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**Rattan Replanting Project in Ba Selulong, Long Si'ang
and Long Kawa
Date: 25th – 31st March 2017**

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Rattan Replanting Project

WWF-Malaysia in collaboration with Department of Agriculture Miri organized a rattan replanting project on 25-31 March 2017 at Ba Selulong, Long Si'ang and Long Kawa. The project aims to maintain the rattan ecosystem in the Kubaan-Puak forest, and in the meantime, supply local artisans with sufficient raw materials for making handicraft. The feedback received indicated that they currently have to travel far to collect the rattan, and as such, there is a need to replant rattan in their area.

The specific objectives of this rattan replanting activity were:

1. To identify rattan planting area and to plant rattan seedlings.
2. To share knowledge of rattan management and monitoring with the directly involved local communities in this activity.

During the trip, a total of 300 rattan seedlings were collected from the Kabuloh Agriculture Station and were then directly distributed the locals from these three villages; each village was given 100 rattan seedlings. It was suggested that these rattan seedlings should be planted at the immediate surroundings of their villages. In addition, locals were informed that this was a community project; they will be the ones to take care of the planted rattan. A technical advisor from the Department of Agriculture, Mr John ak Jadol, briefed the locals on how to manage and monitor the rattan seedlings.

Attendees from WWF-Malaysia and Department of Agriculture

Table 1: Name and organization of attendees

No.	Name	Organization	Role
1.	Mr John Ak Jadol	Department of Agriculture	Technical advisor
2.	Mr Alfred Keleman	WWF-Malaysia	Facilitator
3.	Ms Emmy Goh	WWF-Malaysia	Facilitator

The first day of rattan replanting activity carried out at Ba Selulong started with a dialogue session with local communities. During the dialogue, Mr John mentioned that the project was a community project, which required local active involvement. He asked locals which area is suitable to be planted with the rattan and how these available rattan seedlings should be distributed and managed. Mr John further explained that the suggested planting distance for rattan is to be 7m x 4m.

Locals were then given time to discuss the matters raised by Mr John. Those who attended this activity include Jepery Moyong (leader of Lg Si'ang), Arau Abit, Leyung Abit, Lilin Lawai, Kiya Nyagung, Langat Paren, Ameng Yut, Ubong Usai, Minah Jengan and Kutai Linyan. Overall feedback received show that locals are interested to plant rattan and they would like to learn more about this. Responses given by locals on the matters raised by Mr John indicate that locals would like the rattan seedlings to be equally distributed to all the households at Lg Si'ang, which has a total of 20 households. Each household will have a total

of 10 seedlings. This was mainly to ensure that each household would be responsible in taking care of the planted rattan seedlings in the future. The identified household's leaders for this rattan replanting project are Jepery Moyong, Arau Abit, Kiya Nyagung, Leyung Abit, Langat Paren, Lilin Lawai, Ameng Yut, Ruth Ketong, Lukas Selapan, Luta Selapan, Selapan Malin, Marcus Selapan, Sinut Jangin, Aseng Selapan, Rosely Nyalung, Ratai Ajang, Luis Leyung, Puak Moyong, Kutai Linyan and Moyong Usai.

On the second day of activity, the team followed locals to their farms to plant rattan. Prior to planting exercise, Mr John shared some knowledge of planting rattan that include the suitable planting distance, the need to have a clear space for planting by clearing bushes nearby the planting area and the need to have a support for rattan to grow by planting seedling near to the tree for ease of the seedling to climb up the tree as it grows.

Initially, locals were told to plant rattan at a recommended distance of 7m x 4m using measuring tape; however it was decided to plant rattan seedlings at estimated distance due to the inconsistent abundance in between trees for rattan to crawl on the tree. Three families have planted rattan on the same day. The location where rattan planting was carried out is shown in Appendix 1 in this report. After the planting activity, locals were informed to keep some plants for fruiting and maintaining the planting area.

The 3rd and 4th day of rattan replanting activity continued at the second identified village, Long Si'ang. Day One at Lg Si'ang was used to discuss the planting plan with the locals. From the discussion with Headman of Long Si'ang, Mr Asai Berat, it was decided to plant all the 100 rattan seedlings at one place near to the main road, just in front of the village (Appendix 1). This place is locally known as 'Tokong Si'ang' which means Si'ang (name of village) mountain.

On Day Two at Lg Si'ang, the interested locals, assisted by the project team members and technical advisor from Department of Agriculture, went to plant the rattan seedlings at the identified location. Similarly, prior to planting, Mr John briefed locals on the planting distance, bush clearing nearby the planting area and planting of rattan seedling near to the tree. Those locals from Lg Si'ang who involved in the planting activity included Asai Berat, Wong Berat, Larry Asai, Sii Linyan, Minah Adi and Mona Lisa. After the planting activity, locals were informed to keep some plants for fruiting and maintaining the planting area.

