

**Strategic Plan of Action
(Sabah)
The Heart of Borneo Initiative**



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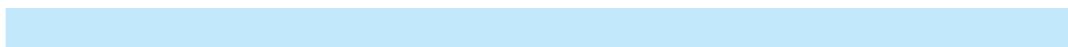
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Strategic Plan of Action (Sabah)

The Heart of Borneo Initiative

Introduction

The Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative is a conservation and sustainable development program aimed at conserving and managing the contiguous tropical forest on the island of Borneo. The HoB covers approximately 200,000 square kilometers of ecologically inter-connected rainforest in the provinces of Kalimantan (Indonesia), the states of Sabah and Sarawak (Malaysia), and Brunei Darussalam. The total approximate area for the HoB is around 30% of the island's land area.

The conservation of these forests is a matter of major local, national, regional, and international concern for the diversity of their unique array of plants and animals. Equally important, they are of critical value to the people and countries of Borneo as prized natural heritage and for the goods and services that they provide. Borneo is one of the most important centres of plant diversity in the world. The complex soil and terrain, together with altitudinal sequence, give rise to a particularly wide range of habitats for plants and animals. Overall, the Borneo flora is estimated to harbour about 15,000 species of vascular plants, that is, about 5-6% of the world total. Of these, 40-50% are endemic to the island.

A conservation and sustainable development program aimed at conserving and managing the contiguous tropical forest on the island of Borneo.

It is undeniable, however, that the full diversity of tropical forests cannot be maintained if they are fragmented within an otherwise man-made landscape. There is ample scientific evidence to show that forest conservation requires the maintenance of very large blocks of inter-connected forest, without which there are adverse effects on such factors as the local climate, hydrology and species extinction rates. In summary, the region must be effectively managed on the basis of sustainable land use planning and implementation with regard to the balance of ecosystem, socio-cultural, economic and political aspects within respective nations.



Orang-utan, just one of the endangered species living in The Heart of Borneo

Active trilateral co-operation at the operational level is therefore highly desirable and will enhance and strengthen the existing sub-regional cooperation among Brunei Darussalam, Indonesian, and Malaysia – for example, the TBCA (Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation Area) initiative under the ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) projects, SOSEK-MALINDO (Sosial Ekonomi Malaysia Indonesia), and BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area). The HoB Initiative can help to provide a framework to strengthen such co-operation and also to address protection in the inland areas between the three Borneo nations. A program of this scale would first require support at the highest political levels (both nationally and regionally), require multiple partners and engagement with the private sector. Therefore, in the future, this program would maximize trans-boundary linkages, promote the expansion of the Protected Area networking, maintain forest connectivity and ensure sustainable land use practices.

Roadmap to the HoB Initiative Tri-National Partnership

A series of meetings were convened in the region that pledged the importance of having a wider management unit to protect this inland area leading to a collective understanding and intention to develop sub-regional cooperation to conserve, maintain and manage forest connectivity. The first exploratory workshop between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on the 5-6 April 2005. The HoB Initiative was highlighted in the official record of the 11th ASEAN Summit, December 2005, following the introduction of text by the Malaysian government as the host country. The Summit is the highest decision-making organ of ASEAN and is the meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government.



Three Countries, One Conservation Vision, HoB Declaration, 2007

During the 8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 27 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, a side-event, hosted by Indonesia, was held to launch the HoB initiative. The three countries expressed their support for this initiative and agreed to negotiate further before signing the HoB declaration. This initiative was acknowledged by the Parties and international organisations attending the side event. The HoB Initiative was also acknowledged at a side-meeting of the BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting in Brunei, November 2006.

The tripartite meeting between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 4th December 2006. The meeting discussed and finalised the draft Declaration on the HoB Initiative. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia. An expression of commitment through declaration entitled “Three Countries, One Conservation Vision” was announced in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 February 2007. Implementation frameworks that make this partnership operational were discussed at the 1st tri-lateral meeting hosted by the government of Brunei Darussalam in 19-20 July 2007.

General Objectives

The three countries have committed to build partnerships to secure the future of inland areas of the HoB Initiative. The general objective of the initiative is to carry out collaborative programs on conservation and sustainable development through the implementation of effective management and conservation of a network of protected areas, sustainable management of productive forests and implementation of sustainable land-uses.

Roadmap to the Strategic Plan of Action (Sabah)

Following the signing of the HoB Declaration (Bali, 2007), it was agreed that as a next step, the three countries would prepare their respective project documents, which would set out the framework for each country's participation in the HoB initiative, and serve as a roadmap for realising the HoB vision.

At the second Malaysia National Experts' Meeting, (Johor, July 2007) prior to the first trilateral meeting in Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak were requested to prepare their respective project documents so that requests for funding could be made under the 9th Malaysia Plan Mid-term Review. It was also agreed that respective project documents, which would eventually be combined to form the project document for Malaysia, should address amongst others: the development objectives, outputs and targets, proposed activities, mechanisms of implementation, roles and functions of project partners, administrative organisation and financial requirements.

The Sabah project document was formulated through consensus from a wide range of stakeholders, via two state-level workshops in Kota Kinabalu. The two main outputs of the first workshop (7 September 2006) were an agreement on the boundary of the Sabah HoB; and the identification of a set of priorities for the Sabah HoB. The main output of the second workshop (18 January 2008) was the formulation and prioritisation of key projects for Sabah HoB. The Sabah project document, which was finalized within two months of the second workshop, contained the following:

- HoB in the context of State and National policies
- Background to biodiversity conservation in Sabah
- HoB programmes¹ for Sabah, including objectives, targets and activities
- HoB boundaries and treatment for Sabah
- HoB management framework for Sabah

At the second HoB Trilateral meeting at Pontianak, Indonesia (4-5 April 2008), the three member countries agreed to formulate a tri-national Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) to conserve the Heart of Borneo. The SPA was unveiled in the 9th Conference of Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity (COP9) (Bonn, 27 May 2008). The SPA consists of five main programs, i.e. Transboundary Management, Protected Areas Management, Sustainable Natural Resources Management, Ecotourism Development and Capacity Building.

This Sabah SPA was produced by merging the two above documents, i.e. the Sabah HoB Project Document and the tri-national SPA.

¹ The HoB programmes for Sabah were set within eight themes, i.e. Protected Areas, Wildlife Management, Forestry, Biological Resources, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Tourism, and Community Development

HoB in the context of State and National policies

The HoB initiative is in harmony with, and shall complement many of the existing policies, plans and programmes pertaining to sustainable development, land use and conservation, at both the state and national levels. The key relevant documents are outlined below.

National policies and plans

(i) Vision 2020

Vision 2020 which aims for Malaysia to be a developed country by the year 2020 is the ultimate goal for all Malaysians. “Developed” in this context is not limited to an economic sense, but also in terms of national unity and social cohesion, social justice, political stability, system of government, quality of life, as well as social and spiritual values.

(ii) National Vision Policy (2001-2010)

The National Vision Policy aims to establish a united, progressive and prosperous Bangsa Malaysia. It endeavors to build a resilient and competitive nation, and equitable society with the overriding objective of National Unity. It has seven thrusts, which include pursuing environmentally sustainable development.

The National Vision Policy provides the overriding objectives for the various national initiatives over the period. The National Vision Policy is operationalised through the Third Outline Perspective Plan.

(iii) Third Outline Perspective Plan (2001-2010)

The Third Outline Perspective Plan (OPP3) marks the second phase of Malaysia’s journey to realize the Vision 2020 that was embarked upon in 1991. The strategic thrusts of the OPP3 serve as the guiding framework for the various Malaysia Plans during the period, including the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

With regard to the international conventions and treaties to which Malaysia has committed, the OPP3 emphasised that Malaysia will continue to adhere to its responsibilities under these conventions and treaties including those related to sustainable development such as the Ramsar Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Heart of Borneo Declaration.

(iv) Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010)

The Ninth Malaysian Plan (9MP) is a comprehensive blueprint to allocate the national budget from the year 2006 to 2010 to all economic sectors in Malaysia. 9MP also represents the first of three Malaysia Plans that form the National Mission to achieve Vision 2020. Enhancing the national competitiveness and resilience is the main objective of the 9MP to face the increasingly globalised economy.

Many of the issues covered in the 9MP can be related to the HoB initiative, particularly issues related to the environment such as ensuring a balance between development and environmental sustainability. To support this, the Government will step up enforcement and increase preventive measures; RM510 million has been allocated for cleaning, preserving and beautifying rivers, RM200 million for reforestation and another RM70 million for the management of wildlife and protected areas.

