Strengthening non-state actor involvement in forest governance in Indonesia, MALAYSIA, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea

Preliminary Work (Meetings, Surveys, Seminar) of Conducting the Scientific Expedition to Ulu Muda

By

Malaysian Nature Society Kedah Branch

13 December 2018

Vistana Kuala Lumpur Titiwangsa

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STRENGTHENING NON-STATE ACTOR INVOLVEMENT IN FOREST GOVERNANCE

INDONESIA • MALAYSIA • THE PHILIPPINES • PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Burung Indonesia • HARIBON FOUNDATION • Tenkile Conservation Alliance • WOLVERHAMPTON • CIDT

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Introduction

1. MNS Kedah together with MNS Head office Secretariat proposed to conduct a two year scientific expedition to Ulu Muda Forest Reserve (UMFR) in the North Eastern Kedah. UMFR has a catchment forest of 160,000 ha to harvest water for double cropping of rice in the Muda Irrigation scheme which produces 45% of the national rice requirement in addition to supplying water for both domestic and industrial usage in the three northern States of Kedah, Perlis and Penang.

2. UMFR is the largest remaining tract of contiguous rainforest in north-western Peninsular Malaysia where the rich biodiversity in flora and fauna has not been fully explored, study and documented.

3. Extraction of timber has been given to logging companies at the Southern part of UMFR for the past few years. Logging will cause severe erosion of the pristine forests and siltation of the rivers and dams. It will also affected the rain water harvesting function leading to water shortage in the future. Logging will also affect the rich flora and fauna in UMFR.

4. The EU–Bird Life International funding to MNS Kedah is for the preliminary work of the expedition. This includes meeting the officials of the relevant government agencies and politicians, surveying the proposed areas, conducting public forum and talks, presenting our proposal to local inhabitants, and the purchase of equipment.

Amount : RM 32,000.00

Sum received so far: RM 18,000.00

Project Duration: 1st September 2017 to 31st August 2018

Implementation Team:

Executive Committee of MNS Kedah Branch:
Chairman: Lt Colonel (R) Husamudin Yaacob
Vice-Chairman: Mohamad Yani Madewnus
Secretary: Phang Fatt Khow
Treasurer: Tan Dek
Committee Members: Syed Shafizan, Abdul Ghani, Nor Kanzu Abu Bakar
Co-opted MNS Kedah Members:
Wan Muhaimin, Mej (R) Amer, Ms Yeoh Liew Kee

1. Project Area: Ulu Muda Forest Reserve located in north-western Kedah comprising 162,000 hectares of catchment forest rich in biodiversity

2. Objectives: To lay the groundwork for a long term (2 years or more) scientific expedition of Ulu Muda Forest Reserve beginning in 2019. This involves organizing seminar to publicize the expedition to the authorities and the public, meeting and engaging the relevant government agencies to gain their support and approval.

3. Execution: The MNS Kedah Committee will organize the seminar and give talks, arrange for meeting with MADA, Forestry Department, Wildlife and Park Department, Irrigation and Drainage Department, Kedah State Exco on Environment, local leaders around Ulu Muda areas, conduct exploratory trips into UMFR, and the purchase of equipment, etc.

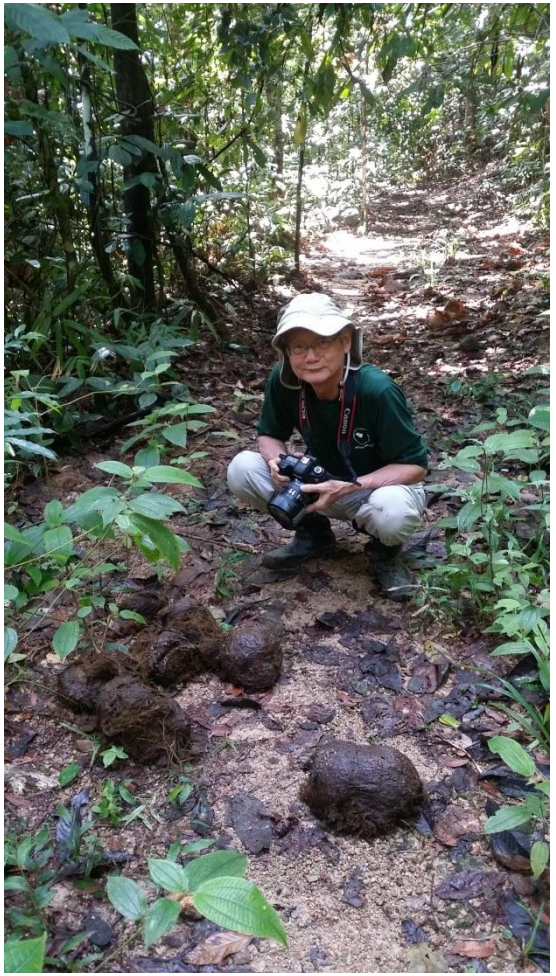
4. Expected Output: (i) To get the approval from the Kedah State government to carry out the expedition; (ii) to form the support team of MNS members and local residents around Ulu Muda area for the expedition; (iii) to obtain the MADA's Muda Dam exhibition centre as base camp for the expedition.

Progress Report

1. Recce drive through the southern part of Ulu Muda Forest by 4 wd vehicles in the old logging trails to check the conditions of the forests, rivers, salt licks and signs of animal tracks, etc. on 5-7 January 2018

Logging activities at the Southern part of Ulu Muda Forests

Hot Spring Salt Lick and fresh elephant dungs



2. Workshop and Public Forum on Ulu Muda

Date: 29 January 2018

Hotel Seri Malaysia at Jalan Stadium, Alor Setar

Attendance: 78 participants (Government officers, NGO, public)

Officially opened by YB Dato' Dr. Leong Yong Kong, State Exco on Environment.

