AN ASSESSMENT OF ON-GOING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
IN A RURAL GROWTH CENTRE (RGC) WITH REFERENCE TO
TELAGA AIR

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2002
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May God Bless Us All.
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appendix C</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following abbreviations are used in the text:
- CBIRD
- DDD
- FAO
- RGC
- IADP
- IRD
- MRLD
- PSC
- PTC
- PICC
- FELDA
- LDC
- KCC
- RIDA
- SAO
- SPSS
ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this study.

- CBIRD: Community Based Integrated Rural Development
- DDD: Divisional Development Officer
- FAO: Food and Agriculture Organisation
- RGC: Rural Growth Centre
- IADP: Integrated Agricultural Development Projects
- IRD: Integrated Rural Development
- MRLD: Ministry of Rural and Land Development
- PSC: Project Steering Committee
- PTC: Project Technical Committee
- PICC: Project Implementation and Coordination Committee
- FELDA: Federal Land Development Authority (FELDA)
- LDC: Less Developed Countries
- KCC: Killala Community Council
- RIDA: Rural Industrial Development Authority
- SAO: Sarawak Administrative Officer
- SPSS: Statistical Package for the Social Sciences
ABSTRACT

An Assessment of on-going Development Programme in a Rural Growth Centre (RGC) with reference to Telaga Air.

Within the next 20 years, Telaga Air will be transformed into a modern self sustaining agro-eco-tourism area populated with high quality community, inbuilt with strong esprit de corps, caring and concern characteristics. The aim of this study is to find out the status and performance of the ongoing development programme to the people of Telaga Air. Descriptive analysis (frequency distribution) was used to analyze the quantitative components of this study. A paired samples t-test analysis was used to verify if there was any significant difference in the level of income before and after the project was implemented. The finding shows that there was a significant difference in the level of income before and after the project was implemented. Correlation analysis was used to analyse the relationship between age and the respondents’ perception towards the development programme and educational attainment and the respondents’ perception towards the development programme. Based on the results of the analyses, there was no significant relationship between age and respondents’ perception towards the development programme and educational attainment and the respondents’ perception towards the development programme. Some of the issues and problems that relates to the on-going programme/project such as planning, land, implementation capability and capacity, price escalation and people’s participation, monitoring and evaluation were also discussed.
ABSTRAK

Penilaian ke atas pelaksanaan Program Pembangunan di Pusat Pertumbuhan Desa Telaga Air.

Dalam jangkama 20 tahun yang akan datang, Telaga Air akan diterapkan menjadi sebuah kawasan yang moden berasaskan agro-ekologis-pelancongan yang mampu. Penduduknya pula terdiri daripada golongan masyarakat yang berkualiti tinggi serta mempunyai semangat kerjasama, penyanggawaya dan mengambil berat diantara satu sama lain. Kajian ini adalah bertujuan untuk mengenalpasti kebudukan dan pencapaian program/proyek pembangunan yang sedang dilaksanakan bagi penduduk di Telaga Air. Untuk itu, analisa diskriptif (taburan kekerapan) telah digunakan untuk menganalisa komponen kuantitatif. Analisa - t telah digunakan bagi menunjukkan samada wujudnya peningkatan dalam pendapatan di antara pendapatan sebelum dan selepas projek dilaksanakan. Hasil analisisnya menunjukkan wujud peningkatan di antara pendapatan sebelum dan selepas projek dilaksanakan. Analisa korelasi telah digunakan untuk menunjukkan samada terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara umur dengan persepsi responden terhadap program pembangunan yang sedang dijalankan. Berdasar hasil keputusan analisis, tidak terdapat hubungan yang signifikan di antara umur responden dengan persepsi mereka terhadap program pembangunan yang sedang dijalankan. Begitu juga dengan taraf pendidikan responden dengan persepsi mereka terhadap program pembangunan yang sedang dijalankan. Hasil penemuan juga telah mendapati beberapa isu dan masalah yang telah dihadapi berhubung pelaksanaan projek yang sedang dijalankan di Telaga Air. Ini termasuk beberapa isu seperti isu perancangan, isu tanah, keupayaan dan kapasiti pelaksanaan, kenaikan kos projek, penyertaan penduduk tempatan dan isu pengawasan dan penilaian yang berkait rapat dengan pelaksanaan projek.
CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Countries throughout the world have been categorised as "developed", "undeveloped" or "developing". Usage of this terminology implies that "developed" countries have reached a stage that "developing" countries have not yet managed to attain, and that once a country is "developed" many of its problems, particularly those relating to poverty, are over. While this of course is untrue, the state of being "developed" is still upheld as a goal to be achieved.

