The focus of this year’s report are the achievements of the 9th Malaysian Plan’s Social Forestry Projects at Bengkoka FR, Lingkabau FR and in Chapter 23 (Special Features), Mangkuwagu FR. Started at a slower pace in 2006 generally due to unavailability of funds, all the projects accelerated swiftly this year, with various accomplishments in accordance with the project’s respective Plan of Operations. This report is divided into 3 sections, namely Joint Forest Management (JFM), Community Forestry Development Project (CFDP), and Social Forestry Collaborations, Networks and Meetings.

1. JFM - Bengkoka Forest Reserve

**Background**

A social forestry project entitled ‘Projek Perintis Perhutanan Masyarakat dan Memulih Hutan Simpan Bengkoka’ was approved by the Federal Government under the 9th Malaysian Plan with a budget of RM4.5 million. The stipulated objectives are:

- To restitute the biodiversity in Bengkoka Forest Reserve by planting with various indigenous tree species;
- To restore and rehabilitate Bengkoka Forest Reserve as the main water catchment for the surrounding local communities;
- To decrease the occurrence of fire within the fire-prone areas through forest rehabilitation; and
- To assist the local communities in uplifting their socio-economic level by implementing various agroforestry programs.

The Bengkoka project is implemented by the Pitas District Forestry Officer with close supervision by the SFD Headquarters. Fig.21.1 illustrates the project team’s organisation for the Bengkoka FR project.

Rubber is being recommended as the long term crop which will provide the project participants (local communities) a permanent income after 7 years, while short term crops are maize (*Zea mays*) and ground nuts (*Arachis hypogea*). It also recommended that bee-keeping activity as a suitable cottage industry to be implemented by the local communities since BFR is almost totally colonized by *Acacia mangium* – a source of food for the honey bees. This will be carried out with the help of the Rural Development Corporation (Koperasi Pembangunan Desa -KPD).

**ii. Physical Development**

In 2007, five main activities were completed. These are:

- **a. Demarcation of Bengkoka Forest Reserve (Class I) Boundaries**

  A private surveyor was appointed by the Sabah Forestry Department namely, Jurukur Hermis & Rakan-Rakan, to establish a legal boundary for Bengkoka FR. The total distance surveyed was approximately 57.75 km. The survey plan has been submitted to the Director of Lands & Surveys Department, Sabah for approval.

- **b. Nursery and Store**

  The nursery and store, constructed adjacent to the Pitas District Forestry Office, were completed in May 2007. The nursery’s capacity is 20,000 seedlings at any one time.

**Activities Implemented In 2007**

- **i. Development Plan for Social Forestry in Bengkoka Forest Reserve**

  Prisma Teguh Sdn. Bhd. was appointed by the Forestry Department as a consultant to prepare a Social Forestry Development Plan for both Bengkoka FR and Tambalugu FR (located adjacent to BFR). Nevertheless, due to budget constraints, no activity was planned for Tambalugu FR in 2007. The recommendations as prescribed in the plan include forest rehabilitation using various indigenous species such as Seraya punai (*Shorea parvifolia*), Seraya daun emas (*Shorea argentifolia*), Geronggang (*Cratoxylon arborescens*), and the construction of roads and firebreaks within BFR. This will enable the project team to take prompt action in the field against fire.
c. Water Retention Pond
Bengkoka FR is a fire-prone area with a history of fire occurrences in the past. There are several ‘hot spot’ areas in Bengkoka FR during the drought season, usually in March – Sept. Therefore, as a mitigation measure to suppress fires, a water retention pond was constructed, which is located in the central part of BFR.

Meanwhile, bee-keeping activity is also proposed to them because the market for honeybee is already available. The response from the villagers on the agroforestry concept was positive. Nevertheless, the SFD could only involve 1 village, which is Kg Serupil for its agroforestry activity in 2007 due to budget limitations.

