



Advancing a Sustainable Global Timber Trade through the EU FLEGT Action Plan

**Empowering local communities
through capacity building and
experience sharing of “*Eyes on the
Forest*”**

**The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu,
Sabah**

14th – 15th April 2015



Empowering local communities through capacity building and experience sharing of “*Eyes on the Forest*” report

**The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.
14-15 April, 2015**

By

Nicholas Fong, Lydia Ayog & Leanne Hong

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action plan

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Abbreviation

APP	Asia Pulp & Paper
APRIL	Asia Pacific Resources International Limited
EFI	European Forest Institute
EoF	Eyes on the Forest
EPD	Environment Protection Department
EU	European Union
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FMU	Forest Management Units
Jikalahari	Forest Rescue Network Riau
JOAS	The indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia
KDCA	Kadazandusun Cultural Association
LEAP	Land Empowerment Animals People
LTL	Long Term License
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
NTFP-EP	Non-Timber Forest Products-Exchange Programme
PACOS Trust	Partners of Community Organizations in Sabah
RPHK	Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan (Volunteers to Monitor Kalimantan's Forest)
SFD	Sabah Forestry Department
Walhi	Friends of the Earth Indonesia
WWF-MY	World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia

1.0 Introduction

WWF-Malaysia, in collaboration with WWF-Indonesia, hosted a two-day workshop entitled ***Empowering local communities through capacity building and experience sharing of “Eyes on the Forest”*** from 14th to 15th April 2015 at The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu. The participants of the sessions consisted mainly of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and indigenous peoples.

The objectives of this workshop were to:

1. Share knowledge and experience on ***Eyes On the Forest (EoF)*** initiative and ***Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan (RPHK)*** as the clearinghouse for information on forest conservation in Riau, Sumatra and to serve as a tool for local, national, and international NGOs, companies, governments and any other stakeholders who are willing to take action to conserve forests and protect the rights of communities that depend on forests.
2. Provide information, support and training to local stakeholders, leading to enhanced confidence on both local authorities and communities in demanding forest law enforcement. The increase in the quantity, quality and credibility of forest sector information resulting from independent forest monitoring would help local populations to hold their governments accountable and to ensure their rights are respected.
3. Identify the needs and resources for launching such a similar initiative and to understand the potential dynamics of civil society organizations in Sabah.

EoF and RPHK at a glance

EoF is a coalition of three local environmental organisations in Riau, Sumatra and Indonesia: WWF Indonesia's Tesso Nilo Programme, Jikalahari ("Forest Rescue Network Riau") and Walhi Riau (Friends of the Earth Indonesia). It was launched in December 2004 to investigate the condition of the forests in Riau.

This coalition was established in response to massive forest loss as a result of the commercial action of two major pulp and paper companies: Asia Pulp & Paper (APP/Sinar Mas Group) and Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL / Raja Garuda Emas). These two companies produce 80% of Indonesia's pulp and paper.

Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan (Volunteers to Monitor Kalimantan's Forest) was established in 2013 as a replication of EoF's initiative in Riau, consisting of NGOs such as Link-Ar Borneo, Yayasan Titian, Sampan, Kontak Borneo and WWF-Indonesia program West Kalimantan. Their first task was reviewing APP's Forest Conservation Policy and the outcomes drew serious response from APP's management.

EoF's coalition and RPHK are established to reduce or delay deforestation in Riau (Sumatra in general) and West Kalimantan (Kalimantan in general) as a result of pulp and paper industry and the expansion of palm oil plantation.

2.0 Workshop Agenda

Empowering local communities through capacity building and experience sharing of “Eyes on the Forest”

Date: 14th-15th April 2015
Venue: The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu

**Empowering local communities through capacity building and
experience sharing of “Eyes on the Forest”
14-15 April 2015, The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu**



























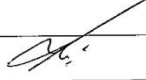

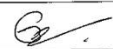




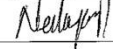
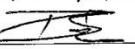
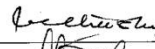

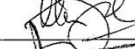

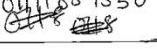

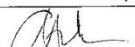
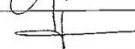
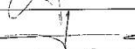
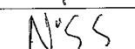
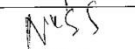
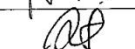

DAY ONE (14 APRIL 2015)		
Time	Programme	Speaker
8.00 - 9.00 am	Registration	
9.15 - 9.30 am	Introduction and Opening Remarks	Dr. Han Kwai Hin WWF-Malaysia
9.30 - 10.00 am	Tea Break & Group photo session	
10.00 - 10.35 am	Background- <i>Responsible Forestry Programme</i>	Dr. Han Kwai Hin WWF-Malaysia
10.20 - 10.35 am	Q & A	WWF-Malaysia
10.40 – 11.00 am	Introduction to HCVF: Identification, Management & Monitoring	Iliyana Mohd. Sah WWF-Malaysia
11.00 – 11.15 am	Q & A	WWF-Malaysia
11.20 – 11.50 pm	Community forest management in Sabah	Gordon John Thomas PACOS Trust
12.15 – 12.05 pm	Q & A	WWF-Malaysia
12.15 – 1.15 pm	Lunch	
1.30 – 2.00 pm	Community forest management in Sarawak	Thomas Jalong JOAS
2.00 - 2.15 pm	Q & A	WWF-Malaysia
2.20 - 3.00pm	Background- EoF dan Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan (RPHK)	Samsu EoF / RPHK
3.00 - 3.30 pm	Break	
3.30 – 5.00 pm	Continuation Background- EoF dan Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan (RPHK)	Samsu EoF / RPHK
	Q & A & Dismiss	WWF-Malaysia
PROGRAMME ENDS		

DAY TWO (15 APRIL 2015)		
Time	Programme	Speaker
8.30 - 9.30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work and products of EoF and RPHK; • EoF / RPHK monitoring forest 	Ian EoF / RPHK
9.30 - 10.00 am	Break	
10.05 - 11.05 am	Continuation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they function and campaign? 	Afdhal EoF / RPHK
11.05 - 12.30	Q & A and Discussion	WWF-Malaysia
12.30 – 1.30 pm	Lunch	
1.45 – 3.30 pm	World Café	Facilitated by WWF-Malaysia
3.30 - 4.00 pm	Break	
4.05 – 5.05 pm	Continuation World Café	Facilitated by WWF-Malaysia
5.05 - 5.30 pm	Closing	WWF-Malaysia
PROGRAMME ENDS		

3.0 Attendance

**“Pengenalan Program Eyes on the Forest (EoF) dan Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan”
14-15 April 2015, The Palace Hotel, Kota Kinabalu**