(v) National Policy on Biological Diversity

The National Policy on Biological Diversity, which was formulated in 1998, aims to “*conserve Malaysia’s biological diversity and to ensure that its components are utilised in a sustainable manner for the continued progress and socio-economic development of the nation.*”

The policy contains a set of principles and objectives for the sustainable utilisation and conservation of the nation’s biological diversity, together with 15 strategies and action plans to meet these objectives. The 15 strategies are:

1. Improve the scientific knowledge base.
2. Enhance sustainable utilisation of the components of biological diversity.
3. Develop a centre of excellence in industrial research in tropical biological diversity.
4. Strengthen the institutional framework for biological diversity management.
5. Strengthen and integrate conservation programmes.
6. Integrate biological diversity considerations into sectoral planning strategies.
7. Enhance skill, capabilities and competence.
8. Encourage private sector participation.
9. Review legislation to reflect biological diversity needs.
10. Minimise impacts of human activities on biological diversity.
11. Develop policies, regulations, laws and capacity building on bio-safety.
12. Enhance institutional and public awareness.
13. Promote international co-operation and collaboration.
14. Exchange of information.
15. Establish funding mechanisms.

The HoB initiative is in line with this policy, and it is envisaged that the initiative will contribute towards the implementation of many of the objectives and strategies.

(vi) National Environment Policy

National Environment Policy, which was formulated and adopted in 2002, integrates the three pillars of sustainable development, i.e. economic development; social and cultural development; and environmental conservation. The policy aims at continued economic, social and cultural progress and enhancement of the quality of life of Malaysians through environmentally sound and sustainable development. It is based on eight inter-related and mutually supporting principles set to harmonise economic development goals with environmental imperatives:

- Stewardship of the environment
- Conservation of nature's vitality and diversity
- Continuous improvement in the quality of the environment
- Sustainable use of natural resources
- Integrated decision-making
- Role of the private sector
- Commitment and accountability
- Active participation in the international community

(vii) National Conservation Strategy

The National Conservation Strategy emphasises the conservation and sustainable use and management of resources in the country. The strategy sets out a framework which can be used to integrate more fully the many existing efforts towards natural resource management for conservation and development, to build on the strength of existing institutions and mechanisms, and to incorporate additional future efforts into the process of conservation as a key to successful and sustainable development.

(viii) National Ecotourism Plan 1995

The National Ecotourism Plan is a plan aimed at developing Malaysia's ecotourism potential, while using it as an effective means for conserving its natural and cultural heritage. The HoB which is envisaged to include elements of cross-border cooperation in ecotourism, is likely to contribute to meeting the objectives of this plan.

(ix) Draft National Highlands Policy

The Draft National Highlands Policy, which provides the framework for an integrated approach towards the conservation and sustainable use of the highlands of Malaysia, is derived from two studies on the highlands of Malaysia, i.e. The study on the sustainable development of the Highlands of Peninsular Malaysia; and Policy strategies for conservation and sustainable use of the Highlands of Sabah and Sarawak.

The draft policy's overall objective is: *"to promote and commit to a pragmatic and progressive approach and stewardship towards conservation and sustainable use of the highlands that protect the fragile ecosystems and their productive contributions to the country and society, and in particular, the highland communities"*. The draft policy contains objectives, principles and strategies to serve as a basis for the conservation, sustainable development and management of the highlands of Malaysia: The Sabah HoB area includes almost all of the highland areas in the state.

State Policies and Plans

(i) Halatuju Pembangunan dan Kemajuan Negeri Sabah

This policy, which sets the framework for the holistic development of Sabah, contains three priorities, i.e., economic, social and political development. In particular, the development of the agriculture, tourism and manufacturing sectors are given priority to ensure sustained economic growth.

The HoB initiative has the potential to contribute towards the Halatuju through various potential projects in ecotourism, community development, and natural resource management.

(ii) Outline Perspective Plan for Sabah 1995-2010

The Outline Perspective Plan for Sabah was formulated based on the Second Outline Perspective Plan, Vision 2020 and the National Development Policy. The plan contains broad objectives, strategies and targets to guide Sabah's economic development. It aims to create a socially and politically stable environment through efficient management of the State's economy by eradicating hardcore poverty and reducing relative poverty.

In relation to the HoB initiative, the plan emphasises the need for sustainable development, in particular the effective protection of the environment.

(iii) Sabah Forestry Policy

The Sabah Forestry Policy, which was adopted in 2005, seeks to achieve sustainable management of the state's forest resources, through the following strategies:

- a. To declare sufficient land that is strategically located throughout Sabah as Permanent Forest Reserves in accordance with the concept of rational land use to ensure:
 - i) Sound climatic and physical conditions of the State, maintenance of watershed, soil fertility and environmental quality, conservation of nature and biodiversity, and minimal flood damage and soil erosion; such forest areas are classified as PROTECTION FORESTS.
 - ii) Perpetual supply of forest products for subsistence and industrial uses; such forest areas are classified as PRODUCTION FORESTS.
 - iii) Conservation of adequate forest areas for recreation, education and research; such forest areas are classified as AMENITY FORESTS.

- b. To manage the Permanent Forest Reserves so as to maximise social, economic and **environmental benefits** for the State and its people in accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management.
- c. To pursue forest development programmes through forest conservation and rehabilitation operations in accordance with approved silvicultural practices to optimise productivity of the Permanent Forest Reserves.
- d. To ensure proper utilisation of forest resources from land that is not classified as Permanent Forest Reserves through careful planning and in co-operation with land development agencies before the said land is alienated in order to maximise the returns for the people by means of suitable harvesting and processing methods.
- e. To promote efficient harvesting and utilisation of all types of forests and to stimulate the development of appropriate forest-based industries so as to maximise resource utilisation, create employment opportunities and generate foreign exchange earnings.
- f. To encourage the development of trade in forest products.
- g. To encourage Bumiputera participation in forest and wood-based industries.
- h. To undertake and support intensive research programmes in forestry development aimed at achieving optimum yield and returns from harvesting and utilisation of the Permanent Forest Reserves as well as maximising the return of investment from forestry development activities.
- i. To undertake and support comprehensive training programmes in forestry at all levels to provide adequate trained personnel to meet the needs of the forestry sector.
- j. To encourage private sector participation at all levels of forestry research and training with a view to enhancing professionalism in forestry and forest industries.
- k. To foster better understanding among the general public of the multiple values of the forest through education and public awareness programmes.
- l. To utilise information and communication technology for the efficient management of the State's forest resources.
- m. To foster close relationships and co-operation at the international level to enhance forest development and management of the State's forest resources.

(iv) Sabah Agricultural Policy (1999-2010)

The overriding objective of this policy is to maximise income from agriculture, livestock and fisheries through optimal utilisation. Specific objectives include increasing the productivity, earning capacity and income of farming and fishing communities, increasing growth rate and efficiency of the agriculture, livestock and fisheries industries, diversifying downstream activities of the agriculture, livestock and fisheries sectors and their related industries, and increasing the level of food production. The policy also mentions that agricultural development efforts should be implemented on the basis of sustainability.

(v) Sabah Conservation Strategy

The strategy, which was endorsed and adopted by the Government in 1992, contains a range of recommendations focusing on wise use of land. The strategy proposes various actions pertaining to sustainable land use and natural resource planning, including protected areas, water catchments, community forests, timber production, plantation forestry, biodiversity, mining, ecotourism, and coastal development.

(vi) Sabah Tourism Master Plan (1995-2010)

The Tourism Master Plan identifies ecotourism as the main development priority in the east coast and interiors of Sabah. Thus, ecotourism initiatives developed under the HoB can complement existing initiatives under this plan.

(vii) Sabah Water Resources Master Plan (1998)

The Sabah Water Resources Master Plan provides a framework for effective water resources planning, development and management to sustain economic, social and environmental uses. The HoB covers most of the water catchment areas in Sabah and the HoB's conservation agenda is consistent with Sabah's Water Resources Master-plan.

