

**AWARENESS TALK ON SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (SFM) AND
ITTO-FUNDED PROJECT: UPPER BARAM FOREST AREA (UBFA),
FOR THE COMMUNITY AROUND LONG BANGA, AND LONG LAMAI**

11 – 18 December 2023, Long Banga & Long Lamai

FIELD REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION

A trip to Long Banga and Long Lamai was organized by Forest Department Sarawak (Minute Ref No: (117JHS/IAD/600-10/3/103/Jld.1) to give awareness to the communities living within UBFA regarding SFM and ITTO-funded projects.

2. OBJECTIVES

To enhance the awareness and knowledge of SFM, and other related fields for the communities within UBFA, to ensure successful implementation of the project and to achieve the project goal of embracing Integrated Sustainable Forest Management in Sarawak.

3. DURATION

11 – 18 December 2023 (7 days)

4. MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

- i. Flight (AK6182, AK6191)
- ii. Official car (QSG4542, QSG4376)
- iii. Rental car (QTY7385)

5. LIST OF OFFICERS AND STAFF INVOLVED

No.	Name	Unit/Division
1.	Evelyn anak Jugi	IAD, HQ
2.	Angelia anak Muri	
3.	Kleansmann anak Diser	
4.	Peter anak Francis	
5.	Rapeal anak Micheal	
6.	Nur Afiqah binti Abdul Karim	ITTO, HQ
7.	Rantai anak Jawa	
8.	David anak Idu	RDMD, HQ
9.	Mohamad Saufi bin Hussain	RFO Miri
10.	Jerry anak Nyalong	RFO Bintulu

6. PROGRAMME DETAILS

Date	Details	Remarks
11.12.2023 (Mon)	Kuching – Miri	AK6182
12.12.2023 (Tue)	Miri – Segah Selaan Homestay	QSG4542
13.12.2023 (Wed)	Segah Selaan Homestay – Long Banga	QSG4542
14.12.2023 (Thu)	Awareness Talk on SFM and ITTO-UBFA project to the communities of Long Banga, Long Peluan, and Long Balong	-
15.12.2023 (Fri)	Long Banga – Long Lamai	By boat
	Awareness Talk on SFM and ITTO-UBFA project to the community of Long Lamai	-
	Long Lamai – Long Banga	By boat
16.12.2023 (Sat)	Long Banga – Segah Selaan Homestay	QSG4542
17.12.2023 (Sun)	Segah Selaan Homestay – Miri	QSG4542
18.12.2023 (Mon)	Miri - Kuching	AK6191

7. DISCUSSION

a. Long Banga (14 December 2023)

The briefing started off with a welcoming speech by the headman of Long Banga, Renly Gau. He quoted the UN Rights of Indigenous People in which a consultation and discussion with communities is important prior to implementing any project in their area. This is aligned with FPIC approach to get consent or approval from local communities before implementing any project, which will impact the communities.

Evelyn Jugi from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) then presented about SFM to the seven attendees of the talk, comprises of Headmen from Long Peluan, and Long Balong, along with a few communities' representative of Long Banga. After the first session briefing on SFM, she proceeded to give talk on UBFA-ITTO projects.

Q&A session:

1) Q: KK Renly Gau (Long Banga)

The late Tan Sri Adenan Satem before his passing had said that no license will be granted to timber companies anymore. So how about now? Will Samling still come in even with stricter compliance? Also, if we tag the HCV in the jungle which comprises almost everywhere, how will the timber company do their operation if they are not able to log there? Might as well do not let them come in at all. Other than that, there were time when a consultancy company (Envisar) came to our village to do their assessment and tag HCV, however they only came for a day, which is impossible to get the job done.

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

Currently, no new license is being issued to any company. Only the existing ones are renewed or are operating. When the license is renewed, some of the license boundaries are combined into one Forest Management Unit (FMU). For example, Merawa and Tama Abu became one FMU. On the consultant part, I have no comment on that. Samling should take note on the matter and in my opinion, Samling should have brought local community themselves to go to the field to point the HCV, instead of letting the consultancy do it themselves.

2) Q: KK Lut Tuloi (Long Peluan)

During Datu Ose Murang time, we have applied to establish Forest Reserve (FR) for our village. We have also extended this matter to the late Chief Minister. However, there are no actions being taken regarding our application. Should we re-apply or just follow up on our request?

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

Legally, we have Communal Forest (CF), and any new application to constitute an area to be a CF shall be made to FDS. To apply, the land status shall be cleared and is under the jurisdiction of Forest Ordinance. In your application, please state the activity you want or do not want to do in the area. FDS fully supports conversion of area to CF because we are trying to expand our Permanent Forest Estate (PFE). For your previous application on the FR, I suggest you re-apply and follow-up on the request with them.

