

PD 288/04 Rev.2 (F) Development of Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary as a Totally Protected Area, Phase IV (Final Phase) (Malaysia)

I. Introduction

The project was approved by the Council during its Thirty-eighth Session in June 2005 and full financing for its implementation was pledged during the same Session. The agreement regulating the implementation of the project had been sent to the Government of Malaysia for signature in July 2005 and it was duly signed by all parties only on 14 July 2006. The first disbursement of funds was made on 9 April 2007. Based on the recommendation of the PSC meeting held in Kuching on 16 February 2009, a six-month extension until September 2009 was granted to fully achieve the planned outputs of the project and to publish a high quality book to document main findings and lessons learned from the ITTO Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary Project. A detailed work plan to publish a documentary book for LEWS until March 2011 was endorsed by the ITTO Secretariat. The project activities had been completed in August 2011.

II. Project Objective

The project aimed to develop the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary (LEWS) and Batang Ai National Park (BANP) collectively into a model for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of genetic resources for forestry, socio-economic advancement and research. Its specific objectives were: i) to strengthen sustainable management capacity of the totally protected areas (TPAs) at the government and local community levels; and ii) to enhance conservation and research potentials of the TPAs including transboundary initiatives with Indonesia.

III. Project Achievements and Outputs

(a) Specific Objective 1: To strengthen sustainable management capacity of the totally protected areas (TPAs) at the government and local community levels

Output 1.1 – Capacity for sustainable management strengthened.

The project's contributions were in the areas of training in research and resource management for the Forest Department of Sarawak and the Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), and resource management training and awareness education for local communities. On-ground management was strengthened with more SFC staff being posted to a number of field stations. Local communities in the Ulu Mujok area had taken the initiative to prevent outsiders from entering the TPA to hunt and fish. There was less need for local participants of fish culture and fruit tree planting activities to visit the forest to hunt and fish as they had often done so in the past.

Output 1.2 – Participatory process of the local communities strengthened.

On community development, 27 longhouses and three schools participated, and an estimated 3,500 people and 240 school children and teachers had benefited in various ways. In addition, three longhouses in the Ulu Engkari were involved in the *tagang* system to restore fish population in the river.

Output 1.3 – Environmental education (EE) unit established and implemented.

The EE programme was implemented in 64 longhouses and 14 schools in the periphery. The programme was developed with the help of the Department of Education and the SFC. The programme's contents were intended to acquaint the participants on matters relating to forestry, forest management and conservation in Sarawak. For the majority of the participants this was the first learning experience on the subjects. Feed-back from the participants indicated that the programme had made them more aware of the importance of environmental conservation. One technical report was published.

Output 1.4 – Eco-tourism activities in BANP organized. The project conducted a study on ecotourism potential of the Batang Ai National Park (BANP) during Phase III, and published a report with many recommendations and suggestions on eco-tourism development. To organize and monitor visitor activities in BANP, the SFC had stationed a park warden, and a research cum education officer at the Park Headquarters at Nanga Delok. A number of local assistants were engaged.

(b) Specific Objective 2: To enhance conservation and research potentials of the TPAs including trans-boundary initiatives with Indonesia.

Output 2.1 – Ecological and baseline studies on flora in BANP carried out.

The BANP is eco-physically connected to LEWS through sharing of a common boundary to its north, and both TPAs are important habitats for the orangutan and numerous other animals. Baseline information on BANP was thus important.

Output 2.2 – Collaborative activities with BKNP pursued under the TBCA initiative.

The activities involved task force meetings, cross-border visits by BKNP staff and local community chiefs to LEWS, and a workshop in Kuching to share experiences in management. Technical reports were exchanged.

Output 2.3 – Memorandum of understanding (MoU) for collaborative management adopted.

There was no adoption of MoU due to constraints in resolving issues relating to administration, management and implementation by the two parties. The general agreement was for each side to implement activities of its own, but noting and informing each other on matters of common interest. On the positive side, both sides had committed to safeguarding its own protected areas by strengthening management capacity on the ground. This was one of the issues discussed at the workshop meeting. The joint orangutan strategic plan for the TBCA, prepared under the LEWS project, will serve as an important reference and tool to foster cross-border collaboration in the future.

Output 2.4 – Management plan developed and approved.

A joint management plan for LEWS and BANP was prepared and approved for implementation. The SFC is responsible for implementing the plan. The project has produced several important technical reports. These include the following:

- Environmental Conservation Education Programme in Lanjak Entimau Wild Life Sanctuary.
- Importance of community-use zone in the periphery of the Lanjak-Entimau Wild Life Sanctuary as a Wild Life Corridor for Mammals and Birds.
- Traditional use of Non-Timber Forest Products among the Iban Communities in the Periphery of Batang Ai National Park.
- A Study on the Ecotourism Potentials of the Batang Ai National Park.