NO.	NAMA	ORGANISASI/ KAMPUNG	NO. TELEFON/ E-MAIL	TANDATANGAN	
				14 APRIL	15 APRIL
1	Ening Garai	Pitas	015344927		
2	Mastupang B. Somo	Pitas	0177429465 640618125		
3	Fredshine Wilson	Ranau	0195806496	FRED-	FRED-
4	Wilson Kulong	Ranau	019-8976072		
5	Marusin B.peliten	Tenom	014. 8633020		
6	Angkangon Antahai	Tenom	013 5524983		
7	Intim Saulig	Mangkawagu	0195854284		
8	Juhaidi Kasal Daud	Mangkawagu	0105036081		
9	Anthony Ambawol	Sapulut	0148743880		
10	Anthony Chong	Sapulut	0142849108		
11	Ukim @ Juhaidi Marindal	Keningau	019-8045310		
12	BILLY PATEK	Keningau	0195837856		
13	Wilster Lawrence	Tongod	013-8889237		
14	Sali Romog	Tongod	013-5447374		

15	Raley Kahal	Kalabakan	0105803957		
16	Edward James	Kalabakan	0135555121		
17	Justin Dalansau	Kota Belud		TIDAK HADIR	TIDAK HADIR
18		Kota Belud			
19	Pius @ Komilus Nasri	Tamparuli		TIDAK HADIR	TIDAK HADIR
20	Dominic Langat	NTFP-EP	014 599 3686		
21	Neville Yapp	LEAP	016 8211424		
22	Dr. Benedict Topin	KDCA	0128685678		
23		KDCA			
24	Aimi Lee Abdullah	EFI	012 6177424		
25	Thomas Jalong	JOAS	013 8343530		
26	Gordon John	PACOS TRUST			
27	Nasiri	PACOS TRUST		TIDAK HADIR	TIDAK HADIR
28	Afdhal	WWF-ID	+62 813 89768248		
29	Ian	WWF-ID	+62 811 578 0080		
30	Nursamsu	WWF-ID	+62 811 758 2217	N°SS 	N°SS 
31	Nicholas Fong	WWF-MY	016 -8427171		

32	Lydia Ayog	WWF-MY	016-8489430	Lydia	Lydia
33	Leanne Hong	WWF-MY	0168028216	Leanne	Leanne
34	Dr. Han Kwai Hin	WWF-MY	012-5152056	Han	Han
35	Iliyana Mohd. Sah	WWF-MY	012-3441242	Iliyana	Iliyana
36	Mazidi Ghani	WWF-MY	019-862 2628	Mazidi	Mazidi
37	Lavernita Bingku	WWF-MY	012 8377122	Lavernita	Lavernita



The workshop was attended by 32 participants –5 women and 27 men – comprising representatives from local communities of different localities, local NGOs, and the organizers as well. They were:

1. Ening Garai - *Pitas*
2. Mastupang B. Somoi - *Pitas*
3. Fredshine Wilson - *Ranau*
4. Wilson Kulong - *Ranau*
5. Marusin B. Peliten - *Tenom*
6. Angkangon Antahai - *Tenom*
7. Intim Saulig – *Mangkawagu*
8. Daud - *Mangkawagu*
9. Anthony Ambawol - *Sapulut*
10. Anthony Chong - *Sapulut*
11. Ukim@ Juhaidi Marindak - *Keningau*
12. Billy Paten - *Keningau*
13. Wilster Lawrence - *Tongod*
14. Sali Romog - *Tongod*
15. Raley Kahal - *Kalabakan*
16. Edward James - *Kalabakan*
17. **NTFP-EP**- Dominic Langat
18. **LEAP**- Neville Yapp
19. **KDCA**- Dr. Benedict Topin
20. **EFI**- Aimi Lee Abdullah
21. **JOAS**- Thomas Jalong
22. **PACOS Trust**- Gordon John
23. **WWF-Indonesia**
 - Afdhal
 - Nursamsu
 - Ian Hilman
24. **WWF-Malaysia**
 - Dr. Han Kwai Hin
 - Iliyana Mohd. Sah
 - Nicholas Fong
 - Lydia Ayog
 - Lavernita Bingku
 - Leanne Hong

4.0 Session Summaries

Overall, seven presentations were delivered by the following speakers:

1. Dr. Han Kwai Hin (WWF-Malaysia)
Topic: *Overview of Responsible Forestry Programme*
2. Iliyana Mohd. Sah (WWF-Malaysia)
Topic: *Introduction to HCVF: Identification, Management, Monitoring*
3. Gordon John Thomas (PACOS Trust)
Topic: *Community forest management in Sabah*
4. Thomas Jalong (The Indigenous Peoples Network of Malaysia or Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (JOAS))
Topic: *Community forest management in Sarawak*
5. Nursamsu (WWF-Indonesia)
Topic: *Background- EoF dan Relawan Pemantau Hutan Kalimantan (RPHK)*
6. Ian Hilman (WWF-Indonesia)
**Topic: - *Work and products of EoF and RPHK;*
- *EoF / RPHK monitoring forest***
7. Afdhal (WWF-Indonesia)
Topic: *How they function and campaign?*

Discussion

No.	Question/Comment/Suggestion	Remarks
1.	Mr. Anthony (Sapulut) raised a question on WWF's role in preserving the forest given that logging companies are still able to get timber concessions approved by the government.	Dr. Han (WWF-MY) mentioned that WWF-MY has recently undertaken a study to map the forest cover in Malaysia, identifying the boundaries of various forest reserves. He pointed out that one of the weaknesses is that government's jurisdiction is required in any decision related to forest management in Sabah.
		Mr. Nicholas commented on how the community can contribute in preserving the forest and WWF Indonesia's presence here is to share their experiences especially in dealing with the government.

		Dr. Benedict agreed that the NGOs and community networks in Sabah are weak. The communities can play their part as 'eyes and ears' of the forest. He also advised the community to come up with a proper documentation on native customary rights and community best practices to be shared with other organizations.
2.	Best practices in forest management in Sabah are better than those in Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak. However, companies are clearing land at the riparian zones. How do we lodge a complaint?	<p>Mr. Nicholas mentioned that enforcement in Malaysia is weak. For complaints related to oil palm plantation, report can be directed to the Environment Protection Department (EPD).</p> <p>Mdm. Aimi responded that the management of forest in Sabah was better in the 80s as compared to Peninsular Malaysia and Sarawak due to pressure in politics. Also on the positive side, Sabah has a higher level of awareness to restore forest conditions. She added, the issuance of Long Term License (LTL) agreement proves Sabah to be better than the other two regions.</p>
3.	Mr. Juhaidi (Sook) raised a question about forest conservation whereby there was a discussion held recently between Sabah Forestry Department (SFD) and the local communities on 'tagal hutan'. The natives in my vicinity have worked together to manage the forests. How can we participate in community forestry activities or given the authority from SFD to help preserve the forest?	Dr. Benedict responded that there is a Communal Reserve which falls under the Forest Enactment 1968 of Sabah Forestry Department.
4.	Mr. Wilson (Ranau) asked about the role of NGOs in capacity building for sustainable forest management.	Within WWF-MY, there is a department working on community education and engagement specifically on eco-tourism in Peninsular Malaysia. Ms. Lavernita informed that WWF-Sabah office has a program on water conservation in Ranau.
5.	Mr. Mastupang (Pitas) shared that the local communities launched a protest on the proposed development project in their area. The area has been managed and passed down from generation to generation. He pointed out that there is lack of awareness and exposure amongst community on conservation. He suggested that more similar conservation efforts will	

