HCV3 Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems

Definition

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 Department, FRIM or SFC, and /or is confirmed as such by current expert opinion, in 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 Due to rapid changes, existing data may be outdated and some particularly threatened ecosystems may already need to be considered Priority 1.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	● The management indicates that the forested areas below 200 m a.s.l of seasonal freshwater swamp and mixed dipterocarp, including association of limestone vegetation and kerangas forest with the mixed dipterocarp forest within UKW-SFM are important forest ecosystem and categorised as HCV 3.
Management Prescription	● Establish a long term ecosystem monitoring for critical forest ecosystem, flora and fauna.
Monitoring	● Periodical monitoring of forest ecosystem health once every three years by conducting re-enumeration of all the trees in the permanent sample plots to obtain indication of changes in tree structure and species assemblages (HCV 1.2, 1.3, 2 & 3).

Site perspective

Based on the HCV assessment, UKW-SFM contains seven forest formations, namely lowland mixed dipterocarp, upland mixed dipterocarp, lowland mixed dipterocarp and kerangas, lowland mixed dipterocarp and limestone, lower montane, lowland seasonal freshwater swamp, lowland freshwater swamp and lower montane forest (Figure 4).

In relation to the National Conservation Strategy (NCS) listing, about 27 % of UKW-SFM categorised under HCV 3. Both extreme lowland area classified as mixed dipterocarp and freshwater swamp and upland mixed kerangas forest still contain high conservation value flora and fauna as mention earlier in section 4.1–4.2 that could be currently rare elsewhere in the state. In view that NCS has classified this forest type as high priority, there will be a need for a good management practice and monitoring programme to be installed for this particular forest area. Thus giving lowland forest types a high priority for conservation.

The rationale for the identification of HCV attribute

The management indicates that the forested areas below 200 m a.s.l of seasonal freshwater swamp and mixed dipterocarp, including association of limestone vegetation and kerangas forest with the mixed dipterocarp forest within UKW-SFM are important forest ecosystem and categorised as HCV 3 (Figure 1).

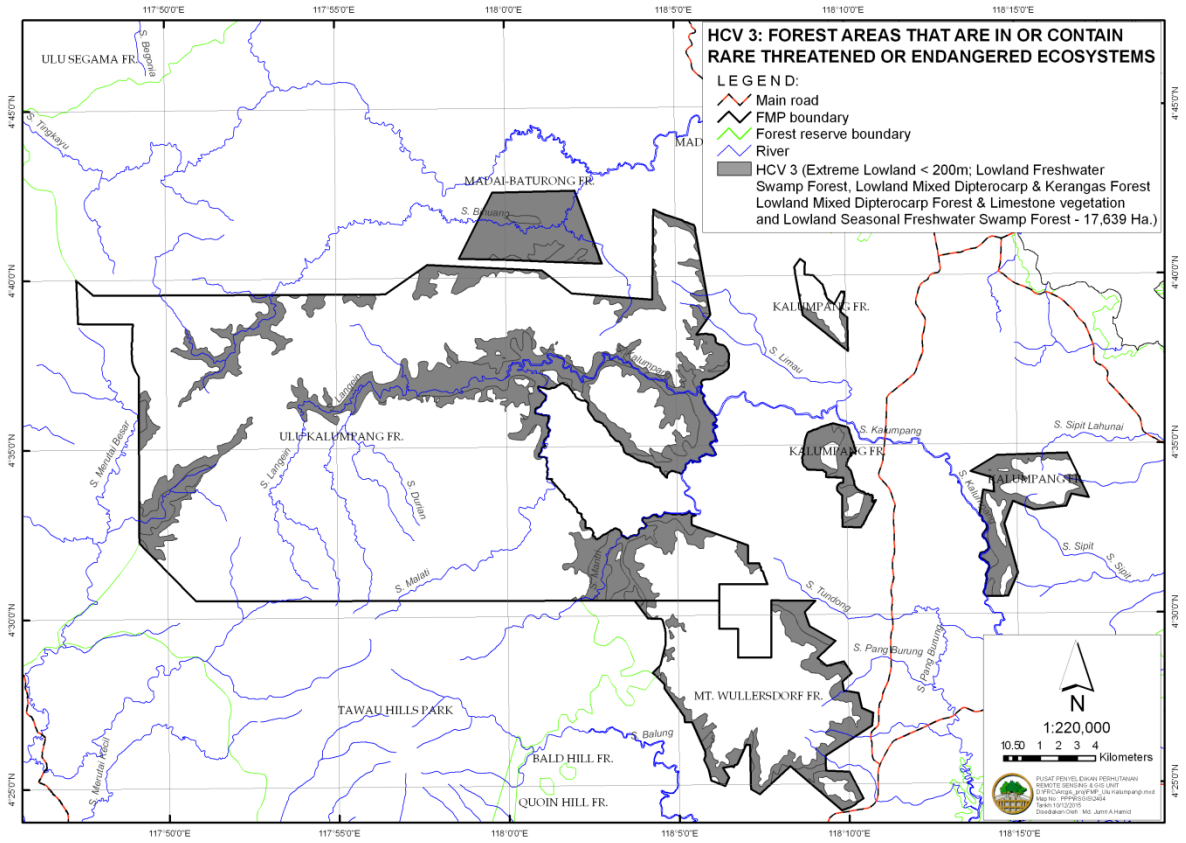

Figure 1. The location of extreme lowland forest in areas predominated with mixed dipterocarp forest including association with kerangas forest and limestone vegetation, and also seasonal freshwater swamp and freshwater swamp forest that are categorized as HCV 3 in UKW-SFM Project Area.