However, development has an implicit reference to an improvement in the livelihoods of poor people. The spatial distribution of poverty is not even; the majority of the world's poor tend to be concentrated within the tropics, live in rural areas, and rely on some form of agriculture for their livelihood. Hence rural development, focusing attention on tropical household farming systems, should be the centre of any development strategy. The concept of rural development incorporates different ideologies, goals and strategies. Which ideology is accepted, which goals and objectives are adopted, and which strategy is pursued, will determine who will be the beneficiaries of rural development policies.

In Malaysia, the concept of Masyarakat 2020, or the goal of becoming a fully "developed" country by the year 2020, is strongly promoted. Being a state in the Federation of Malaysia, development in Sarawak is shaped by five-year Malaysia Plans that have governed federal economic planning since the late 1960s. Although the State formulates and submits its own five-year plan, it conforms to federal policy and must be approved at the federal level. So development in Sarawak must first be seen in the Malaysian context. An important dimension is to bring balanced development to reduce the disparity in social and economic development across regions and states in Malaysia and to bring the standard of living and quality of life of lesser developed states at par with the richer states.

One of the strategies for a balanced development is through rural urbanisation. It involves the establishment of rural growth centres, each with a population of 2,500 people, throughout the country. These centres will be provided with basic urban services and facilities as well as sites for rural industries. They are created by regrouping at strategic locations of scattered villages in the rural areas. Besides attempting to improve the imbalances in the spatial distribution of urban places and the locations of economic activities in the national space, also intends to address the issue of restructuring society at large (Muhamad, 1992).

This chapter provides an overview of the Rural Growth Centres (RGCs) in the context of Sarawak with reference to Telaga Air. The Rural Growth Centre Programme has been formulated to transform the rural areas into attractive places to live and work in. Inevitably this programme will assist to speed up rural development as well as to eradicate poverty.
1.1 Background of the Study

The Telaga Air Rural Growth Centre (RGC) was planned and implemented by the State Government in line with the objective of the National Development Policy (NDP) which emphasizes balanced development. Under the Seventh Malaysia Plan, through the Ministry of Rural and Land Development (MRLD), the State Government of Sarawak has selected and established 10 RGCs throughout Sarawak (Table 1.1). The State Government aimed to develop the rural areas of Sarawak in a more systematic, coordinated and integrated manner through RGC Development Approach.

Table 1.1: List of the existing 10 RGCs in Sarawak

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality Name</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Telaga Air</td>
<td>Kuching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Padawan Complex</td>
<td>Kuching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Gedong</td>
<td>Samarahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Beladin</td>
<td>Sri Aman (presently Betong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Mid-Layar/Ng Spak</td>
<td>Sri Aman (presently Betong)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Semup</td>
<td>Sarieki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Balingian</td>
<td>Sibu (presently Mukah)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Long Lama</td>
<td>Miri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Long Semadah</td>
<td>Miri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Sundar/Awat-Awat</td>
<td>Limbang</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Ministry of Rural and Land Development, Sarawak.

Kampung Telaga Air was originally a small squatter of 26 families riverine fishing village located opposite to Kg. Sibu Laut on the north-west coast of Kuching. The Telaga Air RGC covers land area of 19,171 hectares is located on the west of Kuching district. The area consists mainly of flat mangrove and sandy land (71%), with hill and mountain formation in the interior. In consonance with the Federal Government Program Halacara Baru strategy in developing the rural and traditional villages, the State Government has chosen Kg. Telaga Air as a State Pilot Project in adopting such development approach. The selection of the area was earlier on made based on the need to legalise the squatters' problem of encroachment of mangrove Forest and its proximity to Kuching.