Prior to the implementation of the agroforestry project in Kg. Serupil, the SFD organized various workshops, which were participated by other government agencies, i.e. Rural Development Corporation, Sabah Rubber Industry Board and the Agriculture Department, and the participants from Kg. Serupil. The objective of the workshop was to discuss ways and means on how both SFD and the community of Kg. Serupil should undertake the agroforestry activities. On the other hand, the presence of other government agencies in the workshop was as resource persons. In the project implementation, the SFD involves the local community in land preparation and planting of rubber with short term crops, and for their involvement, they were paid according to the work done.

d. Staff Quarters
Two units of staff quarters were built adjacent to the Pitas District Forestry Office. Once the quarters are completed, the problem of accommodation shortage for the staff in Pitas will be solved.

e. Agroforestry
In early 2007, the Forestry Department carried out a series of dialogues with the surrounding local villages in BFR. The villages are Kg. Serupil, Kg. Bongkol, Kg. Gumpa and Kg. Ungkup. The objective of the dialogue was to inform the local communities about the 9th Malaysian Plan social forestry projects and specifically to introduce the agroforestry concept which when implemented, could uplift their socio-economic level. The agroforestry system includes rubber as a long term crop, while maize and ground nuts are the short term crops.

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2. JFM - Lingkabau Forest Reserve
Background
Kg. Gana is a resettlement area for 10 villages of hardcore-poor hill communities originally located within and adjacent to Lingkabau FR. Under the 9th Malaysian Plan, the Federal Government approved the Kg Gana Social Forestry Project with a RM3 million budget. The project holds several key objectives that contribute to the social well being of the Lingkabau communities. These objectives include the following:

i. To improve the quantity and quality of water resource within the water catchment area surrounding Kg. Gana through forest restoration;

ii. To develop community woodlots as a source of firewood and income for the villagers;
iii. To create buffer zones and planting of trees on sensitive areas along the boundary of Lingkabau FR;
iv. To implement agroforestry activities by the interplanting of long-term and short-term cash crops;
v. To decrease the soil’s water level surrounding the housing area by planting water-absorbant trees

The Kg. Gana project is implemented by the Kota Marudu District Forestry Officer with close supervision from SFD Headquarters, Sandakan. Fig.21.2 illustrates the project team organisation for Kg. Gana.

Fig. 21.2: Organizational chart of Kg. Gana Project Team

Activities Implemented In 2007
i. Development Plan for Social Forestry in Kg. Gana, Kota Marudu
In early 2007, the SFD appointed a consultant (Kontraktor Malaysia) to develop a Social Forestry Master Plan for Kg. Gana under the 9th Malaysian Plan. Amongst the recommendations prescribed in the plan is an agroforestry component known as Community Woodlot. In this woodlot, rubber will be planted as a long-term cash crop. While waiting for the rubber to produce latex (4-5 years) it was recommended that the local communities plant short-term cash crops through alley-cropping method for their home consumption and/or for selling. Besides agroforestry, there are other components like Homegarden and Restoration of Gana Watershed.

ii. Physical Development
There were four main activities under physical development:

a. Restoration of Watershed Areas
The water supply is very critical to Kg. Gana. The project has identified the watershed areas that would serve as water supply for the Kg Gana communities in the future. However, the water catchment areas are degraded due to logging and shifting cultivation activities in the past. It is therefore, recommended that the identified water catchment areas would have to be restored. This means that human intervention through forest restoration is a pre-requisite. Under this component, the existing nursery in Kg Gana which was built by the Gana Youth Club was improved and completed. The nursery will be used to raise seedlings of indigenous species for the restoration activities.

b. Establishment of Community Woodlots
The first phase of community woodlots is 47 ha. The site preparation included land clearing, stacking and terracing. Planting of rubber seedlings was also carried-out by the local communities.

c. Homegarden
Homegarden is an agroforestry term for any agro-silvo-pastoral activities carried out intentionally within one’s house-lot primarily for food, but also for medicine, side-income and landscape. However, the objectives of establishing a homegarden in Kg Gana are i), to create a source of food and ii), for soil amelioration. Homegarden will only be implemented in 2008. The design of Kg. Gana homegarden has been proposed by the consultant as shown in Fig. 21.3 while the following Table 21.1 shows the proposed composition.

Fig. 21.3: Homegarden Design
d. Organization and Infrastructure
This component is crucial for the success of this project. Activities include providing the project management team with necessary field and office equipment, organizing several human resource development activities for the adult, youth, women and schoolchildren, and repairing village roads leading to work sites. The Gana village road was at its worst condition due to seemingly continuous rain and lack of maintenance. In 2007, the existing road in Gana was improved especially the road leading to the watershed areas.

