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Borneo Green Economy Newsletter



International Climate Initiative Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo Project

International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the German Government aims to integrate greenhouse gas reduction efforts, biodiversity conservation, more environmentally friendly economic development and improve welfare of local communities and indigenous peoples

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COVER:

Photo : ©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

Welcoming dance during IKI Cross Visit to Empangau, Kapuas Hulu

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Greening the world, one step at a time by Ms Cynthia Chin

It's been a hectic but a fruitful year of 2017. After months of groundwork, where the IKI team in Sarawak spent months of socialising the project with government partners and building support for the project, crucial work on the ground to gather baseline data on natural capital and social impact assessment has begun! In addition to that, the biggest win to date has been partnering with a local community to develop a green livelihood option in the form of gaharu tea plantation, a local species planted on degraded land at the fringe of orangutan habitat. It serves the important dual purpose of engaging local communities towards co-management of orangutan habitat, and providing sustainable livelihoods to them. This marks an exciting milestone for the IKI Project in Sarawak, and it is on this note that we look forward to even more successes in the year to come.

Bridging Green Economy in HoB through agropolitan strategic area by Mr Hermas Rintik Maring

In West Kalimantan, Indonesia, the Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo (GEHoB) project, lies in Kapuas Hulu inside the District Strategic Area (Kawasan Strategis Kabupaten or KSK) of Agropolitan. KSK Agropolitan is part of Kapuas Hulu Government's District Spatial Planning document. Between 2016 and 2017, this project implementation mostly focusses on pre-condition by proving documents and gaining mutual understanding among stakeholders in Kapuas Hulu. Based on that, WWF-Indonesia, in collaboration with Kapuas Hulu Government initiated a technical team for KSK Agropolitan, formulated workplan and conducted public hearing, socialisation, focus group discussions at district and sub-district levels (comprising seven districts in IKI project area). Our team also carried out biodiversity survey, cross visit and knowledge sharing related to green economy practices. As a result, the IKI Project is recognised and acknowledged by Kapuas Hulu District Government and heading towards the right direction.

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Green Economy Programme in the Heart of Borneo Launched

The new transboundary conservation project, Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo, was launched with the support of West Kalimantan Provincial Government in Putussibau, Kapuas Hulu District of West Kalimantan, Indonesia, on 19 April 2016.

Supported by International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of the German Government, the project aims to integrate greenhouse gas reduction efforts, biodiversity conservation, more environmentally friendly economic development and improve welfare of local communities and indigenous peoples. The duration of the project is from 2016 to 2019 and will be implemented by WWF-Germany, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia in collaboration with local stakeholders.

WWF-Indonesia Kalimantan Regional Leader Mr M. Hermayani Putera explained that the project would focus in the southern region of Kapuas Hulu. As stated in the 20-year vision of the Kapuas Hulu Regional Spatial Plan (RTRWK) 2014-2034, this project would be adapted to the development of the Agropolitan District Strategic Area (KSK).

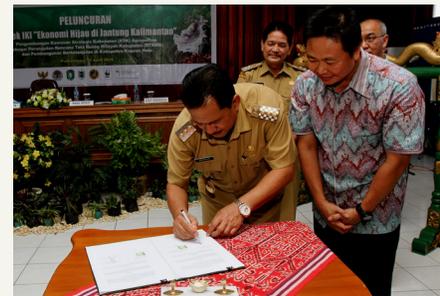
“WWF will act as a provider of technical assistance in the preparation of Agropolitan KSK Kapuas Hulu development documents. We will also document all the lessons that can be collected



WWF-Germany Director of Agriculture & Sustainable Biomass, Ms Martina Fleckenstein giving her opening remarks at the launch. ©WWF-Malaysia/Zora Chan



Head of District (Bupati), Mr A.M. Nasir hitting the gong to officially kick-start the new project. ©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa



Mr A.M. Nasir and Mr Albertus Tjiu (WWF-Indonesia) signing the MoU. ©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

during the implementation process,” he added.

Meanwhile, Kapuas Hulu District Government welcomed the new conservation initiative that involves the government, business and civil society. Bupati of Kapuas Hulu Mr A.M. Nasir said the project is in line with the implementation of Kapuas Hulu District as Conservation District which started in 2003.