3) Q: Anye Jalan (Long Banga)

Samling have logged the trees until the boundary of Long Banga. The trees are all gone and community here is affected from their operation. Samling carried on their operation without care of those important sites such as water catchments, salt licks, and old graveyards. Everything is destroyed by them. The forest that border Malaysia and Indonesia, have also been damaged by the timber company. If possible, we request not to renew their timber license anymore and not to allow them to re-enter the area.

In older times, the fruit trees, salt licks, herbs and rattans were abundant in the forest and found everywhere. We have this suggestion to establish Long Banga as an ecotourism area. We also wished for the wild animals that moved from our forest to Kayan Mentarang National Park to come back to their habitat. Due to the logging operation near our water catchment areas, lots of sickness arises and the timber company should have compensated the community for this.

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

The decision not to renew their timber license is out of project jurisdiction. However, I suggest the community to write an official letter or a proposal to conserve the area because of the reasons as explained by Anye Jalan which also includes the map of places of interest to be conserved. The situation with timber company that happened in the past, FDS cannot do anything about it. Only with their forest certification, we can prevent the same thing to be happening again in the future.

4) Q: KK Anthony Lasau (Long Balong)

When the Envisar team came to the village, they only went to old graveyards and did not go to water catchment areas or any other important sites. They should have done their assessment all over the place and cover all the important sites. We, the communities here, were not satisfied with their work.

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

HCV report is usually a general report, with basic sampling. The details will be asked from the surrounding communities involved before timber company enter their coupe. Whatever feedback or complain you have, I suggest the community to comment in the report so the company will be audited based on the feedback, and relevant authority will go and check on the ground.

5) Q: KK Anthony Lasau (Long Balong)

In Long Balong, our main problem is with electricity. Previously, YB Anyi Ngau suggested to get our electricity from the hydroelectric dam in Long Banga. However, there is nothing done on the matter. Long Balong was also included in the solar project but somebody from Kuching recommended us to use hydroelectric instead of solar for power generation. Therefore, we are using neither hydroelectric nor solar to generate electricity. Currently we only use generator set but it requires a huge amount of petrol drums to run per day.

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

Regarding the matter, FDS cannot do anything about it because it is not under our jurisdiction, but we can extend the feedback to the District Office. In our UBFA project, we can help to build a gravity-feed water dam but for hydroelectric, we will need the relevant Department to take charge instead. Please share all these information in the request letter for future projects.

b. Long Lamai (15 December 2023)

The awareness programme was attended by roughly 70 locals from Long Lamai and Ba' Lai and was held in the community hall of Long Lamai. It started off with a welcoming speech by the headman of Long Lamai, KK Wilson Bian Belarek. He welcomed all the staff and officers from FDS and shared his delight to have this kind of programme for the communities there. He reminded his people to take note and learn as much as they can from the talk. Mdm. Evelyn Jugi from FDS then proceeded with her presentation on SFM and ITTO-funded UBFA Projects.

Q&A session:

1) Q: Local #1 from Long Lamai

Does the UBFA projects to be implemented only on human capital development programmes or also includes infrastructure development such as building a suspension bridge?

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

Through the UBFA project, we will do some training programmes for the communities, and we can also help with minor infrastructure development. For bigger scale of project like building suspension bridge, please write an application letter, and we can help forward it to CESS project for their consideration.

2) Q: Local #2 from Long Lamai

A long time ago, roughly in the late 90s, there was a company that came to our area and passed through our Balong River to go upstream. After their visit, the river became dirty and polluted. How should we handle this issue?

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

The issue had happened too long ago, and therefore we could not trace it anymore. Unfortunately, we can not do anything regarding that matter.

3) Q: Local #3 from Long Lamai

If us, the community, requested for any projects, does it mean we are enabling or allowing the timber company to do their operation here in our area? This is because previously, timber company used to ask us for any projects that we want to do before starting their operation.

A: Evelyn Jugi (FDS)

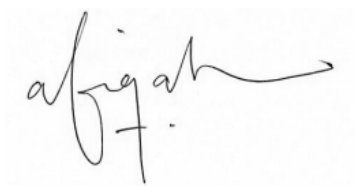
We came here to this village as a government representative, and not related to any of the timber company. Therefore, whatever project we are planning for the communities is not a justification for timber company to come in the area. If you can propose a project to us, we will forward your application to relevant government agencies, and will not involve timber company. We have no hidden agenda in wanting to help the communities, and only want to know your needs and to provide supports through this project.

8. CONCLUSION

The trip went smoothly with the support of the team members from FDS, and many helps from communities involved. It has achieved its objective to spread awareness on SFM and the ITTO-UBFA projects.

Thank you.

Report prepared by:



Nur Afiqah binti Abdul Karim

31 December 2023