	need to be carried out t in every district.	
6.	Dr. Benedict (KDCA) stressed on the importance of natural resources for medicines and clean water upon which the forest-dependent communities rely on.	
7.	Mr. Intim (Mangkawagu) raised his concerns about the areas in his villages that have been included in the gazetted area. However, the villagers were not aware of such an inclusion and it has since then affected their main source of livelihood. He further mentioned that the community is unable to do anything as warrant letter is issued every year by the government.	
8.	Is Walhi registered as a membership based body?	Walhi is similar to other NGOs in Indonesia. The change in management is based on voting system and it is held in every district.
9.	Land loss is caused by timber and oil palm plantations activities. How do the community get compensated?	To claim proper compensation, communities must have a baseline. Mr. Anthony suggested that a community enforcement officer is to be stationed at every village adjacent to FMUs.

Session: World café

This session was conducted to encourage participants to actively share insights from a structured conversational process with the rest of the larger group. For this exercise, there were four (4) groups/tables, each prefaced with a question designed for a specific context and desired purpose as per the following:

- 1. What role can the companies play to support inclusive development?*
- 2. What role can the communities play in supporting forest governance (e.g. independent forest monitoring)?*
- 3. What role can the government play in improving the administration in the forestry sector?*
- 4. Which model of partnerships can be developed among the communities, governments and companies to create shared value?*

The participants were divided to small-table groups and they were required to move around the groups in a random manner. This was to create a special environment for the target audience, putting participants at ease to share their views and thoughts to the questions mentioned above. Each 'table group' was hosted by a facilitator and every session lasted for 15 to 20 minutes. Thereafter, the facilitator of each group was invited to share insights or other results from their conversations with the rest of the large group. This would allow the participants to continue discussing on what had been deliberated during the session.

The following is a summary based on plenary session.

1. What role can the companies play to support inclusive development?

Sharing profits through fair and equitable distribution

All the groups acknowledged that the sharing of profits in any government scheme related to forestry or oil palm should be based on fair distribution e.g. percentage based and more attention should be given to transparency. This could be achieved by having a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the company and the local communities. The company should demonstrate that they are being transparent in any engagement between the two entities. The groups also felt that the MoU should be written in layman language so that many of the communities would understand it and it would need to be reviewed from time to time.

Dialogue with communities

The groups were of the opinion that it is the responsibility of the companies to organize a dialogue session to disseminate information to the local communities before the commencement of any works. This could include information such as the legal boundary of the concessions, work schedule, job opportunities, complaint mechanism, and compensation if the area of concern is being subjected to forestry works, among others. The companies should adopt Free, Prior and Informed Concern in every engagement with the local communities and the decision making process should also involve the concerned communities. The group also emphasized that the entire community must be adequately represented but not just involving the village headman only, for instance.

Forest restoration with communities' involvement

The groups were of the opinion that companies should initiate forest restoration works by involving the local communities. The groups also discussed about trees being cut must be replaced so that the forest could regenerate for future use. In addition, they prefer non-monetary compensation by replanting the forest rather than direct monetary compensation in the instance if they are given access to the forest and use of the forest resources. The groups also cited an example in which the local communities were trained in nursery management and given the seeds for the forest restoration project which will benefit them.

On a different note, some groups suggested that introducing income-generating opportunities for forest restoration could be the solution to improve basic livelihood of the local communities living nearby the forest. However, the groups emphasized that such projects should be communicated to them at an earlier stage with a proper consultation process. This would provide the opportunities for the project initiator to explain the project concept, expected roles and responsibilities of the local communities of how the project could contribute to improving the living standards.

Provide infrastructure facilities

The groups suggested that companies operating at FMU level must maintain the road access for ease of the local communities as well as for the benefit of the companies when transporting the raw materials. In addition, license holder could also provide facilities such as schools, clinics, and other basic utilities.

Sustainable forest management

Companies must meet specified standards and uphold best management practices in forestry sector. The groups further emphasized that the contract between the government and the private companies must be respected to improve the sustainable forest management. There were key areas discussed, for instance, private companies must invest in capacity building in managing forest resources with the involvement of local communities, social assessment or impact study must be conducted in verifying the social needs of local communities, and that all these must be incorporated in the management plan of the concession. Above all, the activities must be carried out with full participation of all the interested stakeholders.

Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

In many occasions, there were rarely any documents e.g. meeting minutes/event demonstrating the occurrence of any dialogue or consultation process that took place. Therefore, the groups emphasized that a fully transparent process must be exercised by the companies to ensure that decision is made with well represented communities. The groups also added that the process must be conducted in a language that both parties understand or in a local language as a pre-requisite. Apart from that, the groups also demanded that youth involvement should be emphasized in the decision making process.

Support local villagers activities

The groups suggested a few activities k that the companies could support and work with the local communities. These activities included as handicraft making, religious activities, and trainings to build their capacity as well as making funds available for the activities. The groups also recognized that there are urgent needs to be sought from the companies such as providing basic facilities, education and health care, among others.

2. What role can the communities play in supporting forest governance (e.g. independent forest monitoring)?

Implementing Tagal System that is aligned with the laws and regulation

The Tagal system (community-based fisheries resource management) was introduced in Sabah to maintain fish supplies from the river so that there will be sufficient supplies to the local communities during harvesting period. This concept has proven to be successful as the local communities are able to harvest the fishes sustainably during the harvesting period which have to be agreed by the local committee at the village level. During the Tagal period, a stretch of the river will be declared off limits

for fishing; any individual caught carrying out any prohibited activities at the river will be severely fined.

The groups were of the opinion that this concept could also be applied/ adapted for forest ecosystem, i.e., off limits for any harvesting of forest produce or hunting of animals for own consumption within a certain time period. In the detailed planning, it would designate zoning at certain areas in the forest to be off-limits to harvesting activities for a certain period to allow the resources to replenish before being harvested jointly by the local communities. However, the laws and regulation must be studied and mechanisms must be created to allow for such self-governance of the forest ecosystem by the local communities as well as avoiding conflicting issues from the legal perspectives.

People's Organization

There are already many organizations established at the village level by social NGOs but some are not functioning actively. The organizations at the various villages have a proper structure in place and the task are segregated within the elected committee members which include resource management, land issues, economics, education, women's group, customs and culture aspect of every village. The group believed that these aspects can be further enhanced with proper capacity building programs.

In addition, the committee will serve as a working group to find solution for any issues that are commonly occurring in their village such as encroachment by outsiders e.g. hunters. This committee is also responsible for leading the negotiation/ dialogue with either the government or the companies. The groups agreed on the need to document the indigenous traditional knowledge which is currently being explored and this initiative is deemed urgent as the knowledge could be lost forever.

