

## ***EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***

The Timimbang-Botitian Forest Management Unit (FMU) covering 13,610 *ha*, comprises a cluster of 3 forest reserves located in the northeastern portion of Sabah. The management of all these reserves comes directly under the jurisdiction of the Beluran Forestry District of the Sabah Forestry Department. The vegetation of the area is broadly classified as logged-over mixed dipterocarp forest. It was logged between the period 1987 to 2007. Today the forest of Timimbang-Botitian is a mosaic of regenerating forests, relatively intact on the steeper slopes but characterized by pioneer vegetation on the flatter areas where logging was more intense. Nevertheless, the forest still represent an important repository of native biodiversity that is worth protecting. Under a protective management strategy, it can be expected to recover and provide suitable habitat for certain wildlife communities.

This forest management plan (FMP) defines the scope and prescribed activities for the management of the Timimbang-Botitian FMU over a 10-year period beginning from 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2014 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2023. The Timimbang-Botitian FMU is planned to be managed primarily as a protected area where commercial logging is prohibited. The primary long-term goal of forest management focuses largely on the conservation and protection of wild flora and fauna. Given this focus, direct financial benefits is not an important requirement in the management of this FMU. The main activities for this 10-year planning period focus on wildlife management, forest restoration and protection, and developing opportunities for forest recreation.

The principal goal of wildlife management in Timimbang-Botitian is to maintain and enhance populations of wildlife that are native to the area. This may be done by maintaining and enhancing specific habitats, controlling poaching, and forest restoration. Considerations are also given to forest connectivity. The maintenance of habitat for threatened and endangered species is given special emphasis. Poaching is evident in Timimbang-Botitian, and is the likely cause of low wildlife abundance and diversity in both Botitian and Timimbang, and perhaps poses the biggest immediate threat to wildlife in the area. A key activity during this management planning period is the monitoring of wildlife populations.

Another key goal of this FMP is to ensure the conservation and protection of native flora within the Timimbang-Botitian Forest Management Unit. The main activities prescribed under this FMP are those associated with forest restoration, such as vine cutting, direct planting, and the long-term exclusion of logging. Permanent sample plots will also be established to monitor long-term forest dynamics and recovery.

The demand for recreational opportunities in forest reserves is increasing for numerous reasons. The Forestry Department is expected to allow more regulated use of forest reserves in order to meet this demand. Recreational activities in forests include watching wildlife, fishing, camping, mountain biking, hiking, picnicking, educational excursions, etc. The use of forests for such activities greatly improves the value of forests to society, despite the exclusion of major economic activities such as commercial timber production. Currently, Timimbang-Botitian is not used for any public recreational activity. This FMP prescribes further work to assess the potential of developing Timimbang-Botitian for public recreation.

The conservation status of dipterocarps, birds, and mammals were assessed according to the IUCN Red List, CITES and WCE list of protected wildlife and plants. This is summarized below:

Descriptions	Mammals	Birds	Trees
Family	13	38	1 (Dipterocarp only)
Species (total)	27	161	86
Endemic to Borneo	6	-	16
IUCN Red List (Threatened)	10	44	17
CITES	11	5	-
Wildlife Conservation Enactment (WCE)	14	7	-

### Dipterocarps

Eighty six (86) species of dipterocarps have been recorded for the Timimbang-Botitian FMU from two surveys. Twenty eight (28) of these are Bornean endemics. Twenty five (25) species are identified as critically endangered according to the IUCN Red List. One critically endangered Sabah endemic recorded in Timimbang is *Shorea symingtonii*.

### Birds

At least 161 species from 38 families of birds are known to occur in Timimbang-Botitian. Of these, 44 species (27.3 %) are classified as Near Threatened, and 3 species are classified as Vulnerable according to the IUCN Red List. Timimbang A appears to support a greater diversity of birds compared to Botitian.

### Mammals

Mammals that were recorded and divided into three categories, which are primates, small mammals and large mammals. For primates, 4 known families were identified, 5 families for small mammals, and 4 families for large mammals. Bornean endemic species including *Hylobates muelleri* (Bornean gibbon) and *Pongo pygmaeus* (Orang Utan) are also listed in IUCN, CITES and WCE as threatened and totally protected species.