South East Asian Indigenous Peoples Regional Consultation on REDD
Country Presentation: Malaysia

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Overview

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  – Indigenous Peoples of Malaysia
• Malaysia, Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples
• Malaysia, Climate Change Policy and Indigenous Peoples
  – Forests, Forest Policy and Indigenous Peoples
  – Climate Change Mitigation Actions
    • Biofuels / Oil Palm
    • Energy
• Looking Forward
Malaysia

- 329,847 sq. km (32.9 million ha)
- Peninsular Malaysia (West Malaysia)
  - 9 states, 2 Federal Territories
- Malaysian Borneo (East Malaysia)
  - 2 states 1 Federal Territory
- Federation formed in 1963 as a union of three separate regions (Peninsular Malaysia and Sabah and Sarawak)
  - Regionality as a defining characteristic
- Key economic sectors: Manufacturing, Agriculture, Retailing, Hospitality
- Primary industries: Crude oil, palm oil, tin, rubber
- Major exports: Rubber, crude petroleum, petroleum products, LNG, timber and timber based products, electrical and electronic products, apparel, crude palm oil
Natural Resources

- Malaysia is one of the world’s 12 ‘megadiversity’ countries
- 286 mammal species, 736 bird species, 150,000 invertebrate species, 15,000 flowering plants
- Tropical forest
  - Dipterocarp (95%)
    - Sabah: coastal beach forest, mangrove forests, lowland dipterocarp, montane forest
    - Sarawak: Hill Mixed Dipterocarp Forest, Peat Swamp Forest, Mangrove Forest, Kerangas Forest, Montane Forest
  - Peat swamp (3.34%)
  - Mangrove forest (1.84%)
Indigenous Peoples of Malaysia

- Indigenous Peoples in Malaysia are about 10.2% of the population
- Orang Asli (Peninsular Malaysia) 0.7%
  - fishing (coastal), permanent agriculture, swidden agriculture, hunting & gathering
- Anak Negeri (Sabah) 54.26%
  - Fishing (coastal)
  - Subsistence farming – Rotational agriculture
- Dayak (Sarawak) 10.2%
  - Subsistence farming – Rotational agriculture (hill padi)
  - Cash crops

Penan Kids
Photo courtesy of BRIMAS
Indigenous Peoples of Malaysia


**Sabah:** *Dusun:* Bisaya, Dumpas, Kujiau, Kadazandusun, Kimaragang, Lotud, Rungus, Tatana, Tinagas, Tobilung and Gana *Murut:* Baukan, Kalabakan, Nabai/Ambual, Okolod/Kolod, Paluan, Selungai, Sembangkung, Serudung, Tagal/Tagol, Tidung and Timugon *Paitan:* Abai Sungai, Lobu/Rumanau, Tampias Lobu, Tombonuo, Makiang, Kolobuan, Sinabu, Segama. *Banjar, Brunei/Kedayan, Ida’an/Begahak, Iranun, Cocos, Melayu Sabah, Tausug/Suluk, Bugis, Wolio, Chavacano, Sama/Bajau, Yakan, Bonggi and Molbog*

**Sarawak:** *Bidayuh:* Selako, Lara, Jagoi, Singgai, Krokong, Bilo’ih, Biperoh, Biatah, Benuk, Pinyowah, Bengoh, Braang, Tibiak, Biahah, Bukar, Sadong, Tringgus, Bigumbang, Bikuyab, Barieng, Bikutud, Bisepug, Biemban and Bisitang. *Iban:* Iban, Iban Sebuyau. *Orang Ulu:* Kelabit, Lun Bawang, Kayan, Kenyah Sambob, Kenyah Badeng, Kenyah Lepo Ke, Kenyah Nyurik, Kenyah Uma Pawa, Kajang Sekapan, Kajang Kejaman, Kajang Lahanan, Kajang Punan Bah, Penan, Sa’ban, Ukit, Baketan, Bisaya, Lakiput, Berawan, Tring, Seping, Punan Vuhang, Tagal, Tabun, Vai’e, Sihan. *Melanau:* Mukah and Dalat, Bintulu, Matu, Daro and Afaik. *Kadayang, Bakong, Tanjong, Remun, Kanowit, Rajang, Mirie, Dalek, Melayu Sarawak*
Status of indigenous peoples in Malaysia

- Federal Constitution (Article 153) accords special privileges to Malays & Natives of Sabah & Sarawak
  - no explicit mention of OA
    - assumed rights of Malays
- 1970s New Economic Policy (NEP)
  - ‘Bumiputera’ category
    - Malay-Muslim, Orang Asli, Dayaks, Kadazandusun
  - Meant to provide for special rights and privileges
    - Preferential status in education, employment, business, protection of language and culture
    - Indigenous peoples (non-Muslim) groups not implemented
Malaysia, Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples
Tracking Climate Change in Malaysia – National Data

- Tropical, humid climate with temperatures averaging 30°C (86°F)
- Wet / Dry Season
  - Monsoon (Nov-Feb)
- Initial Communications
- Warming trend with temperature changes from +0.3°C to +4.5°C and rainfall changes from -30% to +30%
  - Reduced crop yield
  - Increased pests
  - Increase in upper forest
  - Reduction of water availability during dry months
  - Increased in storm magnitudes
    - Frequency and intensity of flood and flood damage

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Tracking Climate Change from the Frontlines

- Data from indigenous communities
  - Increased rain and unpredictability of rainy season
  - Floods more severe and occur out of season
    - Sarawak
      - Baram
      - Balleh (June 2008)
    - Pahang (Tasik Bera)
  - Unusual Weather Events
    - Strong winds

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No padi harvest for Baram folk; Lihan seeks help

KUCHING: Harvesting season will not come to many upper Baram people, the august house was told yesterday.

