

HCV 6 (CULTURAL IDENTITY OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES)

Definition from Malaysia National Toolkit (2009): Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.

A forest is considered HCVF 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 alternative and/or would cause drastic cultural change within the community. Identification and management of this HCV must always involve participation of the communities themselves.

Attribute	Segama Dusun or 'Dusun Segama' is a small but quite minority indigenous group. The Segama Dusun population is a largely farming community that concentrated in four main villages which constitute the mukim of Ulu Segama, which is located in the middle reaches of the river valley, adjacent to Ulu Segama and Malua FRs. The four villages i.e. Bukit Belacon, Kg Lituk Pulau, Kg Tawayari and Kg Opak, include small subsidiary villages and scattered settlements of individuals dwelling house distributed on both banks of the Segama River. This area can be considered the heartland of the Segama Dusun. The Segama Dusun community still practices unique living tradition in the cave burials and occasionally visits their ancestor's burial ground at Tapadong Caves which is located in VJR Merisuli.
Management Recommendations	To ensure the area fully safe guard for the benefit for communities and project
Monitoring Recommendations	Periodic monitoring and patrolling should be carried out to prevent encroachment within the burial site
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct multi-stakeholder consultation with the Segama community • Boundary demarcation and installation of sign boards • Conduct awareness program to Segama Community to preserve the traditional cultural identity • Ground perimeter boundary patrol executed periodically

Measurable Effectiveness Indicators

Dialogues with Segama Dusun communities have been conducted regularly to give awareness on conservation efforts within forest reserve by the SFD and explain do's and don'ts while visiting ancestor's burial ground at Tapadong Cave. Majority of the Segama communities that still practice cave burials tradition are Kristian and average frequency locals visiting their ancestor's burial is once in 2 or 3 years. To enhance cooperation between SFD and Segama Dusun communities in controlling the threats of poaching and encroachment, the local communities are given priorities for employment opportunities in forest operations particularly in forest restoration and silviculture activities. This effort help the communities to better understand the forest rules and functions, and spread the awareness amongst their villagers.

Figure 1: Identified area for HCV 6 within Ulu Segama-Malua SFM.

