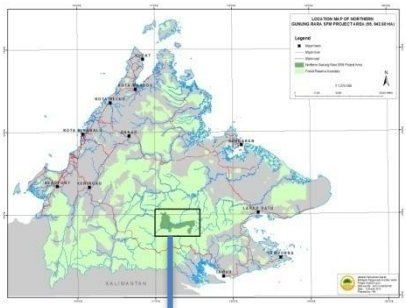
ANNUAL REPORT 2014

NORTHERN GUNUNG RARA SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT (NGR SFM) PROJECT

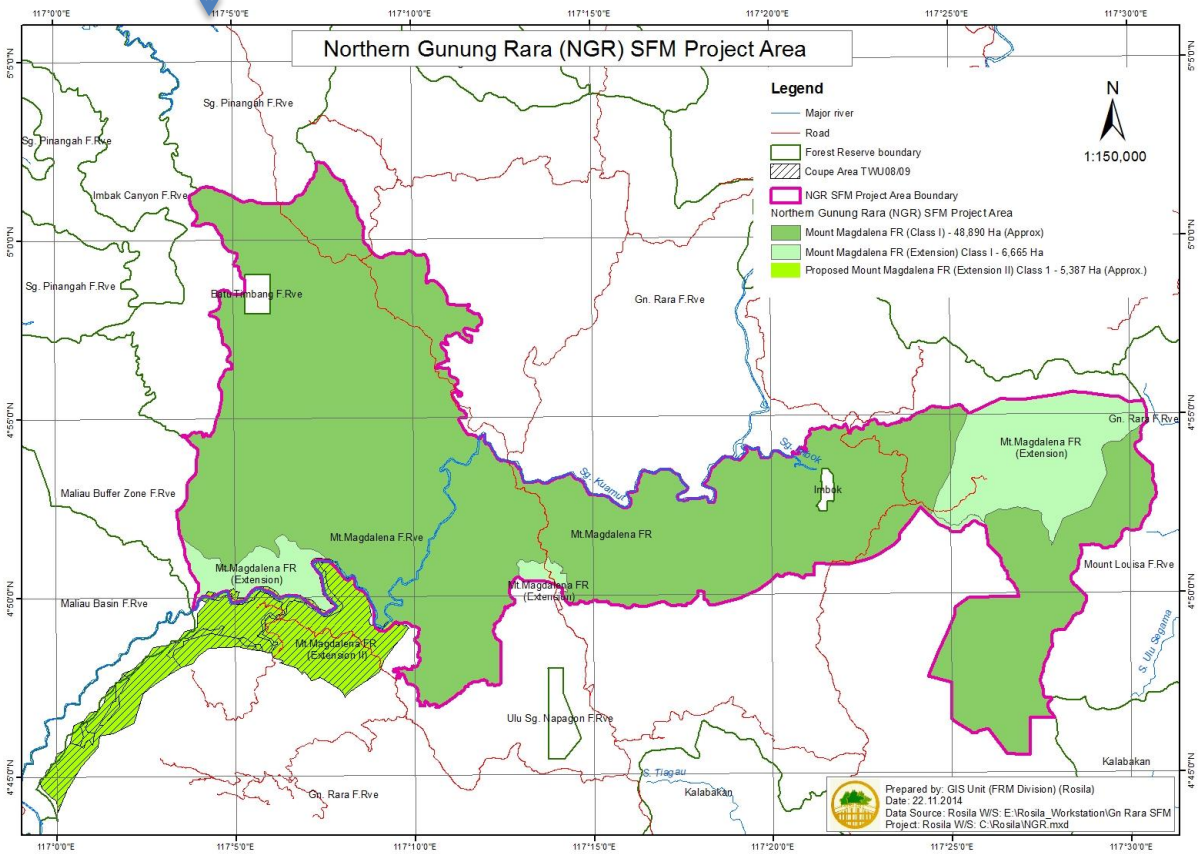
INTRODUCTION:

Northern Gunung Rara Sustainable Forest Management Project (NGR SFM) has come to its 3rd year of implementation since it took off in June 2012. We progressed so far but yet there are still so much to achieve, particularly in our quest to be certified under Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in 2015.