(viii) Sabah Physical Land Use Plans

The state government, through the Town and Regional Planning Department develops physical land-use planning schemes in accordance with the Town and Country Planning Ordinance (Sabah Cap. 141), with the view of consolidating the State's policies on urban and rural land use. The hierarchy of physical plans is as follows:

- Structure Plans – Set forth policies dealing with land use, location of investments and other issues related to physical development. Four Structure Plans have been prepared: the Sabah State Structure Plan, Kota Kinabalu Structure Plan, Sandakan Structure Plan and Tawau Structure Plan.
- District Plans – Previously called District Planning Schemes. The Comprehensive Development Plan is another type of district plan that was introduced for the planning of the three major urban areas in Sabah, namely Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan and Tawau.
- Local Plans – Previously called Local Planning Schemes. Local Plans cover a defined area, normally urban and populated areas. There are at least 21 Local Plans in Sabah.
- Town Plans – To guide the physical development of urban centres. At least 81 Town Plans have been prepared.

Biodiversity conservation in Sabah

Sabah possesses a stunning array of natural landscapes, habitats and species. In particular, the forests on the east coast and interiors are key habitats for the Orang-utan, Borneo pygmy elephant, and Sumatran rhino. While much of the primary forests have been logged over or converted for non-forest use, there have been many important conservation initiatives carried out by the State government over the last decade, through state agencies such as Sabah Parks, Sabah Wildlife Department, Sabah Forestry Department, and Sabah Foundation. Central to this is the designation of a comprehensive network of Protected Areas, which provide protection to many of the key habitats and biodiversity in the state.

In particular, Sabah may be seen as a model where parks (Kinabalu Park being a prime example), can provide adequate protection for biodiversity, while at the same time generate a viable and important source of income to the state government as well as the local communities.

Reflecting the crucial need for conserving Sabah's forests and unique biodiversity, numerous conservation NGOs have been working in Sabah (many in partnership with the government), at all levels, on a wide range of areas, including species conservation, habitat restoration, education and awareness, local community empowerment etc. These include WWF-Malaysia, HUTAN, SOS Rhino, LEAP, PACOS, and MESCOT.

The Sabah Biodiversity Enactment 2000, which came into force in 2002 paved the way for the establishment of the Sabah Biodiversity Council and the Sabah Biodiversity Centre. These have served to strengthen the existing legal framework for the management, conservation and protection of the state's rich biological resources.

Past and On-going Initiatives

Perhaps as a reflection of the importance of conserving Sabah's rich biodiversity, many conservation programmes, projects and studies have been carried out over the past two decades. Some of the major projects are listed below (it should be noted that this list is by no means comprehensive) :

(i) Sabah Conservation Strategy [1990-1992]

WWF Malaysia was commissioned by the Ministry of Culture, Environment and Tourism (MOCET) to prepare the Sabah Conservation Strategy. A range of recommendations was formulated in the strategy for the sustainable management of nature areas and natural resources of Sabah and has been endorsed and adopted by the Government.

(ii) Partners for Wetlands - Kinabatangan

This project is a follow up of previous work by WWF Malaysia and collaborative works with the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Science and Technology (MTEST) with the objective to build partnerships between the private sector, local community, and government agencies

in order to support wise landuse in the Kinabatangan Floodplain, especially within the proposed Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary.

(iii) The Sabah Biodiversity Conservation Project (SBCP) [1996-1998]

Carried out through funding from the Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development (DANCED), the objective of this project was to improve and sustain the use of Sabah's biological resources.

(iv) Identification of Potential Protected Areas Project (IPPA) [1996-1999]

The IPPA Project is one of the sub-components on the SBCP. It was carried out by WWF-Malaysia, with technical assistance provided by DANCED. The Project's specific objectives were to provide information for expanding the system of terrestrial biodiversity conservation areas throughout Sabah, and to investigate the potential for large plantations to contribute to biodiversity conservation in Sabah.

The 6 specific areas investigated were:

- Ulu Padas (extensive montane forests)
- Lower Sugut (lowlands and riverine forests)
- Nabawan (kerangas forests)
- Crocker Range foothills (hill forests)
- Klias Peninsula (peatswamp forests)
- Lower Segama (lowlands and riverine forests)

(v) Kinabatangan Orang-utan Conservation Project (KOCP) [1998-present]

The project was initiated by a French NGO called HUTAN. The objective is to ensure the long-term survival of wild Orang-utans in habitats that exist in close proximity to local communities in the Lower Kinabatangan. The project ensues of long-term studies on Orang-utan habitats and population, developing community outreach and awareness programs, and most importantly, assisting the community in conservation efforts that provide tangible benefits over the long-term (especially through ecotourism).

A statewide census on orang-utan population was organised under the project in 2003, in collaboration with the Sabah Wildlife Department.

(vi) Maliau Basin Management Plan Project [1999-2002]

The objective of the project is to secure the conservation of Maliau Basin for the benefit of Sabah, Malaysia and the international community. DANCED provided technical and financial assistance, while Malaysian input was provided by Sabah Foundation, on behalf of the Maliau Basin Management Committee. Specific objectives include:

- Establishment of a management structure for the Maliau Basin Conservation Area;
- The development of field facilities for research and other activities;

- The production of a comprehensive 5-year Management Plan;
- Enhanced capacity among staff of Yayasan Sabah and other stake holder agencies;
- Raised awareness about the needs for long-term conservation among Sabahans; and eventually;
- The successful implementation and institutionalisation of the Management Plan.

(vii) Asian Rhino Elephant Action Strategy (AREAS) [2000-present]

This project is the Sabah component of AREAS (Asian Rhino and Elephant Action Strategy), a WWF initiative to coordinate Asian elephant and rhino work in their range states through a strategic approach. Through the project, elephant and rhino surveys are carried out in selected key habitats where viable populations may exist, and land-use impacts on both species are documented. The project also identifies areas that can be retained as natural habitats as well as areas that require management.

(viii) SOS Rhino [2000-2007]

The Sabah Wildlife Department has been working with SOS Rhino and WWF since 2000 with an increased focus on the Sumatran rhinoceros. The Department built facilities at Sepilok in the late 80's that resulted in the first breeding between pairs of rhinos. They later received GEF funding for surveys and later hosted the first population viability assessment for the Sumatran rhino in 1995.

SOS Rhino is dedicated to protecting rhinos and their habitat. The Bornean sub-species of the Sumatran rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis harrissoni*) is one of the most endangered rhinos – mainly due to habitat loss and poaching. There may be as few as 30 of this sub-species left in the wild and only two in captivity. With large and varied habitat requirements, the protection of this animal will further the conservation of other fauna and flora in the ecosystem they inhabit.

To increase the understanding of the Sumatran rhinoceros, SOS Rhino has joined staff from Sabah Wildlife Department Malaysia (JHL), WWF-Malaysia, and Singapore Zoological Gardens (SZG) to form the SOS Rhino team.

SOS Rhino's Borneo Project has two main goals:

- IN-SITU: protection/expansion of the population in the wild by supporting rhino protection and survey teams by providing them with the latest survey technologies and techniques.
- EX-SITU: successful breeding and health evaluation of the two rhinos in captivity at Sepilok by routine sample and data collection, hormone profiles, ultrasound evaluation, management/husbandry, and breeding.

(ix) INIKEA Project [1998-present]

The INIKEA project began in June 1998 after the signing of the MOU between Innoprise Corporation Sdn Bhd and Sow-a-Seed Foundation. The aim of the project is to rehabilitate 4,000-5,000 ha of degraded forest in the Kalabakan Forest Reserve (Class II).

The project area covers 18,500 ha of forest land. As of February 2004, the total planted area was about 5,094 ha. A further 115 ha was liberated (i.e. climbers, Macaranga and invasive vines removed to boost natural regeneration).

(x) Bornean Biodiversity & Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) Programme [2002-2007]

The BBEC Programme encompassed a large variety of projects, including research and education, state park management, habitat management, environmental awareness, increasing local community participation. The projects were carried out by joint efforts of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Sabah State Government and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

(xi) South-East Asia Rainforest Research Programme (SEARRP) at Danum

A research collaboration between Sabah Foundation and Royal Society of Britain. Focus is on research in the Danum Valley Conservation Area (DVCA), which is a Class I Protected forest within the Sabah Foundation concession area. In the past two decades, over 200 research projects relating to tropical forest ecology have been carried out at the Danum Valley Field Centre, the focal point of the SEARRP.