In this regard, an expert on economic, human development and culture affairs, the Coordinator in the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Mr Raldi Hendro

Koestoer said in accordance with the national strategic plan Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), WWF acts as an intermediary between Kapuas Hulu, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam Governments which seek to synergise environmental sustainability programmes, in order to guide sustainable land use in a wider scope.

Among those present at the launch were various government stakeholders from national, provincial, district, sub-district, private, NGOs, and academia from West Kalimantan and Sarawak State, Malaysia.



Head of District exchanged souvenirs with WWF representatives. ©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

Venturing into the Heart of Borneo Where Development and Conservation Meet

In the first quarter of 2017, WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia held a cross visit to West Kalimantan. The visit aimed at giving stakeholders in Sarawak such as Forest Department Sarawak, State Planning Unit and community leaders, the opportunity to learn from the people of Meliau and Empangau on how they integrate nature conservation with economic development.



Warm handshakes as a brotherhood symbol from all participants at the Equator Monument Pontianak.
©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa



Head of Kaban Mayas, Mr Sodik Asmoro gave a presentation on ecotourism management in Meliau.
©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

The cross visit which took place from 27 February to 3 March 2017 also provided an opportunity for WWF to share with stakeholders the objectives of the Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo project.

One of our destinations was Meliau, a conservation area that WWF-Indonesia is working in. WWF-Indonesia Environmental Services Coordinator, Mr Hermas Maring briefed the Malaysian delegates on the conservation work by local communities in the area, and how the organisation helped in shaping the people's mindset to be proactive in conservation. A tour around Meliau longhouse showed how the community has evolved throughout the years.

Mr Sodik Asmoro, the leader for a local ecotourism committee group called Kaban Mayas (loosely translated from Iban as Friends of Orangutan), briefed the visitors how the development of ecotourism benefited the villagers by providing homestay, boat and canoe rental services.



Participants from Malaysia receiving garlands during the welcoming ceremony.

©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa



Using boats, participants entering Lake Merebung which is one of the main tourist destinations in Melemba village.

©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

Another commendable practices of natural resource management based on local wisdom are also found in Empangau. During the late 1990s, Empangau has depleted the wild stock of its arowana fish (*Scleropages formosus*), a prized aquarium fish, due to over-harvesting.

With the help of WWF-Indonesia, the villagers in Bunut Hilir sub-district agreed to start protecting their lakes and fish in 2000. They applied strict customary rules to preserve the Empangau Protected Lake, which is home to arowana. They also restocked the arowana parent fish in order to maintain stability of the population.

This sustainable management has proven to be of great benefit not only for arowana, but also for other fish such as *toman*, *jelawat*, *ringau*, *tengadak*, *baung*, and *entukan* which saw an increased in population. Today, villagers could harvest between eight and 10 tonnes of fish, and 100 to 120 life arowana per year from the 103.55 hectares of lake area.

The sale of arowana and other fish is then used to subsidise and build educational facilities and houses of worship. Social security and other village infrastructure are also supported by the management of the lake.

"The community has formed a protected lake management group that annually holds meetings to determine the lake's management," said Empangau Village Chief Mr Joni Karyadi to the Malaysian delegates.

The efforts by the Meliau and Empangau communities in balancing nature conservation and economic development are indeed commendable. Hopefully, the ongoing sustainable activities in the two areas will inspire other villages to strike a balance between economic gains and conservation, not only in Indonesia but also in Malaysia.



Introducing Iban traditional cuisine in Meliau to all the guests.

©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa



Mr A.M. Nasir, Kapuas Hulu Regent Head (centre) and his delegates releasing 10 super red strain of arowana into Empangau Lake at a fish restocking event.

©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

Strengthening Agropolitan District Strategic Area Kapuas Hulu Database



Shifting cultivation is one of the land uses by the community at the foot of Beluan hill, Hulu Gurung Sub-district. ©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa

WWF-Indonesia is making headways in realising its goal to implement the Agropolitan Kawasan Strategis Kabupaten or District Strategic Area (KSK) of Kapuas Hulu with sustainable economic scheme. After preparing work plans and collecting spatial data, a preliminary survey was conducted. “WWF-Indonesia West Kalimantan Programme tries to configure three major agendas, which are to prepare a work plan, spatial data, and build an initial information base on landscape typology, land use, and secondary data collection at the Agropolitan KSK area,” said Mr Amri Yahya, one of the Agropolitan KSK Technical Team members from WWF-Indonesia.

