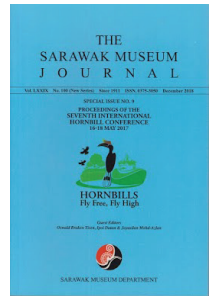




The Sarawak Museum Journal

Vol. LXXIX No. 100

December 2018



ISSN: 0375-3050

Citation: *Sarawak Museum Journal*, LXXIX (100) (2018): 261-286**FROM PRE-BROOKES TO HOT, FLAT AND CROWDED WORLD:
ARE CHANGES IN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE, BELIEFS AND PRACTICES SERIOUSLY
AFFECTING HORN BILLS CONSERVATION?**

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Sarawak Forestry Corporation, Lot 218, KCLD, Jalan Tapang, Kota Sentosa,
93250 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia*Corresponding author. Email: vluna@sarawakforestry.com**ABSTRACT**

In the island of Borneo, the forests ecosystem, rivers and wildlife prior to the pre-Brookes era have notably influenced the evolution of their indigenous knowledge, practices and beliefs system, known as the traditional ecological knowledge. Such influence has, over time developed into acceptable cultural and traditional identity of indigenous people. Today, changes in the political and socio-economic development, driven by the flattening, crowding and warming of the world have devoured open space and tropical rainforest of the world. The impacts, in turn to some extent had disrupted ecosystems and depleted species that has been perceived increasingly impacting the dynamic nature of the beliefs and cultural system of many indigenous communities. This paper elicits some factors and conditions that maintain or undermine indigenous communities' ability to adapt, generate, transmit and apply the traditional knowledge, beliefs and cultural systems with respect to the species of hornbills and its conservation in the face of changing environmental and socio-economic conditions.

Keywords: traditional ecological knowledge, indigenous knowledge, hornbill, biodiversity conservation, culture, beliefs

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Abstract

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INTRODUCTION

This paper emerges from the significant evidence in the literature and through personal observation of the increasing erosion of indigenous knowledge, traditional beliefs and practices, popularly acknowledged as traditional ecological knowledge (hereafter TEK) as a result of direct and regular contact with hornbill species prior to the Brooke Era and beyond. Although there is no universally accepted definition of TEK in the literature, the most commonly quoted definition of TEK is defined by (Berkes *et al.* 2000) as “a cumulative body of knowledge, practice and belief, evolving