

**Conservation awareness on Community Use Zone (CUZ) by local communities in Crocker Range Park,
Sabah, Malaysia**

Abstract

The Parks Enactment 1984 prohibits any human activities in the parks' area as to conserve the natural ecosystem, but in fact, there is the existence of some community living inside the area and practicing cultivation. Community Use Zone (CUZ) is a management option in an attempt to strike a balance between the conservation priorities of the park and the livelihoods of the local communities who depend on the forest for survival. This study determined the relationship between crops planted within the CUZ area and its contributions to the local communities' livelihood. Furthermore, also determined the perception and conservation awareness of local community. The data was collected by face-to-face interview with closed and open-ended structured questions. Information was also obtained through field observations. Percentage, mean and range were used to summarize the results. The major crops identified are permanent crops such as rubber trees and fruit trees. Cash crops such as vegetables, cocoa and coffee trees were cultivated as sources of income of the farmers in Kg. Mongool Baru Ulu Senagang, Keningau/Tenom. Rubber trees contributed the highest revenue followed by fruit trees (such as durian, langsung, rambutan), cocoa, and vegetables. The study showed that the local communities of the village highly agree with the existence of issues that related to the forest conservation. The CUZ area is identified as a management tool that integrates the survival and livelihood of the local communities. It is therefore highly recommended to be practiced, but also need further research to enhance the management approach of CUZ.