Additional area was included to NGR SFM project area and it is now consist of Mount Magdalena Forest Reserve - Class I (55,555 ha), Gunung Rara Forest Reserve Class 2 – (5,387 Ha) and two (2) other small Virgin Jungle Reserves (VJR) Class VI, that are, Batu Timbang VJR (261 ha) and Imbok VJR (127 ha), herein known as the **Northern Gunung Rara Sustainable Forest Management Project Area** to a total of 61,330 Ha**.**



Location of the Project Area:



Northern Gn. Rara Project Area

*Map image courtesy from K(FRM) SFD HQ

Mount Magdalena FR was gazetted as a Protection FR - Class I (48,890 Ha) on 14th November, 2012 vide GN 7/2012, and later additional gazetted area of Mount Magdalena FR Extension Protection Forest - Class I (6,665 Ha) on 16th July 2013, vide GN 1/2013. It was formerly under Gunung Rara FR, which is a commercial FR - Class II. Gunung Rara FR, on the other hand, was first gazetted on 15th March 1963. Batu Timbang VJR and Imbok VJR were gazetted on 14.03.1984 vide GN 4/1984.

The Project Area (61,330 Ha), which is located in the east coast of Sabah, is also part of the larger 261,264 Ha of the United Nations Development Program-Global Environment Facility (UNDP-GEF) Project on "*Biodiversity Conservation in Multiple-Use Forest Landscapes in Sabah*"; and also within the Heart of Borneo (HoB) initiative. Although the Project Area has been logged in the past, it remains an important watershed for the Kuamut River and key habitat for endangered Orangutans, Bornean clouded leopards, Sumatran rhinos, and pygmy elephants. It is also found to be a crucial wildlife corridor of global significance linking the world-renowned Danum Valley FR, Imbak Canyon FR and the Maliau Basin FR, which are both Protection Forest Reserves – Class I.

Gunung Rara beneath the clouds *picture taken by Adrian Rawlenes, Nov 2012 aerial surveillance

Kuamut River *picture taken by Adrian Rawlenes, August 2012

ACTIVITIES, PROJECT COMPONENTS & ACHIEVEMENTS TO DATE:

The activities for this project were planned according to the Northern Gunung Rara SFM Project 10 year Forest Management Plan (FMP) - from January 1st 2013 to December 31st 2022, which was approved on the 24th April 2013 by the Director of Forestry. Annual Work Plan (AWP) for this project is prepared every year and activities were done with specific target. The achievements for activities and works done in the Project Area must be in compliance with the target set for that specific year. Compliance Report is to be submitted every year-end. The components for this Project are as follows:

Forest Rehabilitation

Two main activities under this component are Silviculture Tending Operation and Forest Restoration Program (Re-Planting), which are on-going throughout the FMP period.

Silviculture Tending Operation

Silviculture treatments are carried out to liberate standing trees (regardless of species), and to release young regeneration of trees by removing and eradicating competing climbers and climbing bamboos, which endanger the survival of regeneration groups.

More often, silviculture treatments are carried out in active harvesting areas/coupes. However, this Project Area have a commitment of no harvesting activities to be done within this area. The true purpose for conducting silviculture tending works in this area is to improve the forest stand. This Project Area was once a Class 2 Commercial Forest, and it is a logged-over forest. By conducting silviculture treatments in this logged-over area, it should improve the forest stand and thus, improving the overall quality of this forest, ensuring and promoting better forest biodiversity as well as ecological and environmental benefits.

Achievements

Silviculture tending operation started on the 2nd half of the year 2012. During that year, a total of 1000 Ha of silviculture tending works was done successfully by SFD's appointed contractor, Fresh Mumus Enterprise. The contractor goes on to complete another 2000 Ha of silviculture tending works in 2013.

Starting from year 2014, EW Constuction was the appointed contractor to do the silviculture tending operation through a contract agreement No. JP/TN/KLBKN-D11/01/2013, specifically to complete 10,000 Ha of silviculture area treatment (2000 Ha annually) for a period of five years from 2014-2018. To date, 4,162 hectares of forest area had been treated by the contractor EW Construction and is still on-going works.

