

4.3 HCV 3: Ecosystem

This has been defined as: “Forest areas that is in or contains rare, threatened or endangered ecosystem. Any forest area that contains an ecosystem/habitat type identified as a priority for protection by National Conservation Strategy (NCS), PERHILITAN Ecosystem Assessment report, Forestry Departments, FRIM or SFC, and/or is confirmed as such by current expert opinion, is HCV 3. Some ecosystems are naturally rare, but some others are becoming increasingly threatened by pressure from human activities. Due to rapid changes, existing data may be outdated and some particularly threatened ecosystems may already need to be considered Priority 1. A good example of this would be Lowland Dipterocarp Forests, Peat Swamps Forests and Limestone Habitats. Always refer to current expert opinion for confirmation.”

Findings

About 6,257 ha of TBSFM is estimated to be below 200 m a.s.l. and covered with forest of various quality including lowland of mixed dipterocarp forest and secondary forest on previously lowland mixed dipterocarp forest. The area previously covered with lowland seasonal freshwater swamp forest has been encroached and planted with oil palm. The management team has addressed this issue by removing all the oil palms and restore the area by planting indigenous tree species.

Rationale for HCV boundary delineation

The forests located below 200 m a.s.l contain rare, endangered, threatened and also endemic species and appropriate to be categorised as HCV 3 (Figure 14).

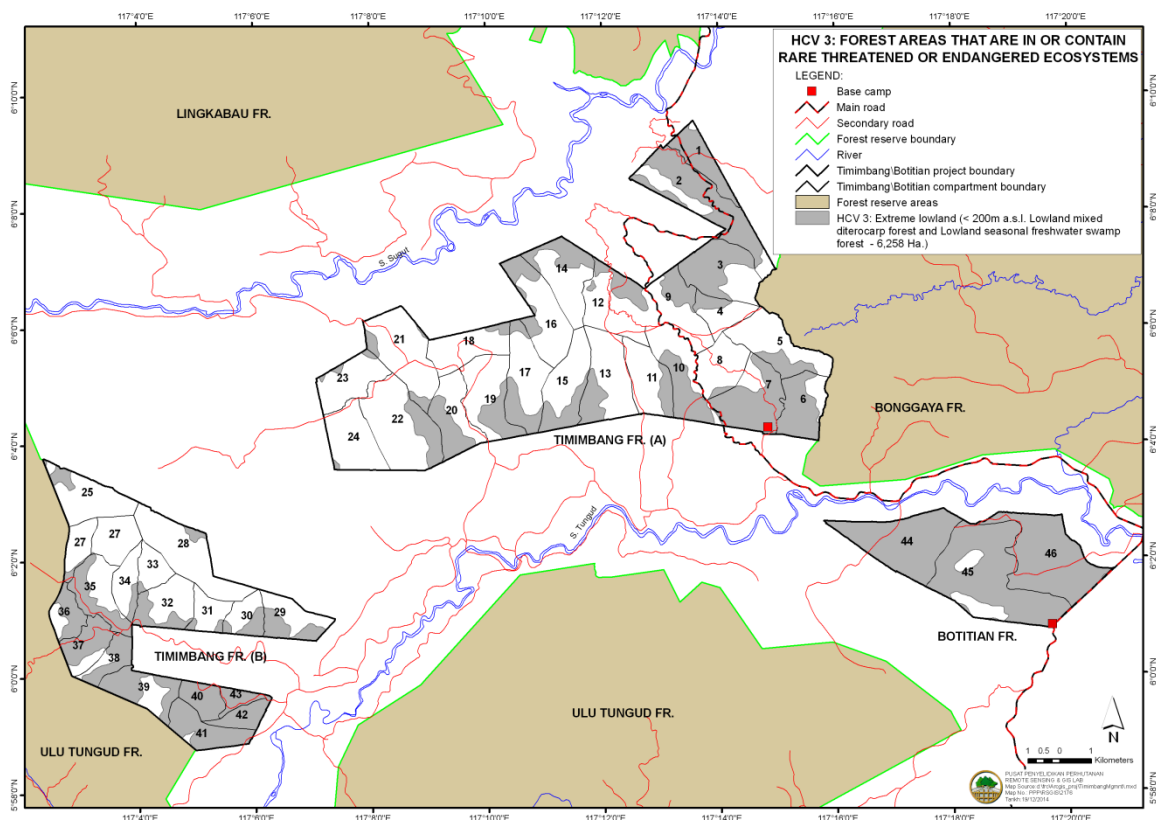


Figure 14. The location of extreme lowland forest that are categorised as HCV 3 in TBSFM area, Sabah.