



COUNTRY PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN 2016-2020



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MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT 2017

SECTION 1 TO 5: TO BE COMPLETED BY UNDP MALAYSIA

1. PROJECT DETAILS	
Project Title: Enhancing effectiveness and financial sustainability of Protected Areas in Malaysia	Award ID: 00066114 Project ID: 00082355 Project Period (Project Document): 5 June 2012 – 30 June 2019 Revised Project End Date (If Any):
Implementing Partner: Department of Wildlife and National Parks	
2. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	
2017 AWP Budget: USD1,263,000 2017 Expenditure - As of 30 June: USD258,820.86 2017 Expenditure - As of 30 June: 20.5%	Total Project Budget: USD5,600,000 Total Cumulative Expenditure: USD2,490,269.08 Total Cumulative Expenditure: 44.5%
<i>(to be updated by PM)</i>	
3. PROJECT OVERSIGHT	
NSC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Minutes (Attached): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	NSC Date: 4 June 2017 NSC Chair & Designation: NSC Chair & Designation: YBhg. Dato' Sri Dr. Azimuddin bin Bahari, the Deputy Secretary-General (TKSU) (Environmental Management) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (NRE).
4. RISK LOG MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING	
Risk Log Reviewed: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Risk Log Amended: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Last Log Update: Last Log Amendment:
5. AUDIT AND EVALUATION	
HACT Audit: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Report (Attached): <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Rating: Low risk	Project Evaluation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Report (Attached): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Rating: Midterm review field mission completed on 19 May 2017, first draft report to be completed on 14 July 2017. PIR 2016 Development Objective (Outcome): Satisfactory Project Implementation (Output/Activity): Satisfactory Quality of reporting Satisfactory



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SECTION 6 TO 8: TO BE COMPLETED BY IMPLEMENTING PARTNER

6. 2017 OUTPUT TARGETS AND STATUS – AS PER AWP	
Outcome 1: National PA System: Systemic & Institutional Capacities to manage and financially support a national PA System	
<p>Output 1.1: National framework established in support of developing a national PA system, with uniform criteria for PA establishment and management standards</p> <p>Target: National framework for PA system with uniform criteria for PA establishment and management standards is established by 30 September 2017.</p>	<p>Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Track <input type="checkbox"/> Off Track</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>1.1 National PA Framework</p> <p>Over ten consultation sessions at national and state level were conducted during the Jan – June 2017 period. The sessions focused on discussion of the objectives, strategies and detailed actions of the NFPA once finalized.</p> <p>At the NFPA Validation Workshop held 3 – 4 May 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, the national standards were affirmed and the following detailed criteria were adopted to further strengthen and harmonize PA designation and management across the different PA networks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Criteria for Classification of Designated PAs under the Malaysian PA Classification 2. Criteria for Consideration as PA for Sites that are Designated by Gazettement Mechanism 3. Criteria for Consideration as PA for Sites that are Designated by Regulatory Mechanism 4. Criteria for Funding Incentives for PAs <p>The final workshop held on the 19 June 2017 involved a thorough vetting of the Final Draft of NFPA with key stakeholders from NRE, DWNP and agencies from Sabah and Sarawak.</p> <p>The final draft is organized according to the six main objectives, which are to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Strengthen and Streamline PA Governance; (2) Ensure Ecological Representativeness of the PA Network; (3) Ensure Effective PA Coverage; (4) Enhance Conservation of Biodiversity Resources and PA Management; (5) Empowering Stakeholders; (6) Diversifying Funding Sources through Sustainable Financing. <p>To achieve this objectives, 26 Strategies and 169</p>



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Output 1.2: Performance measurement indices developed and adopted for (i) individual PAs and (ii) overall PA networks with identified targets for financial requirements.

Target: Performance measurement indices for protected area project selection under 11th Malaysia Plan is developed by 31 December 2017.

Output 1.3: PA information and knowledge management system established to support the national PA system management.

Output 1.4: Budgetary framework created to increase

Actions have been put forward from stakeholders participating in the consultation sessions. The updated final draft will be completed by the end of July 2017 and will be presented to NRE, Sabah and Sarawak for adoption.