The development of Telaga Air is envisaged to stimulate and provide the socio-economic growth to the nearby villages. Equally important, to overcome the problem of inaccessibility and facilitate provision of support services to all of the villages, the establishment of Telaga Air Rural Growth Centre (RGC) is aim to encourage the resettlement of the population from those nearby small villages; namely Sibu Laut, Santin, Sg. Aur, Trombol, Loba and Teluk Simpor. Nonetheless the immigration and resettlement drive is found rather slow and unsatisfactory since the inception of the Project. The Project area has an estimated population of 1,298 peoples settling in 12 scattered and isolated traditional villages. About 80% of the population are within the poverty income group.
implemented by the State Development Policy (NDP) which the Ministry of Development has selected and integrated manner through

A riverine fishing village; The Telaga Air RGC Development Plan has been formulated in 1994. The Plan is envisaged to explore and plan for the expansion of the existing Telaga Air Service Centre (township), plan for the infrastructural and utilities linkages to the nearby villages as well as to develop and diversify the economic base of the area. The map shows the Location of Telaga Air and the proposed development plan for Telaga Air is attached in Appendix A.

The existing villagers are still reluctant to move to Telaga Air for economic reason. Not much income generating opportunities has been created in Telaga Air itself. Likewise the current physical developments that have been induced (since 1989) in Telaga Air are unable to provide the Growth Centre function to the overall catchments area. Infrastructural linkages from Telaga Air to most of the neighbouring villages are not available as yet.

Even though various physical development have been implemented particularly in Telaga Air, no significant economic and income generating program has been introduced to the region. Thus, since 1986 to 1993, no significant income improvement has occurred.

Based on the above scenario, the State Government decided to critically assess the overall regional context and resource potentials of the area, and a proper Telaga Air RGC Development Plan has been formulated in 1994. The Plan is envisaged to explore and plan for the expansion of the existing Telaga Air Service Centre (township), plan for the infrastructural and utilities linkages to the nearby villages as well as to develop and diversify the economic base of the area. The map shows the Location of Telaga Air and the proposed development plan for Telaga Air is attached in Appendix A.
There are approximately 12 areas of Sarawak. The major problems of the rural areas are:

i) Small population
ii) Largely isolated
iii) Most of the population is engaged in fishing, or such level of production

Various development concepts have been implemented by the government development agencies. Although various development activities have been implemented, most of the rural areas are still largely based on a sectoral economic-based activity. The thrust of the state rural development strategy commenced during this period.

In this decade (year 2002), "Pembangunan Pusat-Pusat Pesisir Utama" was started and have been used in accordance with the Federal Government Development Plan. The project area has great potential for aquaculture development. A total of 2,950 ha of land have been identified suitable for pond and 344 ha of water area for cage culture purposes. Suitable agriculture land is very limited due to poor soil type and has been alienated for other major project purposes. In the long term, the mangrove flora, fauna and the beaches will be the main tourist attractions of the Project area.

The aim of this study is to investigate the status and performance of the ongoing development programme with reference to Telaga Air. Since this is an ongoing programme, this study can be considered as part of the monitoring and evaluation (M&E) which constitute an important activity for successful programme implementation. It is hoped that useful information can be gathered on the utilization of project inputs, on the unfolding of project activities, on timely generation of project outputs, and on circumstances that are critical to the effective implementation of project.
1.2 Policies and Strategies of RGC Development in Sarawak

There are approximately 5,000 rural settlements found scattered all over the coastal and interior areas of Sarawak. The main characteristics of these rural settlements are:

i) small population size;

ii) largely isolated, scattered and are inaccessible;

iii) Most of the population undertake subsistence activities either in traditional farming, fishing, or such related activities. Income generating activities are very limited while the level of productivity is very low.