Climate related research will be the focus of SEARRP's work in the future, with the presence of the 100m tall Global Atmosphere Watch Station; which was constructed through funds provided by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Protected Areas

At present, there are seven parks in Sabah gazetted under the Sabah Parks Enactment, 1984. Of these, three are terrestrial parks (Mt. Kinabalu, Crocker Range and Tawau Hills). The parks are managed by Sabah Parks under the Board of Trustees, a statutory body established in 1962 with the purpose of conserving the scenic, scientific and historic heritage of Sabah. Sabah Parks is also mandated to develop eco-tourism in the parks. The first park was Kinabalu Park, which was gazetted in 1964 and inscribed to the World Heritage List in 2000. Of the seven classes of forest reserves recognized under the Forest Enactment, three are regarded as protected areas, i.e.:

- **Class I (Protection Forests)** - Forest conserved for the protection of watershed and maintenance of the stability of essential climatic and other environmental factors. These areas cannot be logged. There are 44 Protection Forests throughout the state, encompassing a total land area of 348,016 ha.

- **Class VI (Virgin Jungle Reserves)** - Forest conserved intact strictly for forestry research purposes. Logging is strictly prohibited in this forest reserve. The Sepilok Virgin Jungle Reserve in Sandakan covers 4,000 ha and is one of the largest tracts of undisturbed lowland dipterocarp forests in Sabah. Collectively, there are 92,400.70 ha of Virgin Forest Reserves in 50 locations throughout Sabah.
- **Class VII (Wildlife Reserves)** - Forest conserved primarily for the protection and research of wildlife. The two Class VII forests in Sabah, i.e. Tabin Wildlife Reserve and Kulamba Wildlife Reserve are both located on the Dent Peninsular on the east coast.

Three types of protected areas may be gazetted under the Wildlife Conservation Enactment, 1997, i.e.:

- Conservation Area - for the purpose of fast and flexible protection of wildlife and habitats.
- Wildlife Sanctuary - the strongest conservation category for fauna, flora, genetic resources and habitats.
- Wildlife Hunting Area - intended for animal population management by regulated hunting.

Table 1 : Protected Areas in Sabah

Category	Name	Size (Ha)
Parks	Kinabalu Park	75,370
	Crocker Range Park	139,919
	Tawau Hills Park	27,972
	Tungku Abdul Rahman Marin Park	4,929
	Turtle Islands Marine Park	1,740
	Pulau Tiga Park	15,864
	Tun Sakaran Marine Park	35,000
	Sub-total	300,794
Protection forest reserves	Class I (Protection)	348,016
	Class VI (Virgin Jungle Reserve)	92,400
	Class VII (Wildlife Reserve)	132,653
	Sub-total	573,069
Wildlife / Bird / Marine Sanctuary	Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary	27,800
	Sipadan	12
	Kota Belud	12,200
	Mantanani Kecil	61
	Kota Kinabalu	24
	Lankayan Billean Tegapil Marine Conservation Area	30,000
	Sub-total	70,097

Protection of Wildlife

The Sabah Wildlife Department is responsible for the implementation of the Sabah Wildlife Conservation Enactment, 1997. Through this Enactment, the department conserves and regulates wildlife utilization in the state and manages a number of protected areas. The department also implements the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and contributes to the implementation of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) and other relevant international, regional and bi-lateral agreements. The department's headquarters is in Kota Kinabalu, and it has a number of district offices, centers and stations throughout the state

In order to increase enforcement, the department has implemented the Honorary Wildlife Wardens programme whereby suitable persons may be appointed as Honorary Wildlife Wardens to assist in carrying into effect provisions of the Wildlife conservation Enactment.

Sustainable Forest Management

The forestry sector in Sabah has evolved through several stages of development, beginning with minimal consumption to the stage where the sustained use of forest resources was critical to the State's economy. At present, the emphasis is on safeguarding forests for the interest of future generations. Of the 13 goals stated in the Sabah Forestry Policy, which was adopted in 2005, the first two emphasise conservation and sustainable management:

- a. To declare sufficient land that is strategically located throughout Sabah as Permanent Forest Reserves in accordance with the concept of rational land use to ensure
 - (i) Sound climatic and physical conditions of the State, maintenance of watershed, soil fertility and environmental quality, conservation of nature and biodiversity, and minimal flood damage and soil erosion; such forest areas are classified as PROTECTION FORESTS.
 - (ii) Perpetual supply of forest products for subsistence and industrial uses; such forest areas are classified as PRODUCTION FORESTS.
 - (iii) Conservation of adequate forest areas for recreation, education and research; such forest areas are classified as AMENITY FORESTS.
- b. To manage the Permanent Forest Reserves so as to maximise social, economic and environmental benefits for the State and its people in accordance with the principles of sustainable forest management.

The principal forestry law in Sabah is the Forest Enactment 1968 (revised 1984), which provides for the gazettement of forest reserves, their use and management as well as for control of cutting and removal of forest produce from State land. The total area of forests gazetted as forest reserves in Sabah is about 3.61 million hectares. These forest reserves are classified into seven classes.

In line with the implementation of the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) within the permanent forest estates (PFE), the entire area of the Class II Commercial FR was divided into Forest Management Units (FMU) in 1997. The FMUs were allocated to the private sector through long-term SFM License Agreement. These agreements give the license holder the right to manage an FMU for a period of 100 years according to a management plan which is approved by the Forestry Department.

A model SFM plan was developed for Deramakot Forest Reserve with technical assistance from the German Agency for Technical Co-operation (GTZ). Deramakot is also the first natural tropical rainforest in South East Asia managed in accordance with sustainable forestry principles. It was certified in 1997 as complying with the requirements of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators (MC&I) and the Forestry Stewardship Council's (FSC) Standards for Sustainable Forest Management.

Catchment Management

The protection of the water catchments is under the purview of the State Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID) based on the Water Resources Master Plan for Sabah developed in 1994. In addition, a water resource legislation was developed in 1998 which provides various powers for water resource management including the management of catchments. Experience gained from the development of the pilot Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Moyog River catchment in 1999 and DANIDA's capacity building in integrated catchment management planning project in 2002 has helped DID to develop other catchment management plans such as for Kota Marudu and Kinabatangan.

A State Water Resources Council headed by the Chief Minister of Sabah has been established to ensure that water catchment areas in Sabah are well managed.

Environmental Protection

Environmental protection in the State of Sabah comes under the purview of two agencies; i.e. the federal Department of Environment (DOE) and the state Environment Protection Department (EPD). DOE enforces the Environmental Quality Act 1974, which covers matters relating to the administration, licensing, and control of scheduled wastes. As land matters are under the jurisdiction of the state under the Federal Constitution, the state government established the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) in 1999 via the Conservation of Environment Enactment 1996. The department was renamed the Environment Protection Department (EPD) in 2003, via the new Environment Protection Enactment 2002, which addresses gaps that existed under the previous enactment, mainly relating to powers of investigation and prosecution.

Environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are required for activities listed under the Second Schedule of the Environment Protection (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 2005.

Archaeological, Cultural and Historical Site Protection

The new Antiquities and Treasure Trove Enactment 2006 which falls under the purview of the Sabah Museum covers the management, protection and preservation of areas having ACH values throughout the state. The Sabah Museum contributes towards the preservation of indigenous culture and knowledge through the establishment of ACH sites, as well as through research programmes and awareness through its museum exhibits. Some of the important ACH sites include:

- Kinabatangan valley – largest concentration of log coffins (in about 450 caves) in the world, 250-10,000 years old.
- Lahad Datu – Prehistoric archaeological site dating 78,000-100,000 years.
- Semporna (Bukit Tengkorak) - open site of pottery factory in Southeast Asia.

Programs and Plans of Action for the HoB Initiative

- Transboundary Management
- Protected Areas Management
- Sustainable Natural Resource Management
- Ecotourism Development
- Capacity Building

The HoB Initiative is a voluntary transboundary cooperation of the three countries combining the stake-holders' interest, based on local wisdom, acknowledgement of and respect for laws, regulation and policies of the respective countries and taking into account relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as existing regional and bilateral agreements/ arrangements. The cooperation is based on sustainable development principles through research and development, sustainable use, protection, education and training, fund-raising, as well as other activities that are relevant to trans-boundary management, conservation and development within the areas of the HoB. It is obvious that the implementation of HoB programs and actions should be based on the conservation spatial plans of the respective countries.

On the above basis, five programs were identified for the tri-national SPA, namely Transboundary Management, Protected Areas Management, Sustainable Natural Resource Management, Ecotourism Development, and Capacity Building. The trilateral meeting will decide on appropriate special technical arrangement as deemed necessary.

In order to effectively implement the HoB programs and actions, each country needs to put in place its proper financial mechanism related to financial resource mobilization, including government funding, fund raising from potential identified sources such as donors, Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and carbon trading.



