

# COMMUNITY USE ZONE OF CROCKER RANGE PARK, SABAH, MALAYSIA

By

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# Sabah Parks - Introduction



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CULTURE  
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**Sabah Parks** A statutory body under the **Ministry of Tourism,  
Culture and Environment, Sabah**

# SABAH PARKS LOCATION MAP







**POLICY OF PARKS SYSTEM**  
**A National Parks Policy for Sabah, 1978**  
..to preserve for all time areas which contain significant geographical, geological, biological or historical features as a national heritage for the benefit, education and enjoyment of the people in Sabah..





# Management Sabah Parks

- The management of Sabah Parks area based on the Park Enactment 1984.
- Under the Park Enactment, there are **no human activities allowed inside the Park**, except for management purpose, scientific research & limited recreation activities



# INTRODUCTION: *Community Use Zone Concept*

- Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation Programme (BBEC)
- BBEC Programme a **technical cooperation** between Malaysian Government represented by the **State of Sabah** and Government of Japan through **Japan International Cooperation Agency** (JICA)
  - Innovated *Community Use Zone (CUZ)* concept as a management option to address the issues concerning indigenous communities living and utilising resources within the Protected Areas.



# INTRODUCTION: BBEC Programme - *Technical Cooperation*

## Phase I: (2002 – 2007) & Phase II: (2007 – 2012)

### Sabah, Malaysia

- State Secretary
- Sabah Biodiversity Centre
- Natural Resources & Environment
- Economic Planning Unit
- Sabah Forestry Department
- Sabah Parks
- Wildlife Department
- Malaysia Sabah University
- Science & Technology Unit
- Districts office
- Land & Survey Department
- Natural Resources & Conservation Department
- Drainage & Irrigation Department

### Japan

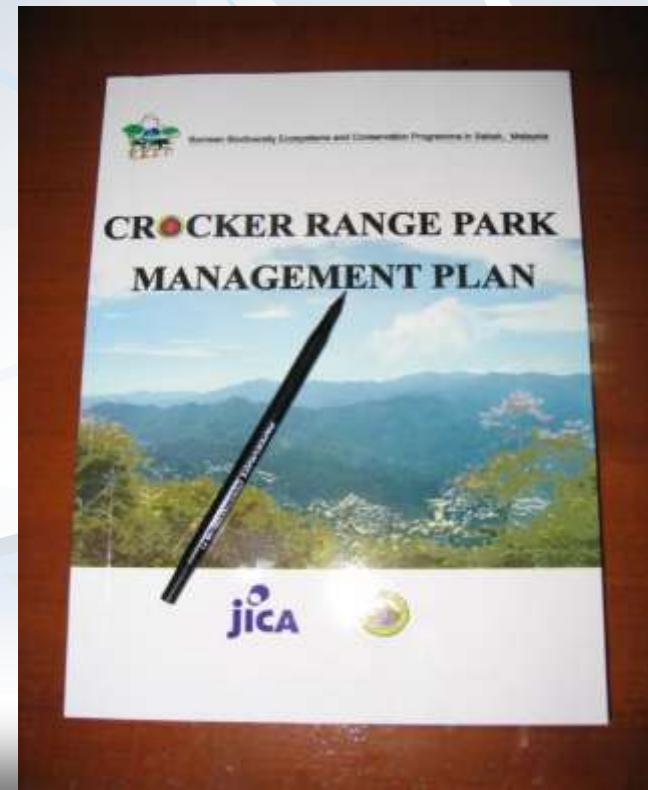
- JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)
- Universities
- Research Institutes
- Ministry of Natural Resources



# BBEC Phase I: Programme and Activities

## Protected Area Management Component

- Crocker Range Park natural resources, ecosystems, habitats, and biodiversity were studied and documented
- The Management Plan of the Crocker Range was prepared and accepted by the Parks Authority in 2006.
- CUZ concept was included in the Management Plan as a management option for the issue on native communities living inside the Park.





# BBEC Phase II: Programme and Activities



## Community Use Zone - *Implementation*

- Plan of Operation to implement CUZ concept was prepared and implemented.
- Community Use Zone Task Force was established.
- Eligibility criteria was established
- Pilot-Study Sites were selected
- Stakeholders and local communities consultations were conducted.