Various development constraints, both in the social and physical forms, have hindered government development efforts towards upgrading the quality of life of this rural population. Although various development efforts have been attempted to address the socio-economic problems of the rural areas, the development impact on the population is still minimal.

At present, the development strategies and programme formulated for the rural areas are still largely based on a Sectoral Approach. An Integrated Rural Development Strategy with broader economic-based activities has been formulated in the last decade in order to accelerate improvement in the quality of life of the rural population. A shift in the Integrated Rural Development Strategy has started in the Seventh Malaysia Plan when RGC development commenced during this period.

In this decade (year 2000-2010), Integrated Rural Growth Centre Development Concept ("Pembangunan Pusat-Pusat Pertumbuhan Desa Halacara Baru) will continue to be the main thrust of the state rural development strategies. The RGC concept will bring a total and comprehensive development both in the social and economic sectors of the rural population through integrated, sustainable development strategies and packages.

Under the RGC concept, development emphasis will be given to:

i) Develop and diversify the rural economic base through commercial activities either in production (primary and secondary activities), processing and services;

ii) Provide better basic infrastructure and social amenities to support a faster rural economic growth;

iii) Facilitate faster urbanisation and industrialisation process wherever possible to the rural traditional settlements; and

iv) Develop the human resource and local institution to generate rural entrepreneurship and cooperative society.
Based on the Workshop on Management & Implementation of Rural Growth Centre Programmes at Batang Ai Resort in April 2000, RGC development will be following these strategic directions:

i) The RGC in every division will act as a catalyst for rapid development of the rural areas;

ii) The establishment of at least 2 RGCs in every division will ensure that the rural population will not be left out of the development agenda; and

iii) The basis for identifying a potential area for this programme is to understand the potentials for the development of the core economic activities of the area.

1.3 Programme Development Objectives

The Project development objectives are as follows:

i. To develop Telaga Air as a Rural Growth Centre (RGC) which could stimulate the economic growth and provide the necessary administrative, commercial, rural industries (small to medium scale) and support services to the nearby villages;

ii. To promote urbanisation, commercialisation and industrialisation to the Project area;

iii. To diversify the Project economic base through the promotion and development of commercial agriculture, rural industries, commerce and services with a view to create broad based employment opportunities for the Project participants; and

iv. To attain higher household income level in order to alleviate poverty and enhance the overall quality of life of the Project participants;

1.4 Programme Development Thrust and Target

The development of Telaga Air RGC will place equal emphasis on the local potentials. Nonetheless the thrust will focus on the following areas:

i. Fisheries (especially aquaculture);

ii. Commercial Intensive Market farming;

iii. Cottage Industry;

iv. Commerce and Services;

v. Human Resource Development; and

vi. Infrastructure and Service Centre Development.

In general the development of Telaga Air RGC is aimed at bringing-about drastic change in the overall socio-economic and well-being of the Project participants. Specifically, the Project development target is summarized in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2: Telaga Air RGC Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Targets</th>
<th>Population</th>
<th>Employment* (Persons)</th>
<th>Poverty Level (%)</th>
<th>Wage Level (RM/Month/Per.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telaga Air</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * Only for agriculture

Source: State Planning Unit of Sarawak

Table 1.2 shows the current status of the base year. The total ethnic group of the People of Borneo (in 7MP) will be used for the purpose of the Project.
Table 1.2: Telaga Air RGC: Development Target (Cumulative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional</td>
<td>1,970</td>
<td>4,333</td>
<td>7,636</td>
<td>11,373</td>
<td>25,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telaga Air</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>3,042</td>
<td>6,175</td>
<td>9,720</td>
<td>22,164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment*</td>
<td>380</td>
<td>1,522</td>
<td>2,052</td>
<td>2,285</td>
<td>2,780</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Persons)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Level (%)</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wage Level</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>752</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>975</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(RM/Month/Per.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entrepreneurship (Persons)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Aquaculture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Pond Culture</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>220</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>520</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cage Culture</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Crab Rearing</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Livestock</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottage Industry</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce &amp; Industry</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: * Only for agric, fisheries and cottage industry.
Source: State Planning Unit, 1993