This adds up to a total of **5,162 hectares** of forest area treated from 2012 to 2014 by both of the contractors. Particulars of the total treated area is as follows:

YEAR	BLOCK (HA)	ESTIMATED AREA TO BE TREATED	AREA TREATED
2012	K (1,000)	1,000 Ha	Done 1,000 Ha
2013	G (1,000)	1,000 Ha	Done 1,000 Ha
	L (1,000)	1,000 Ha	Done 1,000 Ha
2014	M (873)	873 Ha	Done 873 Ha
	N (1,009)	1,009 Ha	Done 1,009 Ha
	J (part of 1247)	118 Ha	Done 280 Ha
2015	F (994)	994 Ha	Progress 2015
	E (849)	849 Ha	Progress 2015
	D (part of 1054)	157 Ha	Progress 2015
2016	D (part of 1054)	897 Ha	
	C (1138)	1138 Ha	
2017	J (part of 1247)	1129 Ha	
	I (954)	954 Ha	
2018	A (1200)	1200 Ha	
	B (804)	804 Ha	
TOTAL AREA		13,122 Ha	5,162 Ha

Forest Restoration Program

Forest Restoration Program will be done in phases. The 1st phase of this program started in August 2013. SFD had appointed EZ Enterprise as the contractor to the 1st phase of 50 Ha restoration areas, Contract No. JP/SN/KLBKN-D11/01/2013, within a period of 2 years starting from August 2013 to August 2015. This program will target open area of ex-camp sites, ex-stumpings and landing sites, ex-sawmill sites and other degraded forest gaps. Forest restoration program consist of several work specification i.e preliminary works, site preparation, supply raising and maintenance of seedlings, fertilizing, constructing temporary nursery and placing restoration signboards and also road maintenance within planting blocks.

In 2013, the contractor had completed raising and planting a total of 13,090 seedlings in a total area of 50 Ha. The first maintenance round (circle weeding + replacing dead saplings) was done in 2013. Application of 50 grams at time of planting and one round of application of 100gm each during the first maintenance round.

For the year 2014, the contractor had completed all of their works, for the second year of their contract. Activities in their second year included three rounds of maintenance works (circle weeding), followed by 3 rounds of application of fertilizers (200 grams for each planted seedlings). During maintenance works, 3,000 dead seedlings were replaced.


Restoration program at the Project Area

Forest & Wildlife Protection (enforcement, monitoring & control)

The Kalabakan Forestry District greatly emphasize on the protection aspects within the Project Area. Routine aerial surveillance and patrolling were done more often so that no illegal encroachment and poaching activities left unseen. In 2014, 6 days of aerial surveillance was done, covering the project area as well as areas within Kalabakan Forestry District.

The continuation of anti-poaching strategy/ operation, namely *OPS BURU*, was carried out. This includes patrolling and gate enforcements where Forestry uniform staffs were stationed at several particular gates, making spot-checks on vehicles suspected to be poachers and carrying hunted wild animals.

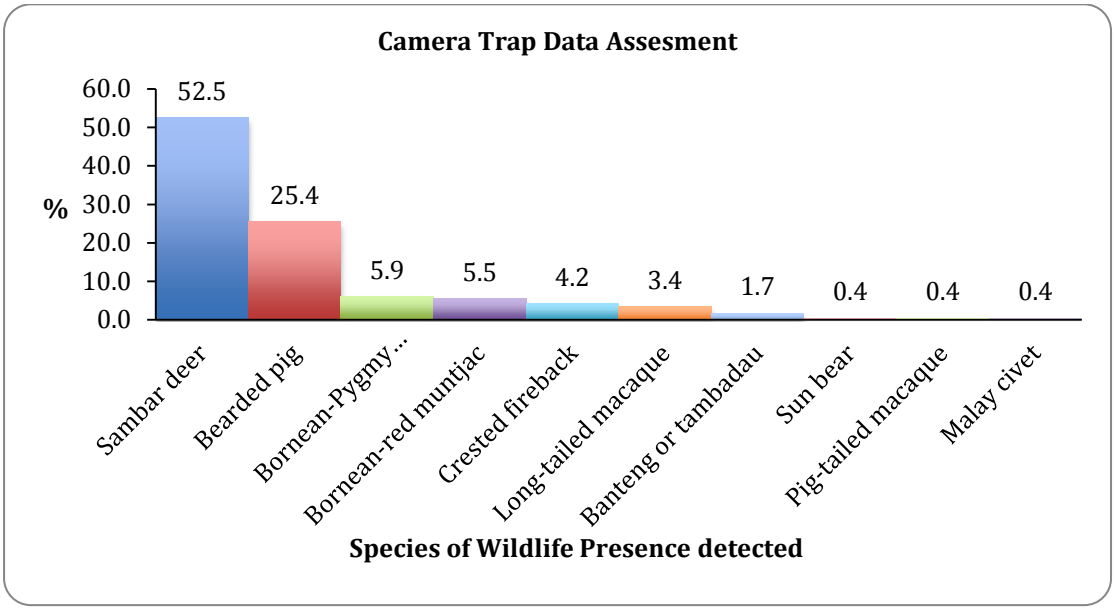
Other protection activities involve placing security gates on roads, which were a 'hotspot' for illegal poaching, placing several warning signs at strategic areas.

