LOW-EMISSION RURAL DEVELOPMENT (LED-R) AT A GLANCE

- Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) adopted the Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) concept & standards in partnership with private sector & local communities (LC) in 1997
- Protected areas increased from 0.9 mil ha (2007) to 1.9 mil ha (2016) under the Heart of Borneo initiative
- Jurisdictional Certification for Palm Oil initiative established in 2015 to certify all plantations by 2025, improve smallholder sustainability & livelihoods
- Good working relationships across government agencies, private sector, NGOs, researchers & LC, in addition to sensible financing models, ensure the effectiveness of policies & new initiatives
- Sabah strives to be internationally known for certified timber & palm oil, promoting forest conservation
- ~900,000 ha (54%) of forests partially or fully certified under FSC & Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)

SPOTLIGHT ON INNOVATION

Jurisdictional Certification for Palm Oil is Sabah’s commitment to ensure that by 2025, all palm oil produced in the state is certified sustainable according to the standards set by the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). The steering committee consists of five governmental bodies, five civil society organizations and five industry players. The initiative provides new long-term opportunities for Sabah producers – especially smallholders – to access premium markets worldwide, grow local manufacturing and attain a competitive edge. Certification on a jurisdictional level is cost-competitive and enables forest conservation and agricultural productivity to co-exist. Current progress includes delineation of High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock areas by Carnegie Airborne Observatory; these areas will be eventually classified under totally protected areas. Cataloguing smallholders’ requirements towards RSPO certification, such as training in best management practices and applications for land title to enhance tenure security and Free, Prior, Informed and Consent (FPIC) Guide are under development. Establishing cost effective ways to achieve certification of smallholders and internal tension of the unilateral push for national standards and external tensions such as European Union decision on palm oil imports are key challenges.

TIMELINE OF IMPORTANT EVENTS

- Heart of Borneo Initiative launched by Brunei, Indonesia & Malaysia
- SFM introduced in Commercial Forest Reserve (23% of state territory)
- EU-REDD+ project contract signed for 3 pilot areas of Sabah
- Sabah Long Term Strategic Action Plan (LEAP) 2016-2035 & Structural Plan 2033 approved & adopted for implementation

PLEDS & COMMITMENTS

JURISDICTIONAL

Implementation of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) ¹

NATIONAL

Rio Earth Summit 1992²

Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) to UNFCCC ³

Data sources:
Socio-economic: Department of Statistics
Deforestation: CIFOR & Hansen et al./UMD/Google/USGS/NASA; post-processing by EII

¹ Manage ~1.67 mil ha of commercial forests with 50–100 year licenses under SFM principles
² Contribute to national goal: 50% of total national landmass covered by forest
³ Contribute to national goal: Reduce GHG emissions intensity of GDP 45% below 2005 levels
**KEY INTERVENTIONS**

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<td>STATE PUBLIC¹ LOCAL PRIVATE¹</td>
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**PROGRESS TO JURISDICTIONAL SUSTAINABILITY**

1. **Early** LEAP aligns all sectors (tourism, agriculture, timber, oil & gas, exports & trading, government) & existing policies in a vision for a sustainable economy
2. **Intermediate** Sabah Structural Plan provides development guidelines for all relevant sectors (housing, commerce, tourism, agriculture & environmentally vulnerable areas) & Representation of all state agencies required in technical & steering committees regarding land use matters
3. **Advanced** LEAP sets statewide environmental (improving air & marine quality, reducing emissions, & increasing protected areas), social, & economic goals for 2035, endorsed by most public agencies & No jurisdictional target set for reducing deforestation in areas zoned for agricultural use

**DISINCENTIVES**

- LEAP & Structural Plan coordinate development & conservation programs
- Majority of state policies aligned with or built on national policies
- Multi-stakeholder consultation is integral in all programs & initiatives
- Good working relationship across a wide range of stakeholders (incl. through “Forever Sabah” forum) ensures ownership & continuity of programs, irrespective of political changes

**ENABLING MEASURES**

- LEAP aligns all sectors (tourism, agriculture, timber, oil & gas, exports & trading, government) & existing policies in a vision for a sustainable economy
- Sabah Structural Plan provides development guidelines for all relevant sectors (housing, commerce, tourism, agriculture & environmentally vulnerable areas)
- Representation of all state agencies required in technical & steering committees regarding land use matters

**INCENTIVES**

- LEAP sets statewide environmental (improving air & marine quality, reducing emissions, & increasing protected areas), social, & economic goals for 2035, endorsed by most public agencies
- No jurisdictional target set for reducing deforestation in areas zoned for agricultural use

**CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES**

**CHALLENGES**

- Inflexibility of international certification requirements on tree plantation (i.e. restrictions on conversion practices) causes frustration & could considerably hamper progress
- Imbalance in services & capacity across government agencies/department
- Lack of funding, human resources, & capacity to carry out & sustain long-term projects
- Potential misunderstanding or lack of clarity in government program implementation
- Potential disruption in continuation of conservation program due to change in leadership
- Lack of transparency in MRV

**OPPORTUNITIES**

- Sabah is exploring avenues to mainstreaming green economy, aiming to be the greenest place in Asia in terms of emissions, forest reserves, protected areas in 2035 (LEAP)
- Community-based forestry & ecotourism are potential areas to improve local livelihood & sustainably manage forest reserves

**CITATION**


**COMPLETE REFERENCES & DATA SOURCES PROVIDED AT**

www.earthinnovation.org/state-of-jurisdictional-sustainability

**SUPPORTED BY**

Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

Norad

Based on a decision of the German Bundestag