1.2 Performance measurement indices

The project continued in its efforts to support the regular and consistent use of Management Effectiveness Tracking Tools (METT) for PAs, as well as the use of Financial Sustainability and Capacity Development Scorecards introduced in 2015 as part of institutional capacity building. Although assessments were undertaken for the three focal sites, capacity has been built within the partner agencies to use these performance measuring tools for its other PAs. Recently, the baseline METT and scorecard assessment was obtained for Gunung Ledang NP by JNPC.

The outcomes of the assessment activities are summarized in **Section 3.3**.

1.3 National PA Master List and National PA Database

A consultant was engaged in January 2017 under the project to assist with updating the PA Masterlist. All the data and records of existing and new PAs is being verified. Additional time has been requested to check the supporting records for a total of 35 new PAs to be added to the Masterlist. The PA Masterlist is expected to be ready for submission in August 2017.

In the course of working on the PA Master List, the consultant has also been coordinating closely with the officers of the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC) that are working on the myBIS (Malaysia Biodiversity Information System). The system already includes a platform to showcase Malaysia's Protected Areas. Information gathered from this consultancy and the eventual finalized listing will enable NBC to fill data gaps and finalize the integrated database for the entire country on MyBIS.

1.4 TEEB (The Economics of Ecosystems and



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<p>financial support for PAs, allocated on the basis of performance.</p> <p>Target: Final draft TEEB report for PA is completed by 31 December 2017.</p> <p>Output 1.5: Structures and processes created for NRE to provide performance-based operational and capital grants to PAs on the basis of performance against national indices, and other relevant criteria.</p> <p>Output 1.6: Capacity of key Federal and State Agencies is strengthened to ensure sustainable financing of PA management is addresses in the annual budget.</p> <p>Target: Draft financial sustainability strategy for the National Natural Resource Conservation Fund (NCTF) is completed by 31 December 2017.</p>	<p>Biodiversity) Assessment</p> <p>The TEEB studies which are about to commence are expected to contribute important data and perspectives which demonstrate the contribution of PAs to the national economy, with more specific detail for the local economy of each of the focal sites. It is anticipated that the findings of these studies will help influence positively the way state and federal governments perceive investment into the management and protections of key PAs in the country and will provide more support for achieving greater synergies in investment in infrastructure for the benefit of the local population which derives income from PA-related activities.</p> <p>1.5/1.6 National Natural Resource Conservation Trust Fund (NCTF) – consultancy for Strategic Plan and Resource Mobilization.</p> <p>The project team met with the MNRE on 7 February 2017 to discuss potential support to ensure long term sustainability and efficiency in grant management. Based on this discussion, the MNRE accepted the offer from the PA Financing Project to engage an expert to help elaborate a Strategic Plan and Resource Mobilization Strategy for the NCTF. The TOR for the study has been finalized and UNDP is posting the procurement notice.</p>
<p>Output 2: Sub-National PA Network Technical and institutional capacities to manage sub-national PA networks, including capacities for effective financial management</p>	
<p>Output 2.1: PA networks financial plans developed, incorporating strategies for funding sources diversification for PA networks.</p> <p>Target: Financing strategy/plan is developed for DWNP and Johor National Park Corporation by 31 December 2017.</p> <p>Output 2.2: Policies and guidelines for PA financing diversification and retention institutionalized in the targeted PA agencies</p>	<p>Status: <input type="checkbox"/> On Track <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Off Track</p> <p>Details:</p> <p>2.1/2.2 Support for diversifying funding to PA Agencies Assistance to PA Networks to boost capacity for Sustainable Financing</p> <p>Based on discussions held with state PA agencies, the TOR for consultants to strengthen capacity for Sustainable Financing within these agencies is being prepared. The consultants will look at implementing the Financial Plans for the parks and further explore opportunities for revenue generation.</p>