Some of biological richness in Borneo, there's still a lot more to be discovered and known about Borneo

Programs and Plans of Actions for the HoB Initiative (Sabah)

Sabah HoB priorities

A set of priorities for the HoB initiative in Sabah was formulated at the state level Workshop held in September 2006 (**Table 2**). It is envisaged that the two most pertinent priorities for the HoB initiative in Sabah are the maintenance of forest connectivity through the strengthening of the Protected Area network, as well as the establishment of sustainably managed forested corridors connecting these areas, and in the opportunity for enhanced transboundary co-operation.

The priorities were formulated within nine general sectors, keeping in mind the following points:

- To give emphasis to sustainable resource management.
- To complement existing national and state conservation strategies.
- To focus on opportunities for transboundary collaboration.
- Global support, i.e. the opportunity to access resources of international partners.

Sabah HoB Actions, Targets and Projects

The Actions, Targets and Projects contained in the following pages have been formulated by merging the Programs and Actions contained in the tri-national Strategic Plan of Action, with the Sabah HoB Project Document.

Targets and activities are organised into three time categories, in order to reflect what is perceived to be realistic time frames (it is envisaged that these categories would need to be revised at a later date):

Short-term 2008 - 2010

Medium-term 2011 - 2015

Long-term 2016 - 2020

Table 2: Sabah State HoB Priorities

Sector	Priorities
Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the Protected and Conservation areas network • Establish buffer zones for PAs • Identify mechanism of networking between agencies • Establish a clear policy for conservation • Establish a joint management committee for enforcement and monitoring • Formulate management plans for PAs • Focus on human dimension i.e. environmental education/awareness
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the Sabah Biodiversity Council • Strengthen research and development • Strengthen knowledge in biological resources
Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that HoB vision is compatible with spatial planning • Application of the SEA • Economic instruments i.e. revolving fund • Adopt BMP for natural resource use (including minerals, forestry, land, biodiversity)
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very clear functions for all the 7 forest classes • Improve FMU management plans • Develop a Forestry Policy in FMU area • Enforcement – need guidelines for Responsible Harvesting • Agroforestry – integrate farming and animal husbandry • HoB policy on forest plantation & agriculture must be integrated and complement each other • Strengthen community forestry programmes
Plantations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement in implementation process • Transparency including in Policy • Extension and Education (communities and FMU holders)
Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture communities should not remain poor – plant for export • Pesticide safe – Accreditation/Lab • Infrastructure – Road networks/facilities in agriculture area • Organic farming • Policy on communities having small lots in the highland • Inland fishery
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing knowledge through Tourist Information Centre • Develop branding of the HoB through ecotourism • Position of Keningau of the gateway to HoB • Develop cross-border tourism products e.g. adventure tourism, trekking etc. • Develop homestay, local tourist guide, cultural tourism, handicraft, local food • Provide training (institutional capacity) • Eastern corridor (Ulu Segama, Malua) • Health farm (organic) in Long Pasia Valley
Infrastructure Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solar power, mini hydro • Improving water quality, road building, • Solar power for telecommunication • Developing emergency response through helicopter pads • Improve biodegradable waste disposal • Maintenance of infrastructure – safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance capacity building • Environmental awareness • Empowering the Keningau/Tenom Tourism Association coordination • Maximizing local culture/produce (coffee) • Handicraft • Develop local festivals

PROGRAM 1

Transboundary Management

The three countries are aware of the different land use activities along the border. Therefore it is important for the three participating countries to enhance transboundary collaboration through the HoB Initiative for a better management of the forest and other land uses. Agricultural pressures, proposals for road building, the timber industry, the economic development at the border areas and fulfilment of subsistence needs of local people are also amongst the complex issues that threaten the forests and their wildlife in the area covered by the HoB Initiative of the three countries.

Program Objective:

To address issues of management of natural resources and socio-economic welfare of local people on the border areas.

No	Actions
1	Develop and review master plan and to consider the HoB Initiative to be in line with country's constitution and legislation.
2	Provide policy recommendations on conservation efforts and sustainable development in HoB area.
3	Establish a mechanism for coherent and effective information-sharing.
4	Undertake collective and/or joint research and studies, especially on the areas of biodiversity and socio-economic including social and demographic assessment.
5	Undertake joint spatial planning of the HoB area.

PROGRAM 2

Protected Areas Management

The role of protected areas becomes increasingly important to withstand the high pressure on the Borneo rainforest. Thus, effective management of protected areas is vital to conserve the biological richness in the protected areas not only in HoB areas but in areas that have been declared as such.

Program Objective:

To enhance and promote effective management of protected areas within the HoB area, with the emphasis on those situated on the common border, in order to conserve and maintain forest biodiversity and the ecological linkages.

No	Actions
1 ²	Identify, assess and establish transboundary conservation zones in order to strengthen the management of these protected areas based on their cultural and natural heritage values, water catchments capacity and biodiversity richness.
2 ³	Develop and enhance standard operating procedures and systems for monitoring and evaluation of the trans-boundary conservation area management, and undertake joint monitoring and evaluation activities if necessary.
3	Develop and enhance systems and implementation for transboundary protected areas collaborative management program, to include local community and other stakeholders.
4	Develop and enhance approaches for improving land and vegetation management on areas cultivated by local communities, within or adjacent to protected areas.
5	Establish a master list of protected areas within the HoB with information on the management objectives, special feature and the relevant agencies and personnel involved as well as the respective country categories.
6	Promote institutional linkages among the protected areas within the HoB

² Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 3**

³ Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 3**

**Table 3: Specific targets and projects for Program 2
(Protected Areas Management)**

No	Actions	Targets	Project Code	Project
1	Identify, assess and establish transboundary conservation zones in order to strengthen the management of these protected areas based on their cultural and natural heritage values, water catchments capacity and biodiversity richness.	<p><u>Short Term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New PAs identified and proposed Corridors identified and proposed <p><i>N.B. Identification of Pas has been done previously (ITTA, 1996, BEA programmes, 2006) - Review specifically for HoB</i></p>	PA-1	Study to develop proposals for new PAs.
			PA-2	Study to develop masterplan for landscape-level connectivity (corridors and buffers).
			PA-3	Assess scope for trans-boundary conservation between Sabah and Sarawak (Maligan Forest Reserve).
			PA-4	Assess scope for trans-boundary conservation between Sabah and Kalimantan (Ulu Padas, Kalabalan Serudong, watershed management).
2	Develop and enhance standard operating procedures and systems for monitoring and evaluation of the trans-boundary conservation area management, and undertake joint monitoring and evaluation activities if necessary.	<p><u>Medium term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protected Areas network expanded and strengthened, to contain representation of all important conservation areas in Sabah HoB, including transboundary PAs and ecological corridors. <p><u>Short Term</u></p> <p>Management plans for selected PA improved and developed</p>	PA-5	Establish the Imbak Canyon PA.
			PA-6	Establish the Kuala Maga-Bukit Rimau Conservation Area.
			PA-7	Establish the Long Pasia State Park.
			PA-8	Establish critical corridors.
			PA-9	Develop facilities and equipment.
			PA-10	Carry out World Bank PA management toolkit review.
			PA-11	Ulu Padas-Pulong Tau-Kayan Mantaran Tripartite Management Plan.
			PA-12	Improve Crocker Range Park Management Plan.

PROGRAM 3

Sustainable Natural Resources Management

There are a number of forestry concessions which cover a portion of the total area of the HoB Initiative. The HoB area [covers] the source of 14 of Borneo's 20 major rivers. The complex soil and terrain, together with altitudinal sequence, give rise to a particularly wide range of habitats for plants and animals. It is therefore in the interests of all the three participating countries to have extensive forests in adjacent areas in order to ensure the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, management of watersheds, conservation and benefit sharing of biodiversity richness, carbon stocks, and other environmental services. The HoB Initiative vision supports the maintenance of such forests and other sustainable land use already in place, either unexploited or managed under sustainable harvesting practices.

Program Objective:

To manage the natural resources outside the protected areas network through the development and implementation of sustainable land uses.

