

GEF Small Grants Programme

Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI)

MALAYSIA

Global Context

With the adoption of the 2010 CBD 2020 Aichi targets, attention has been focused on recognizing and supporting the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in conserving biodiversity outside the framework of formally-gazetted and managed government protected areas. To this end, the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) was formed in 2014 to broaden the diversity and quality of governance types and protected areas (PAs) and conserved areas (CAs) which contribute to the CBD Aichi Targets.

The ICCA-GSI is a multi-partnership initiative delivered by the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in 26 countries, with \$16.3m funding provided by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) International Climate Initiative (IKI). Key partners include the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), Global ICCA Consortium, IUCN's Global Programme on Protected Areas (IUCN GPAP) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC).



The *Tagal* system is one of the customary practices by IPs in Sabah that has been recognised and support by the state government. *Tagal*, originally used in riverine conservation, has been adopted into forest conservation.

Goals

ICCA-GSI's central goal is to improve the recognition, support and overall effectiveness of ICCAs for biodiversity conservation through sustainable livelihoods and self-strengthening of ICCAs. Its work focuses on **Aichi Target 11** (increasing PA coverage), **Aichi Target 14** (safeguarding ecosystems and increasing the effectiveness of its services), and **Aichi Target 18** (Protecting traditional knowledge). ICCA-GSI support is provided at three levels thru:

- (i.) Direct financial and technical support to community-based action and demonstration for the self-strengthening of ICCAs leading to ecosystem protection, legal empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.
- (ii.) National legal, policy and other forms of support to enhance ICCA recognition and conservation, including governance assessments of protected and conserved areas; and
- (iii.) Global and regional networking, knowledge production and exchange support between national CSO initiatives.

Country Programme Strategy

Malaysia is ranked 12th among the world's mega diverse countries based on its richness and endemism in four terrestrial vertebrate classes and vascular plants¹. While Malaysia has undergone rapid economic growth based on the utilization of its natural resources, the country attaches great importance to establishing protected areas (PAs) for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Terrestrial protected areas account for about 10.6% of Malaysia's total land area. Additionally, its marine protected areas, covering a wide range of habitats including coral reefs, mangrove forests and sea grasses, are managed by the Department of Marine Park Malaysia in 42 islands in Peninsular Malaysia and federal

¹ National Biodiversity Index, 2012

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The Sungai Elo community shows ICCA-GSI partners the mangrove destruction in their village. Since 2012, large-scale development have been clearing the mangroves and destroying extension ecosystems.

territories. Malaysia also recognizes ICCAs in its national strategies and policies. The National Policy on Biodiversity (2016-2025) calls for doubling the size and number of ICCAs by 2025 (indicator 6.3) and the Sabah Biodiversity Conservation Strategy (2012-2022) calls for significant increases in land managed as ICCAs (Target 1.3). However, there is profound inefficiency in policy enforcement and implementation based on the top-down approach. In Sabah and Sarawak, there is contradiction in policies wherein some recognize ICCAs and native *Orang Asli* rights, while others undermine ICCAs. In the Peninsular Malaysia, the *Orang Asli* still face challenges in getting policy and legal recognition for their ICCAs.

To this end, the ICCA-GSI portfolio of projects in Malaysia is aimed at increasing the recognition of ICCAs in the states of Sabah, Sarawak and Peninsular Malaysia. Challenges in each demonstration site vary and may

include some or all of the following: (i) natural resource destruction from external logging concessions; (ii) loss of Traditional Knowledge (TK) due to social fragmentation and lack of intergenerational transfer; and (iii) land degradation from community malpractices. Key activities include: (i) capacity building in ICCA resource mapping and inventory-taking; (ii) designation of *Tagal* (no fishing zone) and other prohibited areas, (iii) land-use protocols and strengthening traditional resource management practices; (iv) documentation of TK such as traditional hill paddy farming, handicraft making and culture; and (v) legal review of existing policies related to ICCAs with associated recommendations based on policy analysis and field experience.

Project Portfolio

Project Name	Implementation Period
Strategic Support to Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (ICCAs) in Malaysia.	November 2016 – January 2019
Legal Analysis to assess the impact of laws, policies and institutional frameworks on Indigenous peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs)	July 2018 – March 2020
Increase awareness and importance of traditional knowledge practices in sustainable resource management to be passed onto the younger generations in Alutok, Ulu Tomani, Tenom, Sabah.	August 2018 – October 2020
Mangrove forest conservation through customary knowledge of Sungai Tombonuo community, Sungai Elo, Pitas, Sabah.	August 2018 – October 2020
Conservation of Watersheds and Community Forest Reserve in Alab Lanas Village Community, Simbuan Sook Village, Keningau, Sabah.	August 2018 – October 2020
Strengthening the Dusun Liwan ICCAs through cultural identity and good practices documentation, Monggis, Ranau, Sabah.	August 2018 – October 2020
Strengthening traditional knowledge and identity of Penans Community through documentation of handicraft and training in Long Beluk, Apoh Baram, Miri, Sarawak	August 2018 – October 2020
The establishment of land use Protocols in conservation and resource management in the traditional area of Rumantai Village in Ranau, Sabah	August 2018 – October 2020

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