Wildlife Survey/ Monitoring

Wildlife monitoring and survey started on April 2014, with two newly appointed Forestry staff specializing in wildlife surveys, joining our NGR team. Wildlife monitoring and survey works will emphasize in obtaining a general overview of the wildlife biodiversity and abundance within Northern Gn. Rara Project area, to justify one of the objectives of this Project, that is to be the link between Maliau Basin, Imbak Canyon and Danum Valley as wildlife corridor.

Four methodologies used for wildlife survey, that is through camera-traps placed in strategic locations, through survey by car, recce walk/ transect line and gibbon calls.

Camera traps



Data analysis from our camera traps recorded that the *Sambar Deer* and *Bearded Pig* are two of the highest presence detected from our camera traps.

From all of the wildlife presence detected and recorded, three Totally Protected species were present which is the *Sun Bear, Borneon Pygmy Elephant and Banteng / Tembadau.*

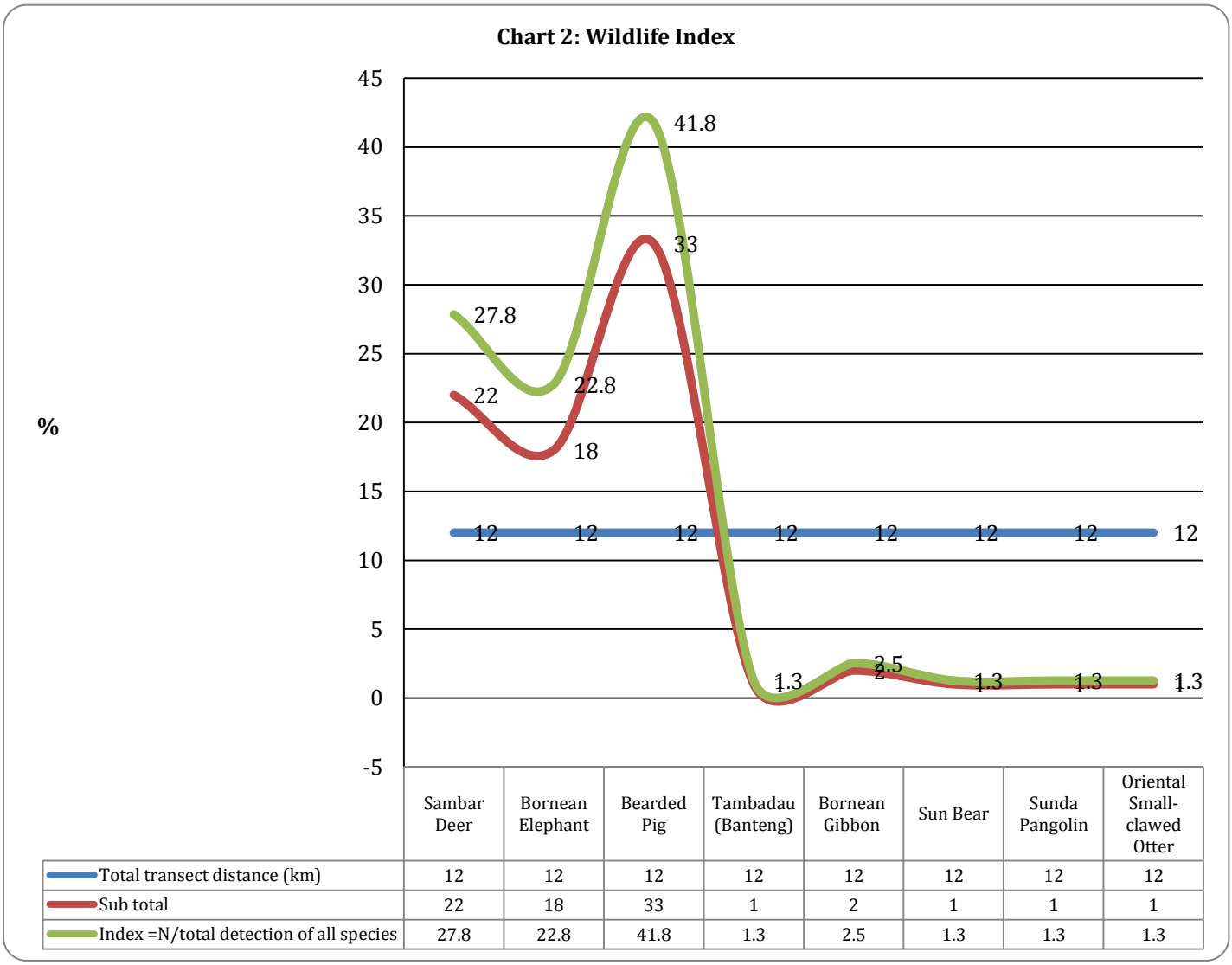
We have 17 camera traps in total, being placed and installed in specific locations.