Youth Empowerment

The groups opined that the youth group should play an active role in forest monitoring particularly in learning to do mapping and enhancing communication skills. The basic skills that they acquire will be useful for their monitoring program. The groups also agreed that there is a need to conduct activities such as awareness program amongst the youth group so that they could acquire the knowledge and skill required to conduct forest monitoring.

Eco-tourism activities in the village

The group opined that local communities could play an active role in promoting eco-tourism and valuing ecosystem services to attract visitors. This in turn would provide economic returns which could be shared among the local communities.

Collaborative initiatives

The groups explained that there is an urgent need to jointly demarcate forest boundaries and proper zoning that allow local communities to harvest forest produce. The setting up of a community network with NGOs working on sustainable forestry was highlighted as a form of collaborative effort to monitor the forest.

Awareness and understanding of the state laws concerning forest

The groups believe that in order to understand how the rights are established under the Forest Enactment, there is a need to have a deeper understanding and assistance from law practitioners to beef up the community's knowledge on the specific laws concerning native customary.

Establishing community protocol

There is already a model on how the community protocols could assist to support the communities' efforts in securing their rights and document their traditional knowledge which in turn would become the basis for engagement with other parties such as the government, private companies and also NGOs. Therefore the groups suggested that this could also be initiated at the village's level. Nevertheless, this would require all interested parties to decide on whether the process can be undertaken without any influence from a third party.

Community-owned revolving fund

This is a concept of giving out loans to the applicant, i.e. the local communities, and once it is being paid, the fund will become available again for new applicants. However, this will require fund raising effort and mechanism for repayment. The fund is owned and managed by the community and it does not make any profit. The setup is purely for the benefit of the community that lacks monetary savings. The groups also agreed that this concept could be further explored as the communities have the liberty to decide on how best to manage the funds and the mechanism for repayment. In addition, the funds can also be utilized for local communities' expenses to travel to any workshop or meetings that require their participation.

3. What role can the government play in improving the administration in the forestry sector?

Transparency

The groups opined that the government could improve the manner the forest is being managed by promoting transparency, which in turn will demonstrate accountability by providing all sorts of information to the public. The groups also discussed about the importance of working with integrity among the governmental departments. Otherwise this will impede the effort to improve governance. In addition, it was also discussed that the government should be transparent, participatory and collaborative in engaging all stakeholders particularly the marginalized communities who needed the support.

Maintaining sustainable forest management

The groups agreed that sustainable forest management addresses timber production shortage in the long run but it should not be done at the expense of the local communities whereby it should contribute positively towards income generation and job employment. This in turn will provide them a better livelihood whilst addressing conflict and promoting sustainable development within the landscape. It was also

discussed that communities and NGOs involvement should be enhanced in a participatory manner so that the benefits can be shared and each group will have a sense of ownership of the ecosystem that they are protecting. Therefore, the government should encourage local communities to be actively involved in the effort to improve forestry management practices.

Increase manpower to help with forest monitoring work

The groups opined that the number of manpower within the government enforcement division should be increased to get better coverage of the vast forest area in the state. In view of that, an interim measure would be to involve civil societies in monitoring activities on the ground to report on any illegal sightings in the vicinity of a forest. This challenge can be overcome if all parties (government and civil society) work together and a formal mandate is given to promote collaborative partnerships to address and resolve issues related to forests.

Strengthen forest policy that is favourable to the local communities.

The groups agreed that the current policy only benefits certain groups of communities in certain areas. Therefore, it was suggested that the government should do an assessment and implement the programs to cover all areas in line with the policy. It was also discussed by the groups on the possibility of creating rules that are more favourable to forest communities to conserve forests and maintain cultural community traditions. The groups were also expecting a revised policy that benefits all stakeholders but this requires public consultation with all stakeholders.

Community mapping with community involvement

The groups also suggested that all villages should initiate a community mapping exercise and to map the entire relevant boundary. The mapping exercise will include, among others, the local and indigenous knowledge in the creation of strategic land use planning for community use and harmonization of FMUs managed by the government or private companies via the identification of areas where communities could utilize in accordance with their custom. For example, mapping the High conservation Value (HCV) forest could help to preserve and manage the customary lands. The groups agreed that this would also create a strong awareness among the local communities to better understand how would the community mapping fit with the governments or private companies land use planning.

FPIC

Most local communities agreed that free prior and informed consent (FPIC) is quite important and it thus becomes the basis for any negotiation with third parties who intend to engage with the former. However, this principle of FPIC is not being adequately understood by third parties and the groups suggested that this concept should be socialized with FMU managers with the presence of government officials. The groups noted that this is a major challenge affecting their livelihood as the establishments of oil palm estates, timber plantations or other enterprises have encroached into their customary lands. Local communities are indeed very keen to be

part of the negotiation and decision-making process if any developments are taking place in their customary lands. It is important that amicable solution is reached and that the development will benefit the government, private companies and also the local communities.

4. Which model of partnerships can be developed among the communities, governments and companies to create shared value?

Community based tourism

There are many partnership models being implemented and one of them is the community-based tourism. This initiative is being widely practiced in the rural areas utilizing the rich biodiversity and natural resources of the area by the communities. However, this requires funding assistance to provide adequate infrastructure facilities such as road access and other utilities in order for the local communities to operate such businesses. For example, homestay programs which directly involve the local communities and have the potential to expand and develop the rural community. The government and the private sector could both play a role in facilitating and providing training to the local communities in tourism industry.

Education program initiative by the private sector

There are already timber companies in Sabah that provide funding to deliver training for teachers to improve on their teaching skills. Consequently, students in the rural area could benefit from the teachers' training program and this was evident with students showing improvement in their grades. In addition, students who excelled in their exams were offered a scholarship by timber companies to motivate them to persevere in their studies and career development. The groups agreed that such corporate social responsibility initiative should be continued to improve the livelihood of local communities.

Projects

There are many on-going projects that involve local communities as one of the key beneficiaries, for instance, forest restoration, agroforestry, REDD+, and social forestry projects managed by the government, private companies and also NGOs. There are many ways that local communities can be involved such as providing or selling seedlings to forest restoration projects, providing manpower for rubber plantation and be part of the REDD+ implementation projects to gain access to the benefits that it could offer. This will help build a better livelihood for them whilst becoming the stewards of environment.

The groups agreed that they should shift from being passive to active in order to be recognized and seen as driving the process rather than becoming a passenger. With their limited access to international funding, the groups suggested that they need help in this aspect. Therefore, NGO or even the government should also consider local communities in their project proposal to local or international donor.

The Tagal System

The Tagal is a traditional precept in Sabah and this effort started in a riverine ecosystem for the preservation of aquatic resources as well as the river water quality. It refers to the prohibition or forbiddance of exploiting aquatic resources from the river that flows into the area where local communities live. The Tagal in Sabah is closely associated with ecotourism and local communities are the main driver to boost local tourism by utilizing natural resources. This is a strategic partnership between the local communities who are the implementer and the government who serves as the lead agency to improve socio-economic and environment at the vicinity of the Tagal area. During the harvesting period, the local communities could enjoy the abundance of fish supplies and they share the catch with the communities in the same area who are protecting the river ecosystem.

