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Conservation Drones: A sustainability weapon to a better future.

Deforestation is a serious matter anywhere in the world. People may not consider it to be currently the number one issue, but humanity has started to feel its impact day by day. Clearly, Southeast Asia is facing severe consequences of climate change due to deforestation. As I was doing my final paper this spring, this topic seemed very interesting for me to approach deeper.

As someone that used to live in Singapore, I have usually experienced poor air quality as a result of open forest burning in Borneo Malaysia and Indonesia. Besides increasing the air quality index, apparently the air attacks the health of the citizens of various nations which can be very harmful especially to young people. Therefore, based on the research I have conducted in Penn State for a final paper project, the best solution to this issue is introducing conservation drones in the forest as guards to patrol all the areas in a short period of time.

A conservation drone is made up of a model aircraft fixed with an autopilot system. The autopilot system comprises of a tiny computer, a GPS, and an altimeter. Besides that, the airplane contains a payload that has a camera and a video recorder that functions to record or snap photos of the entire surrounding of a particular forest. All the images and videos that are recorded by the drone can be downloaded and accesses by the government to keep track of the plantation in certain areas and any unwanted logging or open burning. It is better to equip the drone with the Go Pro Hero 3 Black Edition since it has the best video quality of the photo and action camera based on test results. It even has a Wi-Fi feature that allows a ‘live’ preview on an IOS device. Moreover, there is also a built-in software system that programs the drone what to do and where to go. Basically, humans are able to configure the conservation drone themselves according to their needs.

Furthermore, engineers can also gear the drones with a thermal imaging system to report a rising in temperature anywhere in the forest. Better yet, these drones are affordable to obtain and process. We just need the right technology to sustain the environment and the air around us. I am positive that our future depends on the new weapon, conservation drones. (393 words)