



Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Cooperation in Sarawak, Malaysia

Paul P.K. Chai
ITTO Project, Sarawak

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Outline

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- Conclusion & the Way Forward

Introduction

- In Sarawak, land use policy ensures balance between development & conservation – forestry (logging, plantations), conservation, agriculture, others. Land area 12.4 m ha
- Conservation: 1 million ha (10% total land area) of Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) for national parks, wildlife sanctuaries & nature reserves
- Existing 36 TPAs (21 NPs proposed) exist as ‘islands’ of remaining rich resources; threatened by development & community needs
- Depleting resources prompted government to (i) combat illegal logging, and (ii) change forestry policy – no new timber & plantation licenses, expired licenses not renewed, forest certification for timber licenses in HoB area



Primary MDF



Logging





Plantation



Shifting agriculture

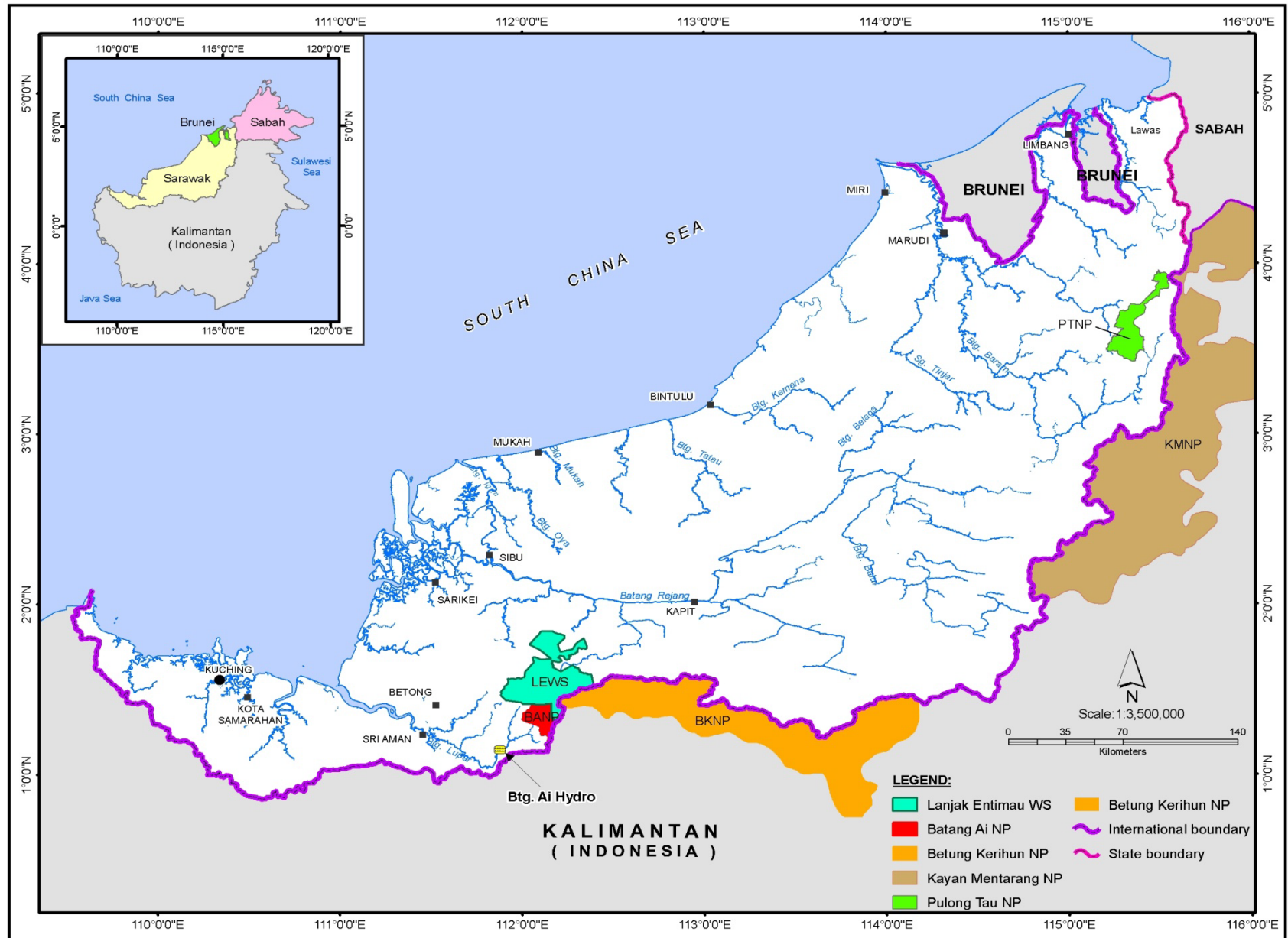
Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Cooperation

