



**A Darwin Initiative Project**



## **The Buayan-Kionop Resource Catchment Assessment Team**

A sub-component of the project  
Participatory Resource Monitoring in Community Use Zones of Crocker Range Park  
1 August 2007 to 31 July 2009

**April 2008**

**Global Diversity Foundation, Sabah Parks, PACOS  
and the local communities of Buayan-Kionop**

# 1

## What is a Community Use Zone?

Community Use Zones (CUZs) in the Crocker Range Park refer to areas inside the Park that have been specially designated for local community use.

CUZs were proposed in the 2006 Crocker Range Park Management Plan as part of an overall Zoning Plan for the Park. As a guideline, CUZs will make up 3% or less of the total area of the Crocker Range Park (139,919 ha).

The establishment of CUZs will enable the local communities who live inside, or depend on parts of the Park for survival, to continue with their day to day subsistence activities in a way that balances community livelihood needs with the biodiversity conservation priorities of the Park.



To date, two areas have been identified as potential CUZs: Buayan-Kionop in the north-western side of the Park, and Ulu Senagang-Mongool at the south-eastern side of the Park.

Each CUZ will be governed by a CUZ Management Plan, which will be negotiated between Sabah Parks (the government agency responsible for park management in Sabah) and the local communities in that area. The development of the CUZ Management Plans will be carried out through the Bornean Biodiversity and Ecosystems Conservation Programme (Phase II) from 2007 to 2012.

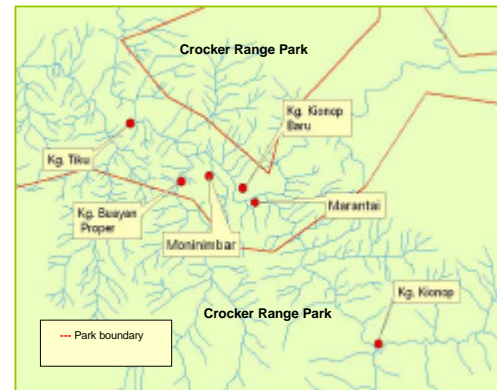
The CUZ Management Plans will be formalised through a CUZ Management Agreement that will be signed by Sabah Parks and community leaders.

Both the CUZ Management Plan and CUZ Management Agreement adopt an adaptive approach to collaborative protected area management, the first of its kind in Sabah.

# 2

## Why Buayan-Kionop?

Located in the remote reaches of the upper Papar River, the villages in Buayan-Kionop are indigenous Dusun settlements that pre-date the 1984 establishment of the Crocker Range Park. Today, the three villages of Buayan, Tiku and Timpayasa are located *outside* the Park, whereas Kionop is located *inside* the Park.



The people of Buayan-Kionop consider this area to be their ancestral lands. With no road access to markets, the 400 or so Dusun community members who live here are cash-poor farmers who depend on the hilly terrain of the Crocker Range for rice cultivation. They also rely on the thick forests of the Crocker Range, particularly areas inside the Park, for subsistence hunting, freshwater fish and forest products.



The decision by Sabah Parks to establish a CUZ in Buayan-Kionop is a result of many decades of conflict with the local communities. In 1968, when the Crocker Range Forest Reserve was gazetted, local communities reported that they were unaware their ancestral lands had been included inside the Forest Reserve. When the Forest Reserve was regazetted as a Park in 1984, local communities were faced with the strict prohibitions of the Parks Enactment that disallows any resource extraction from inside the Park.

Even though Sabah Parks has practiced a soft policy of allowing limited community resource use and access to areas inside the Park, it was evident that a solution needed to be found. In 2006, the decision to establish a Buayan-Kionop CUZ was seen as the best available compromise between Sabah Parks and the local communities. Once formally established, the Buayan-Kionop CUZ will be the largest CUZ in the Crocker Range Park.



# 3

## What is the Buayan-Kionop Resource Catchment Area?

The term Resource Catchment Area was developed during the first Darwin Initiative project *Ethnobiology of Proposed Community Use Zones of Crocker Range Park* (2004 to 2007), which was a partnership between the Global Diversity Foundation, Sabah Parks and the Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Working together with Partners of Community Organisations (PACOS) and the community in Buayan-Kionop, this project aimed to document the resource use patterns in Buayan-Kionop, particularly the key ethnobiological resources and landscapes important for community livelihoods and their cultural heritage.



Together with a team of ten Community Researchers from Buayan-Kionop, we have carried out a number of ethnobiological research techniques during this project, including community mapping and participatory GIS approaches to document the locations of important resources and landscapes. The results provide baseline data on areas inside the Park that could make up the soon to be established Buayan-Kionop CUZ.

We use the term *Buayan-Kionop Resource Catchment Area (RCA)* to refer to *all* areas that are important for the community in Buayan-Kionop (shaded in peach below). The Buayan-Kionop RCA is made up of areas used by the community for agriculture, hunting and resource gathering, both inside and outside the Park.

Long-term monitoring of both the areas *inside* and *outside* the Park is vital to assess the viability of the Buayan-Kionop CUZ in strengthening the adaptive management of the Park as a whole, and supporting the livelihoods of the Buayan-Kionop people.



