# KOPEL TREE PLANTING & RESTORATION WITH THE COMMUNITY IN PIN-SUPU FOREST RESERVE

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## Abstract

TThe Pin Supu Forest Reserve (PSFR) is a Class VI VJR protected area with an area of 4,696ha in size. The PSFR forms a vital connecting forest that makes up the world-renowned Kinabatangan Corridor of Life. The area is famous for the high biodiversity of lowland wildlife and bird species. The PSFR is significant having five out of six High Conservation Values present- based on the Malaysian HCV Toolkit 2009. The current Forest Reserve is what remains of the former commercial Class II Sungai Pin Forest Reserve. The reserve's re-gazettement in 1981, is a result of the State's broader sustainable agriculture development masterplan for eastern Sabah. The remaining forest reserve has suffered large scale degradation from forest fires during both 1983 and 1998 El-Nino droughts, with more than 42% (1,951ha) of the reserve were severely degraded forest. Forest restoration efforts were initiated in 1999 after the forest fires of 1998. Several biodiversity conservation and restoration activities have been ongoing within the PSFR over the last 20 years. The paper presents the restoration experience over the last 20 years and discusses both successes and failures of restoring forests in the floodplain forest environment. The paper discusses the level of degradation, physical and logistical challenges, previous and ongoing experimentation, and the current preferred techniques. The paper will contextualise these restoration efforts from an HCV and landscape perspective, and how valuable these activities are for long-term biodiversity conservation, alongside the ongoing participation of, and benefit to, the local community.

Keywords: Restoration, High Conservation Value (HCV), local community