The groups proposed that this idea be further explored and to see if it fits with the forestry sector and is in line with the forestry laws and regulation. Apart from empowering the local communities, this partnership could also strengthen forest governance and preserve the natural resources such as timber and non-timber forest products.

Summary of Questionnaire Responses

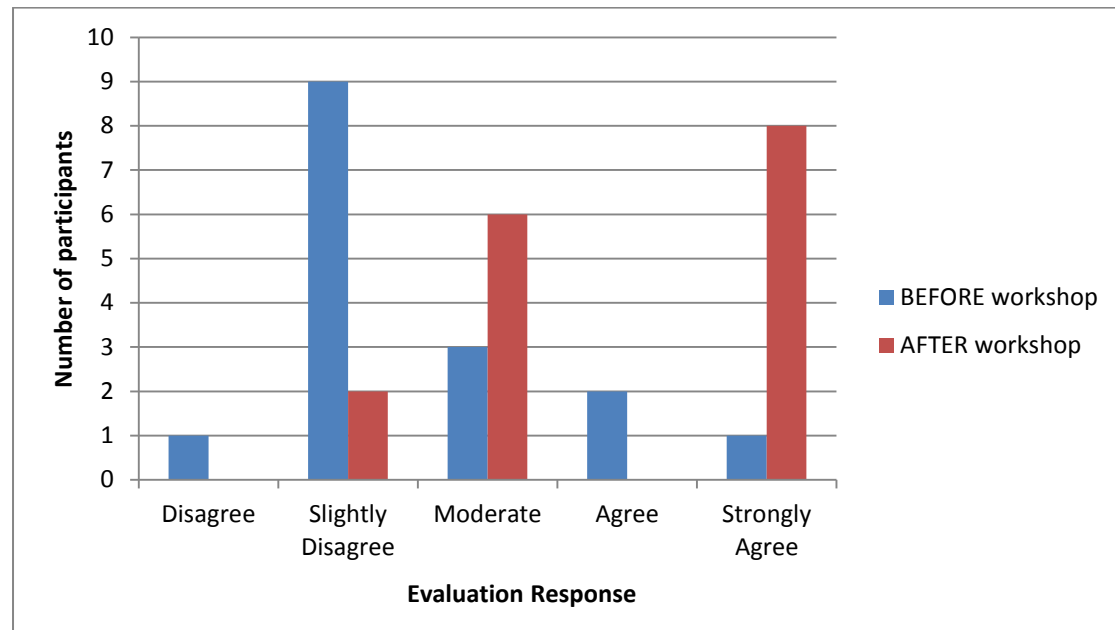
WWF-Malaysia conducted a survey by distributing questionnaires (**Annex 1: Questionnaire**) to the participants. The questionnaire was designed to gather feedback from local communities and NGOs on their level of understanding and confidence related to issues on forest management, independent forest monitoring, forest offences, forest governance, forest reporting and to address issues relevant to them.

Survey respondents comprised of NGOs from Sabah and Sarawak namely LEAP, JOAS, NTFP-EP, EFI as well as local communities from different localities all over Sabah such as Pitas, Ranau, Mangkawagu, Kalabakan, Tongod, Tenom, Keningau and Sapulut with 16 men and 1 woman responding. Please note that the number of respondents does not always equal to 17 as not all respondents answered every question. The percentage scores reported are based on the number of subjects responding to the individual question.

Level of understanding

1. I understand matters related to forest management and independent forest monitoring.

Figure 1

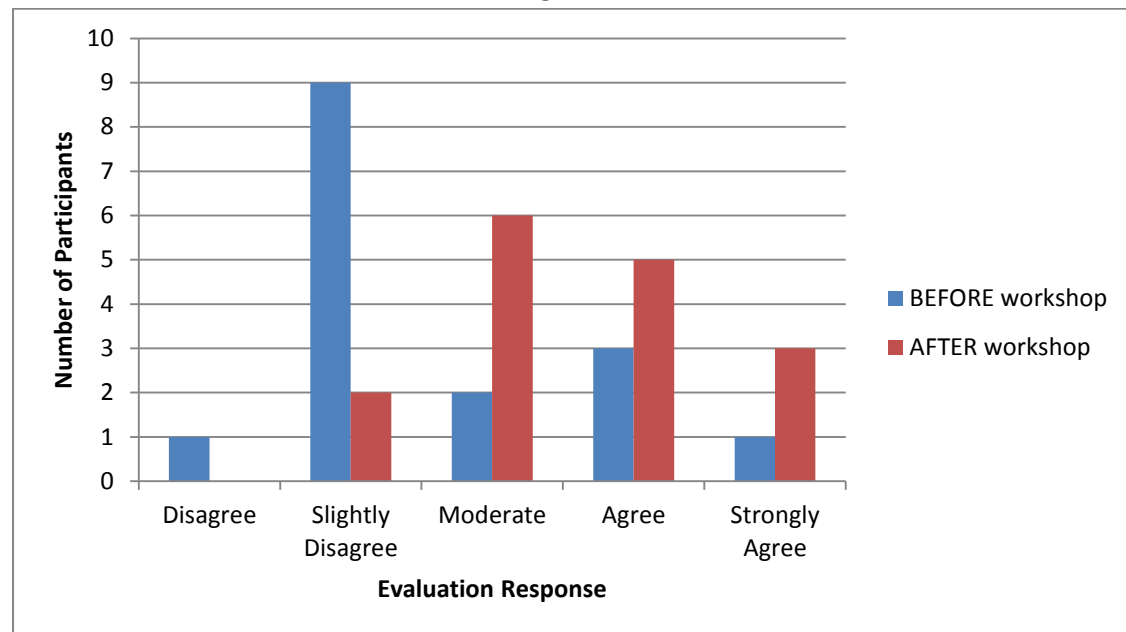


Evaluation Response	BEFORE workshop (%)	AFTER workshop (%)
1 (Disagree)	6%	-
2 (Slightly Disagree)	56%	12.5%
3 (Moderate)	19%	37.5%
4 (Agree)	13%	-
5 (Strongly Agree)	6%	50%

With regards to their level of understanding, 62% of the respondents clarified that they have little or no knowledge on matters involving forest management and independent forest monitoring prior to the workshop (Figure 1). Meanwhile, 19% of the respondents have a fair understanding and 6% of those attended are adequately equipped with the knowledge on forest management and monitoring. After the completion of the workshop, it was recorded that 50% or half of the respondents increased their understanding of the subject. However, 12.5% of the respondents slightly disagree.