Recce Walk/ Transect line

This is a method where our wildlife survey team needs to recce monitoring by walking along a designated transect line of 2,000 meters. There are a total of 6 permanent transect lines. Identification criteria include mud rubbing, footprints, sound, direct sightings, and scratching marks.

Summary of the analysis from our survey data are as follows:

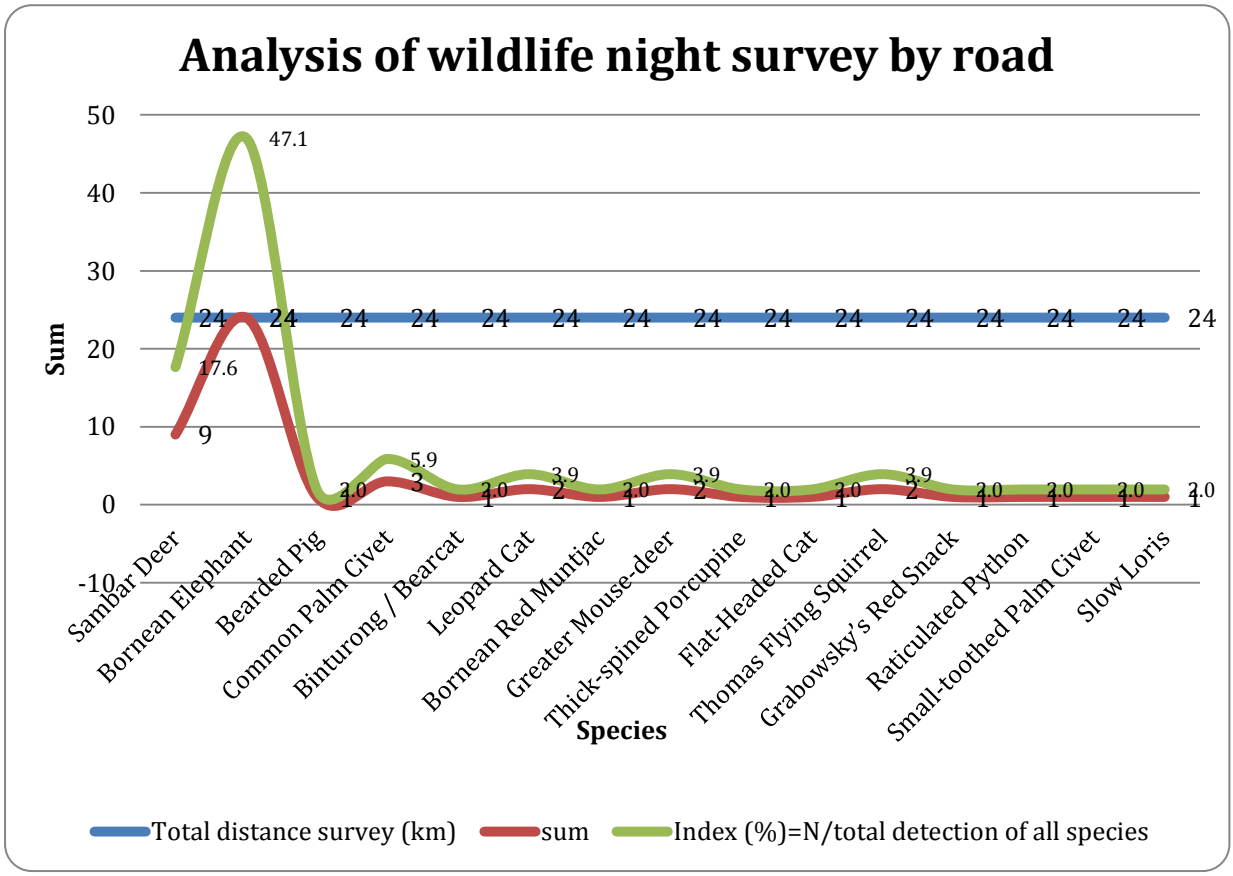
Chart 2. Wildlife index (Index=N(Number of wildlife detected X 100)
total detection of all species