Table 21.1: Proposed composition of Kg. Gana Homegarden

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Suitable Components</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Source of food</td>
<td>Vegetables</td>
<td>• Long beans (Vigna sp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Red chili (Capsicum sp.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Yam (Dioscorea sp.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sayur manis (sweet vegetables)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fruit trees</td>
<td>• Mango (Mangifera indica)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Jackfruit (Artocarpus heterophyllus)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Tamarind (Tamarindus indica)</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Noni (Morinda citrifolia)</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Coconut (Cocos nucifera)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Banana (Musa spp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Soil amelioration</td>
<td>Shade trees</td>
<td>• Flame of the Forest (Delonix regia)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Fencing hedges</td>
<td>• Bunga raya (Hibiscus spp.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Water absorbent trees</td>
<td>Kayu Putih (Eucalyptus deglupta)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. JFM - Tamparuli Forest Reserve (TFR)
There are 5 villages located within and adjacent to Tamparuli FR. Kg. Botung and Kg. Komonsi are located inside, while Kg. Rangalau Baru, Kg. Rangalau Lama and Kg. Tamparuli are located just adjacent. In addressing the forest management problem created by the villagers, 5 major activities were carried-out by the Tamparuli FR Project Management Team headed by En. Ahmad Sapawi Matusin, with the cooperation of Kota Kinabalu District Forestry Office. In July, a community dialogue was held and it succeeded to obtain positive responses and cooperation pledges from the 5 villages. About 2,000 Sungkai (Peronema canescens) trees were planted at Kg. Komonsi in August as part of forest rehabilitation measures. In the same month, a study-tour on Bee-keeping Technique at the Honey-Bee Research Unit of Lagud-Sebrang Agricultural Park, Tenom was organized for the Kg. Komonsi Action Committee.

Bee-keeping technique

The newly improved road leading to the watershed areas

Sungkai trees

With the aim to systematically obtain ‘bottom-up’ feedback from the 5 villages, a Tamparuli FR Restoration Workshop was held in September at the newly completed the Kota Kinabalu District Forestry Office. The results of the workshop will be accommodated in the Forest Management Plan of Tamparuli FR, which is due to be completed in 2008. The construction of a SFD Site Office began in September. This office will accommodate the Project Management Staff, as a hub for information exchange and also to indicate the seriousness of the Sabah Forestry Department in restoring Tamparuli FR as one of the main watershed area for Tamparuli town.
Other Projects

i. Kelawat Forest Reserve JFM Project
Kelawat Forest Reserve remains as a model for JFM projects and has been replicated to other forest reserves experiencing similar problems. Regular monitoring is maintained throughout the year by the Kota Belud District Forestry Office. The 20 local families continue with their daily work of rubber-tapping and fruit/vegetable-selling. Enrichment planting was not carried out this year due to the shortage of suitable seedlings. However, 2000 mixed-dipterocarp seedlings were ordered from another social forestry project backed by PACOS in Moyog, Penampang. These seedlings will be planted early next year.

ii. Deramakot Forest Reserve (DFR) Social Forestry Committee (SFC)
DFR-SFC has been the most active and fairly consistent social forestry organization in the State. This committee has set a good standard and has fought its way to be regarded as a model for managing SFMLAH-Local Community relations. Since this committee was also inspected and reviewed during the DFR FSC Certification assessment, this committee therefore, can be regarded as an FSC-Certified Social Forestry Committee. This committee is chaired by DFO Deramakot Mr Suarul Suparlan and met in January, April, October and December. Other than the regular committee members, the meeting was also attended by WWF, PACOS and observers from Kyoto University and University Malaysia Sabah (UMS). Among the field activities carried out by the local communities were boundary clearing along the Sg. Tabalion Kecil to Sg. Tulang-Tulang stretch of Sg. Kinabatangan, boundary planting with Laran, maintaining the gravity water supply to Kg. Balat and reforestation on 36 ha of a compartment north of Balat FCS. The communities have also been offered to work on silvicultural activities in DFR. Almost a decade after being set up in 2000, the support from the Kg. Balat, Kg. Tangkong, Kg. Desa Permai, Kg. Kuamut and Kg. Tulang-tulang communities for this Committee has been commendable.