The 5th and 6th day of rattan replanting activity continued at Long Kawa. Location of the rattan replanting area is shown in Appendix 1. Initially, it was decided to plant rattan seedlings at Ba Marong. Due to the bad road condition going to the village (Appendix 2), it was decided to move the planting location to another village named Long Kawa. Before the planting activity, Mr John briefed locals on the planting distance, bush clearing and planting of rattan seedling near the tree, as what had been done at the other two villages. Locals followed the rattan replanting activity are Jusely Gadung, Ting Gadung, Cherry Gadung, Mary Ting, Connie Gadung, Mujan Gadung and Kahan Ting. After the planting activity, locals were informed to keep some plants for fruiting and maintaining the planting area once in a month by clearing bushes.

Issues/Problems Faced

Locals were interested to learn and try to plant rattan as it is new to them. Interested locals understood that there is a need to replant rattan at places near their village for future use. Some locals were expecting that they will be given allowances as field assistance although it was told that the rattan replanting activity was a community project. Locals will be the ones who will benefit from the harvest of the rattan in the future for handicraft purpose, and the seedlings were provided free of charge by the Department of Agriculture.

Recommendations

As suggested by Mr John Jadol from the Department of Agriculture, it is recommended to distribute more rattan seedlings to one village as the present amount distributed to the locals is insufficient. It is suggested to distribute 50 rattan seedlings to each household. This is so that there will be a significant amount of rattan that being replanted than the amount of rattan that being harvested in the future. On the next batch of rattan seedlings to be distributed to locals, only those that are interested and does not request for payment in doing the planting will be provided with the rattan seedlings.