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<p>Target: Financing diversification strategy is developed for DWNP and Johor National Park Corporation by 31 December 2017.</p> <p>Output 2.3: Three target networks have sufficient institutional and technical capacity to support their PAs to meet national management criteria and access performance-based financial support system.</p> <p>Target: Capacity development indicator score (%) for three target PA agencies improved by 10%.</p> <p>Output 2.4: A Centre of excellence to meet the long term capacity development needs of PA authorities established.</p> <p>Target: Capacity building programme is developed for the personnel of the Institute of Biodiversity by 30 June 2017.</p>	<p>2.3 Boosting institutional and technical capacity of PA agencies Refer to Output 3.3 progress for capacity development score.</p> <p>2.4 Strengthening the Institute of Biodiversity (IBD) IBD Transformation An internal discussion on the Transformation Plan to institutionalize the Institute of Biodiversity (IBD) was held on 30 March 2017. The focus of the meeting was to discuss enlisting specialized support to move forward for the IBD Transformation. Immediate next steps involve confirming with DWNP the TOR for a consultant to assist with the IBD Transformation Initiative.</p> <p>Effective Protected Area and Wildlife Management (EPAM) Course 2017 The EPAM course is on track to be held from mid-Sept to end October 2017. The post mortem workshop held on 24-26 March 2017 to evaluate the previous year's course and to plan for 2017 has led to some adjustments: reduced the time allocation to some of the topics (human-wildlife conflict) and enhance time spent on other areas relevant to PA management. The trainers also mapped out a fairer and more effective system for assessing participants' performance upon completion of each cluster.</p>
<p>Output 3: Site PA Management Effective site-level PA management</p>	
<p>Output 3.1: PA Management Plans developed for Target PAs and replicated for PAs over 20,000 ha.</p> <p>Output 3.2: PA business plan developed for target PA sites and</p>	<p>Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On Track <input type="checkbox"/> Off Track Details: 3.1 Management Plans for focal sites: The final version of the Management and Business Plans for the focal sites was submitted in May 2017. This includes the Capacity Building Needs Assessment. These documents are now being reviewed by the respective agencies. A <i>Practical</i></p>



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replicated for PAs over 20,000 ha.

Target:

- Final PA management and business plan for Royal Belum is complete by 30 November 2016.
- PA management plan for Taman Negara and Endau-Rompin are finalized and adopted by 31 December 2016.
- PA business plan for Royal Belum, Taman Negara and Endau-Rompin are finalized and adopted by 31 December 2016.

Output 3.3:

Functional capacities of the target PAs improved, meeting the minimum performance criteria under the national standards

Guide for PA Managers will be submitted in July 2017.

3.2 PA Business Plans for target PA Sites

Presently, two PAs are being considered for support for the development of Management & Business Plans. These are Gunung Ledang NP in Johor and Santubong National Park in Sarawak, proposed by JNPC and Sarawak Forestry Corporation respectively. For Gunung Ledang NP, TOR have been prepared and will be finalized in consultation with UNDP.

Support to Sarawak

For Santubong National Park in Sarawak, the decision will be made after making a site assessment. In the meantime, Sarawak Forestry Corporation has requested the project's assistance to conduct training for all its Park Managers and Wardens in developing and utilizing Management and Business Plans for park management. The project, in principle, has agreed to support this request and will also develop a programme drawing upon experience with developing the management plans for the 3 focal sites. A related training module will be incorporated in the EPAM course.

3.3 Functional capacities of target PAs improved

Seminar Warisan Semula Jadi Johor by JNPC, 12-14 March 2017.

JNPC has been actively promoting biodiversity conservation and sensitizing the different government agencies to these considerations. The agency successfully conducted a biodiversity heritage seminar in March 2017 and used the meeting as a strategic platform for knowledge sharing among key stakeholders and JNPC staff.

Establishing of SOP for Enforcement for JNPC, April 2017

A workshop was organized to establish Standard Operating Procedures for enforcement by JNPC. A total of 24 participants were involved including representatives from DWNP, Marine Parks, and the Perak State Park Corporation. The new SOP has been prepared and is awaiting official endorsement.

"Geographic Information System for better conservation planning



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A series of three workshops were organized in January and March 2017 and have helped to boost familiarity of front-liners with GIS tools which can be used for effective conservation planning. Multiple agencies were involved in this training.

Support for community engagement in focal sites Endau Rompin NP:

A workshop of Community Resource Management was conducted in 14-17 Jan 2017. A total of 30 people from Kg. Peta attended the workshop. Over the course of four days a Community Action Plan and Management Plan for the Community Use Area/Kawasan Adat which outlines the zoning of this area.