The Executing Agency has made greater effort to promote the work in Lanjak Entimau by preparing publicity materials like flyers and posters. The outcome of the project was presented at the International Conference on Biodiversity Conservation of Tranboundaary Tropical Forests held on 21-24 July 2010 in Quito, Ecuador. During the extension period, the EA has produced a documentary book for LEWS compiling main achievements and lessons learned from implementing from Phase I to Phase IV of the LEWS project.

IV. Outcomes and Impacts

The Project had benefitted many people. It was a great learning experience for young researchers engaged by the Project, as well as those from FDS and SFC. Lessons included establishment of ecological plots and data collecting, floral and faunal surveys, NTFP, conducting educational programmes, participation in management training, and implementing community-based activities. Their technical report writing skill was also enhanced. Owing to the Project, several of the researchers had developed an interest in natural sciences and were contemplating pursuing further degrees in forest ecology and biodiversity. The Project had benefitted some 30 longhouse communities (including *tagang*) and three schools that were involved in community development. Fish and fruit farming had not only helped to solve their food supply problems but had also brought additional cash income to participating families and longhouses. To quote Anthony Bau, the headman of one longhouse: *'Thank you for helping to improve our livelihood. It is now easier for us to earn a living. There is no need for us to go to the rivers to fish during Gawai (harvest) festivals'*. Another quote from Gerasi Kapi, headman of another longhouse: *'Our family is learning to become more enterprising, and we have been earning additional income from the fruits we planted'*. A third quote from Mengiring Masil of another longhouse headman: *'Since we started fish farming, we have done less hunting. As a result, wild boars and macaques have come to our farms and damaged out crops'*. The residents of three longhouses in the Ulu Engkari had learnt the technique of restoring fish resources in the river through the *tagang* system that was introduced to them in 2009. The fish had returned some 18 months after the launch in February 2010, and was seen to jump out of the water during feeding time. The people had already developed a close bond with the friendly fish and told our visiting officers recently that they would feel reluctant to catch and eat them. This community activity marks an important milestone of the project in restoring depleted fish stocks in natural rivers. The EA helped to construct a 30-metre long suspension bridge in Ulu Engkari, thus enabling school children to cross the river in safety. The TBCA initiative had enabled both sides to learn from each other through workshops and cross visits. The Lanjak Entimau Project made significant

contributions in advancing the work of the Heart of Borneo, particularly in the areas of community development and social forestry.

V. Lessons Learnt and sustainability

a) Development Lessons

For further development of LEWS it is necessary to consider the following:

- Encourage and promote greater interest in conservation and research, and TBCA cooperation;
- Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) must continue to strengthen management and enforcement through capacity building and training, and creating more employment opportunities for the local people;
- Continue to encourage and guide local communities to be more proactive in conservation and community development;
- Implement the Management Plan for LEWS and BANP to meet present and future needs and to attain the desired conservation goals;
- Continue to work with Betung Kerihun N.P. on issues that will bring mutual benefits to the people and conservation of biodiversity.

(b) Operational Lessons

To ensure smooth operation it is recommended that:

- On-ground management must be made more effective to demonstrate to the local people that FDS and SFC are serious about protecting the Sanctuary and its resources from illegal activities especially logging;
- To ensure smooth field operation, FDS and SFC may need to be more receptive to the needs and expectations of their field staff as well as the expectations of local communities;
- Having a core team of permanent staff under the CSI Unit to continue the work of the ITTO with adequate administrative and financial support would be ideal;
- Participatory approach can be enhanced through promoting better understanding and cooperation among key stakeholders.

Sustainability has been ensured with the creation of the new Community Service Initiative Unit (CSIU) by the EA (Forest Department Sarawak) in January 2011, currently headed by a capable senior officer who had gained much experience from the present and Pulong Tau National Park (PTNP) projects. This unit is entrusted with the responsibility of continuing and expanding the work of ITTO in LEWS and later in the PTNP. Safeguarding the protected area must be central to the EA's effort to promote biodiversity conservation in LEWS, as incidents of illegal logging in some areas (e.g. Ulu Poi) had been detected. This calls for strengthening of management capacity and frequent patrolling in areas adjacent to logging licenses. Annual allocations for travels and acquisition of land vehicles, longboats and outboard engines and fuel must be adequate.

VI. Concluding Remarks

The objectives of LEWS Phase IV have been successfully achieved with the cooperation and inputs from all stakeholders and other interest groups. Commitments by the Government and its relevant agencies, both during and after the project had ended, were most crucial. Increasing interest of the local communities was also most encouraging. The Project received good support and cooperation from consultants, counterpart staff, research officers and local participants throughout. Effective local leadership was a significant factor in ensuring success and sustainability of community-based activities. Since the ITTO Secretariat has received the Project Completion Report, and several Technical Reports, the Project completion was approved by the Committee on Reforestation and Forest Management in its November 2011 Session in Guatemala.