Table 1.2 shows the cumulative development target from 1995-2015 with 1995 considered as the base year. The total population for Telaga Air Service Centre is calculated based on the following assumptions:

a. Approximately 75% of the nearby population will be resettling in the Service Centre;
b. Annually a total of 100 new families will be resettling in Telaga Air especially those from Kuching (lower income group) and neighbouring villages. This could be achieved since Telaga Air is just 32 km away from Kuching, the existing Matang Road (in 7MP) will be provided in Telaga Air. An average population growth rate of 2.5% is used for the population projection.
1.5 Programme Components

Basically, RGCs consists of four components:

i) The infrastructure component which will provide good transportation and communication systems and facilitate produce marketing;

ii) The economic sectors which are economically viable will generate new employment opportunities;

iii) The service centre which contributes to socio-cultural interaction with more Bumiputra engaging in commercial activities;

iv) Human resources development that contributes to skill upgrading for project related activities.

Infrastructural development/component involves building of roads within the service centres and all access road linking the main trunk roads to the service centre within the project areas. It also consists of drainage and flood mitigation structures which will be developed for agriculture plantations and mini estates or aquaculture development. Infrastructure should be carried out as soon as possible so that economic activities could be developed.

Economic development component involves implementation of schemes such as oil palm plantations, commercial aquaculture, deep-sea fishing, paddy plantations and other rural industries at RGCs depending on locality. The RGC programme aims to generate profitable economic activities for the rural population and eventually eradicate poverty in their midst.

The service centre component is focusing on housing, commercial centres, social infrastructure, utility and amenities and support services.

For human resource development component, entrepreneurship is the main focus and this includes training of project participants in technical management skills in agriculture, fisheries, cottage industry, commerce and service training. The participants will be taught to handle contract work to help them become sub-contractors instead of just being ordinary workers. This is to prepare them to run their own businesses such as small-scale plantations or woodworking.

1.6 Organizational Structure of RGCs

In terms of implementation, the Ministry of Rural and Land Development (MRLD) is responsible to implement the 10 RGCs approved in the Seventh Malaysia Plan. A new section known as Rural Growth Centre Division has been introduced in MRLD to coordinate and monitor the planning and implementation of RGC programme.

1.7 Multi-Dimensional

Since RGC development is development but at the same time, spiritual and psychological cognisance of all these beneficiaries at every level. While top-down approaches, on the other hand, may not be adequate for projects having large numbers of beneficiaries, especially at the rural areas, the model is particularly useful in the context of the project.

1.8 Proposal for I

Following the honourable division in Sarawak, Malaysia, Ninth Malaysia Plans. Development plan study was the first stage, it will be for the purpose of the study, only 10 development plan studies were completed.
The organisation structure of the RGC programme is divided into three levels as follows:

i) **Project Steering Committee (PSC)**
- **Chairman**: Deputy State Secretary
- **Secretariat**: Ministry of Rural and Land Development
- **Responsibilities**: Making policies and strategies

ii) **Project Technical Committee (PTC)**
- **Chairman**: Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural and Land Development
- **Secretariat**: Ministry of Rural and Land Development
- **Responsibilities**: Project planning, implementation and coordination

iii) **Project Implementation and Coordination Committee (PICC)**
- **Chairman**: Resident
- **Secretariat**: Divisional Development Officer (DDO)
- **Responsibilities**: Project planning, implementation and coordination for the respective RGCs

### 1.7 Multi-Dimensional and Multi-Sectoral Planning of RGCs

Since RGC development is multifaceted and multi-dimensional involving primarily economic development but at the same time also involved in social, cultural, technological, institutional, spiritual and psychological development. Its planning has to be comprehensive and take cognisance of all these facets and dimensions. The involvement of the target group and beneficiaries at every level of planning is important if the RGCs are to be acceptable to them. While top-down approach to RGCs is required this should not preclude entirely the bottom-up process.

