

# THE USE OF FOREST RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND INCOME IN A BORNEO HUNTER-GATHERER COMMUNITY

KATO Yumi

Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, Kyoto 606-8392, Japan

E-mail: yumik@yumi.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp

This study describes changes in subsistence activities and the market economy strategies of settled hunter-gatherers in a Sihan community on the upper Rajang River, Borneo, Malaysia. The subsistence activities, diet, and relationship to the market economy of the Sihan were investigated during an eight-month residence during 2004–2005 in a village of 145 people. The Sihan began the practice of shifting cultivation more than 40 years ago and also engage in periodic wage labor. However, hunting-gathering predominates over market-economy activities. Because of their proximity to a market, the Sihan earn most of their cash income by selling wild animals, such as bearded pigs and barking deer, and wild plants and fruits, which are also important to them as food. Thus, they continue hunting-gathering activities through their engagement with the market economy.

**Keywords:** Food, Forest resources, Hunter-gatherer, Market Economy, Subsistence