All Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on **Sustainable Development Goals** | Localising SDG

Localising the Sustainable Development Goals in Sarawak

SARAWAK REGION

Introduction

Sarawak, a Malaysian state on Borneo Island, stretches along the island's northwest coast and is bounded by the sultanate of Brunei and Sabah (Malaysia) on the north and by Indonesian Borneo (Kalimantan) on the east and south.



Demography

Sarawak has an estimated population of 2.54 million people as of 2026, making it Malaysia's largest state by land area but one of its least densely populated at 20 people per square kilometer. Indigenous/native communities form the majority in Sarawak, making up roughly 76.4% of the citizen population.

31 main groups and its subgroups considered to be indigenous to Sarawak and accordingly natives within the meaning of this Ordinance:

Bagatan, Bakong, Bemali, Berawan, Bidayuh or Land Dayak (including Salako, Rara, Jagoi, Singai, Biatah and Bukar-Sadong) Bisaya, Buket or Ukit, Dali, Dusun, Iban or Sea Dayak Jatti Miriek, Kajang (including Sekapan, Kejaman, Lahanan, Punan, Tanjong and Kanowit) Kayan, Kadayan, Kelabit, Kenyah, (including Badeng, Sebop and Sipeng), Lakiput, Lisum, Logat, Malay, Melanau, Murut or Lun Bawang, Narom, Penan, Sa'ban, Sihan, Tabun, Tagal, Tatau, Tring, Vaie"

Interpretation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2022

Project Code : Y23-SP050(N) & Y24-SP247



Ceremonial *Pua Kumbu* fabric weaving

Project Owner & Beneficiaries : Koperasi Pengusaha Kraftangan Rumah Mawat
Project Code : Y23-SP050(N) & Y24-SP247

Pua kumbu is a sacred handwoven textile traditionally made by Iban women in Sarawak. More than just cloth, it embodies ancestral stories, spiritual beliefs, and the cultural identity of the Iban people..

Native Customary Right (NCR) to Land (NCL)

- Based on ***adats*** or customary law.
- The history of the state's land law runs through from the time of the Brooke rule in 1841 to Sarawak's cession to Britain in 1946 and its independence within Malaysia in 1963.
- Primary legislation relevan to native rights is the Land Code 1958m (Cap 81) ("the Code") which consolidates all the earlier laws and retained provisions that embodied the concept of NCR.
- The protection of native rights for administrative purpose were developed since 1863 (Codification of Custom Land Tenure) and first Land (Classification) Ordinance in 1948 by the Colonial Government.
- Today the NCR is governed by the Sarawak Land Code which came into force in 1958.

Ramy Bulan, Statutory Recognition of Native Customary Rights under the Sarawak Land Code 1958: Starting at the Right Place. (2007). Journal of Malaysian and Comparative Law, 34(1), 21-84.



Location : Lubok Antu / Batang Ai Hydroelectric Dam

Note

Before Brooke's arrival, Indigenous communities already had their own system of land ownership and use, governed by adat (customary laws and traditions). This system continued through Brooke rule, the Japanese occupation and the British Crown Colony period, with customary practices remaining largely intact. The Brookes' authority was also limited by their recognition of these existing customary rights, which they acknowledged among the Dayak and Malay communities.

NCR and its Complexities

The codification and administration of Native Customary Rights shaped contemporary land disputes

Codification

Codification converts customary practices into written legal rules. In Sarawak, this raises questions about whether the law accurately reflects the way Indigenous communities understand, inherit and exercise their rights to land.

Administration

Even where customary rights are recognised in principle, administrative processes determine how claims are documented, surveyed, assessed and resolved.

Practical complexities

Customary land tenure is not necessarily equivalent to individual ownership of a surveyed parcel. Depending on the community and its adat, land may involve interrelated individual, household and collective rights.

Communities Response

Indigenous Knowledge Rejuvenation

SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth ,
SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities & SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

The Sebup Community of Upper Tinjar River Baram, Sarawak


CHINA SEA
OCEAN
BRUNEI
MALAYSIA
SINGAPORE
SARAWAK
INDONESIA
Long Jegan
Long Miri
Long Daloh
Long Labid
Pa Dali
Longsia
Longbirah
Long Pila
Long Lellang
Long Tebangan
Long Sobing
Long Aton
Long San
Long Balen
Long Selatong
Tanjung Kidurong
AH150
Bintulu
Long Metapa
Long Taah
Long Apu
Long Tungan
Long Lamai
Rabuhampang
Long Nawi
Tatau
Sebauh
Long Palai
Long Moh
Jamo Waterfall
Recently viewed
Long Taan
Longkemuat
Kayan Mentarang National Park
Layers
Google Maps



Baram | 2024/2025

Long Taa & Dapui, Upper Tinjar, Baram community based river and wildlife restoration & conservation