### 1.8 Proposal for New RGCs In Sarawak

Following the honourable Sarawak Chief Minister’s vision to establish at least 2 RGCs in every division in Sarawak, MRLD is aiming to establish another 10 new RGCs under the Eighth and Ninth Malaysia Plans. MRLD has identified 15 strategic areas to undertake the feasibility and development plan study on the establishment of RGCs. Table 1.3 shows the list of 15 potential areas under the feasibility study. The feasibility study shall be carried out in two stages. Under the first stage, it will cover all of the proposed RGCs listed in Table 1.3. Based on the findings of the study, only 10 most viable RGC will be chosen by the Government for detailed development plan study and implementation.
Table 1.3: List of the proposed 15 new RGCs in Sarawak

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Locality Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Division</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Sebuyau/Sebangan</td>
<td>Simunjan</td>
<td>Samarahan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Kanowit(Sedaya)/Nibong Tada</td>
<td>Kanowit</td>
<td>Sibu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Stumbin/Bijat</td>
<td>Sri Aman</td>
<td>Sri Aman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Kesit/Lemanak/Engkari</td>
<td>Sri Aman</td>
<td>Sri Aman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Nanga Bangkit/Engkuah/Katibas</td>
<td>Song</td>
<td>Kapit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Nanga Merit/Pelagus</td>
<td>Kapit</td>
<td>Kapit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Santubong/Buntal</td>
<td>Kuching</td>
<td>Kuching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Merapok/Bukit Manang/Lawas/Patrikan</td>
<td>Lawas</td>
<td>Limbang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Ipai/Pendam</td>
<td>Limbang</td>
<td>Limbang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Lajan,Song</td>
<td>Bintulu</td>
<td>Bintulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Kuala Tatau/Serupai</td>
<td>Bintulu</td>
<td>Bintulu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Pandan</td>
<td>Miri</td>
<td>Miri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Sepupok, Niah</td>
<td>Miri</td>
<td>Miri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. Berkenu, Sibuti</td>
<td>Miri</td>
<td>Miri</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Igan, Matu</td>
<td>Matu</td>
<td>Sarakei</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MRLD, Sarawak, 2002.

1.9 Statement of the Problem

Within the next 20 years, Telaga Air will be transformed into a modern self sustaining agro-eco-tourism area populated with high quality community, inbuilt with strong esprit de corps, caring and concern characteristics.

In line with the National Vision 2020 to achieve a Developed Nation status by the year 2020, the rural sector of the State needs to be developed at a greater pace to narrow the development disparity between the urban and rural sector. This Project will be a model in building the foundation of a Developed Nation by the year 2020 through concerted effort and active direct participation of the rural community in economic development.

One of the main reasons is to ensure effective and efficient development delivery and assistance to the needy target group and to provide greater opportunities for the rural populace to participate in the main stream of the development. As such this Study is aimed to find out the status and performance of the Telaga Air RGC. Generally, this study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How far has the development of Telaga Air as a Rural Growth Centre able to stimulate the economic growth and provide the necessary administrative, commercial, rural industries and support services to the villagers?
2. Is there any increase in the household income level in order to alleviate poverty and enhance the overall quality of life of the project participants?
3. What has been achieved against the Telaga Air RGC development target?
4. What experience and lesson can be learnt from this RGC?
1.10 Objectives of the Study

The primary objective of this study is to identify the status and performance of the ongoing development programme in the Rural Growth Centre in the context of seeking a better understanding of issues and problems encountered in the implementation of the development programme to the people at Telaga Air.

Specifically the objectives of the study are:

i. To determine the socio-economic status and well being of the people at Telaga Air.

ii. To study the people’s perception towards the ongoing development programme.

iii. To identify the issues and problems faced by the local authorities/implementing agencies in relation to the development programme for future improvement.

