

Management of the Kayan Mentarang National Park (KMNP) to promote transboundary conservation between Indonesia and Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak (Phase 1) Indonesia

Final Report

PD 38/00 Rev. 1 (F)

I. INTRODUCTION

The project was approved by the Council during its Twenty-ninth session in November 2000 in Yokohama, Japan, and full financing was pledged at the same Session. The Agreement regulating the implementation of the project was signed on 11 December 2000, and the first disbursement of funds was made on 25 June 2001. The delay was due to the long consultations with local authorities in East Kalimantan to coordinate the work plan. The project was completed in July 2003.

II. PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The project aims to develop a strategy for cooperation in trans-boundary conservation between Indonesia and the Malaysian States of Sabah and Sarawak, in order to conserve the integrity of the Park's bio-diversity values. Specific objectives are: 1) to establish an operational management unit for the KMNP, and 2) to initiate a process for cooperation between Indonesia and Malaysia in the management of their trans-boundary conservation areas.

III. PROJECT STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES

The basic requirement for project success is the involvement of stakeholders at all stages of project management. Dialogues and discussions with local authorities at the provincial and district levels, with local communities living inside the park, and with relevant park authorities in the Malaysian States of Sarawak and Sabah had been conducted to gain inputs and support for project design and implementation. In order to speed up the cooperation between the governments, communities, and NGOs, the "Collaborative-based Management Model" and the Board of Trustees of KMNP have been established per Ministerial Forestry Decrees in May 2002 to guide project implementation. In addition, the project was implemented in close liaison with an existing project supported by DANIDA.

IV. PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTPUTS

The project was completed in August 2003. The planned activities were carried out during twenty five months and achievements may be summarized as follows:

- Management structures of KMNP established per Ministerial Forestry Decrees No. 1214 and 1215 of year 2002 (Output 1.1);
- Headquarters of KMNP constructed at the outskirts of Malinau town, and four forest ranger posts established at Alango, Data Dian, Lumbis, and Pa Upan inside the park (Output 1.2);
- Park management plan prepared with the involvement of stakeholders and endorsed by the Minister of Forestry per Ministerial Decree No. 1213 of 2002 (Output 1.3);
- Park management operations conducted with the involvement of major stakeholders. Biodiversity surveys carried out at four different localities, and five species management plans prepared, study visits to national parks in Thailand, Sarawak, Sabah, and Jawa performed (Outputs 1.4, 1.5);
- Management structures established in cooperation with Malaysia and a bi-national taskforce set up and operational (Outputs 2.1, 2.2);
- Joint biodiversity expedition between Indonesia and Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah) carried out in 2003 (Output 2.3); and
- Workshop on the joint biodiversity expedition and wrap up discussions on the ITTO project implementation in KMNP conducted in July 2003 in Samarinda, East Kalimantan (Output 2.4).

V. TARGET BENEFICIARIES INVOLVEMENT

The target beneficiaries were actively involved in all stages of the project. Beneficiaries included the communities inside the park, the district governments of Malinau and Nunukan, the provincial government of East Kalimantan, the local NGOs, the Ministry of Forestry and WWF Indonesia. Outputs of the project are expected to speed up the management operations of KMNP and the TBCA of East Kalimantan, Sarawak, and Sabah.

VI. LESSONS LEARNT

The main lessons learnt from the implementation of this project include:

- The project lacked economic incentive activities to address the poverty problem facing the communities residing in the park. As a result, the communities were hesitant to fully support the project and other stakeholders questioned the contribution of the project to the economic development of the District;
- The project has initiated trans-border cooperation between East Kalimantan, Sabah, and Sarawak that will facilitate an exchange of capacity between the bordering communities and strengthen the conservation efforts along the border. However, more concrete actions are needed to mitigate the existing cross-border violations;
- The initiative of collaborative park management adopted at KMNP was the first of its kind in Indonesia. As a new management model it requires close attention from stakeholders and adequate resources for its proper operation, which all are currently lacking;

- A senior and experienced government officer should have led the Project Management Unit of KMNP and an operational budget for the unit should have been provided in order to enhance project achievements; and
- The roles and responsibilities of parties involved in project management were not clearly defined before the beginning of the project and resulted in operational and financial confusion during the implementation stage.

VII. DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The results of the project have been disseminated through the discussions, meetings and workshops organized during the implementation stage, through the "tempayan" local bulletin published regularly by WWF Indonesia Office in Tarakan, and through the Government Forestry and WWF Indonesia Offices. The Technical Reports on the watershed of KMNP, biodiversity joint expedition, and species management plans will be submitted shortly to the ITTO Secretariat for distribution to member countries and interested parties.

VIII. RECOMMENDATIONS RELATED TO FUTURE WORK

The following recommendations are made based on the lessons learnt from the implementation of the project:

- When there are two or more parties involved in the implementation of a project, there is a need to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each at the onset of the project in order to avoid operational confusion;
- More economic incentive activities need to be included to address the economic needs and interests of the local communities living in and around the target area;
- A collaborative park management model will only work if the collaborating parties have the required managerial and technical capacity. Therefore, an extensive training program must also exist; and
- The initiative to jointly manage a TBCA by bordering nations should be sustained through concrete and timely actions on the ground.

IX. CONCLUDING REMARKS

As the ITTO Secretariat has received the Project Completion Report, PD 38/00 Rev.1 (F) can be considered as completed pending the Technical Reports and Final Financial Audit Report.