Forest and biodiversity protection and livelihood development through entrepreneurship and ecotourism were identified as top priorities by the villagers. Following the workshop, Kg. Peta has successfully established a cooperative to spearhead ecotourism and entrepreneurship amongst the villagers. Some of the immediate needs highlighted by them were nature guide and interpretation training to improve the skills and services among the Orang Asli community.

Recommendations to community livelihood improvement programmes by IC-CFS project

The PA Financing project has played a role in recommending areas for support by the IC-CFS project. So far, two coordination meetings have been held this year with the IC-CFS TWG, DWNP, PA Financing and UNDP to streamline support to communities in the focal sites.

Royal Belum SP

With the support of PSPC, between November 2016 and January 2017, the project team conducted a scoping study to identify possible areas for assistance to the communities of Kg. Aman Damai and Kg. Sungai Tiang. A Community Engagement proposal has been prepared following these consultations and shared with PSPC for their consideration, comments and endorsement.

Taman Negara NP

The project team also provided recommendations for support for community engagement in these



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areas in conjunction with the Improving Connectivity of the Central Forest Spine (IC-CFS) project which is more focused on improving local livelihoods in key areas. Potentials among the communities in the Ulu Tembeling area were highlighted.

METT, Financial Sustainability and Capacity Development Scorecards Assessment

A detailed assessment of 2016 performance in these three areas was conducted for all three focal sites this year. The Assessment dates were as follows: Endau Rompin NP/JNPC (19-23 February 2017); Royal Belum SP/PSPC (26-27 April 2017); and Taman Negara NP/DWNP (7-8 June 2017).

The scores obtained are summarized as follows:

Endau Rompin NP/JNPC

Percentage scores from Assessment	2014	2016
Financial Sustainability	40	36
Capacity Development	63.5	64.6
METT	59.8	67.6

Royal Belum SP/PSPC

Percentage scores from Assessment	2014	2016
Financial Sustainability	43	46.7
Capacity Development	55	65.6
METT	66.7	67.6

Taman Negara NP/DWNP

Percentage scores from Assessment	2014	2016
Financial Sustainability	49	49
Capacity Development	63.5	65.6
METT	76	75.5

In general, in the assessment of 2016, all three focal sites managed to match or slightly improve on their METT scores for 2014. The METT scores for Taman Negara and Royal Belum were little changed from two-years ago, however Endau Rompin experienced a noticeable increase. While this may seem unremarkable, it is testimony to the diligence and commitment of staff as these scores have been achieved despite all agencies facing significant economic and budgetary challenges in 2016. This is reflected in the financial scores for DWNP which



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Output 3.4:

Best practices and lessons documented, integrated into social marketing/communications strategies and used in replication and scaling up.

was unchanged from 2014, and the drop experienced by JNPC. PSPC's financial score increased due to the introduction of the new conservation levy by PSPC as a mechanism to increase recurring funds from visitors.

Capacity development scores increased across the board largely due to the training and skills development activities undertaken with project support.

3.4 Project communications

The project has supported the production of several products to promote awareness and appreciation of the parks.

Taman Negara Visitors' Guide

The Taman Negara Visitors' Guide is now printed and delivered to DWNP who are now readying to make the book available at its offices and information centres where people will be able to obtain them for a minimum donation. Proceeds will go toward future information materials for the park. The book was also launched by the Minister of NRE in Kuantan, Pahang in conjunction with the National Biodiversity Day in June 2017.

Proceedings of the 2nd PA Managers' Conference

The draft Proceedings for the 2nd PA Managers' Conference have been prepared and are currently being revised to incorporate reviewer comments and to ensure editorial consistency and formatting. They will be disseminated to the public once ready. Video footage of presentations at the conference are accessible on the project website.

New communications products for focal sites

State Project Coordinators are working with the respective PA agencies to draw up the Terms of Reference for new communications products and outputs which are useful to the different states. Trail maps for Endau Rompin NP and Royal Belum SP are nearing completion. JNPC has already drafted a Terms of Reference for a *Visitors' Guide to Endau Rompin National Park*. Suitable vendors will be sought to assist with the preparation of this volume.



