

HCV 6 CULTURAL IDENTITIES OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES

A forest is considered HCV 6 if it has been important for a local (particularly indigenous) community's cultural, ecological, or religious activities. The community may be living either in or adjacent to the forest. Examples of such sites within a forest include burial grounds or sacred areas which cannot be replaced with alternatives and/or would cause drastic cultural change within the community.

Identification and management of this HCV must always involve participation of the communities themselves (WWF-Malaysia, 2009).

Findings

Through consultations with the local communities, HCV 6 is deemed to be potentially present through the identification of a c.a. 200 year-old burial site (Bujang Timah), *Bukit Kumbawan* and *Malawaring* within the Trusan Sugut FR. *Bukit Kumbawan* is thought to be of a mythical village that disappeared into the ground whereas *Malawaring* is a cluster of Malawaring trees (*Arenga* palm spp.) thought to represent human beings who were cursed. According to the villagers, it is forbidden to get near the latter two sites. Kg. Terusan Sugut also has a rich and old history dating back to 200 years ago where it was one of the major trade centres for forest products in this region (Corpuz, 2015).

Although insignificant, bamboo and rattan obtained from the forest are also used by the local communities to make handicraft.

Management Recommendations

Similar to HCV 5, reserve management should consult the local communities further to develop a system of allowing them access to the relevant sites in the reserve.

Monitoring Recommendations

Similar to HCV 5, a monitoring system will be developed after further consultation with local communities.