iii. Serudong Forest Reserve Social Forestry Committee
This committee was set up as a replicate of DFR-SFC. The Chairman is the DFO Serudong Mr De’Almeida G Yukong and the committee members consist of key people of Kg Serudong Laut such as the JKKK Chairman, priest and school teachers. The main activity carried out this year was the construction of the RM30,000.00 gravity water system, channeling clean water from Serudong Forest Reserve, across the 120m wide Sg Serudong to the village. This project was a success, made possible by the outstanding cooperation from Raleigh International, Deramakot Forestry Office, Tawau Forestry Office and the community. The venturers and staff of Raleigh International spent 9 weeks living and working with the community while learning their culture. The project was festively commissioned by Mr Fidelis E. Bajau, on behalf of the Director of Forestry on 3rd May, 2007.
iv. Social Baseline Surveys (SBS)
In March, SBS on communities in and around FMU-5 (Anika Desiran S/B) were carried out by the Ranau District Forestry Office with guidance from the SFM Division, HQ. The findings were incorporated into the SFMLAH’s Forest Management Plan.

Under the supervision of Mr Musa Salleh, a major SBS was carried out on all communities living inside and adjacent to the State Mangrove FRs. 3 teams were formed, headed by Mr. Petrus Saigol (West Coast Zone), Mr. Mokran Ingkat (Upper East Coast Zone) and Mr. Ricky Alisky Martin (Lower East Coast Zone). Field data collection through interviews and observations started in September. The results are scheduled to be known early next year.

Community Forestry Development Project (CFDP)
a. Gana Resettlement & Integrated Development (GRID) Project
The major activities aimed at socio-economic development are the construction of the Gana Woodlot and establishment of several vegetable farm lots with the guidance of the Kota Marudu Agriculture Department. The JBIC (Japan Bank for International Cooperation) has been particularly active here since last year, to carry out trial agricultural projects with the intention to make Gana an ‘agropolitan’.

Major infrastructural development this year is the reconstruction of a farm road connecting the Gana housing area to the watershed area beside Kg. Nasapu. The Piso Road, connecting Gana to Kota Marudu town was regularly maintained by Timberwell Bhd., the SFMLAH of Lingkabau FR (FMU3).

b. Other CFDP
The Sugut-Beluran Community Forestry Committee has yet to complete the construction of 350 houses in 13 villages around Paitan, after being given a fresh directive by the State Attorney General to complete the project as soon as possible.

Collaboration, Networks And Meetings
a. SFD-UNDP-WWF Social Forestry Collaboration Project
This topic is highlighted in Chapter 23 (Special Features) on Mangkuwagu Forest Reserve.

b. Raleigh International (RI)
RI has been a catalyst for various social forestry activities handled by the Department. Through this collaborative project, quite a number of community projects (gravity water supply systems, kindergartens) have been successfully implemented for the benefit of the hardcore poor in remote areas of Sabah. This is in line with the aspiration of the State Government on poverty reduction. This year, the SFD invited RI for another cooperation project to construct a gravity water system for Kg Serudong Laut, Tawau. The project started in March 8th and ended in May 5th under the supervision of the Serudong District Forestry Officer. 3 teams, each consisted of about a dozen international and local RI venturers, and staff took turns to complete the 2.42 km gravity water system.
The project was divided into 3 phases. Phase 1 involved the construction of a mini-dam fixed with polypipes to channel water to the stabilizer tanks. Phase 2 was the most crucial, that is fixing the polypipes on a 28 mm cable across the 120 m Sg. Serudong with the help of Deramakot FR Skyline Crews. Phase 3 was relatively easy. It consists of laying and burying the polypipes connected to several water tanks in the village. All these work were done on weekdays only to make time for other cultural exchange activities in the weekends such as teaching simple English words and songs to the children, learning to cook local food, weaving handicrafts, local dances and also various sporting activities. The project ended with an excellent commissioning ceremony organized by the Serudong DFO.

c. JIRCAS
The SFD-JIRCAS Agroforestry Research Collaboration Project officially ended in February after half a decade. A book was produced, entitled ‘Agroforestry Approach to the Rehabilitation of Tropical Lands by Using Nurse Trees’. It was a compilation of all research results presented during an agroforestry seminar organized by the project last year. The management of the agroforestry research and demonstration plots in Kolapis A and Bengkoka FR was handed over to the Plantation Section of FRC.