Debating the Supply (2008) Bill, Lihan Jek (BN-Teiung Uan) said such was the magnitude of the recent flood in Baram, come February, March or April next year, farmers in his constituency would have nothing to harvest because their padi had all been washed away.

Meanwhile, Lihan also urged the government to further intensify and accelerate the digital penetration into the rural areas and that Telekom do not fail for services at a blow.

He said Telekom should see this as a moral contribution to the people in the rural areas.

He called for the construction of the new Long Lama Clinic to be expedited and that a method
Adaptation Issues

- Uncertain padi yields
- Rising food prices
- Reduced land due to aggressive expansion of oil palm
- Reduced native padi varieties
  - Vulnerability to pests
- Traditional systems tied to padi cycle
  - Burning, sowing, planting, clearing, harvest
  - Absence of certainty...
    - Coping mechanisms
- Changes in micro-climate/environment
  - Increased temperatures in highlands
  - Due to forest destruction /degradation
  - Haze, water quality, access to resources, quality of life

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Jagoi priestesses
2000, BIH

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Needs

• Research and data on climate change impacts
  – Subsistence farmers
  – Indigenous coastal communities, peat swamps, mangroves

• Protect, share and communicate traditional knowledge related to adaptation
  – Lessened dependence on farming among younger generation
  – Loss of traditional knowledge
    • Risk situation
Malaysia, Climate Change Policy and Indigenous Peoples

Focus on Forests
National Climate Commitments

- **UNFCCC**
  - Malaysia signed – 9 June 1993
  - Ratified – 13 July 1994

- **National Communication to UNFCCC**
  - Initial Communication (July 2000)
    - Malaysia’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
      - 144 million tonnes in terms of carbon dioxide (CO2) equivalent (1994)
      - Net emissions, after accounting for sinks of 68 million tonnes, amounted to 76 million tonnes CO2 equivalent.
      - On a per capita basis, net emissions amounted to 3.7 tonnes CO2 equivalent.
  - Second National Communication
    - Target Completion: 2009
    - Malaysia as an emitter?
      - Forests as sinks
Forests of Malaysia: Stakeholder Summary

• Indigenous peoples
  – Dependent on forests and land
  – Territories well-defined in adat
    • Obud/Pulau
      – areas of conservation – resource base for non-farming essentials
    • Temuda
      – areas of farming/farm use
LIVING HERITAGE
Forests of Malaysia: Stakeholder Summary

- Private sector
  - Logging
  - Plantations
    - Oil palm

- Government
  - State Governments
    - Land policies support privatisation and commercial development of land

- Civil Society
  - Environmental CSOs, IP CSOs, Social Justice CSOs
Rights to Land, Forests and Resources

- Matters pertaining to land and forests under purview of state
- Sabah and Sarawak
  - Native Customary Rights
    - Right to land and forest
  - State administration amended laws and enacted policy to limit these rights and the rights of communities to organise and protect these rights
  - Response – Legal and community actions
- Peninsular Malaysia
  - Grants DG of the Department of Orang Asli Affairs (JHEOA) with authority of all matters concerning administration of Orang Asli
  - Recognises state authority over Orang Asli land
  - Challenged in courts (Sagong Tasi)
    - Rights over traditional lands in Federal Constitution and Common Law
Climate Mitigation Actions in Malaysia: Impact on Indigenous Peoples

1. Alternative Fuels: Oil Palm / Biofuel

- The species was introduced to Malaysia at the beginning of the 20th century and was first grown commercially in 1917.
- Today almost half of Malaysia’s cultivated land consists of oil palm
  - 4.2 million ha (2006) / 12.6% of total land area of Malaysia
- Second largest producer of oil palm
- 90% of oil palm from Indonesia and Malaysia
- Aggressive planned expansion of oil palm plantations including into mountain areas
  - 2 million ha (2000)
  - 12.6% of 33.01 million ha of land area of Malaysia
  - Sarawak state targets
    - Double planted area to million ha by 2010
    - 400,000 ha taken from native customary land
Large Scale Oil Palm and Impacts on Indigenous Peoples Land and Forests

• Land conversion to oil palm increased incentives for private sector and govt to further appropriate native land and forests

• In addition, decreased quality of life for rural communities living near forests

• 7 million tons of crude palm oil, 9.9 million tons of solid oil wastes, palm fibre and shells, 10 million tons of palm oil effluent

• Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers
Climate Mitigation Actions in Malaysia: Impact on Indigenous Peoples

2. Energy, Hydropower

• Development Corridors
• Sarawak
  – SCORE 2008
    1) oil-based industry;
    2) aluminium industry;
    3) steel industry;
    4) glass industry;
    5) tourism industry;
    6) palm oil industry;
    7) timber-based industry;
    8) livestock industry;
    9) aquaculture industry; and
    10) marine engineering industry.
  – Energy Supply to priority industries and Peninsular Malaysia
    • 12 mega-dams (28,000 MW), (1.46 billion tonnes),
      natural gas (40.9 trillion square cubic feet)
Looking forward

- **Current scenario**
  - Pro-private sector government
  - Weak channels for asserting rights
  - Forests and land source of contention

- **Opportunities and threats**
  - Malaysia very interested in REDD
    - Federal – State policies
  - REDD gives an opportunity for IPs to protect forests but without rights framework is a threat
    - Increases tenure pressures on forest
  - Need for rights-based agreements
    - Malaysian experience in FLEG VPA
  - Need for early involvement in process
    - Need for educating true representatives of local communities
    - Need for research from local communities to be included in national design and strategies
  - DRIP as minimum standard in REDD