

HCV 4 SERVICE OF NATURE

HCV 4.1 Watershed protection

HCV 4.1 includes dam catchment areas and any forest area legally gazetted as a Protection Forest for water catchment under the National Forestry Act 1984, water protection area under the Sabah Water Resources Enactment 1998 or Class I Protection Forest Reserve under the Sabah Forest Enactment 1968, water catchment areas under the Sarawak Water Ordinance 1994 or areas classified as Terrain 4 in Sarawak's First Schedule: Forest Management Plan, and Forest Timber License, or areas gazetted for watershed protection under any other state or federal legislation e.g. the National Land Code 1965 (WWF-Malaysia, 2009).

Findings

Trusan Sugut FR is a HCV 4.1 as it is already a protection forest, according to the definition as above. However, due to its location at the mouth of the Sugut River, which is also downstream and away from users of freshwater (Figure 4), Trusan Sugut FR does not seem likely to provide clean water to local communities although it would be crucial to aquatic life, e.g. fish species which spend their early stages of lives in tributaries/ mangrove areas, and ecosystems that are dependent on clean freshwater.

Furthermore, the headwaters of Sugut Parai River originate from TSFR and this river has been recently established as a traditional protection system or *tagal* by the local communities to conserve fish stock. Therefore, clean freshwater would be essential to maintain the habitat of aquatic species important to the livelihoods of local communities (see HCV 5).

Management Recommendations

Any future construction of infrastructure (i.e. roads and buildings) must take into account the location of watersheds and care must be taken to prevent or minimise soil movement in these areas.

Monitoring Recommendations

Water bodies should be monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that the water is of good quality.