# CUZ Eligibility Criteria

**Eligibility criteria was developed to enable establishment of CUZ area: –**

- The land occupying by the community must be inside the Park area
- Existing legal or customary rights to the land or natural resources included in the protected area
- Continuity of relationship with such land and resources
- Direct dependency on the natural resources in question for subsistence and survival (e.g: land, food, water, medicine & housing material)
- Historical and cultural relations with the land and resources
- Degree of economic and social reliance (dependence) on such resources
- Unique knowledge, skills and institutions for the management of resources
- Degree of demonstrated effort and interest in management of the area or resources
- Settlement history (e.g. CRP - settlement must be exist before it was gazetted in 1984)
- Size and settlement arrangement

# COMMUNITY USE ZONE...Definition

- CUZ defined as *“areas where existing cultivation and forest resource collection are found to occur inside the Parks and where traditional human activities will be allowed to continue under the supervision of the Parks Authority”*.
- CUZ divided in to two Zones
  - *Multiple Use Zone*
  - *Settlement and Agricultural Zone*





# CUZ: Objectives

- The objectives of this prescribed zone are:
  - to balance the existing local communities' needs and conservation,
  - encourage participation and collaboration of the local communities in Park management, and
  - preserve the cultures and traditional knowledge of the local communities.



# PILOT-PROJECT: Crocker Range Park



Ulu Papar CUZ



Ulu Senagang & Mongool Baru

Global significance of ecosystem functions, biodiversity, and very important as water catchment area for west coast and interior plain of Sabah.





# Socio-economic study

## Ulu Senagang & Mongool Baru

- Population : 380 appx
- Ethnic group : Murut
- Total of household: 43 appx
- Sources of income: Farming activities, collecting natural resources (small number working in private or government agencies)
- Occupied area = 187 ha appx.



## Ulu Papar

- Population : 1,700 appx.
- Ethnic group : Dusun
- Total of household: 200 appx.
- Sources of income: Farming activities, collecting natural resources (small number working in private or government agencies)
- Occupied area = 2,700 ha appx.





# STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION & CONSULTATIONS

## Establishment of CUZ-Task Force

- To ensure involvement of all relevant stakeholders (government agencies, NGOs and local communities)
- To identify necessary studies and consultations to be carried out.



# STAKEHOLDERS PARTICIPATION & CONSULTATIONS:

## *Community Consultations*

- Series of consultations concerning the pilot-study sites were conducted in corporation with relevant agencies, JICA experts, and NGOs such as PACOS (*Partner of Community Organisation, Sabah*) & GDF (*Global Diversity Foundation*)





# OUTCOME

- The local communities at the pilot-project were receptive of the concept.
- Despite of the eligibility criteria;
  - Communities of both sites preferred to have individual land ownership (title land), and
  - Preferred modern agricultural practices and cash crops.
- The Park Authority, stakeholders and the communities concluded that establishment of “CUZ Management Committee” is appropriate to ensure co-management and regulated activities.
- The CUZ Management Committee consist of
  - 1 - Park Authority
  - 5 - Relevant government agencies
  - 5 - Local community



# Establishment Of CUZ Management Committee

- Establishment of the Ulu Senagang & Mongool Baru CUZ Management Committee is under finalisation by the end of 2013.
- Mutually agreed size of the CUZ area is 403 ha
  - *Multiple use = 216 ha,*
  - *Settlement & Agric = 187ha*



- Establishment of the Ulu Papar CUZ Management Committee was launched in 2012
- The rule and regulation, size of the CUZ is still under consultation.

# ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

- Establishment of CUZ has become an emerging responsibility to the Park Management Authority in which require supporting resources and financial.
- The effectiveness of the CUZ in relation to conservation of the Park has to be evaluated regularly to determine its future appropriateness.
- Adaptive CUZ Management Plan is needed and alternative livelihood has to be created as the population within the CUZ area increase



# LESSONS LEARNT

- The stakeholders and communities consultations involved huge range and amount of communication and emotional issues which needed to be considered in order to achieve common understanding.
- Majority may not be considered as common understanding as vocal and dominant person may influence majority.
- Although the awareness on the importance of environmental conservation among the communities is high, the **demand for socio-economic development aspect is more of priority to the communities.** Therefore, it is misleading to assume that their awareness means agreeing that the environmental conservation is priority.



# CONCLUSION

The CUZ concept was acknowledged by the National Commission on Human Right of Malaysia, Government of Sabah, stakeholders and communities *as a good and innovative approach.*

JIMMY OMAR IMAGERY



# For Further Information

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