# 4

## What is the Resource Catchment Assessment Team?

The Resource Catchment Assessment (RCA) Team is an integrated multidisciplinary team made up of Sabah Parks and PACOS field personnel, Buayan-Kionop Community Researchers and Global Diversity Foundation Field Coordinators.



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The RCA Team was formed under the Darwin Initiative project *Participatory Resource Monitoring in Community Use Zones of the Crocker Range Park* (2007 to 2009), which is a joint initiative of the Global Diversity Foundation, Sabah Parks, PACOS and the community of Buayan-Kionop.



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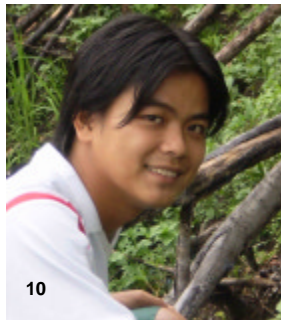
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The aim of the project is to implement a participatory resource monitoring programme that enables local partners to conduct long-term assessments of subsistence activities in CUZs and the surrounding areas.

RCA Team members come from various fields of expertise including botany, zoology, geography, forestry, community mapping and participatory GIS, indigenous resource management, ethnobiology and participatory action research.

Currently, there are 19 Field Team members, with representatives from all project partners. They form a highly skilled Field Team who is responsible for implementing the monitoring of subsistence activities in the Buayan-Kionop Resource Catchment Area.

Sabah Parks:  
1. Dominic Tingoh  
2. Ridianna Patrick  
3. Jolumin Sipail  
4. Handry Mujih  
5. Jusimin Duaneh  
6. Juse Stephen



Buayan-Kionop  
Community Researchers:  
7. Peter Sabandok  
8. Nereus Sipanis  
9. Jenny Sanim  
10. Raymond Sipanis  
11. Marius Limpat  
12. Theresia John  
13. Joiwit Sabandok  
14. Stanley Kurumbong  
15. Jiloris Korut

The Buayan-Kionop Community Researchers play a pivotal role in overall RCA Team. Since 2004, at least 14 community members have participated as Community Researchers in this project. Over the years, they have been trained to carry out a selection of ethnobiological techniques ranging from freelist and pilesorting exercises to semi-structured household interviews.

Using community mapping and participatory GIS approaches, these Community Researchers are collecting georeferenced data on the locations of key resources and areas where subsistence activities are carried out. To date, at least 450 GPS fixes have been uploaded to the Resource Catchment Area GIS database, and we are able to produce GIS map layers showing the locations of agricultural, hunting and gathering sites. A participatory 3-D model is currently being built where this data can be displayed in the community.

In 2007, the team of Community Researchers applied participatory video techniques to produce a short documentary about the land and resource issues they face in Buayan-Kionop.

They continue to be advised by community leaders and other community members in Buayan-Kionop, particularly in matters relating to customary practices, sacred sites and community dynamics.

The Buayan-Kionop Community Researchers are an integral part of building capacity in the community to carry out community-driven research initiatives. They lay the foundation for long-term community-based resource monitoring and sustainable resource management.





Community Researchers in action (from left): Peter Sabandok placing tags along a plant trail in Buayan; Raymond Sipanis recording a participatory video interview; Theresia John arranging contour layers on the participatory 3-D model of Buayan-Kionop

Overall, the RCA Team is assisted by a Technical Supervision Team responsible for designing and guiding the implementation of monitoring techniques. Technical Supervisors comprise senior personnel from Sabah Parks, PACOS, Global Diversity Foundation and other local experts. In addition, international and regional specialists play an important role in training the RCA Team on selected approaches and methodologies in participatory resource monitoring.

Together, the Technical Supervisors advise on data collection priorities, contribute towards the training of the Field Team, and collaborate in the overall management of the participatory resource monitoring programme in the Buayan-Kionop RCA.



PACOS:  
16. Nousi Giun

Global Diversity Foundation:  
17. James Wong  
18. Yassin Miki  
19. Adam Murphy

# 5

## What does the RCA Team do?

The RCA Team is being trained to plan and implement a selection of qualitative and quantitative methods that are designed to assess continuity and change in community resource use. This includes monitoring the opening of new agricultural fields, hunting of animals including bearded pig and various deer species and the gathering of non-timber forest products such as rattans.



RCA Team in training (clockwise from top): Sabah Parks naturalist Alim Biun demonstrating methods for tagging birds in Buayan; RCA Team members in a practical exercise on swidden monitoring lead by UMS lecturer Paul Porodong; Sabah Parks naturalist Paul Imbun provides input on a RCA presentation on subsistence hunting in Buayan-Kionop.

Data accumulated from monitoring activities will be periodically uploaded to the Resource Catchment Area GIS database, which is held by Sabah Parks and PACOS. Data will also be displayed on the Buayan-Kionop Participatory 3-D Model which is housed in Buayan. With the support of local partner institutions, the RCA Team will continue the participatory resource monitoring of key subsistence activities over the long-term.

Both the process and monitoring results will feed into the development, and strengthen the adaptiveness of the Buayan-Kionop CUZ Management Plan and Management Agreement.