2. I understand the basic of forestry legislation and forest offences in Sabah

Figure 2

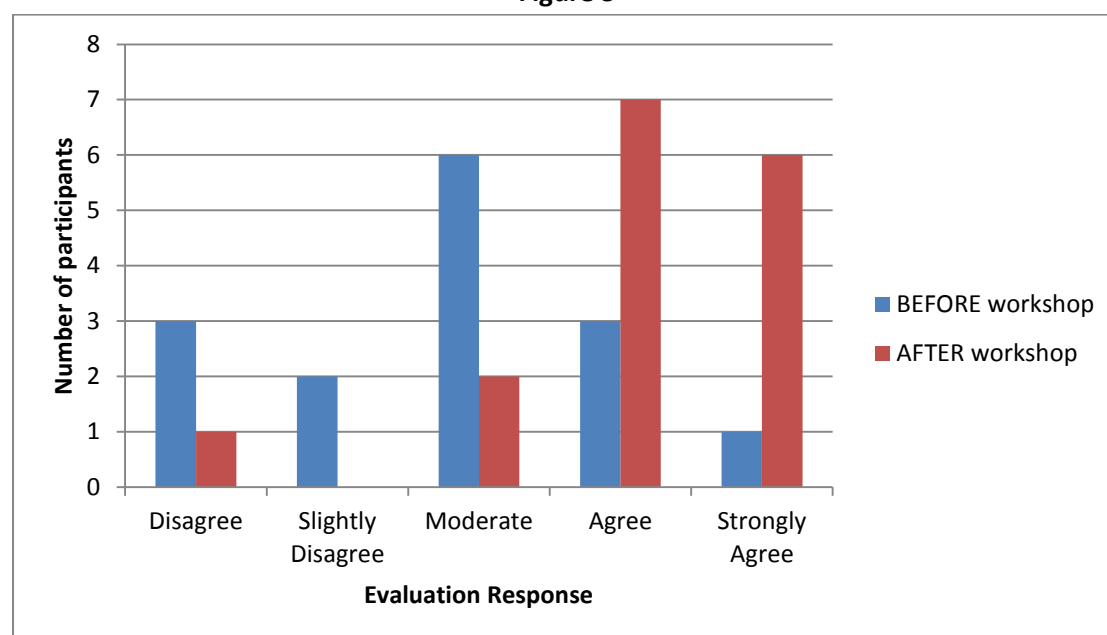


Evaluation Response	BEFORE workshop (%)	AFTER workshop (%)
1 (Disagree)	6%	-
2 (Slightly Disagree)	56%	12.5%
3 (Moderate)	13%	37.5%
4 (Agree)	19%	31%
5 (Strongly Agree)	6%	19%

Just over half of the respondents (56%) slightly disagree and clarified that they have very little knowledge about the basics of forestry legislation and forest offences in Sabah prior to the workshop (Figure 2). However, a small percentage of the respondents (6%) were aware of the existing forest policies and legislation. Upon completion of the workshop, 50% of the respondents mentioned that they have a better understanding of forest legislation and regulations. Nevertheless, 12.5% of the respondents mentioned that they have not fully understood the content due to its complexity.

3. I understand the procedures to lodge a report related to forest crimes.

Figure 3



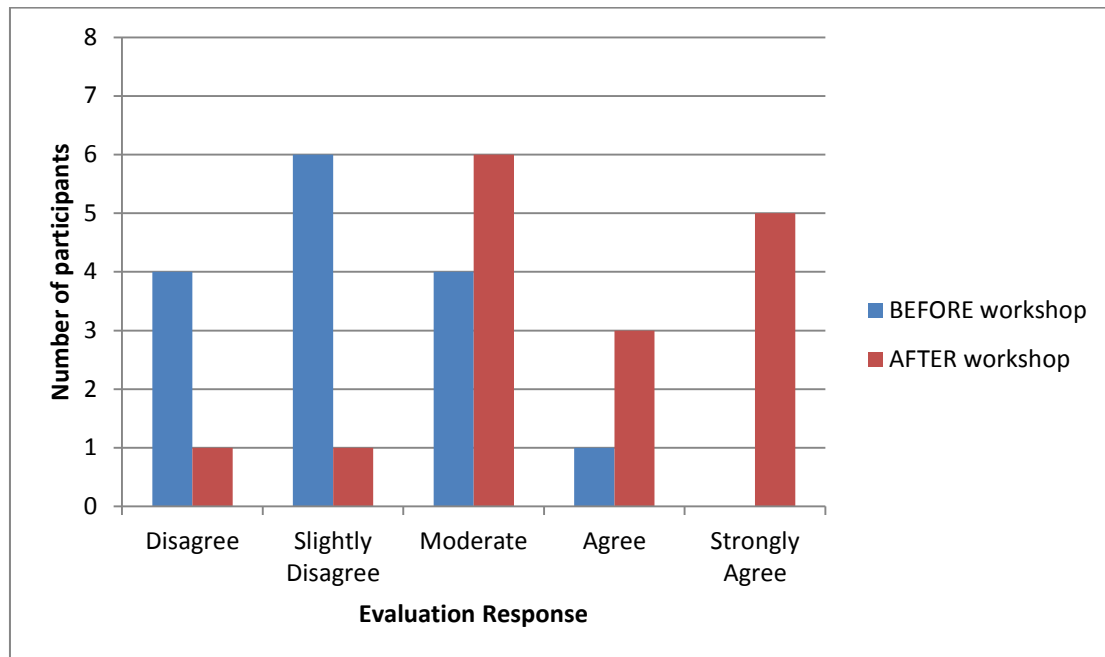
Evaluation Response	BEFORE workshop (%)	AFTER workshop (%)
1 (Disagree)	20%	6%
2 (Slightly Disagree)	13%	-
3 (Moderate)	40%	12.5%
4 (Agree)	20%	44%
5 (Strongly Agree)	7%	37.5%

Graph shown in Figure 3 indicates 40% of the respondents have a fair understanding on the procedures to lodge reports related to forest crimes prior to attending the workshop. A small percentage, 7% of the respondents have shown that they are familiar with the process of reporting. However, a portion of respondents (20%) are not aware of the reporting procedures and requirements. At the end of the workshop, a huge percentage of the respondents (81.5%) mentioned that they are well informed of the proper mechanism to put forward a complaint on forest-related crimes. Nevertheless, some respondents (6%) have not fully understood the process.