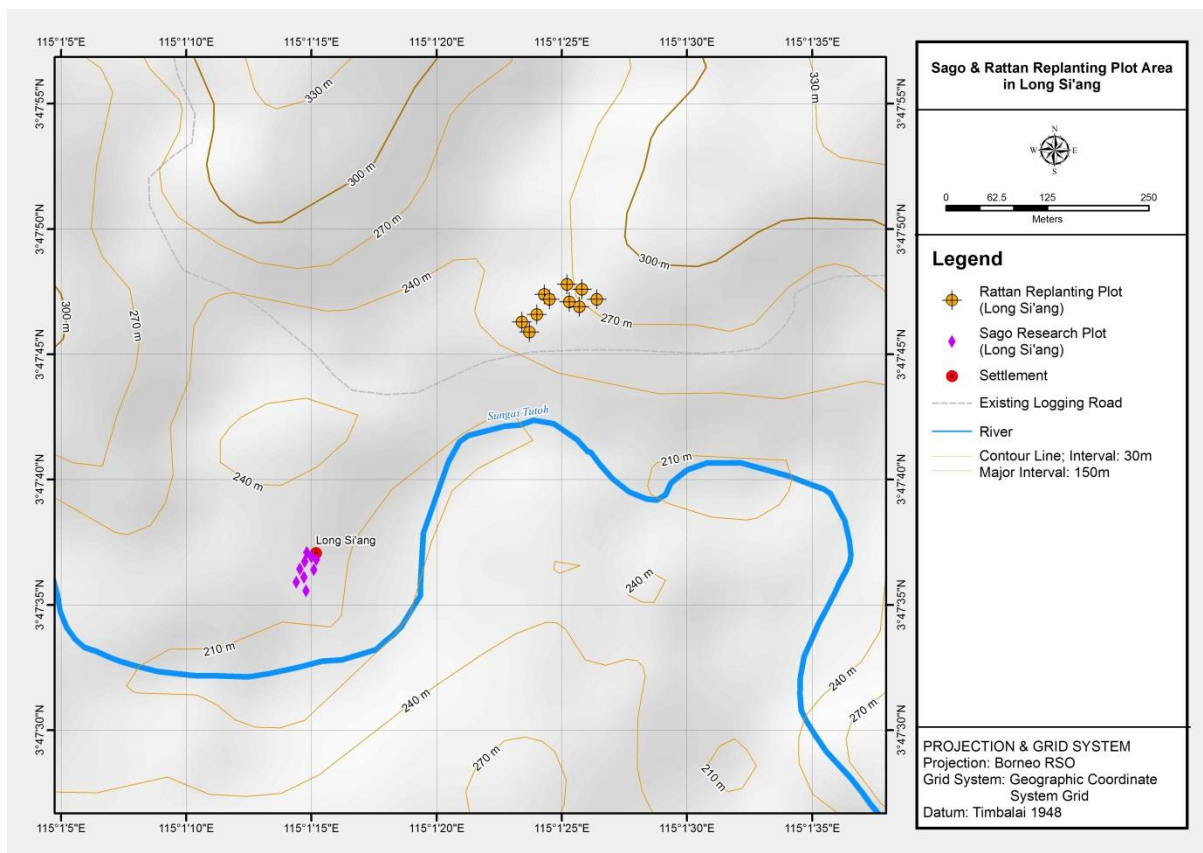
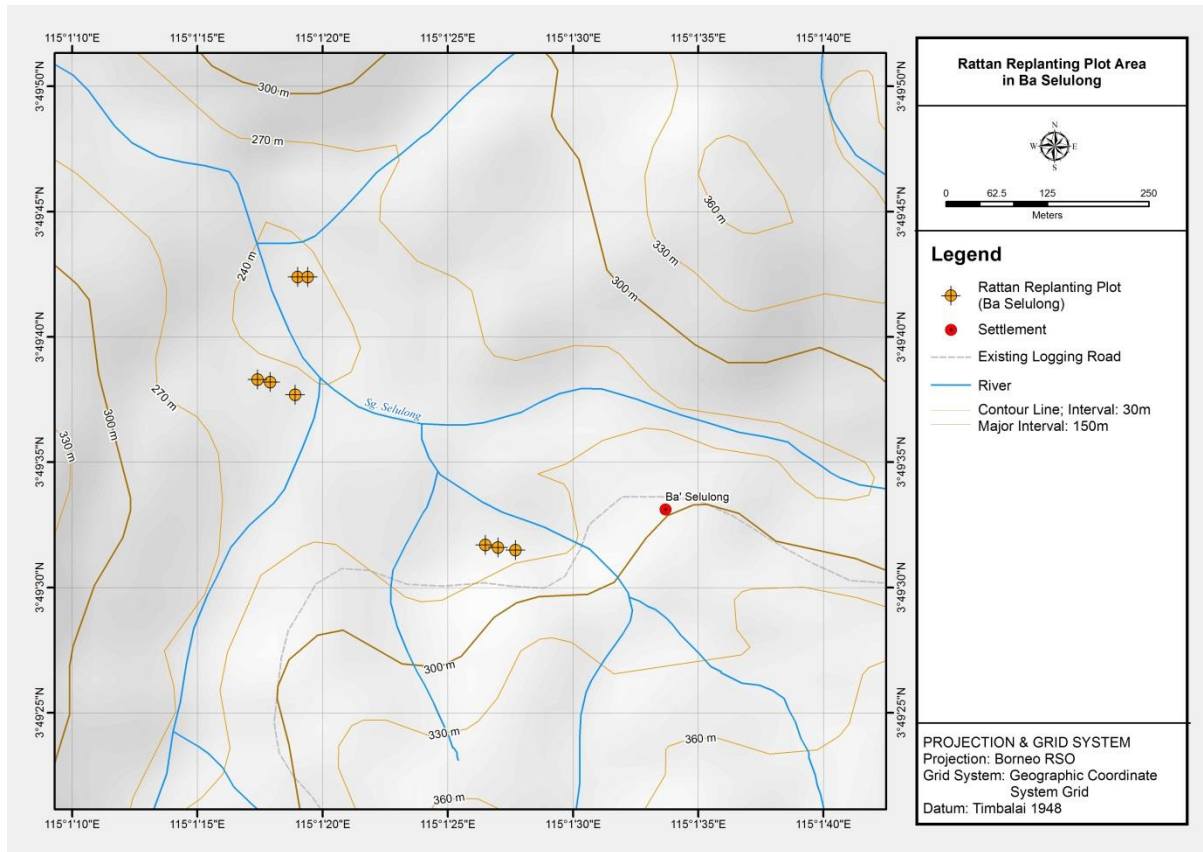
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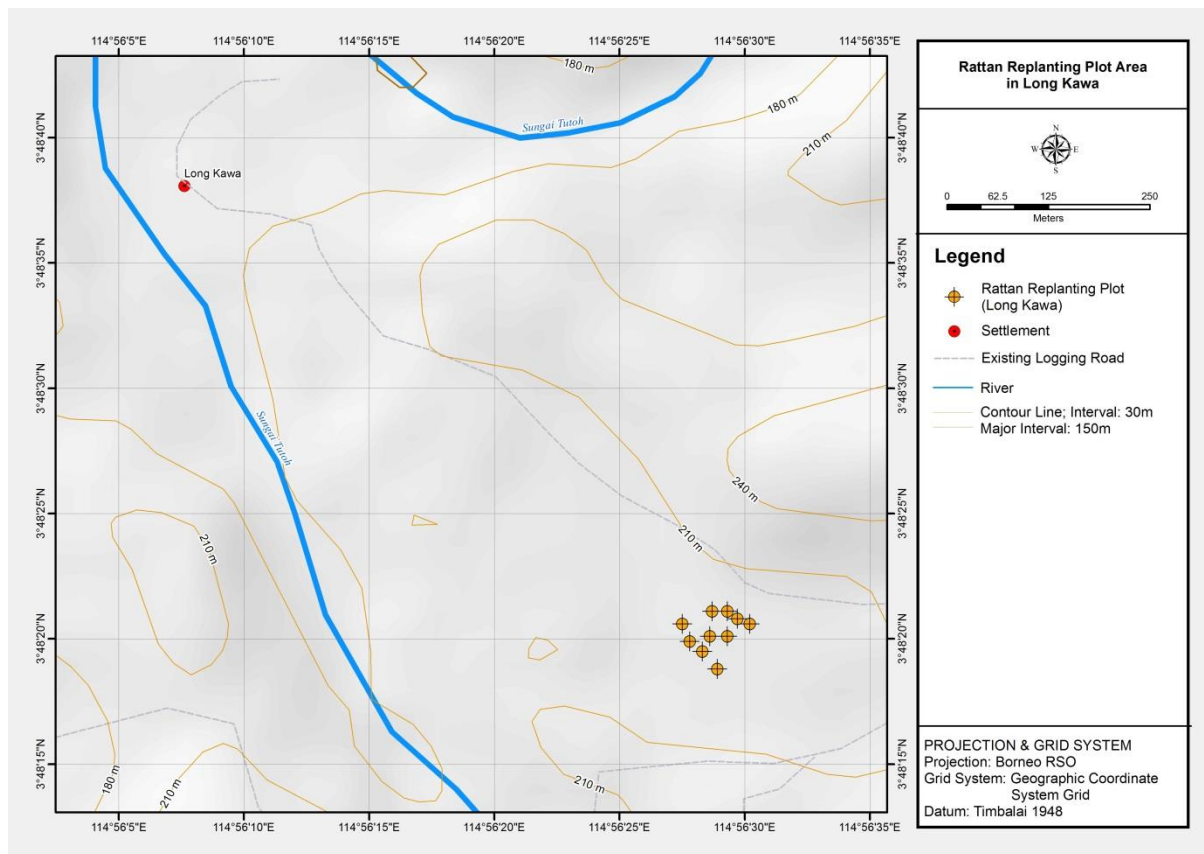
Additional information collected during the trip was the survival rate of vegetable seeds and fruit tree seedlings distributed to locals during the farming training last year 2016. Listed below the feedback given by the locals:

No.	Villages	Feedbacks
1	Ba Selulong	
	Rosely Nyalung	- Planted 8 pineapples, 3 bananas, sugarcane, lime tree, longan tree and sweet leaf vegetable (or locally known as cangkung manis) survived. Other planted vegetables did not survive.
	Kiya Nyagung	- Planted one durian survived and one rambutan did not survive.
	Lilin Lawai	- Planted cucumber and pumpkin survived.
	Arau Abit	- Planted cucumber and pumpkin survived.
	Tina Ketong	- Planted long bean and Chinese white cabbage (sawi pahit) survived.
2	Long Si'ang	
	Asai Berat	- Planted one durian, 2 longan trees, one lime tree, sweet leaf vegetable, Chinese white cabbage, jackfruit and cucumber survived. Other planted sweet corn, banana, sugarcane, pumpkin and four-angled bean did not survived due to being attacked by insects or wild boar.
	Nyipin Kulin	- Planted rambutan, jackfruit and sugarcane survived. Other planted banana did not survive.

Besides that, Mr John has distributed some 3-month type tapioca stems to the locals in Long Si'ang and Ba Selulong village (Appendix 1). It is a type of fast growing tapioca which could be harvested within three months.

Appendix 1





Map 1: Location of rattan replanting plot in Ba Selulong, Long Si'ang and Long Kawa villages with additional sago research plot in Long Si'ang.

Appendix 2



Figure 1: Agriculture staffs from Kabuloh Agriculture Research Station assisted by hired local driver to load the rattan seedlings in the car.



Figure 2: Mr John assisted in the discussion meeting with locals at Ba Selulong on the rattan replanting project (left). Each local took rattan seedlings that were distributed to them (right).



Figure 3: Mr John assisted locals in rattan planting (left) and explained on the planting distance for rattan (right).



Figure 4: Locals in Ba Selulong assisted by a lady Penan from Long Taha planted rattan seedlings.



Figure 5: Locals in Long Si'ang digging a hole (left) and planted rattan seedlings (middle). Local in Long Kawa clear the bushes for rattan replanting in the area (right).



Figure 6: Mr John briefed locals in Long Kawa on the rattan replanting plan (left). Headman of Long Kawa, Mr Ting Gadung planted the rattan seedling (right).



Figure 7: Bad road condition to Ba Marong village.