



# UNDP-GEF-ITTO Conservation of Biodiversity Project

## Monthly Updates

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### Welcome from the PSU



Lush tropical rainforest  
by vjsamy

Malaysia (FRIM) and notes from the Inception Workshop. This include notes from the 3 major break out sessions held during the workshop.

We hope this newsletter will serve as a close link between all researchers and the PSU. A quarterly newsletter will also be available soon, which will serve the general public and stakeholders.

We welcome inputs and suggestions to improve this newsletter in order to serve you better.

The UNDP-GEF-ITTO Conservation of Biodiversity Monthly Updates is brought to you by the Project Support Unit (PSU). This monthly newsletter will keep you in touch with all interesting findings and discussions related to the project.

#### WELCOME ON BOARD!

**Dr Shamsudin Ibrahim**  
National Project Director  
UNDP-GEF Conservation of Bio-D Project

As an inaugural issue of the CBioD newsletter, we will highlight some key components of the project, an introduction to the Project Support Unit (PSU) based in the Forest Research Institute

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The National Project Director briefing the audience on the programme

### Conservation of Biological Diversity through Improved Forest Planning Tools in Operation!

ronment, Malaysia. The simple ceremony was followed by an inception workshop which was attended by an encouraging number of government agencies, stakeholders and civil societies.

Dr. Richard Leete, the UNDP Country Representative also delivered a speech, which emphasized on the need to continue on conserving biodiversity

This one of its kind project commenced with a soft launch on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007. It began with a speech by Puan Azyiah Mohammed on behalf of Dato' Suboh Mohd Yassin, Secretary-General, Ministry of Natural Resources and Envi-



The ecology group in discussion

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through targeted research activities such as this project.

The Inception Workshop provided a platform for beneficiaries and stakeholders to be updated on the latest development of the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) of the CBioD project. Beneficiaries and stakeholders had the opportunity to present their views and to deliberate on the best course of action to be taken for a successful completion of the project.

Parallel breakout sessions were organised to discuss various components of the project, its practicality and on site effectiveness. 3 groups held separate discussions on i) the Ecological Component; ii) Economics Component; iii) Capacity Building and Project Implementation Component. You will find in the subsequent pages summarised reports from these discussion groups.

## Ecology Group:

Though many of the participants were satisfied with the content of the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) presented at the workshop, some minor changes were suggested to further strengthen it. One of the major issues discussed here was the selection of a list of the best taxa to be used as biological indicators. The following are some general notes made by this group:

- Use of existing information and research in developing sampling procedures
- Developing user-friendly tools that can be applied by existing staff of relevant agencies
- Further discussions should be undertaken to determine the most suitable taxa to be used as biological indicators.
- Current work undertaken by the Perak Integrated Timber Complex (PITC) on monitoring fauna before and after harvest is relevant to the ecological research.
- Project timeframe may be too short to realize the projects impact; particularly those agencies affected other than FRIM, such as the Forestry Department.
- Further consultations with the Perak Forestry Department should be undertaken as they are the major stakeholder and due to prior commitments, were not present at the workshop
- Manuals and softwares created to provide assistance and guidance in implementing biodiversity-friendly forest planning and harvesting procedures should be extended to other stakeholders such as the Forestry Training School, PERHILITAN (Wildlife and National Parks Department)

## Economic Group

The group noted that even though substantial amount of research has been carried out in the area of forestry in Malaysia, it is still a challenge to put these research findings into sustainable forest management plans. The Malaysian Criteria & Indicators (MC&I) protocol can be improved further to measure High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) as well.

The group also stressed on the need to seriously evaluate the economic value of non-timber products. Below are notes from their discussions:

- The model developed must be dynamic whereby changes in the international timber prices will be automatically updated for localised decision making.
- Even though many research studies have been done on the economic valuation of forests resources, not many of these have been linked to forest management decision making tools. Components of value that needs to be considered in creating these decision making tools include watershed areas and their hydrological value, recreational value the forests and its passive or existence value. Existing information on local use of forest resources are to be included as well.
- Wildlife plays many important roles which may not have a direct economic value but must be considered for the following services: forest regeneration, pollination, seed dispersal.
- Non-Timber Forest products (NTFP) with localized importance should also be considered. Except for products such as rattan and agarwood (gaharu), which has recently been commercialised, other forest products such as water catchment forests, eco-tourism are becoming more important in the eye of the economic market.

>>Continued from page 2 (Economic)



- As the Perak Forestry Department (main stakeholder) was not present due to other

commitments, the PSU will consult them at a later stage on this issue. The deciding factor on the success of the decision making tools and models created through this project will be based on its economic feasibility and whether it will be useful for the stakeholders. The team felt that the Forestry Department support is crucial to the success of the UNDP-GEF CBioD project.

- The decision making tools created should be applied in places other than Perak. Often most decision making tools created tend to be site specific. To address this issue, decision making tools created especially for non-timber products and forest services in PITC must be tested on other sites. Such tools helps decision makers to optimise economic returns for the forests.
- In this regard it is envisaged that the tools developed would be adopted by 2 Malaysian states and potentially 2 other tropical countries.