No	Actions
1 ⁴	Enhance and strengthen existing mechanism and guidelines to ensure the implementation of best practices natural resources management, sustainable use principle and ecosystem approach in all natural resources uses, including forestry, agriculture/plantation, mining and water resources within the HoB area.
2 ³	Develop scheme for rehabilitation and restoration programs on the degraded forest areas in the HoB.
3	Promote HoB areas as potential Reduction of Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project sites.
4 ⁵	Enhance protection of wildlife through appropriate programmes and application of legal and management tools

⁴ Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 4a-4b**

⁵ This is a new Action for Sabah HoB not previously contained in the generic Strategic Plan of Action. Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 4c**

**Table 4a: Specific targets and projects for Program 3
(Sustainable Natural Resources Management -Agriculture/Plantation)**

No	Actions	Targets	Project Code	Project
1	Enhance and strengthen existing mechanism and guidelines to ensure the implementation of best practices natural resource management, sustainable use principle and ecosystem approach in all natural resources uses, including forestry, agriculture/plantation, mining and water resources within the HoB area.	<u>Short Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actively implement good agriculture practices 	NR-17	Good livestock management (centralise, downstream processing, training).
			NR-18	Good fisheries management (tagal system).
			NR-19	Accreditation for cocoa, coffee, rubber - SALM.
			NR-20	Encourage community to monitor shifting cultivation.
			NR-21	Capacity building to maximise value of agriculture products.
			NR-22	Implement the "Organic Farming Initiative" at Bundu Tuhan and Masilau.
			NR-23	Train farmers in organic farming and composting.
			NR-24	Identify and assess palm oil producers in and around the HoB, with respect to RSPO membership and sustainable production.
			NR-25	Encourage palm oil companies operating within or around HoB to join RSPO.
			NR-26	Present benefits of sustainable palm oil production to producer groups.
		2		<u>Long term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing plantations are sustainably managed or operating according to best practices Agriculture and Forestry policy integrates and compliments each other
	NR-28			Establish at least one market link with buyers for local community products in HoB.

**Table 4b: Specific targets and projects for Program 3
(Sustainable Natural Resources Management - Mining and Water Resources)**

No	Actions	Targets	Project Code	Project
1	Enhance and strengthen existing mechanism and guidelines to ensure the implementation of best practices natural resources management, sustainable use principle and ecosystem approach in all natural resources uses, including forestry, agriculture/ plantation, mining and water resources within the HoB area.	<p><u>Short Term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information gaps plugged <p><u>Medium Term</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All water catchments in the HoB are well protected and the water quality are maintained at acceptable levels Application of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for projects in HoB areas is strengthened <p><u>Long term</u></p> <p>Enabling policies to support sustainable management of natural resources in place</p>	<p>NR-29</p> <p>NR-30</p> <p>NR-31</p> <p>NR-32</p> <p>NR-33</p> <p>NR-34</p> <p>NR-35</p> <p>NR-36</p>	<p>Pilot community water monitoring programme.</p> <p>Compile information on community dependence on water catchments in areas under long term logging concessions.</p> <p>Identify unique geological features with tourism potential.</p> <p>Implement the Mineral Enactment 1999.</p> <p>Best Management Practices Standards for Mineral Extraction in HoB.</p> <p>Enforce the Land (Quarry) Rules 1997 of the Land Ordinance (Sabah Cap. 68).</p> <p>Gazette water catchment areas.</p> <p>Carry out Water Catchment Management Study for the Sabah HoB area.</p>

**Table 4c: Specific targets and projects for Program 3
(Sustainable Natural Resources Management - Wildlife)**

No	Actions	Targets	Project Code	Project
4	Enhance protection of wildlife through appropriate programmes and application of legal and management tools.	<u>Short Term</u> Species conservation programmes commenced	NR-37	Enhance elephant conservation programme.
			NR-38	Rhino conservation programme.
			NR-39	Rhino habitat protection programme.
			NR-40	Enhance honorary wildlife protection programme.
			NR-41	Non-detriment finding methodologies implemented, including science-based quota setting, for two CITES App II listed species found in HoB.
		<u>Medium Term</u> HoB breeding populations of elephants, rhinoceros and orangutans protected/secured and the action plans formulated/reviewed Successful enforcement and prosecution on wildlife crimes	NR-42	Secure at least four ecological corridors for elephants, Sumatran rhino and orang-utans within HoB.
			NR-43	Secure breeding populations of orang-utans at Ulu Segama Malua.
			NR-44	Enhance capacity of relevant agencies to conserve orangutans in USM.
			NR-45	Conduct restoration and enhancement of forest quality for orangutans.
			NR-46	Formulate Elephant action plan for Ulu Segama Malua / Sembakung.
		<u>Long Term</u> Conflict management programmes and protocols established and implemented in HoB wildlife hotspots.	NR-47	Initiate Elephant DNA and population analysis.
			NR-48	Formulate the Rhino Action Plan.
			NR-49	Establish at least 1 new rhino patrol-team in Sabah.
			NR-50	Formulate hunting sustainability plan for Sabah.
NR-51	Produce guidelines for SFMLA holders to integrate wildlife within Forest Management Plans.			
NR-52	Implement the Bornean portion of ASEAN-Wildlife Enforcement Network.			

PROGRAM 4

Ecotourism Development

Development of ecotourism is expected to be the main focus for socio-economic development within the HoB areas. Relating to this, the development of the ecotourism in the HoB area has to be developed in accordance with the respective countries' tourism plan.

Program Objective:

To recognize and protect the value of special natural and cultural places or sites within the HoB area.

No	Actions
1 ⁶	Identify, develop and promote transborder ecotourism programs.
2	Develop networking on ecotourism management in relation to the management of protected area system.
3 ⁷	Promote community based ecotourism activities in the HoB area.
4 ⁸	Develop new ecotourism attractions in HoB.

⁶Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 5**

⁷ Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 5**

⁸ This is a new Action for Sabah HoB not previously contained in the generic Strategic Plan of Action. Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 5**

**Table 5: Specific targets and projects for Program 4
(Ecotourism Development)**

No	Actions	Targets	Project Code	Project
1	Identify, develop and promote transborder ecotourism programs.	<u>Short Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HoB branded as an ecotourism destination 	ET-1 ET-2	Identify and develop trans-boundary ecotourism products and packages. Publicity campaign promoting HoB as an eco-tourism destination.
3	Promote community based ecotourism activities in the HoB area.	<u>Medium Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism services at the district level as well as the involvement of the local community is improved • Enhance opportunities for community participation in ecotourism 	ET-3 ET-5 ET-6 ET-7	Improve the quality and the marketing of existing products of homestays and guesthouses, local handicrafts and food. Initiate suitable training and support programme for communities involved in ecotourism. Enhance the documentation of traditional knowledge, local festivals and handicrafts, and cultural practices. Pilot project for community based tourism.
4	Develop new ecotourism attractions in HoB	<u>Medium Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism services at the district level as well as the involvement of the local community is improved • New tourism products in the HoB are introduced and existing products enhanced 	ET-8 ET-9 ET-10 ET-11	Develop new attractions in HoB specifically in Trus Madi, Crocker Range Park. Establish/improve tourism information centres in all districts in HoB. Develop hiking and cycling trails around Kundasang to connect the main attractions and services. Introduce new areas for tourism such as Long Pa Sia & Eastern corridor (Ulu Segama, Malua).

PROGRAM 5

Capacity building

Borneo Island is home to about 16 million people and big percentages of the populace are heavily dependent on agricultural products and forest produce for their livelihood. Recognizing the importance of managing the forest resources in a sustainable manner, it is very important to increase the capacity building activities of relevant stakeholders - management, technical and operation level, in order to ensure the success of this HoB initiative.

Program Objective:

To ensure the effective implementation of HoB initiative at all levels, both public & private sectors and at the local community.

