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Social Impact Assessment Training

This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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Photo: Participants of the Training

The *Social Impact Assessment (SIA) Training for Forest Management Unit (FMU)* was successfully conducted by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) from 18 to 21 September 2019 at Meligai Hotel, Kapit.

About fifty (50) participants from SFC, Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) member companies including one (1) officer from the STA Secretariat, had enrolled in the four-day Training which comprised theory and practical training.

The Training was conducted not only to help participants understand the process of SIA, but also to provide the knowledge and skills required to conduct SIA in FMUs based on the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest), as well as to support FMUs in preparing their SIA report and their effort to monitor social issues.

Altogether, there were five (5) speakers for the theory session. Four (4) of the speakers, namely Dr Paul Porodong, Dr Poline Bala, Dr Kntayya Mariappan and Dr John Phoa were from SocialEco Research & Consultancy, while Dr Samantha Liew was from WWF-Malaysia.

During the theory session, the speakers addressed the importance and application of SIA to FMUs in Malaysia as well as the approach of community engagement.

An analysis on the fundamental of rapid impact assessment matrix or RIAM was also introduced to the participants. The session was followed by report writing and group presentations.

On the second day of Training, the participants were given the opportunity to apply methods of SIA such as interview and questionnaire study with the Iban community from Rumah Beggau and Rumah Braoh.

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During the last day of Training, a Closing Remark was made by Mr Abang Abdul Mutalib Abang Tajudin, SFC Sibul Regional Manager. He recognised the dedication shown by all parties involved in the Training and thanked them for their time, effort and expertise shared. He hoped that the knowledge gained by the participants can facilitate the timber industry in applying SIA to their respective FMUs.

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Honorary Wildlife Ranger Training for Forest Management Unit in Sarawak



Photos: (left) Training in session; (right) Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan (3rd from left) presenting the certificate for the appointment of HWR

The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) conducted the *Honorary Wildlife Ranger (HWR) Training for Forest Management Unit (FMU) in Sarawak* from 24 to 27 September 2019 at Promenade Hotel, Bintulu.

A total of fifty-six (56) participants from FMUs, Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation, head of local communities and Sarawak Timber Association attended the Training which consisted of both theory and field activities.

The HWR and its functions were introduced under the *Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998 (WPO 1998)* and the *Wild Life Protection Rules, 1998 (WPR 1998)*. The statutory functions and duties of the HWR, as specified in Rule 31 of the WPR 1998 are:

i. To report to any Wild Life Officer or the police of any

contravention of the provisions of the WPO 1998 or of WPR 1998;

ii. To educate the local community on the relevant laws and issues relating to wild life protection and conservation;

iii. To brief any Wild Life Officer on local wild life issues and problems; and

iv. To assist any Wild Life Officer in the discharge of his duties.

The four-day Training comprised four (4) theory sessions. The topics covered were Biodiversity / Wildlife Status in Sarawak; WPO 1998; Sustainable Forestry and Compliance; and Public Speaking Techniques and Field Work.

Participants were made known of the provisions in

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Did you know that.....

Some parts of the planet have already surpassed one-degree Celsius rise in temperature. This is worrying for meeting U.N climate targets aimed at preventing post-industrial average temperatures from rising to 1.5 degrees Celsius or higher. Additionally, the U.N Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change states that global warming on land now averages 1.53 degrees Celsius and can have dramatic effects on human systems.

Source: *Number Crunching: Making Sense of REDD+ and Results-Based Payments*. Available at <https://forestsnews.cifor.org/61824/number-crunching-making-sense-of-redd-and-results-based-payments?fnl=en>

Did you also know that...

Sumatran rhinos are critically endangered species and advanced reproductive technology is being employed to ensure that the living genomes of those rhinos are kept alive long after their deaths. Malaysia's last surviving male Sumatran rhino, Tam died in May this year. Currently, scientists are attempting to carry out in-vitro fertilization using thawed frozen sperm from Tam and an egg cell harvested from Iman, Malaysia's last living female Sumatran rhinoceros.