	Sambar Deer	Bornean Elephant	Bearded Pig	Tambadau (Banteng)	Bornean Gibbon	Sun Bear	Sunda Pangolin	Oriental Small-clawed Otter
Total transect distance (km)	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Sub total	22	18	33	1	2	1	1	1
Index =N/total detection of all species	27.8	22.8	41.8	1.3	2.5	1.3	1.3	1.3

Night Survey by Car

Table 3 (a) Wildlife index (Index=N (Number of wildlife detected X 100) Distance survey (b) Wildlife index (Index=N (Number of wildlife detected X 100) Total detection of all species			**April**	**May**	**June**	**July**	**August**	**Total distance survey (km)**	**sum**	***Index=N /Total distance***	**(%) Index =N/total detection of all species**
1	**Sambar Deer**	***Cervus Unicolor***	*8*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*9*	0.38	17.6
2	**Bornean Elephant**	***Elephas Maximus***	*8*	*0*	*16*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*24*	1	47.1
3	**Bearded Pig**	***Sus Barbatus***	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
4	**Common Palm Civet**	***Paradoxurus Hermaphroditus***	*2*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*3*	0.13	5.9
5	**Binturong / Bearcat**	***Arctictis Binturong***	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
6	**Leopard Cat**	***Felis planiceps***	*1*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*2*	0.08	3.9
7	**Bornean Red Muntjac**	***Muntiacus muntjac***	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
8	**Greater Mouse-deer**	***Tragulus napu***	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*24*	*2*	0.08	3.9
9	**Thick-spined Porcupine**	***Thecurus crassispinis***	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
10	**Flat-Headed Cat**	***Prionailurus planiceps***	*0*	*1*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
11	**Thomas Flying Squirrel**		*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*1*	*24*	*2*	0.08	3.9
12	**Grabowsky's Red Snack**		*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*0*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
13	**Raticulated Python**		*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
14	**Small-toothed Palm Civet**		*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
15	**Slow Loris**		*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*1*	*24*	*1*	0.04	2.0
		Sum							*51*		100



Night survey by road were done particularly to collect data of nocturnal wildlife. Main access road were identified and surveyed 4 times in 1 month. The survey starts at 8pm, covering a distance of 12 kilometers. Analysis from our data showed results of the Borneon Pygmy Elephant having the highest probability index, with probability of sighting of 1 elephant in 1 kilometer. The month of June 2014 saw the highest number of sightings of these elephants. Other species sighted were Sambar Deer, Bearded Pig, Binturong or Bear Cat, Flat Headed Cat and Borneon Red Muntjac.