No	Actions
1 ⁹	Implement [national] capacity building on biodiversity conservation, freshwater management, land use planning, geographic information systems, protected area management, outdoor recreation, ecotourism management and law enforcement on combating illicit international trafficking in forest products including timber, wildlife, and other forest biological resources.
2	Establish linkages amongst research and development (R&D) institution and encourage collaboration including attachments of researchers working on conservation and sustainable development areas in the HoB.
3	Promote public awareness program on the prevention of further loss on forest biodiversity including timber and wildlife products.
4	Promote education and awareness on HoB programs.
5 ¹⁰	Empower local communities and provide them with the means to protect and manage their local environment and natural resources

⁹ Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 6**

¹⁰ This is a new Action for Sabah HoB not previously contained in the generic Strategic Plan of Action. Specific targets and projects have been set for this Action for HoB Sabah. See **Table 6**

**Table 6: Specific targets and projects for Program 5
(Capacity building)**

No	Actions	Targets	Project Code	Project
1	Implement [national] capacity building on biodiversity conservation, freshwater management, land use planning, geographic information systems, protected area management, etc.	<u>Medium Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial and human resource capacity for parks enhanced. 	CB-1	Assess scope for transboundary networking and cooperation in capacity building for protected areas management. Programme to develop human resource capacity (including training assessment).
5	Empower local communities to with the means to protect and manage their local environment and natural resources	<u>Short Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public awareness of HoB increased <u>Medium Term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income generating opportunities of local community from sustainable management (of natural resources and their services) are increased <u>Long term</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community participation in decision-making at the district level is enhanced 	CB-3 CB-4 CB-5	Pilot project on community livelihood improvements (community-based natural resource management / integrated conservation and development). Pilot project on access and benefit sharing for local communities in HoB Develop an integrated strategy on poverty reduction in HoB
			CB-6	Strengthen the socio-economic component in the EIA procedures for major projects in the HoB

Boundary and treatment for HoB Sabah

A provisional boundary for Sabah HoB was formulated at the first state-level workshop in 2006, based on a proposal by the Sabah Forestry Department, based on the following factors: Protected Areas, Forest Reserves, District boundaries, High Value Conservation Areas, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, water catchments, and existing forest cover. The provisional boundary was agreed upon following deliberation on a number of issues:

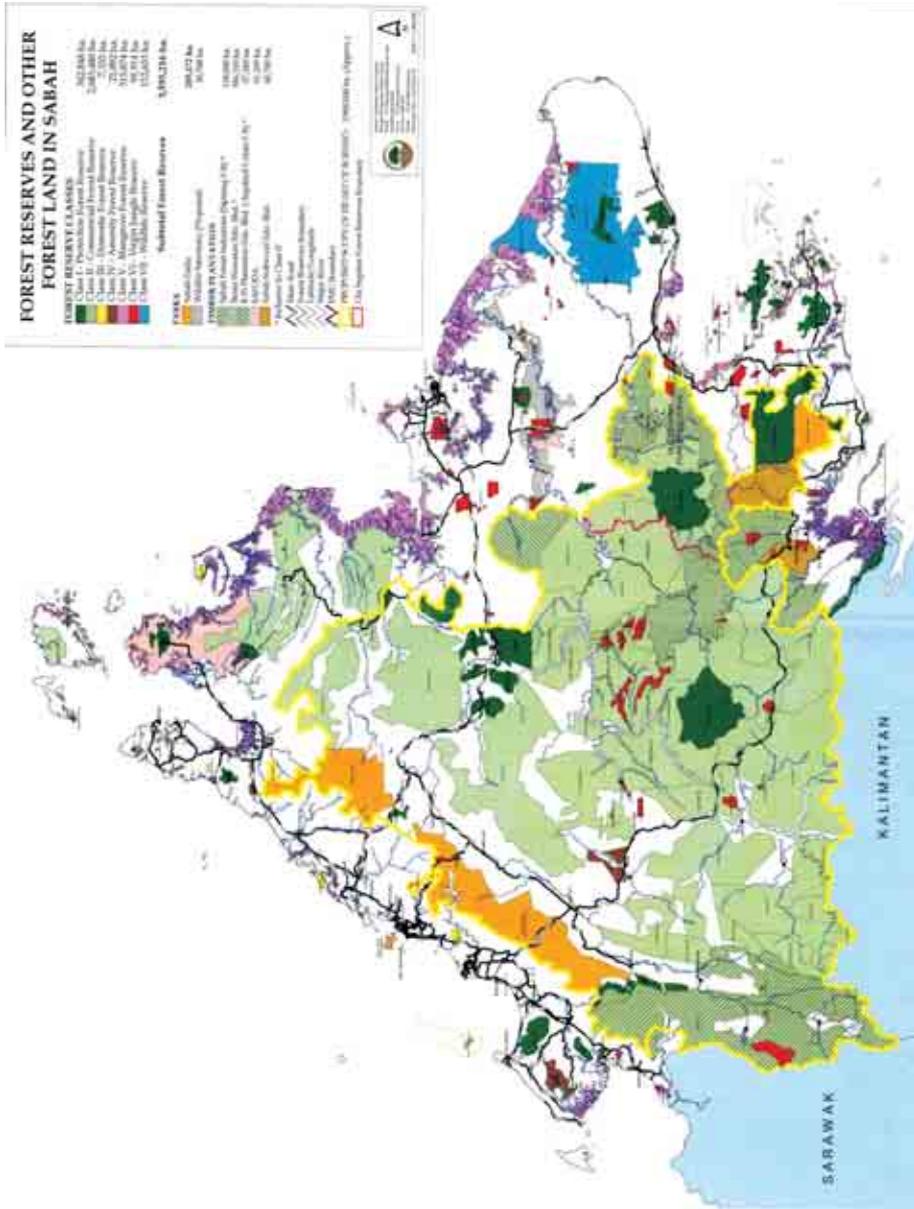
- To maintain a contiguous central forest across Borneo, and connectivity between PAs in Sabah
- The use of wildlife habitats as a viable criteria, (and the inclusion/exclusion of Tabin Wildlife Reserve)
- The inclusion/exclusion of settlements (and the impacts of inclusion on local communities)
- The effects of HoB on ITP within the HoB area
- The added advantages of HoB compared to existing laws and regulations
- Authority over HoB in the event of government change
- The viability of using the concept of buffer zones

The provisional boundary has since been refined following the second workshop in 2008. The HoB Sabah area contains encompasses 18 districts, over a total area of 4 million ha.

Table 7 : Districts within HoB

District	Area (ha)	%
Sipitang	225,759	5.6
Kota Belud	20,389	0.5
Sandakan	368,153	9.2
Kota Marudu	55,041	1.4
Ranau	306,186	7.7
Tuaran	2,757	0.1
Kota Kinabalu	43	0.0
Penampang	20,100	0.5
Tambunan	151,859	3.8
Papar	33,852	0.8
Tongod	1,090,471	27.3
Keninagau	307,894	7.7
Beaufort	38,402	1.0
Tenom	237,663	5.9
Nabawan	585,744	14.6
Lahad Datu	261,886	6.5
Tawau	279,502	7.0
Kunak	14,972	0.4
Total	4,000,673	

Figure 1: Sabah HoB boundary



Project Partners

In an ambitious and multi-sectoral conservation initiatives such as this, an important element for success (and often the reason for failure) is the ability of the project to pull together the cooperation of key partners. An illustration of the general roles and functions of partners is given in **Figure 2**.

At this juncture, it is envisaged that the main partners for HoB in Sabah are:

Government agencies:

- Sabah Natural Resources Office
- Sabah Forestry Department
- State Economic Planning Unit
- Sabah Parks
- Department of Wildlife
- Environmental Protection Department
- Sabah Tourism Board
- Museum Department
- Drainage and Irrigation Department
- Town and Country Planning Department
- Agriculture Department
- Land & Survey Department
- Works Department

Private sector:

- Yayasan Sabah
- Other major forest concessionaires

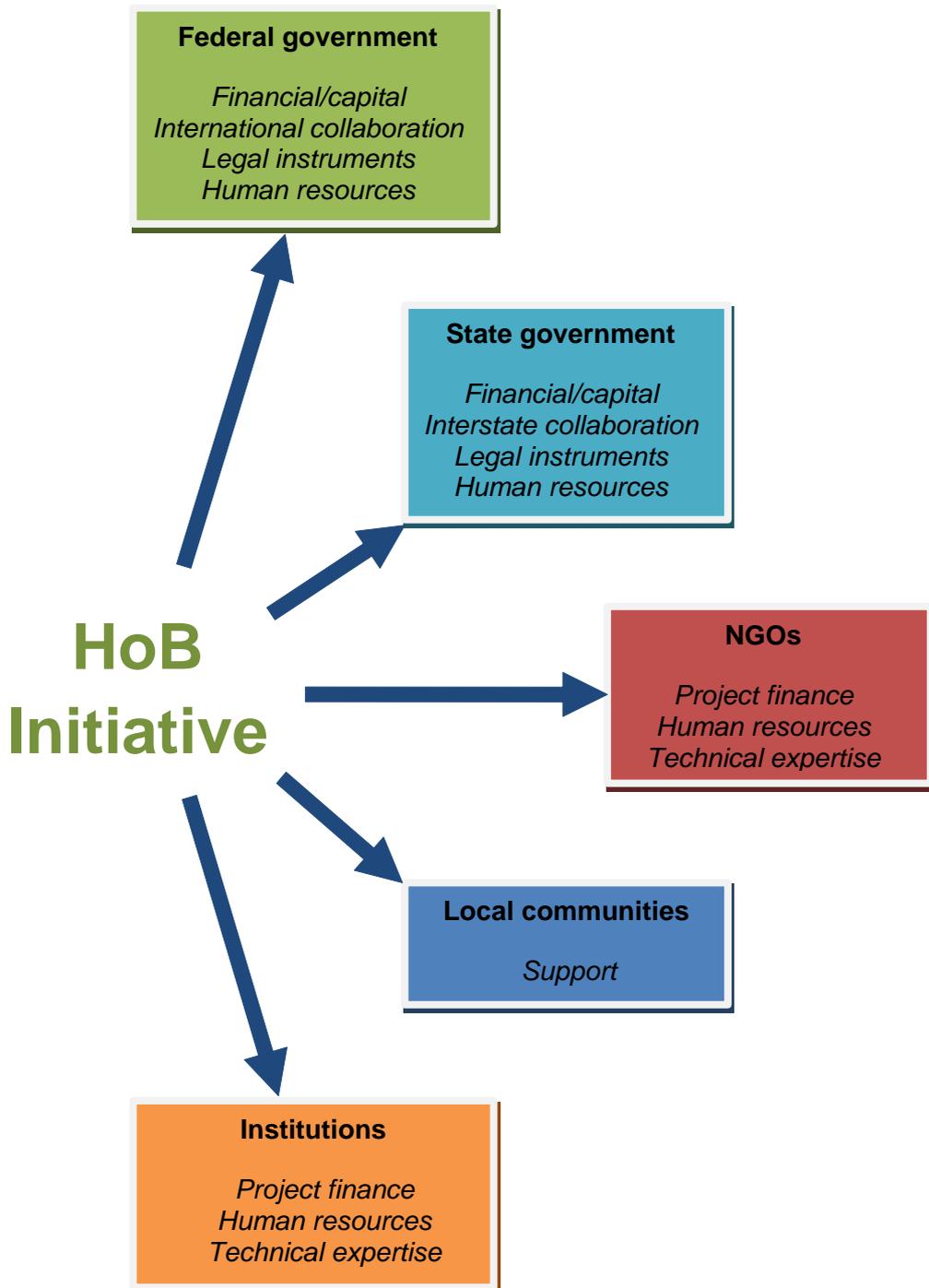
NGOs:

- WWF-Malaysia
- HUTAN
- PACOS

Institutions:

- UMS
- Funders
- Local communities

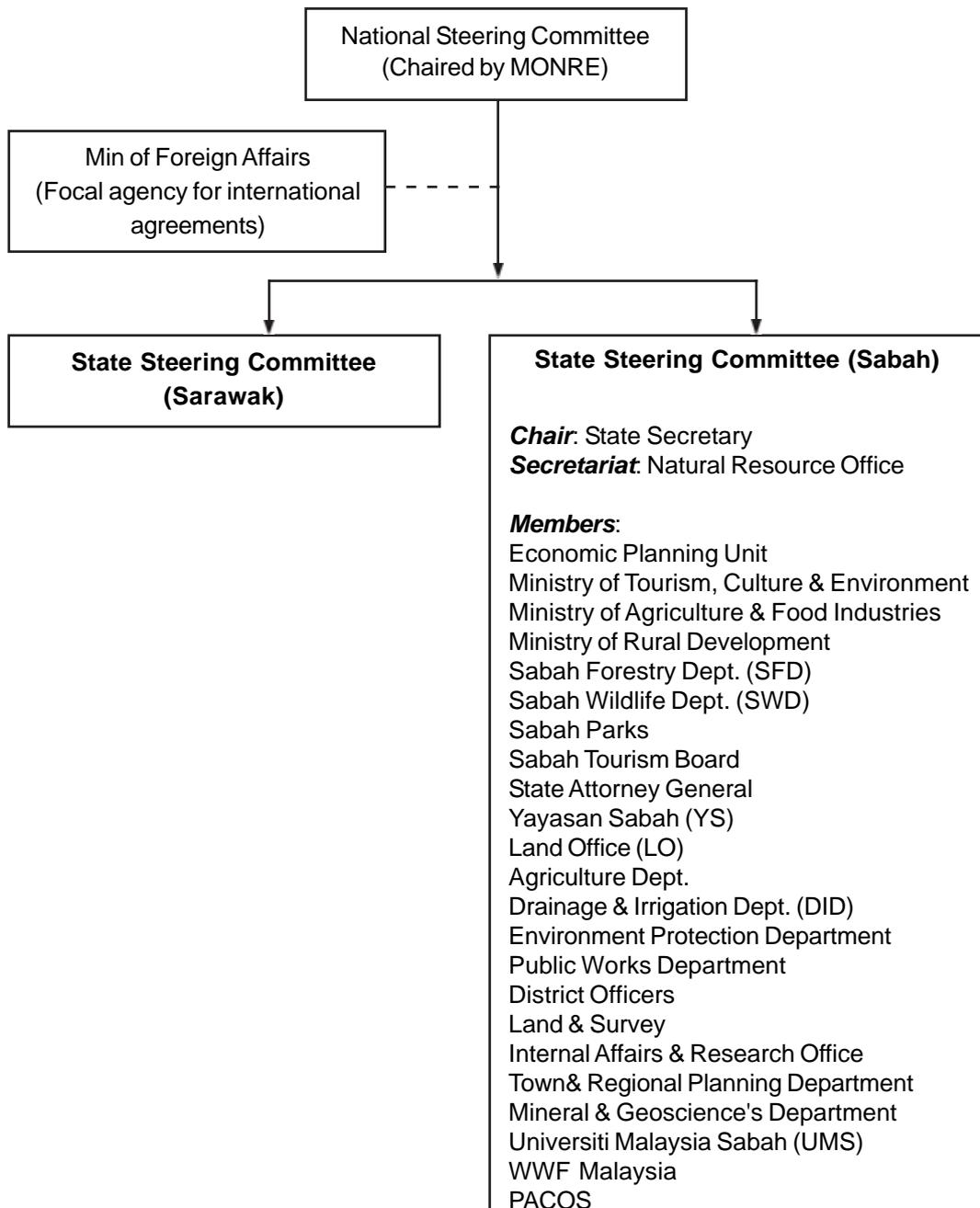
Figure 2: Roles and Functions of Project Partners



Management Structure

The basic management structure for HoB in Malaysia is illustrated in Figure 3. For Sabah, it is envisaged that the State Steering Committee shall be chaired by the State Secretary, with the Natural Resource Office serving as secretariat. The membership of the committee should be decided by the chair, but is envisaged to comprise of the agencies as listed below.

Figure 3: Sabah HoB management structure



Appendix 1

Heart of Borneo Declaration

DECLARATION ON THE HEART OF BORNEO INITIATIVE *Three Countries, One Conservation Vision*

We, the Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia, recognizing the importance of the Island of Borneo as a life support system, hereby declare that:

- With one conservation vision and with a view to promote people's welfare, we will cooperate in ensuring the effective management of forest resources and conservation of a network of protected areas, productive forests and other sustainable land-uses within an area which the three respective countries will designate as the "Heart of Borneo (HoB)", thereby maintaining Bornean natural heritage for the benefit of present and future generations, with full respect to each country's sovereignty and territorial boundaries, and also without prejudice to the ongoing negotiations on land boundary demarcation.
- The HoB Initiative is a voluntary trans-boundary cooperation of the three countries combining the stakeholders' interests, based on local wisdom, acknowledgement of and respect for laws, regulations and policies in the respective countries and taking into consideration relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as existing regional and bilateral agreements / arrangements.
- We are willing to cooperate based on sustainable development principles through research and development, sustainable use, protection, education and training, fundraising, as well as other activities that are relevant to trans-boundary management, conservation and development within the areas of the HoB.

To support this Declaration, we, the three countries will prepare our respective project documents incorporating the strategic and operational plans, which will form the basis for the development of our road map towards realizing the vision of the HoB Initiative.

Done at Bali, Indonesia on the twelfth day of February, two thousand and seven in three original copies.

**For the Government of
His Majesty the Sultan
and Yang Di-Pertuan of
Brunei Darussalam**



**H.E. Pehin Dato Dr.
Awang Haji Ahmad bin
Haji Jumat**
Minister of Industry and
Primary Resources,
Brunei Darussalam

**For the Government
of the Republic of
Indonesia**



H.E. Mr. M. S. Kaban
Minister of Forestry,
Republic of Indonesia

**For the Government of
Malaysia**



**H.E. Dato' Seri Azmi bin
Khalid**
Minister of Natural
Resources and Environment,
Malaysia