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	<p>Installation of new signage for Taman Negara entrances</p> <p>The Project confirmed its support for improving the interpretative signage at Taman Negara entrances and has been working closely with the Ecotourism Division to outline the detailed specifications for sourcing vendors. The new signs will link closely with the Taman Negara trail maps and Visitors' guide developed by the project. Improved Interpretative and directional signage are expected to enhance visitors' the quality of the visitor experience to the park and also ensure safety on the self-guided trails allowing rangers to focus on other tasks. The project is expected to provide USD80,000-90,000 in funding support.</p> <p>Similar proposals for improving education and awareness at Endau Rompin NP and Royal Belum SP are being developed.</p>
<p>Output 4: Project Management</p>	
<p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual project budget is delivered at least 95% by 31 December 2017. • Project is rated Satisfactory for Development Objective and Implementation Progress under the Project Implementation Review 2017. • Project achieved low risk for HACT assurance activity. • Final Mid-term review (MTR) report is submitted to UNDP-GEF by 30 June 2017. 	<p>Status: <input type="checkbox"/> On Track <input type="checkbox"/> Off Track</p> <p>Details: The project fulfilled the target management and monitoring milestones for the first six months.</p> <p>Annual Project Budget: As of 30 June, the project recorded a low delivery at 20.5%. This is owing to the fact that considerable efforts were invested in consulting, conceptualizing and preparing for programmes and activities which will be delivered in the second half of 2017. It is expected that the project will be able to achieve its financial performance targets for 2017.</p> <p>Mid-term Review: The Project's Midterm Review field mission was carried out from 5 – 19 May 2017. The Review team presented their preliminary observations at the Stakeholder Dialogue and Closing Meeting held in Putrajaya on 19 May 2017.</p> <p>Some of the preliminary observations of the Review Team are summarized below:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Team felt that overall that the project was on-track and that the project had made good progress considering the complex implementation and the diverse stakeholders and consultation structure needed. • The Team raised some concerns about the overall objective of the project which refers to



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	<p>the creation of a performance-based financing system and suggested that this objective should be reviewed in light of Malaysia's funding allocation structure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Team made a few recommendations, which included the following: (1) promote greater coordination and communications between the multiple stakeholders involved in project implementation; (2) maintain effective communication between IC-CFS for the optimization of resources and activities; (3) Benefit-sharing to local communities needs to be more clearly articulated and demonstrated in order to promote greater community ownership and fostering of effective protection of PAs; and (4) an extended time frame may be considered in order to provide sufficient time for interventions to demonstrate impact. <p>The Review Teams recommendations can be found in a more detailed report of their findings which is now in preparation.</p>
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7. ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

Description:

- i. No major issues or challenges encountered during this reporting period.

Action Taken by implementing Partner:

Nevertheless; the IP with the Project Team have been in constant touch with the key stakeholders, updating the status as well as reinforcing the support and assistance needed from them in order to ensure the Project's results and impacts are fully realized and adopted.

Additional Support Requested from UNDP/ EPU:

8. LINKAGE TO THE 11TH MALAYSIA PLAN: 2016

- a. The project outputs will contribute to the following 11th Malaysia Plan Strategic Thrusts.

STRATEGIC THRUSTS (Mandatory)	
X	Enhancing inclusiveness towards an equitable society
X	Improving wellbeing for all
	Accelerating human capital development for an advanced nation
X	Pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience
	Strengthening infrastructure to support economic expansion
	Re-engineering economic growth for greater prosperity
GAME CHANGERS (If Applicable)	
	Unlocking the potential of productivity
	Uplifting B40 households towards a middle-class society



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	Enabling industry-led Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
X	Embarking on green growth
	Translating innovation to wealth
	Investing in competitive cities

b. The project outputs will contribute to the following 11th Malaysia Plan Key Focus Area (Bidang Fokus Utama)?

“Contributing towards achieving specific focus area of “Conserving natural resources for present and future generations” under the Strategic Thrust of “ Pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience.”

Mid Year Progress Report 2017 approved by:

Name:

Designation:

Date: