

# RAMSAR COMMUNITY GROUP

## MAPPING TRAINING AND DEVELOPING THE ROADMAP

**Kulamba Field Centre (Ramsar Base Camp), 4-6 December 2015**

## PRE-MEETING WITH SFD

Ahead of the training, the team met with Haji Abdul Samah (Assistant District Forestry Officer) and other Sabah Forestry Department officers at their offices in Kg. Kinabatangan. Neville provided an overview of the programme and the mapping training.

## MAPPING TRAINING

### 1. Overview

From 4-6 December, PACOS Trust and Forever Sabah, in collaboration with the Sabah Forestry Department,<sup>1</sup> provided training on community organizing and mapping to [24] community members from seven of the eight of the Ramsar communities. The participants list and programme appear in the annex. Photos are also available of all the participants in another document. For ease of reference, the programme consisted of the following core activities presented per day:

- **Day 1:** Introduction to the project and training (Neville), the importance of community organizing and mapping, group work on past events, current situations and future aspirations for their communities, and role plays (Yoggie).
- **Day 2:** Overview of community mapping (Linggit), sketch mapping and technical training (Gordon), and a focus on the four Ps (Yoggie)
- **Day 3:** Community members themselves re-ran the training in Tundun Bohangin.

### 2. Emergent Issues and Ideas

On the first day's exercise, the communities made the following comments:

#### *Sri Ganda*

- *Before:* There were many fish caught fish using traditional techniques
- *Now:* There are less fish due to unsustainable practices, including poison in the river. There is no awareness of the impacts of the above methods is a significant challenge.
- *Vision:* To raise awareness and build knowledge about life cycles of the fish, as well as ban and enforce IUU fishing.

#### *Abai*

- *Before:* Traditional methods of fishing (including bubu for fish and prawns), and income was high.
- *Now:* People are shifting to modern techniques and materials and the incomes are down due to overfishing and pollution.
- *Vision:* Collaboration between communities, NGOs and government agencies.

---

<sup>1</sup> Sabah Forestry Department: Haji Abdul Samah (Assistant DFO), .... PACOS Trust: Claudia (Yoggie) Lasimbang, Philip (Linggit) Chin, Gordon John, Adam Gontusan. Forever Sabah: Neville Yapp and Harry Jonas.

### *Mumiang*

- *Before:* The community told the story of the origin name for Mumiang: there was a Chinese trader asked a local what the name of the village is. He said “mo miang” in the local language (which means “no name”). Income was from fire wood, nipah leaves, farming fishing and lukan gathering.
- *Now:* Less fish due to the nearby oil palm plantation, enforcement by Maritim is low and outsiders come to their areas.

### *Dagat*

- *Before:* Their area is a hotspot for logging which was undertaken by outsiders in an unsustainable and individualistic manner. They raced to be rich. Fishermen had good catches.
- *Now:* While the forest is getting better, the fish stock is getting lower due to outsiders' unsustainable fishing practices. Villagers are discussing how to overcome their problems; even though the river quality is degraded they are keen to restore it.
- *Vision:* If they have support and awareness the forest can become better and the villagers will live better. If the fishing situation can be regulated, it will conserve the resources.

### *Tundun Bohangin*

- *Before:* Villagers were fishermen and farmers, there was no infrastructure, and the aquatic resources were good – in one day someone could get 50-100kgs.
- *Now:* There is good infrastructure such as solar, dewan, school etc. and have modern engine boats to take the kids to school in Sandakan. But outsiders coming in fishing unsustainably (trawling and using inappropriate nets).
- *Vision:* They want to be united, security from outsiders, road access and help from Fisheries Department to help them to develop tagal in their area.

### *Pitas Laut*

- *Before:* There were plentiful resources, they practiced traditional fishing, everyone is kind to each other and there were abundant forests.
- *Now:* there is more infrastructure, schools, but do not have ESCO, land tenure is not secure and the river network is in decline / getting narrower.
- *Vision:* They have amenities, infrastructure, communication, a resort, homestays, increased income, aquaculture and take care of forests.

### *Bongon*

- *Before:* People used bubu, boats without engines, and practiced some farming.
- *Now:* Everyone is upgrading their houses and there are more fishermen than farmers.
- *Vision:* Want to be more developed than before.

## *Tidung*

No one from Kg. Tidung attended.

### **3. Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would take place in the middle of January, when the SFD boats return to Sandakan.

### **4. Assessment**

#### *4.1 Community Members*

##### *a. Overall Strengths of the Programme*

It was a successful programme – the mapping was very useful.

The programme unites all the villages.

It is a good opportunity for youngsters to learn more and to think about their futures and their communities' futures.

It involved the community in the Ramsar site.

Time keeping was well done and this is important.

##### *b. Overall Weaknesses of the Programme*

Some people did not speak out enough and some were nervous.

Others spoke for too long.

##### *c. Future needs*

More research is needed on the issues the community is facing.

#### *4.2 SFD*

Haji Samah said he was impressed with the fact that after only two days of training the community members ran the third day. He then made a number of statements. In order to become a leader, you must push away your ego. It does not matter if you are rich or poor, that does not matter when you want to become a leader. You need to be calm and control any problems you are facing. And must have an interest in what you are doing. Don't be selfish. To be a head of a village you must dedicate your life to the village. To learn to be a presented, it can take a long time. But some of the community members got there very quickly because they have a vision and mission to uplift their communities. This has been a good session as there were boys and girls, fathers and mothers in attendance and working together.

Everything the core team did was effectively communicated and useful at the local level. He stated that the KFC is open arms for any training program: Colonel Samah!

#### *4.3 Core team*

TBD. The core team should meet with Pn. Anne to discuss PACOS's future involvement.

## ROADMAP

Over the training the core team discussed the issues and reviewed the management plan (MP). The following sets out our understanding of the core problem needing to be addressed and then sets out core elements of the MP with corresponding questions and suggestions. Please see separate “Roadmap” document.