1.11 Significance of the Study

This study aims to assess the RGC development programme with reference to Telaga Air. It is hoped that the findings from this Study will be able to gather useful information to create awareness and feedbacks from the ground level to the authorities involved in the management of the RGCs in the ongoing programme as well as for the future proposed new RGCs throughout Sarawak. Certainly there are no “one size fits all” solutions to all the constraints that the existing RGCs are facing. But the lessons learnt from this project may be useful for the future improvement of the existing projects and many more to come.

It can be considered as timely because implementation stage is a crucial process by which the management translates strategies and policies into action through the development program, budgets and procedures. Invariably, changes may have to be made to the existing set up, culture and entire management system of the organization. In this context, effectiveness can be defined as a relationship between output and objectives. Therefore the management control process should attempt to measure whether predetermined goals are being achieved.

Most importantly the purpose of this study is to get the perceptions of the people involved in the projects towards the implemented RGC programme in Telaga Air. This is because the success and sustainability of any community development programme such as this depends on the community’s participation, and therefore their views and participation should be made central. Often when communities failed, it is because their citizens do not organize and work toward common goals.

The question is how can these people build a sustainable future for their children? What is needed to sustain rural livelihoods? Studies in other parts of the world have shown that an integration of community knowledge, appropriate technologies, access to credit, and enabling policies are the options. This work led to a more holistic understanding of community development and also revealed important factors that constrain communities from participating effectively in policy and investment decisions.
CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the relevant concepts as perceived by the author as well as availability of literatures related to the study. Theories and brief review of literature of studies carried out both internationally and locally will be discussed as they relate to this study.

2.1 The Concept of Development

The field of development is not new; yet there is little agreement on the concept of development. What is development? How do we measure it? How do we realize it? Richard Peet shows that competing theories of development offer multiple and often conflicting answers to these questions. Indeed, some approaches are even critical of development and highlights its negative effects such as environmental degradation or economic inequality. Richard Peet acknowledges criticisms of the present modes of development but he retains faith in the idea of development (Peet, 2001).

In the most basic sense development implies a transition from one state to another improved state. Unlike growth which means increase in output; development is distinguished by its attention to the distribution aspects of growth and the interface of growth with other dimensions of community. Thus, development has an implicit reference to an improvement in the livelihoods of poor people. This is supported by the fact that majority of the world’s poor tend to be concentrated within the tropics, live in rural areas, and rely on some form of agriculture for their livelihood. Hence rural development, focusing attention to tropical household farming systems often are the centre of any development strategy.

In the 1950s and 1960s development was viewed primarily in terms of economic growth. The United Nations declared the 1960s the first development decade and set their target at 5% growth of GNP (Higgins, 1989). This stressed the importance of economic growth, which was identified almost exclusively with industrialisation. The underlying theory was that the benefits of growth would “trickle down” to all. Agriculture was not seen as having a driving role in development and its share of the economy was expected to decline as a country became more and more developed (Staaz and Eicher, 1990). The usefulness of the agricultural sector was seen in terms of its perceived labour surplus which could be used to fuel industrial growth (Lewis, 1954). However, Johnson and Mellor (1961) argued that small farmer agriculture contributed to economic development in five ways. The agriculture was seen not only as a source of labour for other sectors of the economy; it provided food for the domestic market; it produced exports and was thus a valuable source of foreign exchange; it provided capital(from savings) for investment in other sectors; and it provided a major market for domestically produced goods.

For agriculture in development not inefficient agricultural technological production could be adopted; speeded up meeting their other needs. The new “Green Revolution” massive chemical inputs, technological change, while technological adoption was not questioned throughout the 1960s radical critics of International economic policy and core/periphery, especially in the 1970s, were sufficient to question the role of a private property system in their analysis of unequal development and poverty (Staaz and Eicher, 1990).

Despite massive numbers and disturbing trends of rural poverty were recognized there were some direct gains made; specially education (Todaro, 1995).

Rural development and overall economic growth and livelihood for majority of the poor in the size of the education (Johnson, 1961).

Nevertheless, institutionalists were core/periphery of small areas. The household livelihood of small farmer’s households. The need of small farmer’s participation in development and approaches are...