The preparation of the work plan was held in Putussibau on 4 May 2017, while the spatial data preparation was conducted in Jakarta from 8 to 9 May 2017. The preliminary survey took place from 17 to 24 May 2017 in Putussibau and seven subdistricts of Agropolitan KSK. The process of preparing the work plan, added Mr Amri, involved experts from the School of Architecture, Planning, and Policy Development (SAPPK) ITB. The spatial data preparation process involved Badan Perencanaan Pembangunan Daerah (BAPPEDA) Kapuas Hulu, Geospatial Information Agency, and National Aeronautics and Space Agency (LAPAN).

In the preliminary survey, WWF-Indonesia took experts from SAPPK ITB and Agropolitan KSK Kapuas Hulu Technical Team. “This is not a simple tool as there is a need for special skills in designing future steps to meet the expected target,” Mr Amri said. At this stage, the team applied field observation and discussion methods. Field observations were undertaken to establish a framework for understanding the landscape typology, land use, regional potentials, and natural resources. Discussion was also conducted with the intention of collecting secondary data, both at the sub-district and district levels.

In the preliminary survey, the team split into two groups with one stationed in Hulu Gurung, Pengkadan, Seberuang, and Semitau; and another in Empanang, Silat Hilir, and Silat Hulu sub-districts. The teams visited the selected sub-district offices to conduct interviews, among others, with the agricultural field extension officers (Penyuluh Pertanian Lapangan or PPL), and village representatives for primary data.

After the field survey, the teams carried out secondary data collection in the District Government Departments (Organisasi Perangkat Daerah or OPD), especially in departments associated with the Agropolitan KSK in Putussibau. “The area of Agropolitan KSK still has forest stands. One of the activities carried out was biodiversity survey especially on freshwater ecosystem services, flora and fauna in protected areas and forested areas,” said an expert team member of SAPPK ITB Mr Rahmat Hafiz.

Finally, after completing surveys in all sub-districts within the Agropolitan KSK, the entire team developed a follow-up plan, including further collection of data. “The interest and potential points that can be developed in the Agropolitan programme need to be scrutinised and the socialised so that all stakeholders would be familiar with the Agropolitan KSK programme before the process of data collection is conducted,” he concluded.

Technical Team in a working visit in Semitau sub-district. ©WWF-Indonesia/Victor Fidelis Sentosa



HoB Trilateral Meeting (T11) and HoB Expo

The Heart of Borneo (HoB) Expo, which among others, showcased a photography exhibition at Universitas Borneo Tarakan, North Kalimantan, Indonesia from 10 to 12 October 2017 was a crowd puller. About 300 students, government officials and the public visited the expo held in conjunction with the 11th HoB Trilateral Meeting.

Photographs portraying project sites and stories from the HoB were highlighted to the delegation from Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. There were 40 photographs representing each province in Kalimantan within the HoB area and 10 photographs from the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak to portray the livelihoods of the people.



WWF-Indonesia representative giving explanations on HoB to students who visited the photo exhibition. ©WWF-Malaysia/Arman Anang



Photo with North Kalimantan Governor (5th from left) during the photo exhibition launching. ©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging

Through the exhibition, visitors were able to see WWF's conservation efforts in Kalimantan, Sabah and Sarawak. The work contribute to the five pillars under the HoB Action Plan: transboundary management, protected areas management, sustainable resource management, ecotourism and capacity building.

The exhibition also showcased projects carried out in the HoB, and presented popular reports entitled *Learning Green Economy at Tread Level*, *Building a Network of Knots*, *Field Trip KSK Agropolitan Kapuas Hulu*, *West Kalimantan*, *Designing Actions Across Concessions*, *Preliminary Survey of KSK Agropolitan Kapuas Hulu Together with ITB Expert Team - West Kalimantan*, and *Tracking Five Strategic Issues*, *FGD KSK Agropolitan Kapuas Hulu - West Kalimantan*.



Photography class for photography community and photography enthusiasts in Tarakan city. ©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging

WWF-Indonesia also conducted a photography class. Most of the participants comprised local photography community in Tarakan City. During the class, participants learned how to capture the subject's mood based on their favourite photo genre. They were also advised to use photography as a tool for conservation as photographs speak louder than words.