- ITTO Mission 1989/1990 to Sarawak to access forestry resources.
Recommended actions to enhance protection of habitats, water catchments, flora & fauna, seek international cooperation
- 1993: First ITTO project in Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary – one of 25 ITTO success stories
- 1994: First TBCA in humid tropics: Lanjak Entimau W.S. and Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP, West Kalimantan); total 1 million ha
- 2005: Second Indonesia-Sarawak TBCA with Kayan Mentarang N.P. (KMNP, East Kalimantan) & Pulong Tau N.P. (PTNP, Northern Sarawak); total 1.3 million ha
- Collaboration: IBBE 1997 six-week scientific expedition to BKNP/LEWS, orangutan strategic action plan, joint training, cross visits, community welfares, information exchange – Joint Technical Task Force (JTTF)

LOCALITY MAP OF MALAYSIA



LOCATION MAP OF TRANSBOUNDARY BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AREA



Assessment - Benefits

- TBC promotes regional cooperation, recognizes conservation as a shared responsibility
- Enables large contiguous forest areas conserved – significant amid disappearing TRF
- Protects threatened/endemic flora & fauna, keystone species, e.g. 4,000 orangutan in BKNP/LEWS
- ITTO projects support: a) studies on forest ecosystems, biodiversity, forestry-related socio-economics; b) training ground for young researchers; c) community participation in conservation initiated
- Spin-off benefits: Other agencies (e.g. HoB) apply concepts on community development, *tagang*, buffer zones/corridors



Lanjak Entimau W.S.



4,000 in LEWS-BKNP



Harvest from community project



Penan porters

Assessment - Constraints

- **Sustainability**

- a) Projects born out of international support, ITTO-dependent on financing; counterpart (government) contributions mostly in kind
- b) Post-ITTO cooperation government-dependent, i.e. finance
- b) Sarawak continues ITTO project work, but policy on TBCAs unclear – JTTF to recommend, ITTO intervention?

- **Implementation (affects results)**

- a) EA: Institutional setup into different branches/divisions with own plans & priorities, capacity to implement (involves conservation, research, ecotourism, community services)
- b) Re-structuring/staff transfers affects continuity, decision making
- c) Differing timeframes for TBCA projects leads to one-sided financing & unequal outputs/efforts
- d) Interest & capacity to implement - leadership, good planning, motivation in conservation work/field work

Lessons Learned

- ITTO projects & TBC cooperation contributed significantly to conservation & livelihood improvement - should be sustained & strengthened
- Sustaining TBCAs requires government recognition & political decisions
- Making it work. ITTO projects helped change mindset: (i) allowing community participation in conservation management; (ii) sharing & sustainable utilization of TPA resources - Sarawak laws prohibit entry to TPAs if no special privileges granted
- Conservation can benefit communities, but efforts must be sustained leading to self reliance
- Measure success by results (not money spent) – communities want to see results that bring benefits
- Strong leadership, interested & motivated personnel

Sarawak on Lessons Learned

- Continues activities after ITTO for greater benefit sharing
- FDS formed Community Service Initiative Unit (CSIU) in 2012, recently upgraded to Social Forestry Division (SFD)
- Sustainable financing (operation & development) since 2012; budget to 2020 secured under 11th Malaysia Plan
- Lessons & experience replicated – in Sarawak 50% population (total 1.3 million) rural-based & forest-dependent, scattered in 5,000 villages
- Strategies: a) awareness education; b) food security (fruit crops, pond & *tagang* fisheries); c) message on biodiversity conservation & sustainable utilization via *tagang* system; d) improving living conditions (housing, gravity-feed water, suspension bridges)
- Pursue government to extend work to other TPAs & to sustain TBC cooperation





