

4.2 HCV 2: Landscape Level Forest

This is defined as “Forest area contains or is part of a globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape level forest where significant populations of most if not all naturally occurring wildlife species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.

Any forest area that forms or is part of a linkage between larger forest complexes, and can thus provide connectivity between fragments or act as a wildlife corridor for the movement of animals from one complex to another, is considered HCV 2. This HCVF can serve as a buffer zone to protected areas. Its identification and management should be tailored towards the needs of umbrella species i.e. sensitive, wide ranging wildlife that are particularly susceptible to forest fragmentation and human population pressures.”

Findings

On landscape level, TBSFM area is part of a larger forest reserve complex within the eastern part of Sabah, bordering other Class II Commercial reserve, namely Bonggaya FR and Ulu Tungud FR on the eastern part of Timimbang Part A and on the western part of Timimbang Part B, respectively. TBSFM area consists of 3 clusters of forest reserves that have no direct linkages and isolated by rivers, roads, villages and oil palm estates, especially Botitian FR. With the management that focuses on the protection and conservation of biodiversity, TBSFM area would inevitably become a critical link from the aspects of plant species dispersal and wildlife foraging and migratory pathways between the different forest complexes among TBSFM area. By creating connectivity among clusters of the reserves, it will provide more habitats and path movements for wildlife in the landscape level around these areas (Figure 13). Considering the potential and prospect of wildlife diversity and its importance at the landscape level, recommendations will be provided on the management and monitoring level. However, creating connectivity on adjacent alienated land to TBSFM area will be a big challenge to the Department as it involves other private lands.

Rationale for HCV boundary delineation

The entire TBSFM should be categorised as HCV 2 as potential for linking large forested areas between Bonggaya and Ulu Tungud Forest Reserves is applicable (Figure 13).

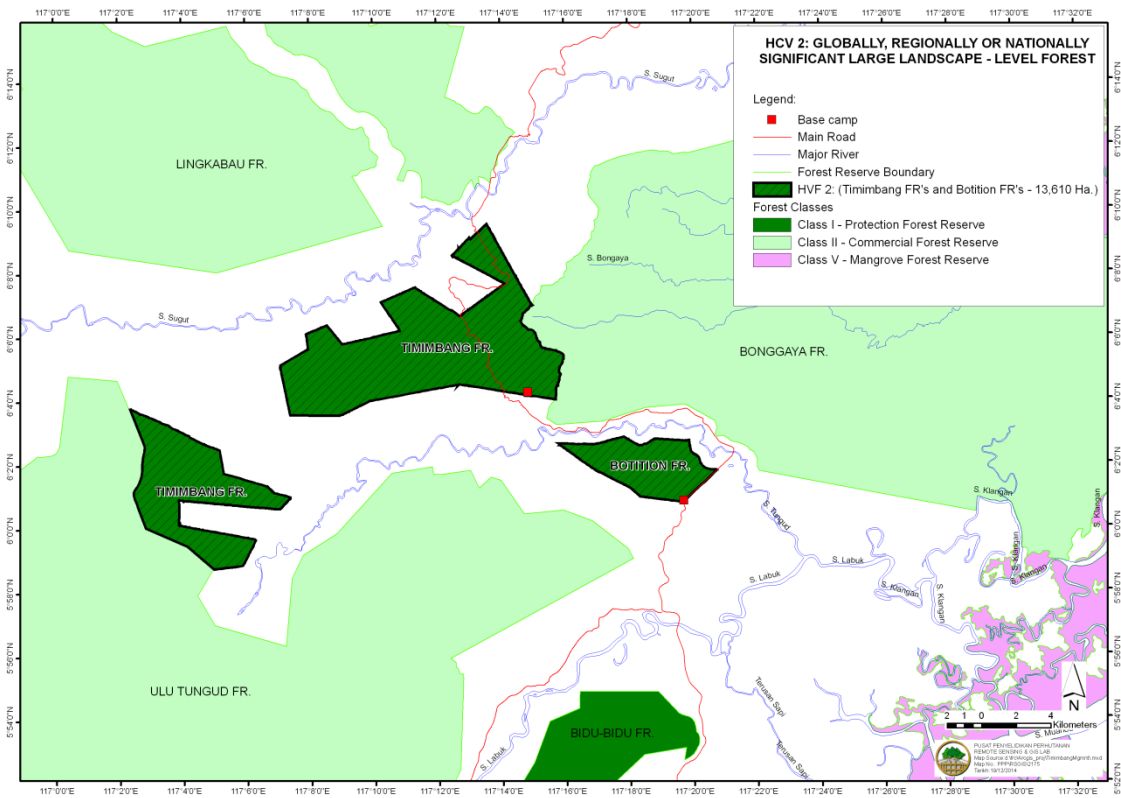


Figure 13. Map showing TBSFM categorised as HCV 2.