternative if it is commercially available in the mar-

Its managing director/chief executive officer, Datuk Seri Idris Jala, said currently, many airlines worldwide were testing the usage of biofuel in order to reduce carbon emissions.

"We are always looking for ways to reduce carbon emissions. When it (alternative fuel) becomes commercially available, we want to become the first company to embrace it," he told reporters after handing over cheque for RM80,000 to Natural Resources and Environment Ministry here Monday.

The contribution was from MAS' Voluntary Carbon Offset Scheme (VCOS) that allowed its customers to pledge a contribution towards reducing the effects of carbon dioxide.

The fund is channelled to a trust fund managed by the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) towards the proper management, continued protection and rehabilitation of the degraded parts of south-east Pahang peat swamp forest.

MAS' VCOS launched last June as part of its commitment towards environmental responsibility.

Idris said the airline has already embarked on green programmes by adopting waste mangement practices, energy conservation and increasing the use of biodegradable products.

Meanwhile, undersecretary of conservation and management division of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, Dr Lian Kok Fei, said the ministry was working with the Pahang state government, FRIM together with other experts to find ways to promote sustainable development. - Bernama