- The US Dollar. As the budget is based on the US Dollar, its weakening will affect the amount available for research. This will impact on the financial standing of the project.

## Capacity Building

- The project aims at having at least 2 other State Forestry Department adopt and use tools and methods developed and a much larger target of convincing 2 other tropical countries to do the same. It also targets to encourage the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) to use the recommended tools and methods and for the recommended tools to be considered for the revision of the MC&I.
- Hands-on training for the Perak State Forestry Officer and Planners is essential to the success of the project and will be carried out at a later stage of the project together with exchange research programmes through fellowships.

- User friendly and informative materials such as newsletters, website and leaflets will be created for the disbursement of knowledge.
- International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) is encouraged to sponsor / fund projects that will be targeted to incorporate such tools and methods developed by the project in the assessment of conservation of biodiversity in sustainable forest management.
- An independent post project evaluation will also be carried out on PITC and one other project site where the tools and methods are being used to assess the effectiveness of the project.
- Other considerations proposed by the team to the project management include the establishment of State liaison committee or outreach committee which is to be chaired by the State Economic Planning Unit (UPEN) and to be endorsed by the Project Steering Committee.
- In order to successfully engage stakeholders, strategic communication for outreach and awareness must be developed and stakeholders must be engaged in the early stages of the project.
- Modules must also be created in association with the tools and methods created through the project and these can be used by not only the forestry department but also by the Orang Asli Department (JHEOA), State Economic Planning Unit (UPEN) and -Wildlife and National Parks Department (PERHILITAN).

### Notes from discussions with Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) on the Logical Framework Analysis (LFA). Attended by National Project Director, Project Manger and CEO of MTCC.

- MTCC's registered assessors and other relevant parties will be consulted in the development of the CBioD Project's assessment tools.
- The CBioD Project will ensure that tools developed through the project will be practical and cost effective for implementation.
- An International Panel of Experts will be established to assess the effectiveness of the project in 18 months time starting from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007
- MTCC will be invited to all periodical Research Working Committees.
- A close link will be developed between the PSU and MTCC through monthly, quarterly newsletters and through regular technical research meetings.

## Getting to know the Project Support Unit



**Dr Shamsudin Ibrahim** -  
National Project Director

Dr Shamsudin is the Senior Director for Forest Division of the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) and heads the UNDP-GEF CBioD Project as the National Project Director. He has been in forestry management for 30 years with his early years attached to the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia. He specialises in Peat Swamps and is recently involved in the research of regeneration of Ramin in Peat Swamp Forests in Sarawak. He was also involved in the Reduced Impact Logging methods project undertaken by FRIM. He has contributed extensively to the forestry world with approximately 150 scientific papers. Dr Sham is a known authority in forest management and procedures, well known for his passion and commitment to the conservation of biodiversity.

Dr. Sham will direct the PSU to meet the project's objectives and outputs.

He can be contacted at (DID) +603 - 6279 7161 or [shamsudin@frim.gov.my](mailto:shamsudin@frim.gov.my)



**Dr Woon, Weng-Chuen** - Project Manager

Dr. Woon has been with the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) for 22 years, 6 out of which as the Director of the Techno-Economics Programme. He specializes in the area of forest economics especially pertaining to the valuation of non-timber forest products, use of IT in forestry, environmental services and economic impacts of sustainable forest management. This provides him with a great foundation in his present position as the Project Manager. He is also well versed in the procurement of international grants from agencies such as ITTO, GTZ, DANCED and JICA.

Dr Woon will lead his 4-manned Project Support Unit and will be responsible for the overall management of the project. He reports to the National Project Director.

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**Md Lela Mohamed Said**  
- Finance Officer

Md Lela has been in the banking arena for many years. He is well versed in accounts management specializing in the areas of audit programme for effective and efficient conduct of audit. Previously employed by Affin-ACF Finance Bank he has good exposure in handling company compliances to operational policies and procedures specifically on deviations and inconsistencies.

Md Lela is handling the CBioD Project's accounting matters reporting to the Project Manager.

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### **Jaya Radha Veerasamy** - Communications Officer

Jaya has 10 years of conservation communication experience working with Malaysian Nature Society. Her keen interest in general natural history and conservation serves as a good platform for her role as an environmental communicator. She has vast experience working with the press, on websites, branding and other informative materials.

Jaya will be handling all communication programmes and events for the CBioD project which includes reports, website, newsletters and media liaison reporting to the Project Manager.

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### **Daphine Tan** - Administration Officer

Daphine has a varied working background. Her experiences performing as a Personal Assistant with Sicura Designs Inc. New York gives a great edge as the CBioD Project's administration officer. She also has experience in marketing having worked with one of Malaysia's biggest urban developer. She has a total of 16 years of working experience under her belt.

Daphine will handle all administration matters pertaining to the project assisting the Project Manager.

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