Project Solution Partner : Sebup Development Committee (Long Taa River Tagang) & Ulu Tinjar Development Committer for Kulong Wildlife Sanctuary
Beneficiaries : Long Taa Saban community
Project Code : Y24-SP284 & Y24-SP285

This conservation Initiative showcases a powerful model of Indigenous-led environmental stewardship, uniting culture, ecology, and community action under the leadership of Mr. Clement Langet Sabang. Grounded in four pillars—Sebup language preservation, the Tagang river system, Kulong wildlife protection, and Mulong land–forest care—this initiative confronts the escalating threats of overfishing, poaching, and habitat decline. Through the creation of the Long Taa Wildlife Haven and the revitalisation of the Dapui River through tagang, youth and elders work side by side to restore habitats, strengthen traditional governance, and defend biodiversity. Early successes are already visible: the highly valued empurau fish, deer, sun bears, macaques, hornbills, and pangolins are returning and breeding in healthier numbers, signalling a recovering landscape shaped by community guardianship and cultural resilience.



Dapui - Ulu Tinjar

Sebup heritage river care (*tagang*) and forest restoration

01



02



Conservation project committtee and the MP for Baram



Tagang signage installation

- in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Sarawak

Gamuda Inspiration Award for Environment & Wildlife



(From left) Francis, Clement, Phillip and Lavang with the Gamuda Inspiration Award.

KUCHING (Sept 1): The efforts of the Sebup community from Long Taa, Dapui in Ulu Tinjar, Baram to protect the Dapui River and restore its native fish population have won the Gamuda Inspiration Award for Environment and Wildlife.

He said the initiative began in 2018 to protect the Dapui River and restore its native fish population, and developed over the years into a wider community conservation project incorporating river and fish conservation; wildlife protection; forest and biodiversity conservation; cultural preservation; youth development; eco-tourism; and sustainable livelihoods.

"This award belongs to the people of Long Taa, Dapui. What started as a community effort to protect our river in 2018 has grown and is now being recognised at the national level.

"This recognition demonstrates that even a small indigenous community in the interior of Sarawak can make a meaningful contribution to environmental and biodiversity conservation," he said.

Clement said the tagang system was strengthened with support from the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG), with colour-coded conservation zones, signages, organised river patrols, protection of native fish and responsible harvesting practices.

Climate Change & Human Adaptation

SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth , SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities & SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The Bidayuh Community of Tringgus in Padawan Highlands

Adapting Futures

Indigenous cultural producers in Sarawak are engaging in practices that move beyond economic recovery, mobilising tradition as a framework for contemporary resilience and climate change adaptation



Liberica coffee grown high up at the Tringgus mountain

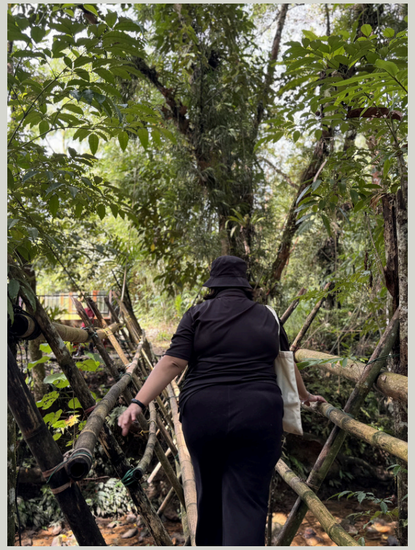


Puncak Borneo | 2024

Bidayuh *Liberica Coffee* Farmer

Project Solution Partner : Earthlings Coffee Workshop
Beneficiaries : Coffee farmers of Tringgus Bong
Project Code : Y24-KK052

The Liberica was firstly planted in Sarawak in the 1870s. Over time it got adopted by the indigenous community as the first cash crop and known as Kopi Dayak. Trained by Earthlings Coffee Workshop's Dr Kenny Lee and Diana Jitam of the Sarawak DOA Agriculture Research Centre, this coffee refinement project uplifts the farmer's coffee processing skills. Merging tradition with innovation, it connects local heritage to the global fourth wave specialty coffee movement fostering a sustainable coffee economy.



Kampung Tringgus Bong

Liberica Refinement Project by Earthlings Coffee

01



02



Analysing Liberica beans at the lab



Washed processed beans

A New Breakthrough in Liberica Coffee Research from Sarawak

16 May · Written By Dr Kenny Lee Wee Ting

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Article | Open access | Published: 14 May 2026

Genomic elucidation of hybridization between Liberica and excelsa coffee and its implications for coffee crop development





Tringgus Bong Sarawak Liberica (Libex)

from MYR 38.00

Origin Info : Tringgus Bong

Farmer :Baon

Processing : Honey

Roast Level: Medium

Net Weight: 100g/250g Whole Bean (Grind on demand)

Suitable for V60, plunger, stovetop, espresso

Cup Profile: Sarsaparilla, Raw Almond, Star Anise

Size:

Select Size

ADD TO CART

Segulai Sejalai

Thank you