

Protection of Totally Protected Areas in Sarawak

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Abstract

SARAWAK FORESTRY CORPORATION was established in 1997 by Sarawak State Government, to position Sarawak at the forefront of sustainable forest management and conservation. The Corporation is given a difficult tasks to protect and manage Totally Protected Areas (TPAs) in Sarawak of 16 National Parks, 4 Nature Reserves and 5 Wildlife Sanctuaries with a total area of 369,606.48 ha. There had been some encroachment into the TPAs, mostly by illegal loggers extracting merchantable timber and illegal farming, and to a certain extend illegal hunting. In order to make a stop to such activities, the Corporation had instituted some actions including seizures of timber products, destruction of loggers' equipments and infrastructures, arrest of offenders leading to conviction and jailed sentences. Beside the normal patrolling by the park staff to protect the area, it is suggested that local communities and people with gazzeted rights, should be involved to co-manage the TPAs, by setting up a joint- committee between the staff of Sarawak Forestry and the people with gazette rights. The profits derive from entrance tickets and other products from the park, will be divided equally between them. In this way, people living in the surrounding areas will feel proud and important to be associated with the park and therefore, will be obliged to help us manage the TPA more efficiently for the benefit of future generations.