

Development of Lanjak-Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary as a Totally Protected Area - Phase III Malaysia

Final report

PD 16/99 Rev.2 (F)

I. Introduction

The project was approved by the Council during its Twenty-sixth Session in May-June 1999 and the full financing for its implementation was secured by the Governments of Switzerland and Japan during the same Session. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 28 February 2000 and the first disbursement of funds was made on 4 August 2000. The project was granted a seven-month extension without additional funds due to the technical problems related to land acquisition and the availability of specialists.

II. Project Objective

The project aimed to develop the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) Totally Protected Area as a model for biodiversity conservation and management of genetic resources for forestry, community development and research. Its specific objectives were: a) to continue specific aspects of the biodiversity inventory to suit the management needs of the Sanctuary and the adjacent protected area of Batang Ai National Park (BANP); b) to encourage and support the development of economic activities by the local communities to enable them to share the benefits of the biological resources on a sustained level; and c) to promote and integrate biodiversity conservation, research and management on a collaborative basis in the Trans-boundary Conservation Area (TBCA) with Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) in Kalimantan and other institutions involved in research on tropical forest biodiversity.

III. Project Strategy and Activities

The project strategy adopted by the Executing Agency is summarized below:

- Research and development concentrated on the collection of baseline data for biodiversity in selected areas;
- The orangutan study was extended to cover the entire TBCA as this is the last frontier for the conservation of the threatened primate in Borneo; and
- Community development was aimed at actively involving the local communities in management and sustainable use of the natural resources as a strategy to prevent indiscriminate exploitation and to reduce their dependence on the forest.

IV. Project Achievements and Outputs

The specific objectives of the project were fully achieved through the outputs that are summarized below:

- The Sanctuary's HQ complex was completed in 2002 after a long delay. A sub-camp at Ubah Ribu was built for staff on field duty;
- Research and development with emphasis on sustainable management of the Sanctuary and surrounding areas have been completed. These include the development of three gene bank plots for timber on non-timber species, a study on habitats, populations and distribution of orangutans, a vegetation study of BANP and a pilot study on cultivation and domestication of ornamental and medicinal plants;
- Community development to promote local participation has been realized through: a) extending the cultivation of indigenous crops and developing a demonstration plot and a mini-garden together with the necessary infrastructure; and b) a fish resource inventory and raising of indigenous fish species in valley ponds, concrete tanks and cages;
- Training to upgrade skills in community-related activities including handicraft making has been carried out.

V. Target Beneficiaries Involvement

The Sarawak Forest Department and local communities were the main beneficiaries targeted by the project. The development of LEWS as a TPA has been successfully achieved with the cooperation and inputs from target beneficiaries. There was no question about the commitment of the Government and its relevant agencies. The local communities have derived benefits from the forests and will continue to do so under the new strategies to promote SFM in a systematic way. Also, opportunities for training and active participation have been provided for the local people to develop and use the natural resources in a non-destructive manner while improving their livelihood and cash income.

VI. Lessons Learnt

The lessons learnt from the implementation of the project include:

- While the Executing Agency was committed to ensuring the Project's successful implementation and completion, obtaining high-level decisions quickly on issues relating to the Project often required extra efforts and initiatives. A case in point was the acquisition of land that normally involves several Ministries and government agencies. Seeking inter-agency cooperation and support through a direct approach would have been more effective;
- Greater success in SFM and community development could have been attained with stronger management presence to implement and supervise activities on the ground, and to act as a catalyst for more active local participation;
- To achieve results of community-related activities more effectively, the activities have been developed and managed on a joint venture basis involving Wildlife Rangers and field staff to provide the necessary management expertise and leadership;
- The local communities have begun to understand and accept the concept of conservation management, and are showing increasing interest and enthusiasm in active participation. It is crucial that this newfound interest and enthusiasm are maintained;

- The project activities involving Consultants were short-term, lasting only six months. Planning, organizing and scheduling each activity in advance facilitated the work of the consultants most of whom were visiting LEWS and BANP for the first time; and
- Officers in charge of management should be more understanding and sympathetic with regards to the needs of field staff and local employees who operate from remote stations, and should provide the necessary assistance and support upon request. The dedication and interest shown by a number of officers were commendable.

VII. Dissemination of Results

The results of the project are documented in the Technical Reports listed below, which will be widely distributed. In addition, they were also disseminated to other related ITTO projects, eg PD PD 44/00 Rev.3 (F) of Indonesia and PD 15/00 Rev.2 (F) of Thailand through official visits, and through the presentations by project staff in international conferences and workshops.

Technical Reports:

- Indigenous Fruits of Sarawak;
- A Study of Habitat Conditions, Populations, and Distribution of Orangutan in Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and Batang Ai National Park, Sarawak, Malaysia by Kunkun Gurmaya and Sundai Silang;
- Fish Resources Assessment Study of Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and Batang Ai National Park by Ivy Abdullah;
- Rearing of Indigenous Fish Species by Cage Culture by Sundai Silang and Paul P.K. Chai, forthcoming;
- A Study on the Vegetation and Flora of Batang Anai National Park by Bibian Diway and Paul P.K. Chai, forthcoming;
- A Study on the Cultivation and Domestication of Indigenous Ornamental Plants, Medicinal Plants and Fruit Trees by Endela Tipot and Paul P.K. Chai, forthcoming;
- Establishment of Gene Bank Plots by Rusea Go and Rantai Jawa, forthcoming; and
- A Manual on the Establishment of Gene Banks and Phenological Studies by Rusea Go and Paul P.K. Chai, forthcoming.
- The Completion Report and the Technical Reports are available from the ITTO Secretariat upon request.

VIII. Recommendations Related to Future Work

Sufficient baseline information on the major forest types, ecology and distribution of biological resources of LEWS has been collected from previous and present studies. This knowledge should form the basis for the management and sustainable utilization of LEWS;

For future projects, research and development ought to consider the study of key species to obtain a fuller understanding of the ecological interactions and relationships between plant and animal species. Research to support SFM and to improve the socio-economic status of the local communities should be continued. Making available a revolving fund for supporting socio-economic activities with certain rules to ensure proper management and continuity by the Executing Agency is timely and worth considering.

Under the current system, the various tasks of the Project Leader have been successfully accomplished without any major problem. Therefore, the system should be allowed to continue. The Executing Agency can play a more proactive role in management by making available full time counterparts to work with the Project Leader and consultants, thereby deriving maximum benefits from the Project.

IX. Concluding Remarks

As the ITTO Secretariat has received the Completion Report and the Technical Reports have only been partially submitted, the project PD 16/99 Rev.2 (F) will be reported as completed pending the submission of the remaining Technical Reports and the Final Financial Audit Report.