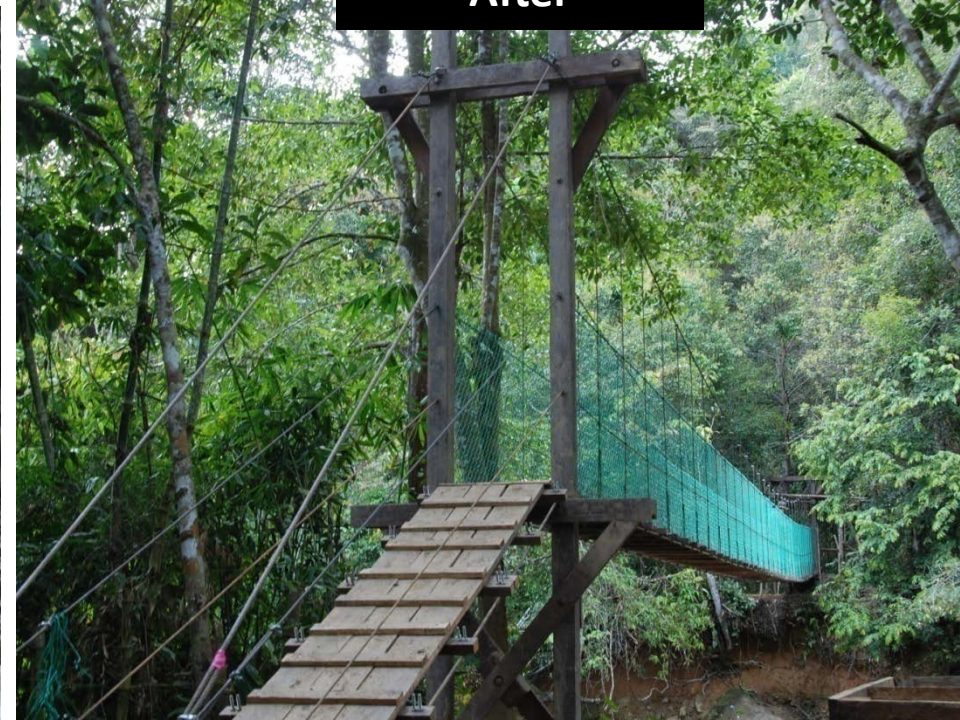
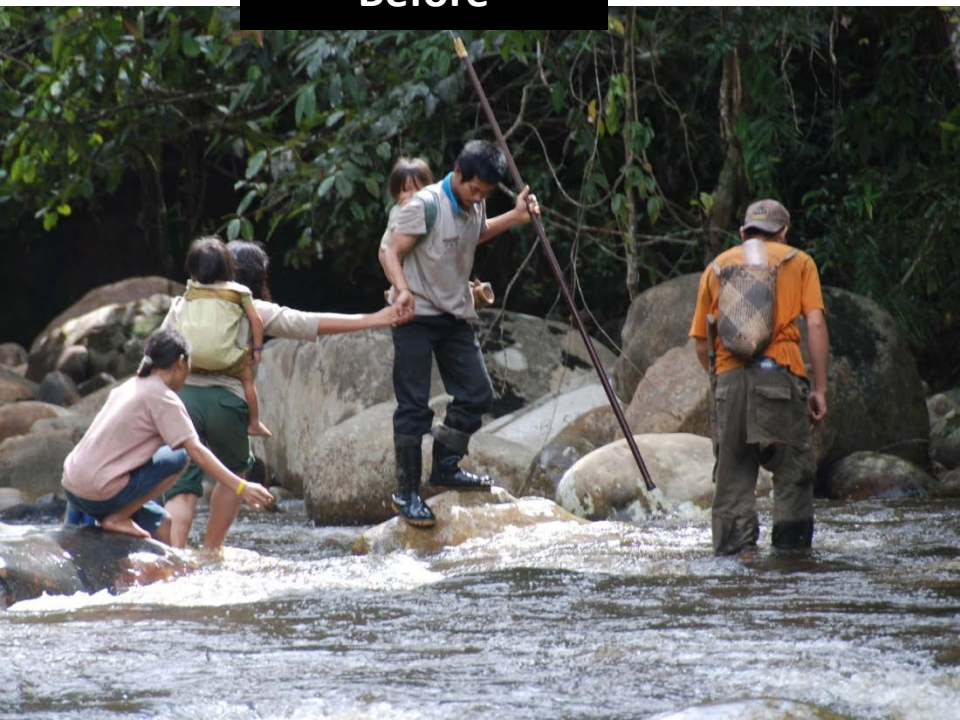
Penan initiative on crop cultivation



Before



After





Pond fishery



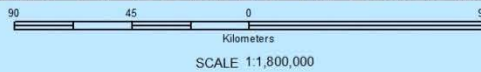
Tagang fishery

Video on Tagang

Heart of Borneo Initiative

- Voluntary partnership cooperation between Indonesia, Malaysia (Sarawak, Sabah), Brunei Darulsalam. Launched in 2006. Total area: 20 million ha (Sarawak 2.1 million ha)
- Concept not new - 're-branded' from TBCAs
- Objectives: Promotes people's welfares, effective management of forest resources, conservation of protected areas, productive forests & other sustainable uses
- Sarawak's Project Implementation Framework (PIF) focuses on agriculture, forest resources, biodiversity, local communities, eco-tourism
- Activities carried out: Scientific expeditions, workshops, limited community assistance
- LEWS & PTNP inside HoB – project results reported as progress & achievements
- Recent government actions: Curb illegal logging, expired license not renewed, renewal of timber licenses within HoB requires forest certification
- Immediate HoB focus: SFM, implement conservation & community development activities beyond LEWS & PTNP

HEART OF BORNEO IN SARAWAK



SOUTH CHINA SEA

KALIMANTAN (INDONESIA)



FOREST DEPARTMENT
SARAWAK

Conclusion & the Way Forward

- International & ITTO support have brought immense benefits to biodiversity conservation & involved communities
- Continue to apply & share lessons & knowledge learned
- Government commitment to sustainable funding crucial
- Implement people participation in conservation management in other TPAs
- Communities depend on outside help – sustain efforts to achieve self reliance & conservation objectives
- Capacity building to cultivate interest in conservation work
- Continue & strengthen transboundary conservation cooperation



Transboundary cooperation
The Way Forward

THANK YOU