Level of confidence

1. I am able to explain the aspects related to forestry and the regulations stipulated in the Forest Enactment.

Figure 4

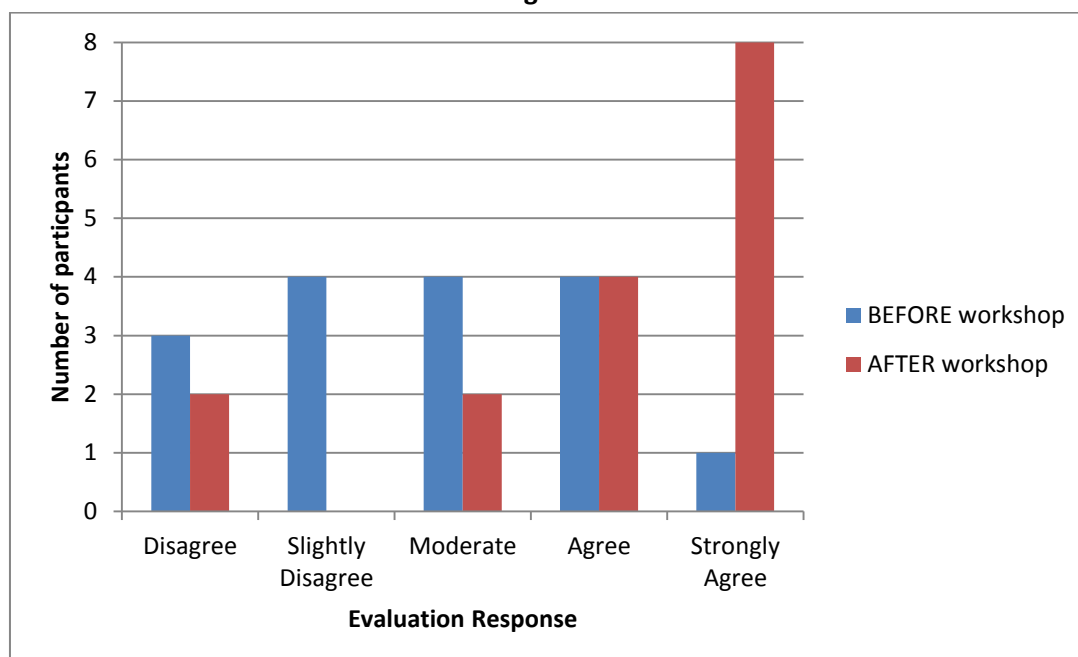


Evaluation Response	BEFORE workshop (%)	AFTER workshop (%)
1 (Disagree)	26.7%	6%
2 (Slightly Disagree)	40%	6%
3 (Moderate)	26.7%	38%
4 (Agree)	6.7%	19%
5 (Strongly Agree)	-	31%

As shown in Figure 4, majority of the respondents (66.7%) indicated that they were unable to explain the aspects of forests and forestry as well as regulations stipulated in the Forest Enactment, prior to the workshop. Following the workshop, 50% of the respondents responded positively and have better grasp of the topic. However, 12% of the respondents still have difficulty in understanding the content.

2. I am able to play a role in helping to strengthen forest governance and transparency in the forest sector.

Figure 5

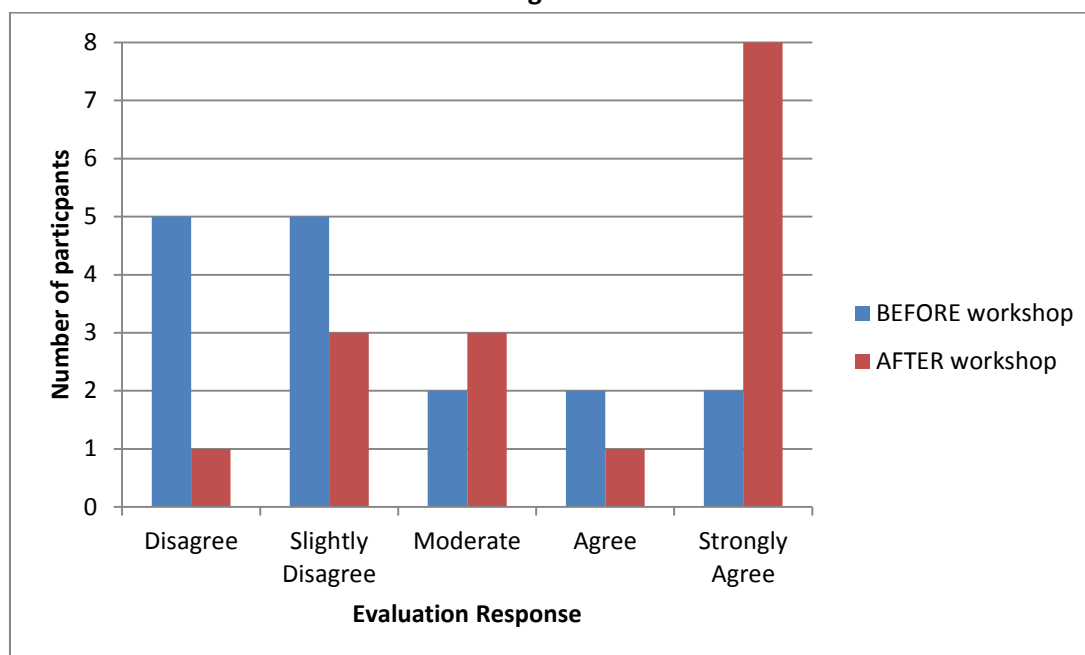


Evaluation Response	BEFORE workshop (%)	AFTER workshop (%)
1 (Disagree)	19%	12.5%
2 (Slightly Disagree)	25%	-
3 (Moderate)	25%	12.5%
4 (Agree)	25%	25%
5 (Strongly Agree)	6%	50%

Figure 5 shows that 31% of the respondents are interested and confident to play a role in helping to strengthen forest governance and transparency in the forest sector. This percentage has increased to 75% upon completion of the workshop which shows that participants demonstrated a greater understanding of their function and responsibilities in community forestry. However, 12.5% of the respondents are still not clear about their role in contributing to improved transparency in forest management and law enforcement processes.

3. **I have sufficient knowledge and skills required to carry out the independent forest monitoring.**

