

## Summary of the Mid-term Review Results

<b>1. Outline of the Project</b>	
Country: Malaysia	Project title: Project on Sustainable Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation in Sabah
Issue/Sector: Nature Conservation	Cooperation scheme: Technical Cooperation
Department in charge: Global Environment Dept.	Total cost (as of June 2015): Approx. 112 million yen
	Partner Country's Implementing Organization: Sabah State Govt. agencies (NRO, SaBC, SFD, SP, SWD, EPD, DID, etc.), Institute for Tropical Biology and Conservation, University of Malaysia, Sabah (ITBC-UMS)
Period of Cooperation: (R/D) July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2017	Related Cooperation: - Programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (2002 – 2007) - Programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation Phase 2 (2007 – 2012)
<b>1-1 Background of the Project</b>	
<p>Sabah state, Malaysia is one of the few places on earth still blessed with mega-biodiversity, which is not only vital to sustainable socioeconomic development of the state, but also a treasure for all humankind. Conservation of its biodiversity and ecosystems is of utmost importance.</p> <p>JICA supported the Malaysian federal and Sabah state governments through the “Programme for Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation (BBEC) Phase 1 and 2” as technical cooperation projects under Japan’s Official Development Assistance (ODA). The Programme Purpose of BBEC Phase 1 (February 2002 – January 2007) was “Comprehensive and sustainable approach for conservation is established,” while BBEC Phase 2 (October 2007 – September 2012) aimed “A system for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation in Sabah is strengthened and Sabah state becomes capable of extending knowledge and skills on biodiversity conservation to other states of Malaysia and foreign countries.”</p> <p>The authorities concerned of the Government of Malaysia have set the implementation of Sabah Biodiversity Strategy as a next step to be taken and requested the Government of Japan for the “Project on Sustainable Development for Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation in Sabah (SDBEC).”</p>	
<b>1-2 Project Overview</b>	
(1) Overall Goal	
Sabah is known as the Asian Centre of Excellence for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development nationally and internationally.	
(2) Project Purpose	
Sustainable development is promoted.	

(3) Outputs:

Output 1: Capacity is developed in respect to realising a society in harmony with nature in the project sites.

Output 2: The Sabah's experiences are shared nationally and internationally for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

(4) Inputs (as of the Mid-term Review)

Japanese side:

- JICA Experts: 2 long-term
- 6 Monitoring Missions: totally 11 persons
- Trainees received: 36
- Equipment: Approx. 685 thousand yen
- Local Cost: Approx. 278,617 US dollar

Malaysian side:

- Counterpart: 18
- Land and facilities: Working space for experts in NRO
- Local Cost: Approx. 2,173 US dollar

**2. Outline of the Mid-term Review Team**

Review Team			
	Name	Job Title	Occupation
	Mr. Kei Jinnai	Leader	Director, Nature Environment Team 1, Forestry and Nature Conservation Group, Global Environment Department, JICA
	Ms. Tomoko Taira	Cooperation Planning	Advisor, Nature Environment Team 1, Forestry and Nature Conservation Group, Global Environment Department, JICA
	Ms. Sawa Hasegawa	Evaluation Analysis	Principal Consultant, Project Management Department, OPMAC Corporation
Period of Evaluation	11 June to 1 July, 2015	Type of Study: Mid-term Review	

**3. Summary of Mid-term Review Results**

**3-1 Progress of the Project**

Inputs from both the Japanese and Malaysian sides have been provided basically as planned. Some of the project activities for Output 1 have been delayed, which are absence of inter-agency coordination in terms of implementation of the Lower Kinabatangan and Segama Wetlands (LKSW) Management Plan, delay in development of the Croker Range Biosphere Reserve (CRBR)

Management Plan, delay in the official approval of Sabah Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) by the State Cabinet. The implementation of activities in the area of LKSW has been limited due to the unfavorable security situation in that area.

(1) Achievement of Outputs

1) Output 1

The achievement level as of the Mid-term Review: relatively low

- The current achievement level is relatively low due to the delay of activities in the LKSW and CRBR Management Plans.
- Pilot activities and CEPA activities have been smoothly implemented by the initiatives of the related agencies.