Speakers:

1. Ku Kun Bin Nik Man, Muda Agricultural Development Authority (MADA)
2. Mohd Firdaus Bin Yahaya, Kedah Wildlife and National Park Department
3. Dato' Ir Jaseni Bin Maidinsa, CEO Penang Water Board
4. Prof Ahmad Ismail, Malaysian Nature Society

Public discussion conducted by Prof Ahmad Ismail of MNS Head office on the alternative uses of Ulu Muda Forest Reserve and the need for an scientific expedition in UMFR.

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SEMINAR HUTAN ULU MUDA
Warisan Alam Semula Jadi Kedah
29th January 2018
Hotel Seri Malaysia, Alor Setar Kedah
PERSATUAN PENCINTA ALAM MALAYSIA CAWANGAN KEDAH
MALAYSIAN NATURE SOCIETY (MNS)
MY forest

3. MNS Kedah set up a booth at the Expo Muafakat Kedah (24 /2/2018 to 3/3/2018) at Alor Setar Stadium to promote the Scientific Expedition to Ulu Muda to public and to recruit new members

MNS Chairman Col. Husamudin gave a briefing on Ulu Muda to the visiting Raja Muda of Kedah and Kedah State Exco on Environment when they visited MNS stall during the Expo Muafakat Kedah

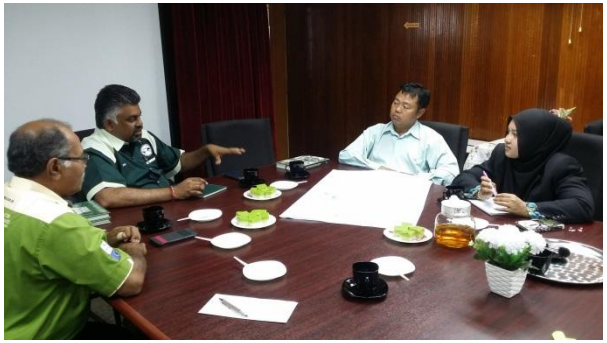
Briefing to the new Mentri Besar of Kedah, Dato’ Seri Mukhriz Mahathir when he visited MNS stall.

4. The relevant government agencies contacted by MNS Kedah on the Ulu Muda Forest reserves and to brief them on the proposed scientific expedition.

Meeting with YB Dato' Leong Yong Kong, Kedah Exco on Environment

Met and held discussion with General Manager of MADA (twice)

Discussion with the Director of Wildlife Department Kedah



Meeting with Kedah State Forestry Dept. Officers (twice)

Talked with Drainage and Irrigation Dept. Officer

4. MADA has given permission for MNS to use its Ulu Muda Interpretative Centre (Gallery Lebah) on the shore of Muda dam as expedition secretariat. A clean up of the centre was carried out by 28 members of MNS on 20th October 2018

5. Identifying sites for the Ulu Muda Scientific Expedition.

Mada Resort near to Muda dam for visiting scientists and researchers

Earth Lodge (12 chalets) at Sungai Labua Camp, 2hr by boat from Muda Dam

6. Talks and Exhibits of Ulu Muda by MNS Kedah

Exhibit of Ulu Muda on World Earth Day at Nichias FGS Sdn Bhd Factory in Jitra on 18 April 2018.

Talk on Environment and Ulu Muda to secondary students of SMK Parit Panjang, Kupang, Baling 25 .4.2018 given by Branch Chairman Colonel Husamudin

7. Purchase of 2 Fibre glass Boats (Model 14D) with engines & accessories for the expedition to Ulu Muda Forests. Test run at Muda Lake on 28 November 2018.

Funds received & Expenditures

A. **Fund received** (5/2/2018 & 6/7/2018) **RM 19,200.00**

B. **Expenditures**

1. Workshop & Public Forum on Ulu Muda 29/1/2018 (Rental of Sri Malaysia Hotel, Banners, Rolled up stands streamers, food & beverages etc)	RM	5,022.65
2. Purchase 2 fibre glass boat Model140D	RM	4,200.00
3. Motor engine for boat	RM	1,250.00
4. Engine poker and propeller shaft	RM	644.00
5. Miscellaneous expenditures for boast, anchors, roof top carriers, life jackets (10 pcs), Ropes, straps, etc.	RM	590.00
6. Garmin GPS Map 64	RM	1,350.00
7. MNS logo stickers 7 "	RM	175.00
8. Seagate backup HD	RM	200.00
9. Allowances for a 3D2N recce into Ulu Muda with 3 trackers and 4 members	RM	1,500.00
10. Members clean up of MADA's exhibition hall	RM	296.00
11. Petrol Claims for sending boat from A Star to Muda Dams	RM	150.00
TOTAL:	**RM**	**15,377.65**

BALANCE: **RM 3,822.35**

Issues and Challenges

1. Request for funding of the Ulu Muda Scientific expedition scheduled for 2019 to 2020. A two year scientific expedition will require a large sum of money estimated to be at least RM 5 million.

2. We are optimistic that the present Kedah State government will grant MNS the permission to carry out the scientific Expedition to Ulu Muda, leading to preserving UMFR as catchment forests for water and its rich biodiversity and eventually establishing Ulu Muda as another National Park for Peninsular Malaysia.

3. We need a full commitment and support from MNS Head office for the implementation of this Ulu Muda project based on the modus operandi and experiences of our society's past expeditions to Belum and Endau-Rompin.

Thank You