Source: *Egg Cell Harvested from Rhino Iman*. Available at <https://www.theborneopost.com/2019/10/01/egg-cell-harvested-from-rhino-iman/>

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the WPO 1998 and its Rules in particular on the totally protected and protected animals and plants in Sarawak as well as the offences. Besides that, participants also learnt about the identification of animals and plants, procedures in carrying out road block within FMU as well as the duties and roles of an HWR in relation to promoting volunteerism, awareness and education.

Participants were then divided into eight (8) groups to carry out group task during a communication, education and public awareness (CEPA) programme on biodiversity at Rumah Achun, Bintulu. Each group were given different topics related to biodiversity to be presented to the local community.

Posters on totally protected and protected animals and plants in Sarawak were also disseminated to the local community during this programme.

Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hasan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak cum Second Minister of Urban Development and Natural Resources, in his Closing Remark, said that the Sarawak Government is committed in protecting and conserving the natural resources in the State through various laws and regulations such as the WPO 1998, the *National Parks and Nature Reserves*

Ordinance, 1998 and the *Forests Ordinance, 2015*. He added that an HWR plays a significant role in preserving and conserving the flora and fauna in Sarawak by becoming the eyes and ears to the enforcement agencies.

Meanwhile, Tuan Haji Zolkipli Bin Mohamad Aton, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd, mentioned that the appointment of HWR encourages active public participation in environmental protection to which the rangers would promote environmental and conservation awareness within their respective localities.

The closing ceremony witnessed the appointment of fifty-nine (59) HWR from last year's training who were from Syarikat Samling Sdn Bhd, Shin Yang Sdn Bhd, Jaya Tiasa Holdings Bhd, Subur Tiasa Holdings Bhd, Solid Hartabina Sdn Bhd, Wilmar International, Ta Ann Holdings Bhd and others, thus making up a total of 1,124 appointed rangers since its first establishment in 1998.

The role of HWR is required for FMU undertaking forest management certification in Sarawak and is one of the verifiers for Indicator 6.2.4 of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest).

Seminar on Permanent Sample Plot Network for Sustainable Forest Management in Sarawak



Photo: Seminar in progress

The Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC) in collaboration with National Institute for Environmental Studies (NIES), Japan, organised a "Seminar on Permanent Sample Plot (PSP) Network for Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Sarawak" on 12 September 2019 at Imperial Hotel, Kuching.

This Seminar, which brought together policy makers, researchers, lecturers, students, non-government organisation and timber industry players, aimed to share with participants the current research works conducted in Sarawak's natural production forests, forest modeling approach for SFM and international relations on timber trading.

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In his Opening Remarks, Tuan Haji Zolkipli Bin Mohamad Aton, Chief Executive Officer of Sarawak Forestry Corporation Sdn Bhd (SFCSB), said the PSP Network established and coordinated by SFC were to ascertain the extent of timber stocking density in logged-over forest, to monitor tree growth for projection of future stocking and to calculate the annual allowable cut.

He urged Forest Management Units to safeguard the PSPs established by SFC for future monitoring.

He then acknowledged the challenges in collecting the PSP data and sought all timber industry players to synergise their efforts and collaboration on PSP data collection and sharing of information in order to project the future forest stocking volume.

The following papers were presented by local and international speakers during the Seminar:

• **Timber stocking and species composition of commercially viable tree species in logged over forest in Sarawak** by Madam Bibian Diway, SFCSB

• **Tree species diversity and ecosystem services in fragmented "pulau" forests in Sarawak, Malaysia** by Dr Yayoi Takeuchi, NIES, Japan

• **An overview of Sarawak's forest based on the Global Forest Watch data: Towards a conceptual discussion on the importance of forest canopy density for forest cover change monitoring** by Dr Ronald Canero Estoque, NIES, Japan

• **Modeling from the upstream to downstream for sustainable harvesting and local society: Japan case study** by Dr Makoto Ooba, NIES, Japan

• **Projecting growth and yield in mixed dipterocarp forests using a matrix model** by Mr Jannes van Hoeflaken, Van Hall-Larenstein University of Applied Sciences, Netherlands

• **The way of precise forest carbon stock estimation by PSP** by Dr Tamotsu Sato, Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan

• **Japan's Clean Wood Act and Tokyo Olympic Sustainable Sourcing Code for Timber** by Dr Hiromitsu Samejima, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies, Japan

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