2) Output 2

The achievement level as of the Mid-term Review: reasonable

- The current achievement level is reasonable due to the active sharing of Sabah's experiences through the project activities at the national and international levels.
- TCTP has been smoothly implemented by the initiatives of ITBC-UMS and NRO with the high satisfaction of participants.

(2) Prospect for achieving Project Purpose

The achievement level as of the Mid-term Review: low

- It would be difficult to achieve the Project Purpose within the remaining 2 years of project period if assessed based on the present indicators. The present Project Purpose should be revised in order to make clear and its achievement should be verified based on the achievement of more appropriate indicators as well as resulted from produced Outputs.

### **3-2 Summary of Evaluation Results**

(1) Relevance

- The project is consistent with the Malaysian national development plan "10th Malaysia Plan" as well as the Sabah state's development plan "Direction of Sabah State Development and Advancement" and "Sabah's Strategic Long Term Action Plan."
- The project meets the development needs of Sabah state government.
- The project is consistent with Japan's ODA policy.
- There are some points to be improved in the present PDM.

(2) Effectiveness

- The project should be assessed based on the more appropriate indicators of revised PDM. Project Purpose itself should be clarified and the lack of causal relationship between indicators of Project Purpose and Outputs should be revised.

(3) Efficiency

- Both the Japanese and Malaysian sides have basically provided their inputs as planned.
- Efficiency was affected by some challenges: Unclear division of duties between NRO and SaBC for inter-agency coordination and insufficient number of NRO personnel.

(4) Impact

- 1) The livelihood improvement activities in the pilot site are on the right track for obtaining socio-economic benefits in harmony with conservation and could be a model for the poverty alleviation programme in Tuaran District, which is expected to create synergy effect with the project. The model is expected to be expanded to other villages in the CRBR area.
- 2) No reports of any negative impact of the project.

(5) Sustainability

- Concerning the policy and institutional aspects, the state government needs to strengthen the PDCA cycle of SBS upon the endorsement of the strategy.
- Concerning the organizational aspect, NRO's coordination personnel needs to be strengthened.
- Concerning the financial aspect, C/P agencies continuously need to seek for internal and external funding (CSR, PES, and international funding agencies, etc.).
- Concerning the technical aspect, NRO needs to acquire more skills for the inter-agency coordination to implement SBS, LKSW Management Plan and CRBR Management Plan especially with adding the capable personnel.

**3-3 Factors that promoted/inhibited realization of effects**

(1) Promoting factors

1) Factors concerning Planning

- None

2) Factors concerning Implementation Process

- None

(2) Inhibiting factors

1) Factors concerning Planning

- The present PDM has some points to be improved

2) Factors concerning Implementation Process

- Prolonged approval process of SBS by the Cabinet
- Prolonged nomination process of MAB for CRBR from the federal government to UNESCO
- Unfavorable security situation in the LKSW area
- Weak coordination mechanism due to unclear division of duties between NRO and SaBC

### **3-4 Conclusion**

Some of the project activities such as alternative livelihood activities at the pilot sites, CEPA activities and knowledge sharing activities have been favourably implemented so far. On the other hand, there have been several factors of the less implementation since the project has experienced unexpected challenging circumstances during the implementation, such as the delay in approval of SBS and the unfavourable security situation in one of the project sites. In addition, the present PDM has some points to be modified and readjusted. Those involved with the project are expected to proceed with the revised one in the remaining period.

### **3-5 Recommendations**

- (1) Modification of PDM
- (2) Strengthening of NRO in terms of personnel and budget
- (3) Development of a common monitoring format for the SBS implementation to be used by the concerned agencies
- (4) Change of Secretariat of Project Management Committee
- (5) Support for the LKSW Management Plan by the project in the remaining period

### **3-6 Lessons Learned**

- (1) Importance of flexibly revising PDM during the project implementation in case any inconsistency is recognized.
- (2) Importance of deciding timing of the opening for project with examining the prerequisite for the smooth implementation of the project