Figure 6

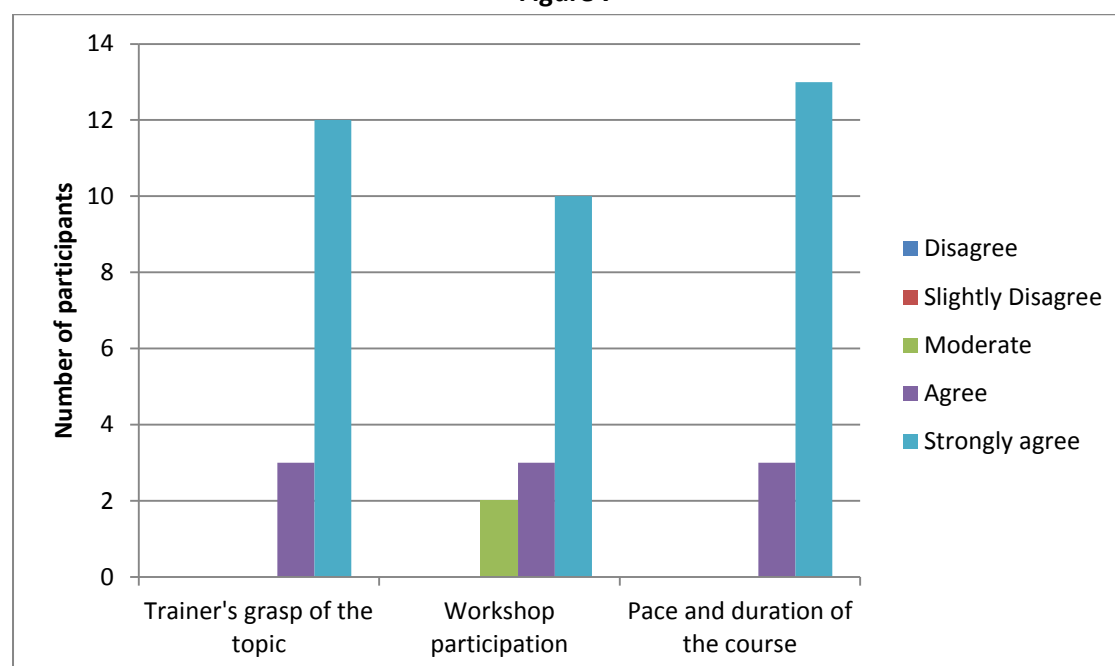


Evaluation Response	BEFORE workshop (%)	AFTER workshop (%)
1 (Disagree)	31%	6%
2 (Slightly Disagree)	31%	17.6%
3 (Moderate)	12.5%	17.6%
4 (Agree)	12.5%	11.8%
5 (Strongly Agree)	12.5%	47%

As per Figure 6, over half of the respondents (62%) have insufficient skills and knowledge to conduct independent forest monitoring prior to the workshop. However, the percentage has decreased to 23.6% upon completion of the workshop which shows that the respondents have a better understanding on forest monitoring and need to be equipped with specific knowledge. Only a small number of respondents (25%) possess the required skills for forest monitoring before attending the workshop and the percentage increased to 58.8%, indicating that their understanding was further enhanced through learning and sharing of experiences during the workshop.

Level of Satisfaction

Figure 7



	1 (Disagree) %	2 (Slightly Disagree) %	3 (Moderate) %	4 (Agree) %	5 (Strongly agree) %
Trainer's grasp of the topic	-	-	-	20%	80%
Workshop Participation	-	-	13%	20%	67%
Pace and duration of the course	-	-	-	19%	81%

Trainer's grasp of the topic

Figure 7 shows that 80% of the respondents strongly agreed that the trainers have a firm grasp of the topics presented while 20% of the respondents agreed.

Workshop participation

Over half of the respondents (67%) strongly agreed that they were able to actively participate during the workshop. A small percentage (13%) of the respondents however felt that they were only engaged in a moderate manner.

Pace and duration of the workshop

As observed in Figure 7, 81% of respondents strongly agreed that the duration of workshop was adequate and they were comfortable with the pace of the workshop

Lessons learned

Participants learned about the proper procedures of investigative reporting (writing skills, structuring a report, photographs as evidence) which they play a part in helping to strengthen forest governance and transparency in the forest sector. In addition, participants gained knowledge through learning and experience sharing with WWF-Indonesia's speakers on forest conditions in Indonesia and their roles in protecting the forests and community rights.

Next steps

Participants who attended the workshop are keen to share their experiences and knowledge with the communities in their respective villages. They are also interested to establish partnership in conservation with WWF-Malaysia which enables local communities to monitor forestry activities around their village. In addition, community also intends to document traditional knowledge for future generations. A similar workshop to review progress of the on-going interaction was also proposed.

It remains as a challenge, however, whether independent forest monitoring can take off in Sabah given that funding is currently lacking. Activities such as capacity building and basic equipment such as hand-held cameras and GPS are indispensable for implementing forest monitoring. Therefore, it is crucial to develop fundraising strategies to support this initiative and it should be supported by the government, private sector and NGOs alike.

Comments/Suggestions

Participants suggested putting theories into practice by providing hands-on training for local communities on topics such as GIS and report writing. This will enable them to assist in independent forest monitoring works. In addition, they also mention the need for continuous efforts to build the capacity of younger generation in areas of community mapping and documentation of traditional knowledge. However, it was also noted that it would be a challenge to gather the communities for the mapping and GPS training as the upcoming months will be the busiest month as they are preparing for harvest festival which are being celebrated by the indigenous communities throughout Sabah. Nevertheless, respondents suggested for similar initiatives to be held at every district to create awareness among people in rural areas.

5.0 Concluding Remarks

Based on the evaluative feedbacks collected during the workshop, majority of the participants showed genuine interest to be part of the process in delivering independent forest monitoring in Sabah. Many of them gained new knowledge and were keen to play an active role in forest management based on the principles of FPIC. Hence it is important that their roles and determination are being acknowledged and partnerships are formed to strengthen forest governance. Efforts must be intensified on how best these can be drawn together into supporting sustainable forest management practices.

The effective and proper implementation of independent forest monitors lies at the framework and mechanism of how it is being developed. This, in turn, will provide more clarity on who do what, when, how and responsibilities of the interested parties, i.e., local communities that must be established beforehand. Meanwhile, NGOs, private sector and the government should be willing to assume new responsibilities to support this initiative and to share lesson learned throughout the process. The participants were of the opinion that if all things are in place, this initiative would be possible and eventually it could be materialized provided that a significant amount of resources such as field expertise, best available technology and financial aid are available.

6.0 Plates



Representatives from Ranau



Mr. Intim Saulig, community representative from Mangkawagu



Mr. Gordon John Thomas (PACOS Trust) presented on
“Community forest management in Sabah”



Attendees of “Empowering local communities through capacity building and experience sharing of “Eyes on the Forest” workshop

Image credit: **WWF-Malaysia/Mazidi Ghani**

Annex 1: Questionnaire



NAME:

ORGANISATION/COMMUNITY:

QUESTIONNAIRE FORM

We would like to get your feedback to ensure the objectives of the workshop and activities have been achieved. It is therefore important for WWF-Malaysia to review the levels of learning of the participants attended the workshop. Please complete this form and return to WWF staff.

Please rate the following on a scale 1 = Disagree, 2 = Slightly Disagree, 3 = Moderate, 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree

Level of understanding:	BEFORE workshop:	AFTER workshop:
I understand matters related to forest management and independent forest monitoring	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I understand the basic of forestry legislation and forest offences in Sabah.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I understand the procedures to lodge a report related to forest crimes.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

Please rate the following on a scale 1 = Disagree, 2 = Slightly Disagree, 3 = Moderate, 4 = Agree 5 = Strongly agree

Level of confidence :	BEFORE workshop:	AFTER workshop:
I am able to explain the aspects related to forestry and the regulations stipulated in the Forest Enactment.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I am able to play a role in helping to strengthen forest governance and transparency in the forest sector.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5
I have sufficient knowledge and skills required to carry out independent forest monitoring.	1 2 3 4 5	1 2 3 4 5

What were the two most important things you learned from this workshop?

1.

2.

From the two-days session, what is your next step?

*Please rate the following on a scale 1 = Disagree, 2 = Slightly Disagree, 3 = Moderate, 4 = Agree
5 = Strongly agree*

Trainers have a firm grasp of the topics presented.	1	2	3	4	5
I was able to take part actively during the workshop.	1	2	3	4	5
I was comfortable with the pace and duration of the course.	1	2	3	4	5
Comments or suggestions?					