

FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION

Monitoring of High Conservation Value (HCV) Areas in the certified Forest Management Unit (FMU) through the capacity-building of the Conservation Internship Program (CIP)

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The **High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF)** concept is applied in the certification of responsible management under the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators (Natural Forest) (MC&I [Natural Forest]). The decision in the management activities in the high conservation value (HCV) areas in a certified Forest Management Unit (FMU) shall always follow a precautionary approach. The forest manager is required to identify any HCV area within the FMU, and to manage and monitor it in order to maintain and enhance the values identified.

High conservation value forests are those that possess one or more of the following attributes: protected areas, threatened and endangered species, endemism, critical temporal use, landscape-level forest, ecosystem, watershed protection, erosion control, barriers to destructive fires, basic needs of local community and cultural identity of local communities.

The **Research Intensified Management of Bio-Rich Areas (RIMBA) Sarawak** is a platform for collaboration into scientific research in Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) in Sarawak between Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) and renowned universities and institutions of higher learning in the field of Research and Development (R&D) regionally and internationally. Among the several objectives of RIMBA Sarawak is to build and enhance the capabilities in research and in conservation management.

The **Conservation Internship Program (CIP)** is one of the initiatives by RIMBA Sarawak that will facilitate the certification of the Forest Management Units of Sarawak. The CIP consists of eight modules which are carefully developed in collaboration with the industry, universities and relevant NGO i.e World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia). All of the modules are focused on topics related to the forest management certification under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS). The Module 8 (Industrial Attachment) is the last one to be completed by the interns as part of the mandatory syllabus to be covered under the CIP.

The main objective of Module 8 is to ensure that the interns are able to put it practice what they have learnt under the program through industrial attachment with the FMU. The duration of the attachment is two months (out of the nine-month program) at the FMU. The mandatory subjects covered during the attachment are (i) Wildlife Conservation and Monitoring; (ii) High Conservation Value (HCV); and Permanent Sample Plot (PSP).

Upon completion of the CIP training modules by the interns, they are readied for employment with the FMU. Job placement interviews are organized by SFC with the FMU. Two batches of Conservations Interns have been trained successfully. The first batch of interns graduated in January 2018 and followed by the second batch of interns graduating in March 2019. The first CIP was funded by SFC whereas the second one was a collaboration with the Sarawak timber Association (STA). Two graduates of first CIP (Frazier Anak Parose and Racheal Anak Rosedy) and one (Ophelia Eda Alexander Treang) from the second one have been accepted and employed by Syarikat Samling Timber Sdn. Bhd.

The focus of CIP is on **High Conservation Value (HCV) assessment and monitoring** which falls under the principle 9 in the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators (MC&I) standard used for forest management certification. There are six main HCV attributes that can broadly categorized into three types which are **Protected Areas, Flora & Fauna (Biodiversity) and Social-cultural components**.

For **Fauna, camera trapping** is the best and most convenient method to capture pictures of mammals that are very shy, e.g. the Sun Bear, Wild Cats and even big birds like the Pheasants. Other methods would be bird watching and accidental wildlife sighting including tracks, sign and vocal. As for **Flora, sampling** is done at different forest types and the leaf samples area taken to be identified at the herbarium up to species level. Identification at the herbarium is the crucial part of conducting the flora assessment as there are too many species even the expert would not be able to recognize every species on the spot. Social-cultural component is the hardest part of HCV which involves in consultation, engagement and regularly visiting the villagers in order to make sure their social-cultural values area maintained and to avoid any conflict which will smooth the certification process.

Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) program is one of the module of CIP. Interns are thought to do CEPA and to implement it on the ground. One CEPA

session on Totally Protected and Protected Animals was done in Ravenscourt FMU for the Tadika Akar Baik (TAB) Cawangan BEM Ravenscourt.

Honorary Wildlife Ranger (HWR) program is compulsory for the CIP graduates in which their roles fall under the MC&I Criterion 6.2.4 to control hunting activities in the FMU. A HWR is also responsible to assist or to conduct the CEPA Program.

A **Hornbill Monitoring Project** has been initiated in Ravenscourt FMU, Lawas. Hornbills are totally protected in Sarawak and are listed in Appendix I and Appendix II of CITES which make them as HCV 1.2 attribute. In addition, HCV 1.4 is the Critical Temporal Use of animals such as nesting sites, roosting sites, salt licks and etc. The Hornbill Monitoring Project was carried out in Ravenscourt FMU, Lawas in December 2018. Besides monitoring the presence of the several species of hornbills, the project is to confirm the status of the five potential hornbill nest which are found in several coupes of the FMU. The potential hornbill nest trees were tagged and marked. The inspection of the other coupes will be covered soon as an early step to protect and demarcate the critical temporal use area by the hornbills. It is better late than ever.

