Policy and legal provisions to empower indigenous peoples and local communities to be custodians of biodiversity

1. The concept of Community Conserved Area (CCA) has been recognised in several policy documents including the National Physical Plan (NPP), the Sabah Biodiversity Strategy 2012-2022, and the National Policy on Biological Diversity 2016-2025.

2. However, a systematic approach and legal provisions to empower indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) as custodians for natural resources has yet to be developed at the national level.

3. At the state level, the State of Sabah has paved the way for Indigenous Community Conserved Area (ICCA) recognition with 3,384 hectares, which includes:

    a. the Bundu Tuhan Native Reserve (884 hectares); and
    b. Sungai Pin Conservation Area (2,500 hectares).