d. JBIC
The Japan Bank for International Cooperation has appointed Dr. Jiro Iguchi as their consultant to deal with the State Economic Planning Unit’s task in searching for the highest potential site to be developed as a Rural Growth Centre. Eventually, Kg. Gana of Kota Marudu was selected among the various identified villages. Several workshops with the Kg Gana community were done. Large-scale farming of high-valued farm crops was identified as the best approach for quick economic returns and hardcore poverty eradication. Consequently, a research on potential farm crop was contracted out to the Kota Marudu Agriculture Department with funding from SFD’s PPM fund. A comprehensive SBS was also contracted out to UMS.

e. Advisory Role on SF to SFM License Agreement Holders
The SFM Division and the respective District Forestry Officers continue to provide free professional advice to all SFMLAHs regarding any social conflicts. The most popular issue is the request by old and new settlers for forest reserve land.

f. ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN)
The First Meeting of the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) was held at Semarang, Indonesia on 23-27 July 2007. Malaysia was represented by the Peninsular Malaysia, Sarawak and Sabah Forestry Departments. The SFD was represented by Mr. Ricky Alisky Martin of the SFM Division.

Several invited resource persons delivered their respective presentations for discussions of the Meeting, i.e.:-
• UNDP, RECOFTC, and CIFOR: The Social Forestry Networking Experiences - Lessons Learned, Best Practices
• Ministry of Forestry of Indonesia: Social Forestry Networking Future Needs - Challenges and Opportunities
• ASEAN Secretariat: ASEAN Experiences in Networking Development
• Philippines: Networking for ASEAN Social Forestry

A mid-meeting site visit to Perum Perhutani Kendal was organized to observe and learn various social forestry activities carried out by the local communities. The meeting subsequently discussed the mandate and policy framework for the ASEAN Social Forestry Network (ASFN) and finally adopted the Terms of Reference (TOR), Rules of Procedure (ROP) and Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) of the ASEAN Cooperation in Social Forestry.

g. International Workshops and Seminars
i. Introduced by PACOS, the SFD was invited to participate in the International Experts Workshop on ‘Indicators Relevant for Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals’. The workshop is co-organized by the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) Working Group on Indicators and Tebtebba Foundation in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD) pursuant to Decision VIII 5/G of the Convention. The meeting was held at the Banaue Hotel, Banaue, Ifugao in the Philippines on 5th - 9th March, 2007 and included participants from among indigenous peoples, governments, international organizations, development agencies, academic and research organizations and supporting NGOs. Mr. Ricky Alisky Martin represented the SFD with a role to provide the government’s perspective on any issues related to indigenous peoples of Malaysia in the group discussions. The workshop findings known as the Banaue Declaration were presented to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) on May 17.

Intercropping of teak and sengkuang observed during ASFN visit to Perum Perhutani Kendal, Semarang, Indonesia

The famous Banaue Rice Terraces, Ifugao, Philippines
ii. An International Conference on ‘Poverty Reduction and Forests: Tenure, Market and Policy Reforms’ was organized by RECOFTC (Regional Community Forestry Training Centre) on 3-7 September 2007 in Bangkok. The SFD sent four officers who are involved in the State’s 9th Malaysian Plan’ Social Forestry Projects, i.e. Mr. Musa Salleh, Mr. Petin Kilou, Mr. Rosli Siki and Mr. Ricky Alisky Martin. Other than

iii. A Regional Dialogue on ‘Indigenous Peoples and Natural Resources Management’ was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 10-14th November. The dialogue was organized by the UNDP Regional Indigenous Peoples’ Programme (RIPP) of the UNDP Regional Centre in Bangkok. The objective was to provide a neutral space for constructive engagement and dialogue on good practices on natural resource management and bio-diversity. Nominated by PACOS, Mr. Ricky Alisky Martin attended as a participant and a facilitator in the Thematic Workshop on Good Practices on Forest.

The ‘tagal’ (fish management) practice presented as Sabah’s prominent indigenous practice on natural resource management during the Chiang Mai Seminar.

The SFD poster presented during the International Conference in Bangkok learning lessons from others, the SFD team also presented a high quality poster entitled “The Role of Sabah Forestry Department in Alleviating Rural Poverty through Sustainable Forest Management”. A synopsis of the poster was distributed and our experienced officers took turns in sharing experiences of their respective social forestry projects to the conference’s participants.

Until you value yourself, you won’t value your time.
Until you value your time, you will not do anything with it.

– M. Scott Peck