FR's boundary in critical need of demarcation. In the meantime, re-brushing of adopted boundaries will be sufficient enough for monitoring purposes.

Signboards placed along the boundary of the Project Area.

Infrastructure Development

Northern Gunung Rara (NGR) SFM site office and staff quarters is located at Empayar Kejora's main complex, constructed and built by the company in 2012. There are plans to add additional Mobile Field Outposts within the Project area for enforcement and safeguarding purposes. The proposed Mobile Field Outposts will be similar to Ulu Segama-Malua Forestry District's Field Outpost.

Northern Gn Rara's Field Outpost (Office & Quarters)

Logistics

One of the most important components of this project is logistics. Patrolling, surveys, routine monitoring of silviculture works and restoration program, require logistics. Currently, two 4WD vehicles were provided for this purpose specifically for NGR SFM Project. We are supported by a number of vehicles from Kalabakan Forestry District to accommodate insufficient transportation vehicles. We also ensure that these vehicles are well maintained. Furthermore, point-to-point radio calls and walkie-talkie provided us with ease of communication during field works.

Road Maintenance

Accessibility to and within silviculture tending blocks and planting blocks must be maintained. Road maintenance ensures that monitoring works are continued without difficulty. In the year 2013, a total of 9,000 meters of road access to and within planting blocks and silviculture blocks were maintained, ensuring continuity in monitoring works. Those aside, there are still many old road accesses that need maintenance, especially road access to future silviculture blocks.

Administration and Field Works Management

This component ensures administration and management works runs smoothly. Office utensils, equipment, printers and photocopiers were bought so that NGR staffs can work efficiently at site office. Site office can now be utilized at full, thus ensuring the fluency of reporting within NGR SFM Project. Forest Resource Management (FRM) Unit also provided us with GPS and compass, as well as maps of the area.

Capacity Building and Training

Trainings for staffs as well as for contractors are an important aspect to ensure the success of this project. It is also a requirement needed in the process of getting this project certified for FSC Certification. From the start of this project May 2012 until early 2014, our officers and supporting staffs were sent to numerous trainings organized by Sabah Forestry Department and by other agencies such as NIOSH, WWF and HUTAN/KOCP. NGR SFM Field Manager, Mr. Adrian Rawlenes were selected to take part in Basic Train The Trainer (OSH) by NIOSH in October 2013, and NIOSH also (with joint organizer by Sabah Forestry Department), organized Basic Introduction to Occupational Safety & Health Course, and also Basic First Aid Training. Forestry staffs as well as representatives from contractors within FMU's participated in that course. Other noted courses and trainings are Camera Trap and SMART Patrolling Course by WWF, as well as Wildlife Monitoring Phase 1 and 2 by HUTAN/KOCP.

Occupational, Safety & Health (OSH) Basic First Aid Training

Wildlife Survey & Monitoring Course

Certification

This perhaps will be one of this project's main objective and target within a period of 2 planning years until the mid-term FMP period. The SFD intends to become FSC certified to demonstrate that we are managing the Project Area responsibly. We want to ensure that the products (environmental/ecosystem services) come from the Project Area as a well-managed forest.

In order for the SFD to obtain the "Green Certification" for the Project Area by 2014, the certain management actions must to be carried out during the Plan period. It is an uphill task that requires all the resource and commitment of SFD, particularly Kalabakan Forestry District Office and the support from SFD Headquarters and Committee as well as all relevant stakeholders.

This will be in two-part process, the Pre-Assessment will identify all gaps that needs to be closed and rectified, and then comes the Full-Evaluation which will determine whether this Project can be awarded a Green Certification.

Visitors to the Project Area

1. Visit by the Director of Forestry, YBhg. Datuk Sam Mannan on the 16th February 2013.
2. Visit by UNDP-GEF Technical Working Group (TWG) led by Mr. Jeflus S. Sinajin on the 25th July 2013.
3. Visit by the Deputy Director of Forestry (Forest Sector Planning), Mr. Frederick Kugan on the 5th February 2014.

Visit by the Director of Forestry to the Silviculture Area within NGR SFM

Visit by UNDP-GEF TWG led by Mr. Jeflus S. Sinajin

Visit by the Deputy Director (Forest Sector Planning), Mr. Frederick Kugan