As part of the Kuba’an-Puak Corridor Project on sustainable forest management, WWF-Malaysia has been engaging with Penan communities in the area to set up a community representative committee. This platform allows them to communicate with timber companies and forest authorities. Before this, the Penan did not have the means and capacity to express their grievances and expectations about how their forests should be managed. Through capacity building and learning visits, the community is increasingly confident in raising their opinions and issues with external stakeholders. With these positive signs, they will continue to strengthen their participation and ownership over the governance and management of their forests.

The Lun Bawang community in Ba’ Kelalan are expert farmers who are carrying out sustainable rice farming using System of Rice Intensification (SRI). This environmentally-friendly method aims to increase yield using less water and avoiding chemicals. WWF-Malaysia supported the farmers in training and learning exchanges with help from a local SRI expert. In 2018, 12 farmers from Long Langai village piloted the method. During the harvest season in January 2019, 1 of the pilot plots produced 7 sacks of rice, a significant increase from 4 during the previous harvest. This success has motivated the farmers to expand their SRI plots and work towards organic farming.

Programme contact
Lee Sheu Jeen
Manager, Community Engagement and Education (CEE)
WWF-Malaysia
Tel: +603 7450 3773
Email: sjlee@wwf.org.my
COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

Many of the world’s ecosystems and areas of high biodiversity under threat are also home to indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), whose livelihoods and cultures are closely dependent on nature. They have traditional knowledge and experience in managing natural resources sustainably, and are the natural guardians of the environment. As such, securing the rights and wellbeing of IPLCs is crucial in conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable development.

GOAL OF CEE

WWF-Malaysia’s Community Engagement and Education (CEE) Programme focuses on working with IPLCs as key partners who play an important role in protecting the environment. The goal is to achieve more inclusive, equitable and sustainable conservation outcomes.

CEE STRATEGIES

- Community outreach and awareness
- Capacity building and learning exchange
- Sustainable livelihood programmes
- Equitable access to and sharing of benefits
- Platforms for community partnerships and networks
- Community involvement in policy and decision making processes
- Tools and approaches to guide CEE

WHERE WE WORK

1. Setiu Wetlands, Terengganu
   Supporting women’s groups and community-based organisations in wetlands conservation through mangrove replanting, eco-tourism and sustainable livelihoods.

2. Northern Banjaran Titiwangsa, Perak
   Engaging Orang Asli communities in the Belum-Temengor Forest Complex to increase awareness and participation in efforts to protect Malayan Tigers.

3. Padang Kemunting, Melaka
   Engaging local communities in community-based beach patrolling, hatchery management and sustainable tourism for turtle conservation.

4. Lubok Antu and Song-Katibas, Sarawak
   Engaging with Iban communities to develop sustainable livelihood initiatives for biodiversity conservation and economic wellbeing.

5. Kuban-Puak, Sarawak
   Engaging with Penan communities for the improvement of livelihoods and strengthening community representation in sustainable forest management.

6. Maligan and Kelabit Highlands, Sarawak
   Supporting and empowering indigenous highland communities in sustainable rice farming, eco-tourism initiatives and river restoration to protect surrounding forests and headwaters.

7. Tun Mustapha Park, Sabah
   Supporting coastal and island communities to manage their own areas, protect marine environments and improve their livelihoods and wellbeing.

8. Semporna Priority Conservation Area, Sabah
   Supporting coastal and island communities to manage their own areas, protect marine environments and improve their livelihoods and wellbeing.

CEE STORIES

BERUNGUS

The local community in Berungus initiated community-based patrolling in their coastal area since the early 2000s, after realising that their fish catch was declining due to unsustainable practices such as fish bombing and encroachment of fishing trawlers. Since 2006, WWF-Malaysia has supported them with capacity building and provision of tools and equipment. The community takes ownership to document and report cases of illegal fishing to the enforcement agencies for further action. Due to their dedicated efforts over the years, fish stocks are now on the rise, with more income gained and lesser fuel needed on fishing trips.

OMADAL ISLAND

The Women’s Association of Pulau Omadal has been leading environmental efforts on their island since 2010. WWF-Malaysia supports them with capacity building and livelihood improvement through handicraft weaving. Over the years, the women have seen a steady increase in income from the sale of handicrafts. This income has been vital to support the members, mostly housewives, to buy household necessities, pay for transportation costs for schoolchildren, and distribute to family members. In addition, 10% of the proceeds are channelled to a fund for marine and turtle conservation activities, creating a sustainable model for both people and planet.