Introducing Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo to Stakeholders in Sarawak

We have been on high gear since the last quarter of 2016 till now in our efforts to make the project and organisation known in Sarawak. Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo (HoB) project is new but people are starting to recognise the project and its benefits. Until then, WWF-Malaysia will continue on spreading the messages on green economy through courtesy calls and socialisation workshops with our stakeholders.



12 Oct 2016

Courtesy call to Kapit District Office
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



18 Nov 2016 Socialisation meeting with state government agencies comprising Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak State Planning Unit, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, Department of Agriculture, Sri Aman Resident, Lubok Antu District Officer, Sarawak Energy Berhad, Ta Ann, Ministry of Tourism, WWF-Germany and WWF-Indonesia
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



14 Feb 2017

Courtesy call to Bukit Mabong District Office
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



16 Feb 2017

Courtesy call to Song District Office
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



23 May 2017 Sarawak IKI Technical Committee formed comprising representatives from Forest Department Sarawak, State Planning Unit, Ministry of Resource Planning and Environment, Department of Agriculture, Sri Aman Resident, Lubok Antu District Officer, Sarawak Energy Berhad, Ta Ann, Ministry of Tourism and WWF-Malaysia
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



13 June 2017
Socialisation workshop with local community leaders in Kapit
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



2 August 2017
Courtesy call to Lubok Antu District Office
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging



3 August 2017
Courtesy call to Sri Aman District Office
©WWF-Malaysia/Sandra Wong



11 August 2017
Courtesy call to State Planning Unit
©WWF-Malaysia/Sarawak State Planning Unit



26 Sept 2017
Socialisation workshop and social survey planning with local community leaders in Song
©WWF-Malaysia/McKenzie Martin

International Conference on Heart of Borneo, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah

WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia showcased the project at the International Conference on Heart of Borneo in Sabah. The exhibition generated a lot of interest from the visitors who wanted to know more about green economy and how conservation and socio-economic development can be integrated. Those who visited the booth included Sabah Chief Minister Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Musa Aman, Sabah Forestry Department Datuk Sam Mannan and Mr Frederick Kugan.



Tan Sri Musa Aman at WWF booth.
©WWF-Malaysia/Nuraini Souliisa



Students playing a conservation game to gain a better understanding on environment. ©WWF-Malaysia/Nuraini Souliisa

Greening Degraded Land Through Gaharu



WWF staff getting their hands dirty as they turned into gaharu farmers for a day.
©WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging

WWF staff and Aquilaria Plantation Sdn Bhd Director Dr Lim Chan Koon (second left) at Rumah Manggat's existing trial gaharu plot.
© WWF-Malaysia/Fiona Maurice



WWF-Malaysia Protected Area Officer Ms Ailyn Nau Sidu with a young gaharu tree which was planted over a year ago at trial plot.
© WWF-Malaysia/Fiona Maurice

On a sunny morning in November 2017, 15 WWF staff from Germany, Indonesia and Malaysia offices and Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) put aside their normal work routine and had a hands-on experience as gaharu farmers.

They helped to plant some 200 gaharu *Aquilaria microcarpa* seedlings at Rumah Manggat, Batang Ai, Sarawak, a site under IKI Project Malaysia. *Aquilaria microcarpa* is a native tree to the HoB, which has traditionally been harvested for its fragrant wood. This time around, the gaharu are planted for their leaves as there is a high demand for its leaves as tea - a high value non-timber forest product - which are known to have health benefits and medicinal properties.

FDS introduced to Rumah Manggat folk on gaharu farming in a trial plot about two years ago and the

plot showed the area has potential to be further developed. More importantly, Rumah Manggat sits in Ulu Menyang, an area that has been described as the “gateway to orangutan country” in Batang Ai by FDS.

Hence, WWF-Malaysia is working with FDS to expand the plot on degraded land, and undertake this pilot green economy project with hopes to demonstrate that gaharu tea can provide a competitive economic alternative to rubber or oil palm without having to clear forests, and at the same time, improving people’s livelihoods and protecting orangutans’ habitat.

We hope that this gaharu tea project that is forest-friendly, long-term and financially rewarding to the local community can be a model to other areas in the near future.



WWF provides gaharu seedlings to Rumah Manggat's extended plot which is a degraded land.
© WWF-Malaysia/Amanda Jengging

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Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which human live in harmony with nature.

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