



LINKING BIOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY IN THE STATE OF SABAH MALAYSIA

BY
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1.0 Introduction

- ▶ Sabah, Malaysia is situated in Borneo with the size of 73,711 km²
- ▶ Population are about 3.2 million
- ▶ Multi- cultural with more than 30 ethnic group
- ▶ Rich in Biodiversity (26 % (1.87 million hectare) of PAs, Targeting 30% (2.2 million hectare) by 2025)
- ▶ Natural resources-based economy (Palm oil, timber, oil and gas]
- ▶ Need to balance socio economic development with conservation
- ▶ Sabah Biodiversity Strategy (2012-2022) promoting engagement with stakeholders and biocultural approach

Natural Resources Office

- ▶ An office within Chief Minister Department but functioning as a ministerial whereby Secretary of Natural Resources responsible directly to the Minister of Natural Resources
- ▶ Main role to plan and implement land development (alienation of land), forest, water resources, mining/quarry (licences), biodiversity and associated resources in accordance with State government policies.
- ▶ To formulate and to implement policy related to natural resources (Land Utilization Policy, Water Resources, Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans etc)
- ▶ To coordinate activities/program related to natural resources
- ▶ Focal point for International convention.

2. Mainstreaming of biocultural in conservation of natural resources

- ▶ To promote a win-win situation between state government
- ▶ To find conservation opportunity from biocultural activities of people
- ▶ Recognition of right and empowerment of local community over natural resources
- ▶ One way to achieve Target 11 of Aichi Target (PAs and other effective area-based conservation measures). Too much focus on PAs. Other conservation measures such as community-based conservation also can be used to achieve Target 11.

3. Tagal System

- ▶ In Sabah, river is a Common right. However since 1998, it is being regulated under Water Resources Enactment 1998.
- ▶ Due to of human activities river become polluted (erosion, industrialization, urbanisation, unsustainable fishing, siltation etc).
- ▶ Fishes and other aquatic population depleted. Emergence of awareness of local communities
- ▶ Has led to the introduction of Tagal System which empowering the local community to manage part of the river system (within the village parameter)
- ▶ Department of Fisheries is using Tagal system for the sustainable management of fish resources
 - ▶ Prohibit anyone to catch fish resources in the area **designated by the community** themselves for specific duration of time.

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- ▶ Zoning of the area of the river
- ▶ Using traditional method in harvesting of fish
- ▶ Fine/Penalty on violation to be dealt in accordance to the native law
- ▶ Being promoted for tourism/ fish massage.
- ▶ Extended for management of other resources (forestry and wildlife management)
- ▶ Support the preservation of water quality, aesthetic value of river system, upstream environment







4. Indigenous Community Conserve Areas

- ▶ Sabah Parks is using ICCA concept in promoting connectivity of ecosystems.
 - ▶ ICCA is implemented through the gazzement of particular area as native reserve under Sec. 78 of Sabah Land Ordinance. The local communities empower to manage the area in accordance to their needs.
 - ▶ Community will conserve part of the areas for conservation. Community protocol need to be agreed and signed
 - ▶ Commitment to conserve part of the area is documented in the management plan and deposited in the District Office/land office which one of the trustee of native reserve
 - ▶ Under ecolinc project, encouraged ownership through native reserve. Support the village to prepare a management plan of the reserve.
 - ▶ Outside from Sabah Parks areas. Require Involvement of many stakeholder



PROPOSED
TUN MUSTAPHA PARK

Peni
Mal

Sulu Sea

South China Sea

TURTLE ISLANDS PARK

DUL RAHMAN PARK

KINABALU PARK

TIGA PARK

Sandakan

CROCKER RANGE PARK

SABAH
(MALAYSIA)

TUN SAKARAN MARINE PARK

TAWAU HILLS PARK

ALAM

Celebes Sea


SIPADAN ISLAND PARK

KALIMANTAN
(INDONESIA)

IAK
SIA)

5. Conclusion

- As a natural-based economy, participation of the local community in conservation of natural resources is crucial for state of Sabah in achieving Sustainable Development Goals(SDG).
- State government agencies play an importance role to steer the mainstreaming the biocultural approach for the achievement of conservation objective of the state.
- Partnership between government, business sector, NGOs and international communities is critical to achieve sustainable development and sustainability of conservation initiatives.
- Biocultural approach can contribute significantly for achieving Target 11, of Aichi Target.



**Thank You
Terima Kasih
Arigato Gozzaimas**