Field testing workshop of **the Malaysian National Interpretation for the Identification of High Conservation Values Tool Kit** was jointly organized by World Wildlife Fund for Nature – Malaysia (WWF-Malaysia), Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC), Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) from 5th – 10th May 2019. The modules of the HCV workshop comprised of two sessions – classrooms and fieldwork. The classroom sessions consist of scoping, management and monitoring, HCV report, camera trap survey, GIS, mapping and prioritization analysis, selection of sampling locations or sample plots for flora, identification of species (fauna) and application of Free, Prior, Informed Consent (FPIC). The fieldwork covers the fauna and flora assessment, and social survey. The facilitator for the workshop was Dr. Yap and Samling provided the venue at the Baram Central Base Camp and the Gerenai FMU for the field testing workshop.

The main objective of the workshop was to obtain feedback from the organizers itself and the big six timber companies on the draft modules before it is finalized and used by the FMUs in Sarawak. A total of 40 participants including the resource persons and 10 drivers were involved. The participants were divided into two groups, namely Flora & Fauna Assessment

and Social Survey respectively. The concept community engagement was thought in class before conducting the actual field testing at Long Anap for the HCV 5 and 6 assessments. There will be a follow-up session to share the feedback and suitability of the HCV modules for use by the FMUs.

Conservation Internship Program (CIP)



**First batch of CIP graduates 2018(above) and
Second batch 2019 (below)**





Flora assessment by leaves and fruit samples collected by Andyson of FMC Section



Installation of camera trap at salt lick located in Ravenscourt FMU



Social Impact Assessment (SIA) and HCV Social-cultural Assessment by interviewing the villagers

Results of camera traps in the FMUs





Black and yellow Broadbill
Eurylaimus ochromalus



Crested Serpent Eagle
Spilornis cheela

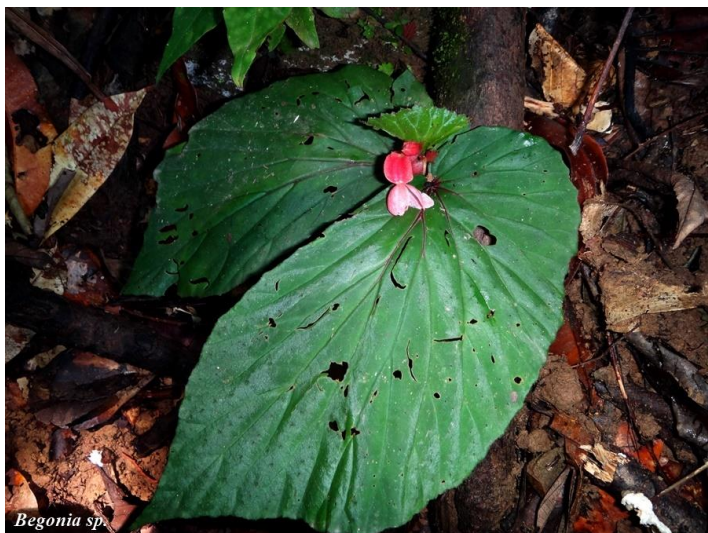
Example of bird watching and accidental wildlife



Slow Loris
Nycticebus coucang



Leopard Cat
Prionailurus bengalensis



Begonia sp.



Begonia sp.



Assessment for HCV 5 & 6 (Basic needs and cultural identity) at Long Sela'an



Social-cultural assessment for HCV 5 & 6 at Long Tungan



First CEPA session at Ravenscourt BEM Tadika assisted by Yap Chin Hi (Site Safety Supervisor) and Zekail Achang (Ravenscourt Storekeeper)



Second CEPA session with the TAB teacher, TAB students, Yap CH (Site Safety Supervisor), Magareth Lawai (AJK TAB) and Samuel Nuh (Surveyor FMC)



First batch of CIP graduates attending the HWR training September 2018 in Bintulu



Group photo of Samling employees at the closing HWR training September 2018 in Bintulu



One of the potential Hornbill nest tree found in Ravenscourt FMU





Camera trap used for HCV Assessment of Fauna



Installing camera trap for HCV Assessment of fauna



Camera trap installed at animal trail



Crawl test before initiate the actual session of camera trapping to make sure the camera captures the perfect images of the animals