

LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES: A CASE STUDIES FROM LUBOK ANTU-SAMARAHAN COMMUNAL FOREST, SARAWAK

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Abstract

Forests in its totality have been the source of livelihood for humankind under its perfect creation. However, over the years, as modernization for socio-economic development and population pressure came in, most of the natural forests have been degraded and depleted of its original resources. As for the Lubok Antu-Samarahan Communal Forest in Sarawak, with a total area of 259 hectares of Peat Swamp Forest, it was gazetted on 26th February 1962 for the domestic use with rights and privileges given to the Malay community from Kpg. Lubok Antu, Sor, Baru and Reban. Over a period of 59 years, numerous illegal encroachments and local extractions took place resulting in the degradation and not serving the bigger population as per the original purpose. The idea of a commercial agroforestry project was introduced and approved as Project Rakyat on 4th February 2019 by the State Government instead of excising the total area for commercial pineapple plantations as requested by the local community. In this project the locals had formed a cooperative as the main contractor to develop and manage the entire communal forest. This paper explains the agroforestry concept, strategies, mechanisms and challenges in its initial implementation, putting local livelihood and commercial agroforestry into consideration, while at the same time, setting forest landscape restoration as the long-term goals.

Keywords: Livelihood strategies, Communal Forest, Agroforestry, Forest Landscape Restoration