

# SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP



## Stage 3 : Municipal Councils Roadmap

Implementing the 2030 Agenda in 24 Sarawak, Local Authorities



March 2025



**URBANICE**  
MALAYSIA



# Sarawak SDG Roadmap

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Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cities &  
Community Well-being

This report is prepared for  
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Local Authority in Sarawak



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1.0

**INTRODUCTION**  
*SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP*

The implementation of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is a global challenge that requires active participation at both national and local levels. For local governments and communities, aligning their strategies with the SDGs paves the way for sustainable, inclusive, and resilient development. Sarawak, with its vast biodiversity, rich cultural heritage, and growing economic sectors, is well-positioned to contribute to these global efforts through an SDG Roadmap. This chapter explores the rationale, process, and significance of the SDG Roadmap for Sarawak, providing a roadmap for localizing sustainable development in a region with distinct ecological, social, and economic dynamics.

# 1.1 The Need for a Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in Sarawak Municipalities

Sarawak, renowned for its diverse ecosystems, rich cultural heritage, and growing ecotourism sector, plays a vital role in Malaysia's sustainable development. However, the region faces pressing challenges, including rapid urbanization, deforestation, climate change, and infrastructure expansion, which threaten its long-term sustainability. The Voluntary Local Review (VLR) serves as a valuable tool for Sarawak Municipalities to evaluate its progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), identify key gaps, and implement targeted strategies to address its unique challenges while promoting sustainable growth and environmental conservation.

## Sustainability Challenges



**Lack of Employment Opportunities**



**Unplanned Development**



**Insufficient Inclusive Facilities**



## Deforestation at the Urban Frontier

Urban deforestation in Sarawak's city halls, threatens sustainability by impacting climate resilience, biodiversity, and public well-being, aligning with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The loss of green spaces (SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities) increases urban heat, air pollution, and flooding risks, while biodiversity depletion (SDG 15: Life on Land) disrupts ecosystems. Deforestation also exacerbates climate change (SDG 13: Climate Action) by reducing carbon absorption. To support these SDGs, city planning must prioritize tree protection, urban reforestation, and green infrastructure while promoting community participation in environmental conservation.



## Ageing Facilities And Infrastructure

Ageing infrastructure and facilities in Sarawak's city halls, such as MBM and MBKS, pose significant challenges to urban sustainability, affecting essential services, public safety, and economic growth. Deteriorating roads, drainage systems, and public amenities lead to inefficiencies, higher maintenance costs, and increased risks of flooding and structural failures, impacting SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Poorly maintained facilities also reduce the quality of life and hinder accessibility, contradicting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being). Addressing these issues requires strategic investments in modernization, smart infrastructure, and sustainable urban planning to enhance resilience and long-term sustainability.



## Inefficient Waste Management

Sarawak city halls face inefficient waste management due to inadequate infrastructure, low recycling rates, and weak enforcement of waste policies, leading to environmental pollution and health risks. Poor waste disposal practices, especially in rural areas, contribute to land and water contamination, impacting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). Uncontrolled waste also threatens ecosystems, linking to SDG 14 (Life Below Water) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). To align with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), Sarawak must improve waste collection systems, promote recycling, and enforce sustainable waste management policies.



A Voluntary Local Review (VLR) provides a data-driven assessment of sustainability, aligning local initiatives with the SDGs to ensure meaningful progress. It fosters inclusive stakeholder engagement, enhancing collaboration and community participation. By identifying gaps and opportunities, VLRs strengthen policy implementation and governance, ensuring long-term resilience and sustainable urban development.

## Key Benefits of VLR



### 1 Data-Driven Sustainability Assessment

The VLR provides a structured framework to evaluate local sustainability efforts based on reliable data, enabling evidence-based decision-making.

### 2 SDG Alignment

By aligning local development plans with the SDGs, the VLR ensures that Sarawak contributes to national and global sustainability goals while addressing local challenges.

### 3 Inclusive Stakeholder Engagement

A VLR fosters collaboration between local authorities, businesses, communities, and other stakeholders, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered in the sustainability planning process.

### 4 Policy and Implementation Improvements

The VLR helps identify gaps in existing policies, and implementation, leading to more efficient and targeted interventions to address sustainability challenges.

### 5 Long-Term Governance Strengthening

Through the VLR, local governance frameworks can be strengthened to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of development initiatives.

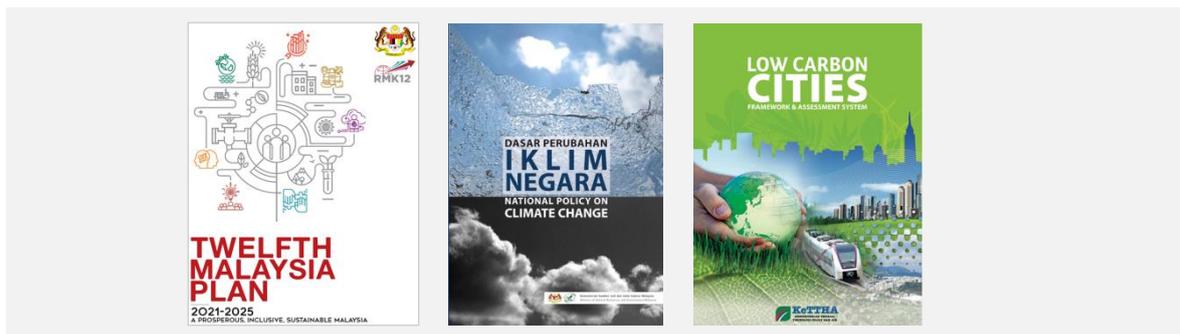
# 1.2 Alignment with Malaysia's National Targets & Global Commitments

Sarawak is not operating in isolation when it comes to sustainable development. Malaysia has committed to achieving the SDGs as part of its broader development agenda. National policies and frameworks provide a guiding blueprint for local initiatives, and the Roadmap allows Sarawak to align its efforts with these broader targets.

## Vision

### Sustainable Living Environment for All

#### Malaysia's National Sustainability Frameworks



#### Sarawak's Contribution to Malaysia's National SDG Agenda



The Roadmap process helps Sarawak align with Malaysia's Voluntary National Review (VNR) by assessing local sustainability efforts and SDG progress. It provides insights into regional challenges, ensuring highland-specific issues are represented in national policies while highlighting achievements and gaps.

#### Global Commitments to Localizing the SDGs

The United Nations highlights the need to localize SDGs for effective community-driven development. By conducting a Roadmap, Sarawak aligns with this goal, addressing local challenges while contributing to global sustainability. Its outcomes will support Malaysia's SDG efforts and serve as a model for other highland and suburban regions, sharing insights and best practices worldwide.

# 1.3 Overview of the Roadmap Process and Methodology

The Roadmap process in Sarawak city halls follows a comprehensive, inclusive methodology designed to ensure that the review is grounded in local realities and incorporates the perspectives of all stakeholders.



# 1.4 Overview of the Roadmap Stages

The Sarawak SDG Roadmap consist of 3 stages which are Stage 1 is SDGs Implementation Assessment Report, Stage 2 is Voluntary Local Review (VLR) – Current SDG Status and Stage 3 is SDGs Roadmap – Strategies, Projects, and Programs



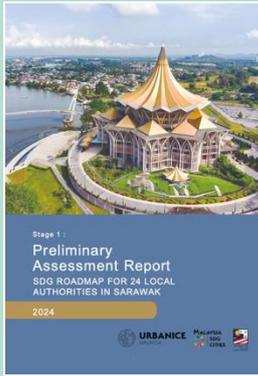
## Stage 1: SDGs Implementation Assessment Report

The first stage involves a comprehensive assessment of the current Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) implementation in 2 city halls in Sarawak, namely Kuching South City Hall and Miri City Hall. This includes:

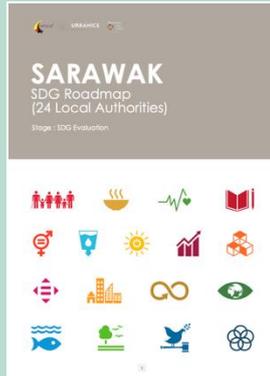
- Mapping existing policies, initiatives, and programs aligned with the SDGs.
- Identifying key stakeholders, including local government agencies, NGOs, businesses, and community groups.
- Collecting baseline data to measure progress against SDG indicators.
- Aligning local development plans with national and global SDG frameworks through Rapid Impact Assessment (RIA).
- Assessing institutional readiness and available resources to drive SDG progress.

This report forms the foundation for understanding Sarawak city halls' SDG status and identifying priority areas for improvement.

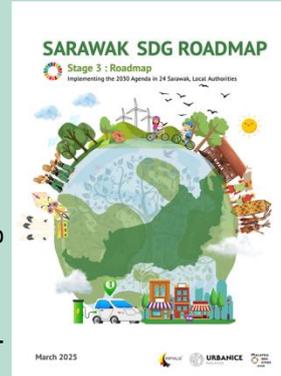
Report Stage 1



Report Stage 2



Report Stage 3



**Stage 2: Voluntary Local Review (VLR) – Current SDG Status**

Building on the assessment report, this stage provides a detailed analysis of 2 city halls in Sarawak' SDG progress. Key components include:

- Presenting current data on all 17 SDGs, highlighting achievements and challenges.
- Engaging stakeholders through consultations, focus group discussions, and participatory workshops.
- Identifying gaps between the current status and existing initiatives by various agencies.
- Evaluating overall SDG progress and areas requiring further attention.

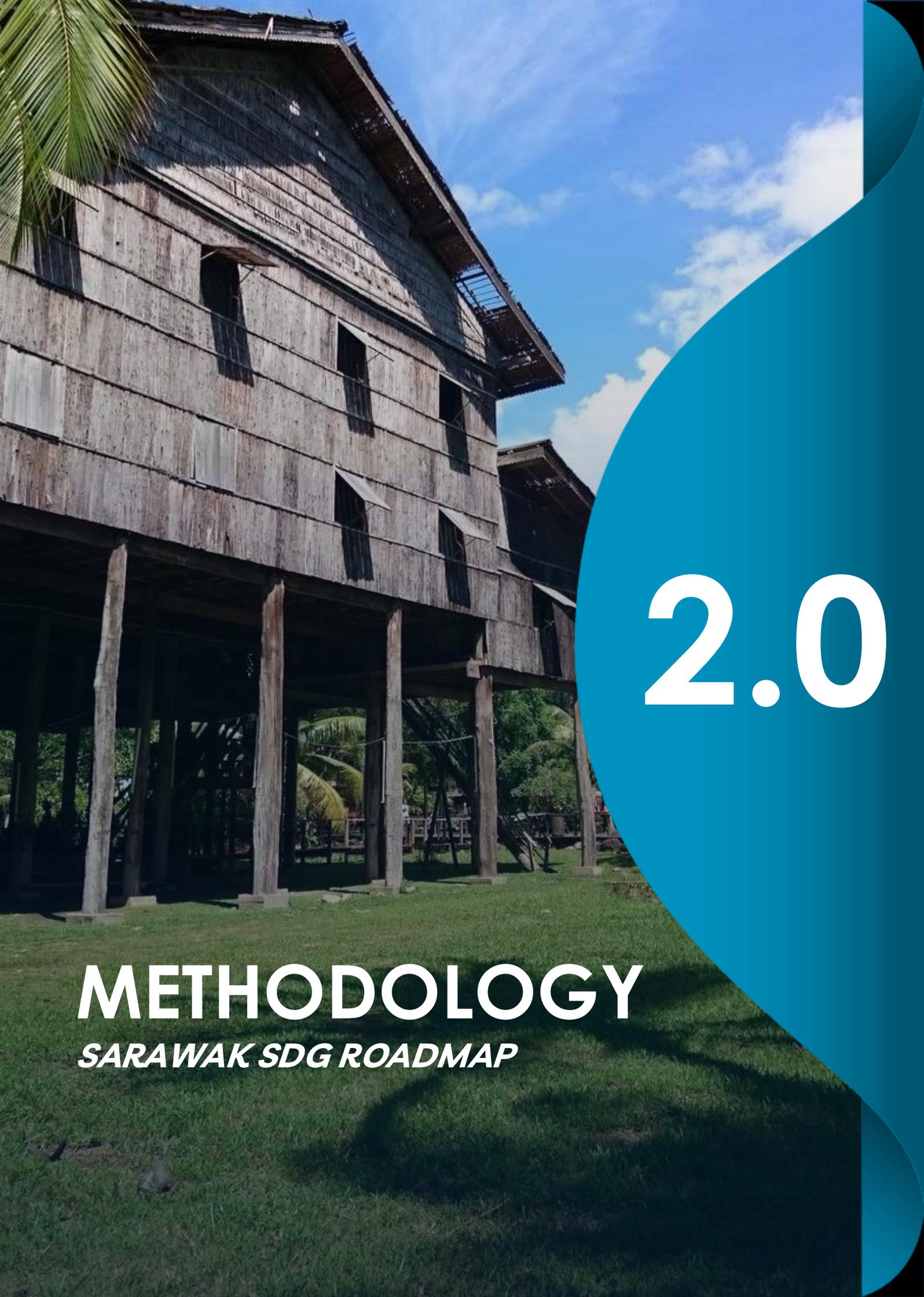
This VLR ensures a transparent, data-driven evaluation of SDG progress, promoting accountability and alignment with global sustainability efforts.

**Stage 3: SDGs Roadmap – Strategies, Projects, and Programs**

This stage focuses on developing a strategic roadmap to accelerate SDG implementation in Sarawak city halls. The roadmap includes:

- Defining priority SDG targets specific to local needs and challenges.
- Conducting Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with Local Authorities to determine key implementation projects and programs.
- Formulating actionable strategies and policy recommendations.
- Identifying key projects and programs to fast-track SDG achievements.
- Establishing partnerships for resource mobilisation and capacity building.
- Setting measurable goals, timelines, and monitoring mechanisms to track progress.

The roadmap ensures a structured, result-oriented approach for achieving sustainable urban and rural development.



2.0

# METHODOLOGY

*SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP*

## 2.1 Method of Localizing SDG Data

The Voluntary Local Review have taken few approaches in gathering data for reporting purpose. In gathering data, the type of data used is both primary data and secondary data. Below are the methods:

<b>Primary data</b>	Engagement with agencies and local stakeholders through Focus Group Discussion
<b>Secondary data</b>	Key documents for reference from agencies

### Primary data Collection

The method used in primary data collection is Focus Group Discussion, an engagement made with government agencies and local stakeholders.

#### Data collected through Focus Group Discussion

- Analysis of Issues and Challenges in the City.
- Early measurement of SDG performance according to projects, programs, initiatives and development plans.
- Understanding/collect data on the city's achievements and efforts made by local government related for sustainable development.
- Local government's way forward

#### Main Data Provider

Local Government's internal departments and external Agencies from Governmental/ Private/ NGO.

### Secondary data Collection

In the process of selecting data pertinent to , several key considerations are taken into account to ensure alignment with various frameworks and national targets, while also addressing local needs and competencies

#### Department of Statistics Malaysia

1. My Local Stats, 2022. Published in 2023.
2. My Local Stats, Sarawak, 2022. Published in 2023
3. Murninets, 2024.

#### City Council Main and Sectoral Development Planning Document

1. Sarawak Industrial Development Plan (SIDP)
2. Sarawak Digital Economy Blueprint 2030
3. Sarawak Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030
4. Sarawak Rural Transformation Programme (RTP)
5. Sustainable Development Goals Targets and Indicators

#### Development Indicators Existing and Used by City Council

1. Data from the Malaysian Urban Indicators Network
2. Low Carbon City Indicator
3. SMART City Indicator

## The Engagement and Workshop Session

The workshop was a one-day event designed to engage stakeholders in the localisation of the SDGs for Sarawak.

The session began with a briefing on Malaysia SDG Cities and the localization of SDGs by Dr. Azmizam Abdul Rashid, Deputy CEO of URBANICE Malaysia. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to Sarawak. Dr. Azmizam emphasized the importance of SDGs in building climate resilience, addressing poverty, and fostering sustainable communities through partnerships.

### Method of the First Focus Group Discussion

Following the introduction, participants were divided into three groups for focused discussions, each aligned with the Malaysia SDG Cities outcome framework. The groups were moderated by URBANICE Malaysia and focused on the following outcomes:

Each group engaged in discussions to share ideas, issues, and challenges related to their assigned SDGs. Participants also shared current initiatives being undertaken to address these challenges. This exercise was crucial for understanding the current profiling and situation of SDGs in Sarawak, and for fostering a deeper understanding of each SDG.

During the closing session, each group presented their discussion outcomes and proposed ways forward for each set of outcomes. This collaborative approach ensured that diverse perspectives were considered and that the workshop's objectives were met effectively. The outcomes from each group were tabulated and will be included in the analysis of each SDG's progress.

#### Group Outcome 1

Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All



#### Group Outcome 2

Enhance Access to Quality Services to Address



#### Group Outcome 3

Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate



# 2.2 Stakeholder Engagement in VLR & Roadmap Process

## Engagement Purpose and Objectives

Engaging stakeholders is a fundamental aspect of localizing the SDGs in Sarawak. This process ensures that the SDGs are not only understood but also integrated into local policies and actions in a manner that reflects the unique context and needs of the community. The inclusion of diverse stakeholders promotes:

- **Localization of SDGs:** Stakeholder sessions facilitate the adaptation of global SDGs to the specific realities of Sarawak, making the goals more relevant and actionable at the local level.
- **Inclusivity and Leaving No One Behind:** Involving a wide range of stakeholders ensures that the voices of all community members are heard. This aligns with the core SDG principle of "leaving no one behind," fostering equity and social inclusion.
- **Visibility of the SDGs:** Continuous stakeholder engagement enhances awareness and visibility of the SDGs within the community, leading to broader public support and participation in achieving these goals.

The main objectives of stakeholder engagement for are:

### Introducing the Localization of SDGs:

- Explaining how the global SDGs are being tailored to meet the specific needs and priorities of Sarawak.
- Raising awareness about the importance of SDGs and the role each stakeholder plays in achieving them.

### Discussing Current Initiatives:

- Providing a platform for city players to share their ongoing initiatives related to the SDGs.
- Fostering collaboration among different sectors and stakeholders to enhance the effectiveness of SDG-related projects.

### Profiling for each SDGs:

- Gathering input from participants to create a comprehensive profile of each SDG, highlighting progress, challenges, and opportunities.
- Soliciting feedback on current and proposed initiatives to ensure they are aligned with community needs and priorities.

### Engagement Limitation

The report includes findings from stakeholder engagement meetings, site visits and other data collection. Limitations include the feedback based on stakeholder perceptions and the need to update those perception.



**2024**

**JUNE 2024**

**DECEMBER 2024**

### The First Engagement

- Discussions within PBTs internal departments provided insights into operational challenges and opportunities related to sustainability.
- Inputs from various departments highlighted the need for better coordination and alignment of sustainability efforts across different functions within PBTs.
- Identification of internal capacity-building needs to enhance sustainability initiatives and effectively implement SDGs.

### Focus Group Discussion 1 (FGD 1):

The SDG Workshop was conducted for one day, bringing together department representatives from various internal departments of PBTs, council members, and technical agencies. The primary objective of the workshop was to assess the progress of Sarawak in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The strengths and challenges associated with each SDG were thoroughly examined, aiming to provide a comprehensive overview of the SDGs for Sarawak.

### Internal Engagement with PBTs:

- Latest progress in the preparation of the Local Review Report (VLR) and SDG Roadmap of Sarawak.
- Documents and key reference materials in the preparation of VLR and Sarawak SDG Roadmap.
- PBTs data capacity and additional data requirements for each PBTs internal department.



JANUARY 2025



### Focus Group Discussion 2 (FGD 2):

- **Identification of data gaps and issues and challenges:** To assess and validate existing issues and challenges in relation to each SDG for cities.
- **Draft SDG Roadmap:** Outlines the roadmap and proposed programs and projects for the cities
- **Stakeholder Mapping:** Determine the key stakeholders involved in the SDG implementation process and create a clear stakeholder mapping.
- **SDG Governance in Cities:** a governance structure in place for SDG management at the city level.

### Module 1

#### Setting the Stage and Addressing Data Gaps

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- Introduction to SDG Performance and Data Availability
- Reviewing SDGs and Data Gaps

### Module 2

#### Analyzing 17 SDG Challenges and Stakeholder Mapping

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- Introduction to Key Challenges
- Challenge Ranking and Stakeholder Identification
- Key Stakeholder Mapping

### Module 3

#### Identifying Projects and Strengthening Governance

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- Relevant programs and projects using a project template format.
- Discuss governance structures at the same time to ensure proper oversight of these projects.

## Method of 1st Focus Group Discussion

Five local authority participants focused on setting priorities and identifying key challenges in the second Focus Group Discussion for Sarawak SDG Roadmap. In Module 1, participants reviewed the district's SDG performance, examining data gaps that hinder progress tracking. This initial review helped outline specific areas where more robust data collection is necessary.

Module 2, guided participants in prioritising SDG challenges relevant to Sarawak. Through ranking exercises and stakeholder identification, they pinpointed essential local stakeholders whose roles could impact or support solutions for each SDG priority. This collaborative mapping clarified which organisations and community members need to be engaged for effective implementation.

Finally, Module 3, "Identifying Projects and Strengthening Governance," focused on translating identified priorities into projects. Using a project template, participants outlined relevant initiatives and discussed governance structures to ensure strong oversight. This module linked the prioritised challenges from earlier discussions with actionable projects and governance measures essential for sustainable SDG progress in the district.

## The Engagement and Workshop Session

The workshops were held in Kuching, Miri and Sibul designed to engage stakeholders in the localization of SDGs for Sarawak.

The session began with an opening address and a briefing on Malaysia SDG Cities and the localization of SDGs by Dr. Azmizam Abdul Rashid, Deputy CEO of URBANICE Malaysia. Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the SDGs and their relevance to Sarawak. Dr. Azmizam emphasized the importance of SDGs in building climate resilience, addressing poverty, and fostering sustainable communities through partnerships.

### Method of Discussion

Following the introduction, participants were divided into three groups for focused discussions, each aligned with the Malaysia SDG Cities outcome framework. The groups were moderated by URBANICE Malaysia and focused on the following outcomes:



Each group engaged in discussions to share ideas, issues, and challenges related to their assigned SDGs. Participants also shared current initiatives being undertaken to address these challenges. This exercise was crucial for understanding the current profiling and situation of SDGs in Sarawak, and for fostering a deeper understanding of each SDG.

During the closing session, each group presented their discussion outcomes and proposed ways forward for each set of outcomes. This collaborative approach ensured that diverse perspectives were considered and that the workshop's objectives were met effectively. The outcomes from each group were tabulated and will be included in the analysis of each SDG's progress.

#### Group Outcome 1

Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All



#### Group Outcome 2

Enhance Access to Quality Services to Address



#### Group Outcome 3

Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate+



## Discussion Outcome

The table below presents a comprehensive analysis of critical issues, challenges, and recommendations across various sectors. This analysis is organized into three primary groups/outcomes: Ensuring Inclusive Growth and Development for All, Enhancing Access to Urban Services to Bridge Development Gaps, and Promoting Environmental Sustainability to Address Climate Change.

The outcome presented in table format that details out the current issues, highlights key challenges with facts and figures. The outcome of the engagement is designed to facilitate a clearer understanding of the issues at hand and to guide effective decision-making and policy formulation.

**Table 2.1:** Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes

Issues/Challenges	Details
<b>Group 1: Ensuring Inclusive Growth and Development for All</b>	
<b>No poverty</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Economic Disparities : Prices for goods and services increase due to economic interdependence and higher spending power from Brunei.</li> <li>○ Socioeconomic Gaps : Local salaries often do not match the rising costs, exacerbating financial strain on residents.</li> <li>○ Expensive domestic airfares within Sarawak: High travel costs make intra-regional mobility less affordable, limiting connectivity for local communities.</li> <li>○ High number of unemployment in Limbang and Lawas</li> <li>○ Homelessness in Miri</li> <li>○ Existence of squatter settlements along Sungai Miri</li> <li>○ Stray dogs: Stray dogs are often carriers of diseases such as rabies and other zoonotic infections, posing significant risks to human health.</li> </ul>
<b>Health and well-being</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Healthcare Access : Limited access to healthcare facilities, especially in remote areas.</li> <li>○ Drug Abuse in certain areas in Sarawak</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Location of schools are inaccessible</li> </ul>

Sources : Sarawak Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

## Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes (Cont..)

Issues/Challenges	Details
<b>Group 2: Enhancing Access to Urban Services to Bridge Development Gaps</b>	
<b>Gender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Teenage Pregnancy : High rates of teenage pregnancies among females, often linked to socio-economic challenges and PATI.</li> <li>○ High number of single mothers</li> <li>○ Industries entering Limbang are limited due to geographical isolation</li> </ul>
<b>Economic growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Agricultural Work : Failure to promote agricultural jobs effectively. Locals show low interest in agriculture despite available opportunities.</li> <li>○ Digital Economy Exposure : Limited exposure to digital economy opportunities among youth, elderly, and adults.</li> <li>○ Internet Connectivity : Poor internet connectivity affects business and educational opportunities.</li> <li>○ Transportation : Poor road connectivity, exacerbating access issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ No public transportation</li> <li>○ Infrastructure : Inadequate infrastructure, including roads from Dalat to Sibuh and Dalat to Mukah.</li> <li>○ Electricity and Roads : Need for urgent road development and improved electricity supply.</li> </ul>

Sources : Sarawak Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

### Stakeholder Engagement Outcomes (Cont..)

Issues/Challenges	Details
Group 3: Promoting Environmental Sustainability to Address Climate Change	
<b>Urban Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mobile Connectivity: Intermittent mobile phone service, even near urban areas.</li> <li>○ Healthcare Facilities: Inadequate healthcare facilities and services.</li> <li>○ Unstable electricity supply</li> <li>○ Housing Costs : High housing costs.</li> <li>○ Ineffective drainage</li> <li>○ Lack of recreational facilities</li> </ul>
<b>Waste Management and Pollution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Waste Management : Lack of proper waste disposal facilities, leading to pollution and waste management challenges.</li> <li>○ River Pollution : Direct waste disposal into rivers due to inadequate waste collection services.</li> <li>○ No recycling facilities in Limbang</li> <li>○ Administrative Challenges: Issues with federal administration and district office coordination</li> </ul>
<b>City Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Crime and Drug Issues: High crime rates and drug abuse among local youth.</li> <li>○ Enforcement and Staffing: Inconsistent staffing and enforcement of regulations in areas like overloading and border control.</li> </ul>

Sources : Sarawak Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

### Summary of Gaps

This summary shows the percentage of each gaps and challenges type within its respective group, providing a clear view of the distribution of issues.

#### Group 1: Ensuring Inclusive Growth and Development for All

Issue/Challenge	Number of Issues (15)	Percentage
Poverty	7	21%
Health and Well-being	3	9%
Education	1	3%

#### Group 2: Enhancing Access to Urban Services to Bridge Development Gaps

Issue/Challenge	Number of Issues (20)	Percentage
Gender	3	9%
Economic Growth	4	12%
Infrastructure	3	9%

#### Group 3: Promoting Environmental Sustainability to Address Climate Change

Issue/Challenge	Number of Issues (12)	Percentage
Urban Development	6	18%
Waste Management and Pollution	4	12%
City Management	2	6%

Sources : Sarawak Focus Group Discussion (FGD)

Overall, the main issues and gaps are predominantly highlighted in Group 3, which addresses urban development, waste management and pollution. The topics most frequently discussed is infrastructure development.

This summary shows the percentage of each gaps and challenges type within its respective group, providing a clear view of the distribution of issues.

### Group 1: Ensuring Inclusive Growth and Development for All

Issue	Number of Issues
Poverty	7
Health and Well-being	3
Education	1

11

Total numbers of Issues of Outcome 1

### Group 2: Enhancing Access to Urban Services to Bridge Development Gaps

Issue	Number of Issues
Gender	3
Economic Growth	4
Infrastructure	3

10

Total numbers of Issues of Outcome 2

### Group 3: Promoting Environmental Sustainability to Address Climate Change

Issue	Number of Issues
Urban Development	6
Waste Management and Pollution	4
City Management	1

11

Total numbers of Issues of Outcome 3

Sources : VLR Sarawak Focus Group Discussion 1 (FGD 1)

Group 1 emphasizes poverty, education health and well-being. Group 2 addresses gender, economic growth and infrastructure. Group 3 prioritizes urban development, waste management and pollution and city management. Overall, **there is a clear need for socio-economic (outcome 1) and environmental improvements (outcome 3)** based on the discussion.



## Module 1

### Verification of Issues and Challenges

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- Participants confirm existing issues and challenges related to SDGs.
- They identify additional concerns and link them to relevant SDGs.

## Module 2

### Verification of Existing Potential

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- Key strengths and opportunities within the locality are identified.
- Participants link these potentials to the appropriate SDGs to maximize impact.

## Module 3

### Stakeholder Mapping

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- Key stakeholders, both internal and external, are identified and categorized.
- Their roles in SDG implementation are defined to enhance collaboration and effectiveness.

## Module 4

### Reviewing Ongoing Initiatives and Conducting Gap Analysis

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- Key stakeholders, both internal and external, are identified and categorized.
- Their roles in SDG implementation are defined to enhance collaboration and effectiveness.

## Module 5

### Developing the SDG Roadmap

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- A structured roadmap is formulated, outlining phased implementation strategies.
- Existing initiatives are categorized alongside new proposals for future development.

## Method of 2nd Focus Group Discussion

The Focus Group Discussion (FGD) is structured into five modules, each aimed at fostering a strategic and comprehensive approach to SDG implementation. It begins with identifying issues and challenges, where participants assess existing concerns, highlight additional problems, and align them with relevant SDGs for further analysis. This is followed by assessing local potential, where key strengths and opportunities within the locality are identified and mapped to corresponding SDGs to optimize their impact.

The next step involves stakeholder mapping, in which participants identify and categorize key stakeholders, both internal and external, based on their roles in SDG implementation. This process helps clarify responsibilities and encourages collaboration. The discussion then moves to reviewing ongoing initiatives, where current projects and programs related to SDGs are examined, along with identifying the primary implementing agencies and supporting organizations.

To ensure a thorough evaluation, the FGD includes a gap analysis, which assesses the disparities between identified challenges, existing opportunities, and ongoing initiatives. It also examines key barriers such as funding limitations, manpower shortages, and community engagement challenges. Lastly, the session focuses on developing the SDG roadmap, where a structured plan is formulated with phased implementation strategies. Existing initiatives are reviewed alongside new proposals to establish a clear and actionable pathway toward achieving the SDGs.

Each module incorporates interactive discussions, stakeholder engagement exercises, and mapping activities, ensuring a participatory and well-informed approach to sustainable urban development and SDG localization.



This summary shows the percentage of each gaps and challenges experienced by Sarawak Municipal Councils, providing a clear view of the distribution of issues.



### Municipal Council: Kota Samarahan Municipal Council

Issue	Number of Issues
Poverty & Socioeconomic Issues	4
Healthcare & Well-being	3
Basic Infrastructure & Public Utilities	4
Urban Planning & Development	5
Waste Management & Environment	4

20

Total numbers of Issues

In Kota Samarahan, poverty and socioeconomic challenges continue to affect residents, with many lacking the motivation and awareness to improve their quality of life. Additionally, job opportunities are scarce, and many residents do not have the skills required to secure stable employment. Fishermen also struggle due to aging and inadequate fishing facilities, further impacting their livelihoods.

Healthcare and well-being are major concerns in the region. Clinics and health centers are often overcrowded, with insufficient facilities to accommodate the growing population. The lack of proper healthcare infrastructure results in long waiting times and limited access to essential medical services.

Waste management and environmental concerns are also pressing issues. Inefficient waste collection and landfill management, due to budget and land constraints, lead to poor sanitation conditions. The landfill sites are located far from the city, increasing operational costs. Illegal dumping in open spaces further exacerbates pollution, affecting both the environment and public health.

Basic infrastructure and public utilities in Kota Samarahan require significant improvement. Water supply issues, including low pressure and untreated water shortages, frequently disrupt daily life. The drainage system is poorly maintained, leading to costly maintenance and increasing the risk of flash floods. Many housing areas lack proper connectivity for recreational activities, and inclusive public facilities remain inadequate, limiting accessibility for different community groups.

Urban planning and development in Kota Samarahan are unstructured, contributing to disorderly growth. Business and street vendor areas are not well managed, creating congestion and an unorganized commercial environment. Road connectivity is highly limited, with traffic concentrated in certain areas, leading to frequent jams.

Additionally, wildlife and safety concerns have emerged, particularly with the increasing crocodile population in certain areas, posing a danger to residents. Addressing this issue requires urgent measures to ensure public safety and effective wildlife management.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

This summary shows the percentage of each gaps and challenges experienced by Sarawak Municipal Councils, providing a clear view of the distribution of issues.



### Municipal Council: Sibu Municipal Council

Issue	Number of Issues
Poverty & Socioeconomic Challenges	2
Infrastructure & Urban Development	3
Tourism & Investment	2
Waste Management & Environment	3

# 10

Total numbers of Issues

Sibu faces significant poverty and socioeconomic challenges, with a notable presence of homeless individuals struggling with financial hardship and limited support. The town also experiences a shortage of job opportunities, leading to economic struggles and prompting migration as residents seek better prospects elsewhere.

Infrastructure and urban development remain slow, hindering overall progress. A major issue is the swampy land, which makes up around 20% of the area, causing sinking problems in residential areas, roads, and drainage systems. Additionally, traffic congestion is a growing concern due to inadequate road planning and infrastructure, leading to daily commuting difficulties.

Sibu's tourism sector is underdeveloped, with a lack of attractions to draw visitors and boost the local economy. This, in turn, affects investment opportunities, as low foreign investor interest limits business growth and economic expansion in the region. Without sufficient investment, development remains stagnant, and the town struggles to compete with other urban centers.

Environmental and waste management issues also persist. The increase in waste generation, coupled with inefficient landfill management, contributes to pollution and sanitation concerns. Additionally, the rising population of stray animals, particularly dogs and pigeons, poses hygiene and safety risks to the community.

Frequent flooding is another major issue in Sibu, primarily caused by poor drainage and swampy land conditions. These recurring floods not only damage infrastructure but also disrupt daily life and business activities. Addressing these challenges requires better urban planning, improved waste management, and stronger economic initiatives to support growth and development in the town.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

This summary shows the percentage of each gaps and challenges experienced by Sarawak Municipal Councils, providing a clear view of the distribution of issues.



### Municipal Council: Padawan Municipal Council

Issue	Number of Issues
Healthcare & Public Health	2
Basic Infrastructure & Public Utilities	3
Employment & Economy	1
Waste Management & Environment	3



Total numbers of Issues

Padawan faces significant challenges in healthcare and public health, with a shortage of healthcare facilities and doctors, making access to medical services difficult. The rising cases of dengue and rabies further pose serious health risks to the community, highlighting the need for better disease control measures and healthcare improvements.

Basic infrastructure and public utilities remain inadequate, affecting daily life. Many urban areas experience unstable water supply, causing disruptions for residents and businesses. The lack of sufficient street lighting raises safety concerns, particularly in poorly lit areas. Additionally, limited internet coverage restricts connectivity, affecting education, business, and access to digital services.

Employment opportunities in Padawan are limited, making it difficult for residents to find stable jobs and improve their livelihoods. This economic stagnation contributes to financial struggles and slows regional development.

Waste management is another pressing issue, with irregular waste collection leading to sanitation and cleanliness concerns. Uncollected garbage contributes to pollution and may worsen health and environmental problems in the area.

Frequent flash floods due to inadequate drainage systems further impact the community, causing property damage and transportation disruptions. Addressing these challenges requires better urban planning, improved infrastructure, and stronger economic initiatives to support the growth and well-being of the people in Padawan.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*



3.0

# LOCAL CONTEXT

*SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP*

## 3.1 Introduction

Sarawak, the largest of Malaysia's 13 states, has an area nearly equivalent to that of Peninsular Malaysia. Situated in the northwest of Borneo Island, it shares borders with Sabah to the northeast, Kalimantan (the Indonesian part of Borneo) to the south, and Brunei to the north. Sarawak is renowned for its lively urban environment, diverse cultural heritage, and dedication to sustainable development. It serves as a key economic hub, driving trade, tourism, and governance while seamlessly integrating modern infrastructure with green spaces.

In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sarawak represents a critical area for advancing key targets, particularly those related to sustainable urban development, environmental conservation, and socio-economic growth. Sarawak's strategic development initiatives emphasize improving public infrastructure, advancing green city projects, and safeguarding its rich biodiversity, particularly within its riverine and forest ecosystems. However, challenges such as rapid urbanization, waste management, and climate resilience necessitate innovative solutions to achieve long-term sustainability.

This chapter presents a comprehensive profile of Sarawak, examining its geography, demographics, economic activities, land use patterns, environmental efforts, and infrastructure. It highlights the key challenges and opportunities for sustainable development in the region and provides insights into how the city can balance growth with environmental protection to foster long-term resilience and prosperity.

## 3.2 Overview of Sarawak

### Geographic Location

Sarawak is characterized by dense rainforests, winding rivers, limestone caves, and mountain ranges, with the Rajang River being Malaysia's longest. Sarawak's geography also features vast peat swamps, highland regions, and national parks, contributing to its ecological diversity. The combination of urban centers, rural landscapes, and protected areas makes Sarawak a unique blend of development and natural conservation.

Sarawak's diverse geography encompasses coastal lowlands, river valleys, and highland interiors, creating a unique blend of natural landscapes and human settlements. The state is home to numerous national parks, such as Gunung Mulu National Park, known for its vast cave systems, and Bako National Park, famous for its coastal cliffs and wildlife. Extensive river networks, including the Rajang and Baram Rivers, serve as vital transportation routes for many rural communities. With its tropical rainforest climate, Sarawak experiences high humidity and significant rainfall throughout the year, supporting rich biodiversity and thriving ecosystems.



**124,171 km<sup>2</sup>**

Total area of Sarawak (1992-present)



**2.5 million**

Sarawak Total Population (DOSM, 2024)



**RM 72,411 million**

GDP per Capita

Source:  
My Local Stats, Sarawak

## Historical Setting

Sarawak's history is shaped by indigenous traditions, colonial rule, and political evolution. The region was originally inhabited by diverse indigenous communities, including the Iban, Bidayuh, Orang Ulu, and Melanau, who lived in longhouses and relied on agriculture, trade, and river networks for their livelihoods.

In 1841, James Brooke, an English adventurer, was granted control of Sarawak by the Sultan of Brunei, establishing the White Rajah Dynasty. Under Brooke's rule, Sarawak expanded its territory, developed administrative systems, and engaged in trade, though it also faced resistance from local uprisings.

Following World War II, Sarawak was ceded to British rule in 1946, becoming a British colony. This period saw further infrastructure growth and the rise of nationalist movements advocating for self-governance. Sarawak gained independence from British rule on July 22, 1963, before officially joining Malaysia on September 16, 1963, alongside Malaya, Sabah, and Singapore.

Today, Sarawak retains a distinct identity within Malaysia, with special autonomy, unique cultural heritage, and its own immigration laws, as outlined in the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63). Its historical journey continues to influence its governance, economy, and multicultural society.

## The Origin of Sarawak

Sarawak's origins can be traced back to ancient civilizations and early human settlements, with archaeological evidence suggesting that humans have inhabited the region for over 40,000 years. Sites such as Niah Caves reveal prehistoric remains, including early human skulls and cave paintings, indicating that Sarawak was home to some of the earliest known communities in Southeast Asia.

Throughout history, Sarawak's location along major maritime trade routes made it a hub for commerce and cultural exchange. Early traders from China, India, and the Middle East arrived seeking natural resources such as camphor, rattan, and exotic woods. These interactions influenced local societies, contributing to the development of distinct languages, crafts, and traditions.



Figure 3.1: The White Rajah  
(Google Web)

## Administrative Boundary Urban And Rural Setting

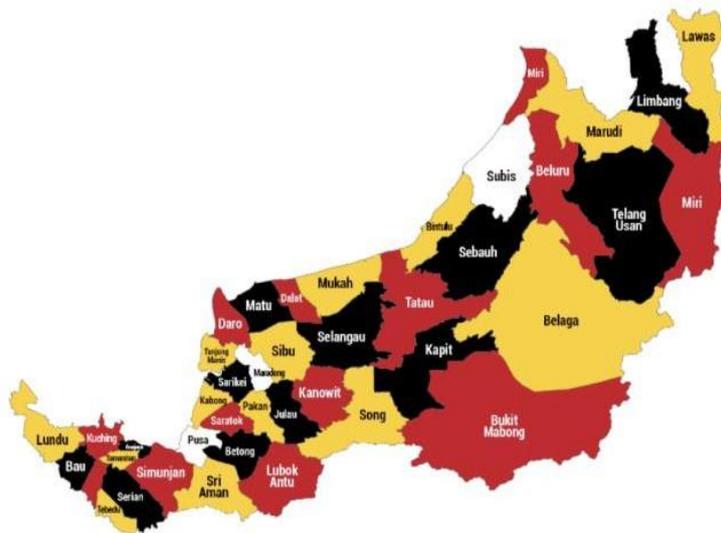
Sarawak is administratively divided into 12 divisions, each with distinct economic, geographical, and cultural characteristics. These divisions are Kuching, Samarahan, Serian, Sri Aman, Betong, Sarikei, Sibü, Mukah, Bintulu, Miri, Limbang, and Kapit. Each division is further subdivided into districts and sub-districts, managed by local authorities responsible for governance, development, and public services.

The capital city, Kuching, serves as the state's administrative and economic hub, housing key government institutions and commercial centers. Sarawak's urban areas are concentrated in major cities and towns, which drive economic growth and modernization. Kuching is the largest city, known for its cultural attractions and government institutions, while Miri is a thriving oil and gas hub with a strong tourism sector. Sibü, located along the Rajang River, is a key trade and commerce center, while Bintulu is an industrial powerhouse with a growing focus on energy and manufacturing. Other towns, such as Sarikei, Mukah, and Samarahan, serve as important regional economic centers, supporting agriculture, education, and fisheries.

Despite ongoing urbanization, a significant portion of Sarawak remains rural, with many communities living in traditional settlements. The Iban, Bidayuh, and Orang Ulu primarily reside in longhouses, which serve as communal living spaces. Coastal villages, particularly in Mukah and Limbang, rely on fisheries, while highland settlements in Kapit, Betong, and Serian depend on agriculture. These rural areas often face challenges in infrastructure and accessibility, but development initiatives aim to improve connectivity while preserving Sarawak's cultural and environmental heritage.

With its mix of urban growth and rural traditions, Sarawak continues to balance modernization with sustainability, ensuring that development benefits both its cities and remote communities.

Figure 3.2: Sarawak Map



Sarawak's development is supported by its growing transportation network and infrastructure. The Pan Borneo Highway improves road connections across the state, making travel between cities and rural areas easier. Major ports in Kuching, Bintulu, and Miri support trade, while airports in Kuching, Miri, and Sibü connect Sarawak to other parts of Malaysia and beyond. As the state continues to develop, efforts focus on better accessibility, sustainable growth, and economic progress while preserving Sarawak's natural and cultural heritage.

This spatial distribution is conducive to fostering inclusive growth (SDG 11) by ensuring that both urban and rural areas receive equitable attention and development initiatives. By strategically balancing the development between urban and suburban zones, the district must enhance the quality of life for all residents of Sarawak.

# 3.3 Social, Economic and Environmental Overview

## Sarawak 24 Local Authorities Roadmap

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda underscores the importance of inclusive and equitable progress to achieve a sustainable future for all. In line with this global vision, the 24 local authorities (PBTs) in Sarawak have embarked on a comprehensive roadmap to localize and implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This roadmap serves as a guiding framework to align regional development priorities with SDG targets, addressing challenges unique to both urban and rural contexts.

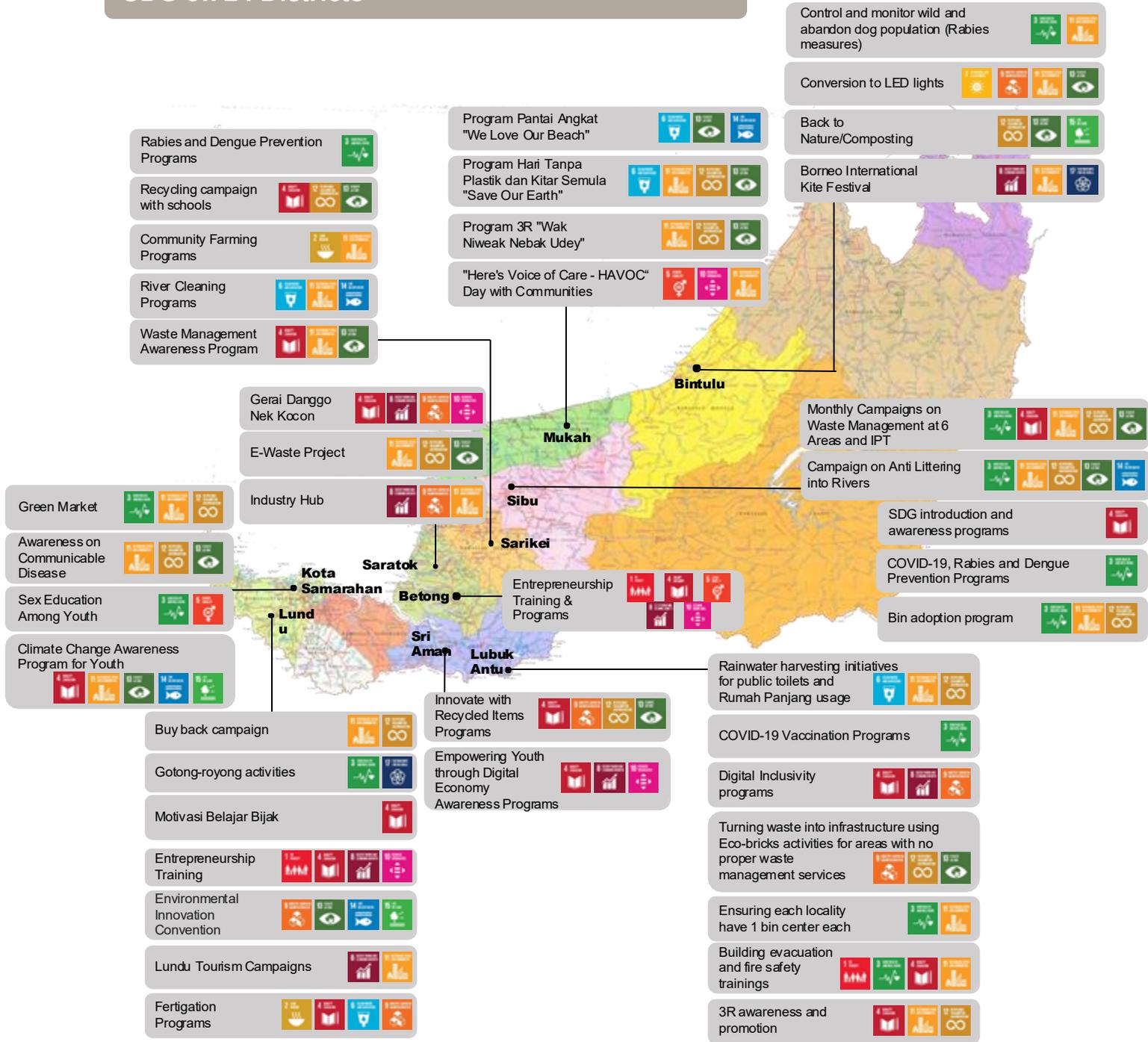
The focus is on identifying critical projects, prioritizing actionable strategies, and accelerating the implementation timeline, ensuring that every region benefits equitably from the sustainable development agenda.

The document emphasizes stakeholder involvement across government agencies, the private sector, civil society, and local communities to drive collective action. Additionally, it outlines robust implementation mechanisms, funding strategies, and monitoring and evaluation systems to track progress and ensure accountability. As Sarawak's local authorities work towards 2030 and beyond, this roadmap aims to create a resilient, equitable, and sustainable future for all residents.





# SDG on 24 Districts



Source: FGD, SDG Project Mapping Exercise

Significant efforts are being made to promote tourism products, services, and infrastructure in Sarawak, alongside initiatives for entrepreneurship training and support to revive economic growth. Areas such as Bintulu, Lundu, and Saratok are actively advancing their cultural tourism campaigns.

However, there is a noticeable lack of programs and initiatives focused on gender equality and women's empowerment undertaken by local authorities in Sarawak.

## Physical and Spatial Profile

Sarawak's 24 districts, governed by their respective local authorities (PBTs), exhibit diverse physical and spatial characteristics that influence development patterns, infrastructure, and economic opportunities. These districts range from highly urbanized centers to rural and remote areas, each presenting unique challenges and opportunities.

### Urban Districts

Urban districts such as those under Majlis Bandaraya Kuching Selatan (MBKS), Majlis Bandaraya Miri, and Majlis Perbandaran Sibul are characterized by dense populations, advanced infrastructure, and significant economic activities. These areas are hubs for commerce, services, and industrial development, with well-established road networks and utilities that support growth and attract investments.

### Semi-Urban Districts

Districts like Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan, Majlis Perbandaran Padawan, and Majlis Daerah Serian serve as transitional zones between urban and rural areas. These districts combine elements of urbanization, such as expanding residential areas and commercial hubs, with agriculture-based economies. Improved infrastructure is driving their potential for growth, particularly in education, healthcare, and industrial activities.

## Rural Districts

Rural districts such as Majlis Daerah Dalat dan Mukah, Majlis Daerah Kapit, and Majlis Daerah Lubok Antu are defined by vast areas of natural landscapes, including forests, rivers, and agricultural land. These areas face challenges in connectivity due to inadequate road networks and limited public transportation. Infrastructure deficits hinder economic diversification and access to essential services, yet these districts hold potential for sustainable industries like eco-tourism, agro-business, and fisheries.

### Coastal and Riverine Districts

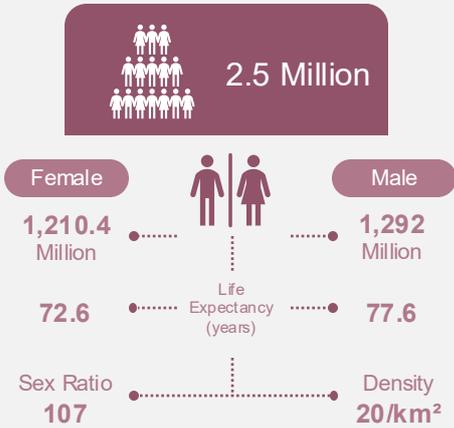
Districts like Majlis Daerah Matu dan Daro and Majlis Daerah Sarikei are heavily influenced by their coastal and riverine locations. These areas rely on fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture as primary economic activities, but are also vulnerable to issues such as flooding and erosion. Investments in coastal infrastructure and flood mitigation are essential to ensure resilience and sustainable development.

### Northern Districts

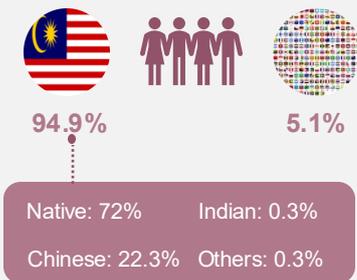
The northern regions, including Majlis Daerah Limbang and Majlis Daerah Lawas, are strategically located near international borders, offering opportunities for cross-border trade and tourism. However, these areas require enhanced road connectivity and border facilities to fully capitalize on their economic potential.

## Socio-Economic Profile

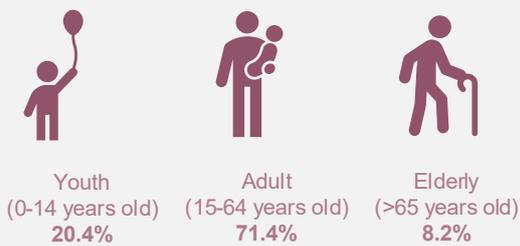
### 1 SARAWAK POPULATION



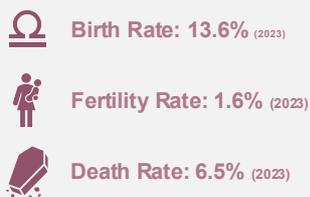
### 2 POPULATION COMPOSITION



### 3 AGE GROUP



### 4 IMPORTANT STATISTICS



### SARAWAK LABOUR FORCE (2023)

	Male	Female	Total
Labour Force (000)	784.8	449.8	1,234.6
Employed Person (000)	758.0	434.5	1,192.5
Unemployed Person (000)	26.8	15.3	42.1
Outside Labour Force (000)	146.9	408.3	555.2

Source: Labour Force Survey Report Malaysia, 2023

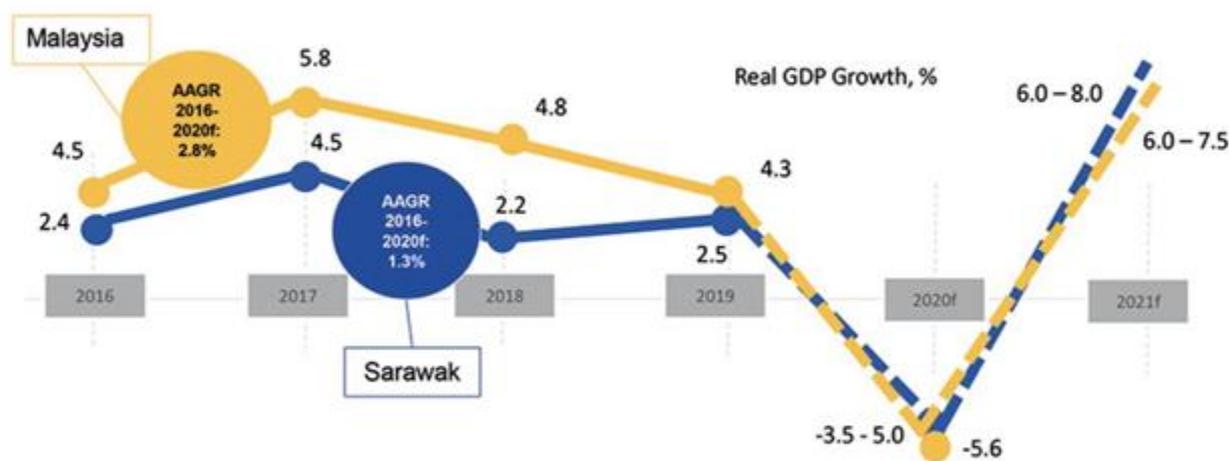


## Economic Profile

Sarawak economy grew by an average rate of 2.9% in 2016-2019. In 2020, Sarawak economy is estimated to contract between 3.5% to 5.0% due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Thus, the overall growth of Sarawak under the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (11 MP), 2016-2020 is expected to 1.3% to 1.6%, which is below the targeted growth of 6.0% per annum. The growth is also below the national average of 2.8% per annum.

Sarawak exports shrank by 24.2% in 2020, which brought down the average annual export growth to negative 1.4% under the 11 MP. The drop was largely due to low performance of the oil and gas sector and COVID-19 pandemic. The slowdown in the economy has triggered a less favorable employment market. Retrenchment of local workers from 723 in 2019 to more than 3,000 in 2020 and unemployment rate increased from 3.1% in 2019 to 4.3% in 2020.

Figure 1: Malaysia and Sarawak Real GDP Growth (%)



Source: Bank Negara Malaysia, Department of Statistics Malaysia & Economic Planning Unit Sarawak

## Environmental Profile

Sarawak has an equatorial climate and uniform temperature, rainfall and humid throughout the year. The climate is very much influenced by the Northeast monsoon season. Forest. Forested areas cover 62% of the Sarawak area. Sarawak has the longest river in Malaysia, the Rajang river, with approximately 565 km long. Sarawak has 46 river basins and 37 protected forest areas. The daily air quality of the state is between good and moderate level throughout the year. The state faced natural incidents namely floods, road, accidents, fire incidents and coastal erosion.



## Environmental Conditions

Forested area in Sarawak is 7,747,777 km<sup>2</sup> make up of 62% of total Sarawak area. There are 3 types of forest reserved in Sarawak which are Forest Reserved Area, Peat Swamp and Mangrove Swamp where the areas are decreasing from 2014 to 2018.

# 7,747,777

Sarawak Forested area, 2018 (km<sup>2</sup>)  
62% of total Sarawak area

# 1,234.1

Coastal length, 2019 (km)  
14% of total Malaysia coastal length

Forest Area (hectare)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Forested Area	8,034,000	8,046,448	7,909,985	7,799,066	7,747,777
Forest Reserved Area	4,352,828	4,320,302	4,317,939	4,274,825	4,209,053
Peat Swamp	353,067	353,050	332,716	325,046	326,771
Mangrove Swamp	88,575	88,565	72,545	71,086	72,819
Non-Forested Area	4,363,311	4,350,863	4,487,326	4,598,245	4,697,223



## Sarawak Mean Temperature at Meteorological stations

Sarawak highest mean temperature recorded is in Mulu station at 33.5°C in 2019, and the lowest recorded in Sri Aman station by 23.2°C in 2018. Overall stations showed an increase of reading at lowest and highest temperature records from year 2018 to 2019.

Meteorological stations	2018		2019		Meteorological stations	2018		2019	
	highest	Lowest	highest	Lowest		highest	Lowest	highest	Lowest
Bintulu	31.7°C	23.8°C	32.0°C	24.0°C	Miri	31.4°C	23.9°C	31.7°C	24.0°C
Kapit	-	-	33.4°C	24.2°C	Sibu	32.4°C	23.5°C	32.6°C	23.7°C
Kuching	32.3°C	23.8°C	32.5°C	24.1°C	Mulu	-	-	33.5°C	23.3°C
Limbang	-	-	33.3°C	23.7°C	Sri Aman	32.7°C	23.2°C	33.2°C	23.4°C

# 3.4 Social, Economic and Environmental Overview of Sarawak Municipalities

The social, economic, and environmental overview of Sibu Municipal Council, Padawan Municipal Council, and Kota Samarahan Municipal Council reflects their commitment to achieving a sustainable and inclusive future in alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These municipal councils play a crucial role in addressing regional challenges by integrating social equity, economic growth, and environmental sustainability into their development strategies.

Socially, they focus on enhancing livability, community well-being, and access to essential services, ensuring that urban and suburban populations benefit from improved infrastructure, public amenities, and social programs.

Economically, these councils emphasize local business growth, investment opportunities, and employment generation, fostering resilient economies through strategic urban planning and industry development.

Environmentally, they prioritize green initiatives, climate resilience, and sustainable land use planning, aiming to mitigate urban expansion pressures while preserving natural ecosystems.

Through multi-stakeholder collaboration, innovative policies, and data-driven decision-making, these municipal councils strive to create sustainable, inclusive, and forward-looking urban environments, ensuring a balanced approach to development in Sarawak's evolving landscape.

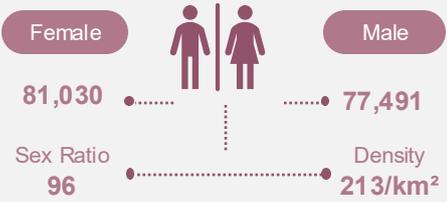




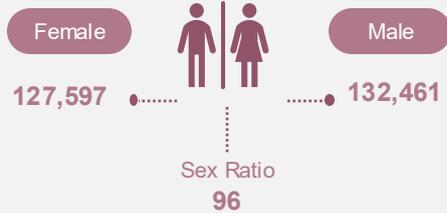
## Socio-Economic Profile

1

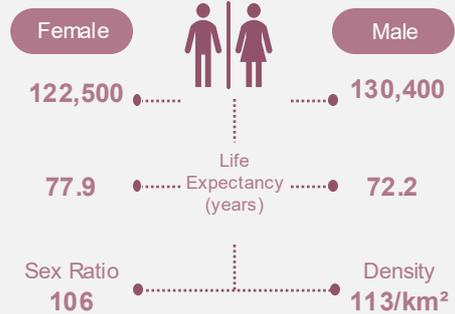
### KOTA SAMARAHAN POPULATION (2022)



### PADAWAN POPULATION (2020)



### SIBU POPULATION (2023)



2

### KOTA SAMARAHAN POPULATION COMPOSITION (2020)



Native: 85.3% Indian: 0.5%  
Chinese: 14% Others: 0.2%

### SIBU POPULATION COMPOSITION (2023)



Native: 51.4% Indian: 0.1%  
Chinese: 48.2% Others: 0.3%

3

### KOTA SAMARAHAN AGE GROUP (2020)



### SIBU AGE GROUP (2020)



## Socio-Economic Profile

### KOTA SAMARAHAN LABOUR FORCE (2020)

Labour Force ('000)	Employed Persons ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	Outside Labour Force ('000)	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
81.1	77.2	3.8	44.4	64.6	4.7

### SIBU LABOUR FORCE (2021-2023)

Year	Labour Force ('000)	Employed Persons ('000)	Unemployed ('000)	Outside Labour Force ('000)	Labour Force Participation Rate (%)	Unemployment Rate (%)
2021	119.4	112.0	7.3	56.2	68.0	6.1
2022	122.4	116.0	6.4	55.1	69.0	5.2
2023	129.2	121.9	6.3	54.8	70.1	4.9

Source: DOSM

In 2020, Kota Samarahan had a labour force of 81,100 individuals, with an employment rate of 77,200 and an unemployment rate of 4.7%. The labour force participation rate stood at 64.6%, while 44,400 individuals were outside the labour force. Meanwhile, for Sibü, data is available from 2021 to 2023, showing a steady increase in the labour force from 119,400 in 2021 to 129,200 in 2023. Employment also grew from 112,000 to 121,900 over the same period, while the unemployment rate decreased from 6.1% in 2021 to 4.9% in 2023. Sibü's labour force participation rate also improved, reaching 70.1% in 2023. However, there is no available data for Padawan Municipal Council.



## Environmental Profile

### KOTA SAMARAHAN



Kota Samarahan, located in Sarawak, Malaysia, is characterized by its peat swamp forests and alluvial plains, which are rich in biodiversity and play a crucial role in carbon sequestration. These ecosystems, however, are highly sensitive to disturbances such as land development and drainage, leading to subsidence and increased carbon emissions.

A study in the UNIMAS Arboretum recorded 1,063 individual trees from 115 species, with *Palaquium walsuraefolium* as the dominant species, while traditionally significant species like *Gonystylus bancanus* (Ramin) and *Shorea albida* (Alan bunga) were less prevalent due to ecological shifts.

Additionally, a study on beetle assemblages in the UNIMAS Real Living Lab documented 185 individuals from 37 species, highlighting their potential as bioindicators of peat swamp forest health. Conservation efforts include the establishment of the Sarawak Tropical Peat Research Institute (STROPI), which focuses on tropical peatland research to support sustainable land use and environmental conservation. National initiatives, such as the UNDP-supported project on Malaysia's peat swamp forests, emphasize integrated management strategies to preserve biodiversity, maintain water resources, and enhance carbon sequestration.

### SIBU

Sibu is located near the Rajang delta at the confluence of the Rajang and Igan rivers. The area is characterized by peat swamp forests and alluvial plains. The town itself is built on deep peat soil, which has posed challenges for infrastructure development due to gradual sinking of buildings and roads. Additionally, Sibu experiences frequent flooding, occurring about one to three times per year. To address these issues, the Sibu Flood Mitigation project was initiated to reduce the impact of floods. The highest elevation in Sibu is Bukit Aup Jubilee Park, standing at 59 meters above sea level.



### PADAWAN



Padawan is situated in a region characterized by hilly terrain and dense rainforest, contributing to its rich biodiversity. The area is home to various conservation efforts aimed at preserving its unique flora and fauna. Sustainable tourism practices are also being promoted to ensure that the natural environment is protected while supporting local communities.

## Average Temperature and Precipitation

Region	Average Temperature (°C)	Average High Temperature (°C)	Average Low Temperature (°C)	Average Annual Precipitation (mm)
Kota Samarahan	27.3	31.2	23.0	3,805.2
Sibu	26.3	32.0	22.0	3,200
Padawan	27.6	32.5	23.2	3,474

Source: MET Malaysia

### KOTA SAMARAHAN

Kota Samarahan experiences a tropical rainforest climate with consistently high temperatures and significant rainfall throughout the year. The average annual temperature is approximately 27.3°C, with average high temperatures around 31.2°C and average lows near 23.0°C. The region receives substantial rainfall, totaling approximately 3,805.2 mm annually.

### SIBU

Sibu also has a tropical rainforest climate, characterized by consistently high temperatures and substantial annual rainfall. The average annual temperature is about 26.3°C, with average highs around 32.0°C and lows near 22.0°C. The region receives approximately 3,200 mm of rainfall annually.

### PADAWAN

Padawan experiences a tropical rainforest climate with consistently high temperatures and significant rainfall throughout the year. The average annual temperature is approximately 27.6°C, with average highs around 32.5°C and lows near 23.2°C. The region receives substantial rainfall, totaling approximately 3,474 mm annually.



## General Conclusion

### KOTA SAMARAHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Focuses on sustainability initiatives such as the Green Market and climate change awareness programs for youth.
- Has a growing urban profile, with increasing population and economic activities, particularly in education and healthcare.
- Faces environmental challenges related to peat swamp forests and carbon emissions but has conservation efforts in place.

### SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Prioritizes infrastructure development, particularly flood mitigation projects due to its location in the Rajang Delta.
- Economic growth is reflected in an increasing labor force and employment rates.
- Environmental concerns include peat soil subsidence and frequent flooding, which require sustainable management strategies.

### PADAWAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

- Known for its hilly terrain and rainforest, contributing to its rich biodiversity.
- Conservation efforts are being implemented alongside sustainable tourism to balance development with environmental protection.
- Lacks detailed labor force data, but development efforts focus on new housing areas and commercial areas, eco-tourism and maintaining natural heritage.

These municipal councils demonstrate a commitment to sustainable urban development through various initiatives tailored to their specific environmental and socio-economic challenges. Kota Samarahan focuses on green initiatives and youth awareness, Sibü prioritizes flood mitigation and economic growth, while Padawan emphasizes biodiversity conservation and eco-tourism. However, ongoing efforts are needed to address environmental sustainability, urban resilience, and equitable socio-economic growth in these regions.



## Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan

### Administrative Boundaries

Items	Details	Total areas (km2)
Sub District	Samarahan Asajaya Sadong Jaya	709
Districts	Samarahan	
Economic Region	1- RECODA 2- GKCD 3- IRSDA	

Source: Official Website of MPKS; Samarahan Resident's Office; Samarahan Land and Survey Office; MPKS Engineering Division

### Spatial Profile

**21,900**  
(hectare)  
Built-up Area

**51,500**  
(hectare)  
Non-Built-up Area

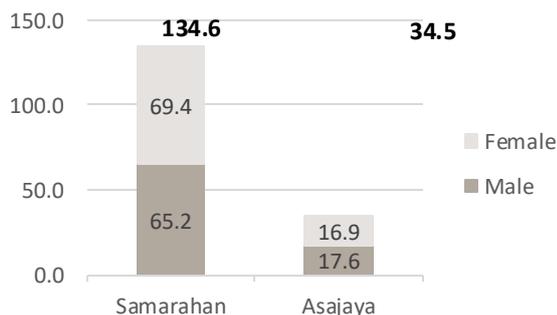
**29,200**  
(hectare)  
Forest & Water  
Bodies Area

**15,300**  
(hectare)  
Agriculture Area

Source :DOSM (2024)

### Socio Economic Profile

Total Population in Samarahan & Asajaya ('000), 2023



Source: DOSM, 2023



### Economic Profile

Number of Establishments, 2022

**Services** 1,562

**Construction** 111

**Manufacturing** 73

Source: My Local Stats, Samarahan, Sarawak, 2023

### Environmental Profile

**Min: 16.5**  
**Max: 57.5**

Average Air  
Pollutant  
Index, 2022

Source: Sarawak Environmental Statistics, 2023





Municipal Council

## Majlis Perbandaran Padawan

### Administrative Boundaries

Items	Details	Total areas (km <sup>2</sup> )
Sub Districts	Padawan	984.34
Districts	Kuching Padawan	
Economic Region	1- GKCD A	

Source: Padawan Municipal Council Website



### Spatial Profile

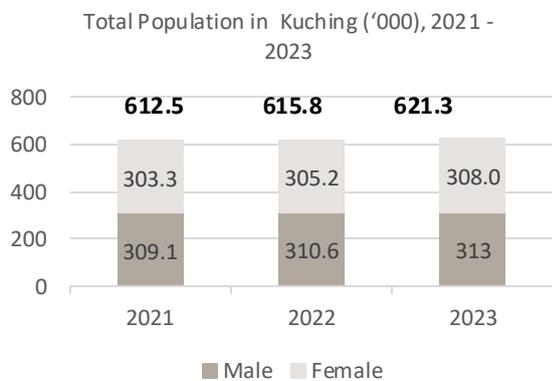
20% Built-up Area	80% Non-Built-up Area
40% Forest & Water Bodies Area	20% Agriculture Area

### Economic Profile

Number of Establishments, 2022

Services	28,731
Construction	2,889
Manufacturing	1,336

### Socio Economic Profile



Source: My Local Stats, Kuching, Sarawak, 2023

### Environmental Profile

Min: 15.9  
Max: 58.5

Average Air Pollutant Index, 2022

Source: Sarawak Environmental Statistics, 2023

# Padawan Municipal Council Administrative Map





Municipal Council

## Majlis Perbandaran Sibuland

### Administrative Boundaries

Items	Details	Total areas (km2)
District	Sibu Municipal Council's Jurisdiction	129.5
Economic Region	1- RECODA	

Source :DOSM (2024)



### Spatial Profile

<b>25%</b> (32 km2) Built-up Area	<b>75%</b> (97.5 km2) Non-Built-up Area
<b>30%</b> (39 km2) Forest & Water Bodies Area	<b>45%</b> (58.5 km2) Agriculture Area

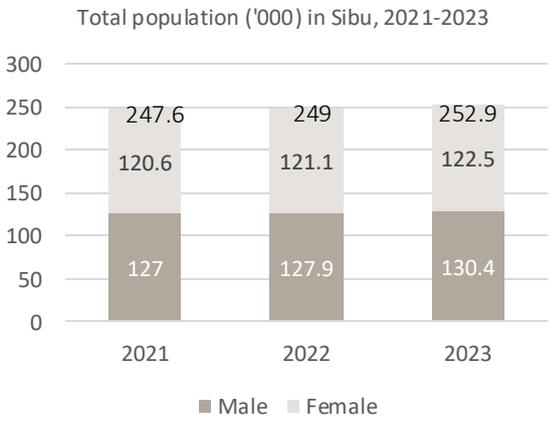
### Economic Profile

Number of establishments (2022)

<b>Services</b>	<b>10,639</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>761</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>681</b>

Source : DOSM (2024)

### Socio Economic Profile



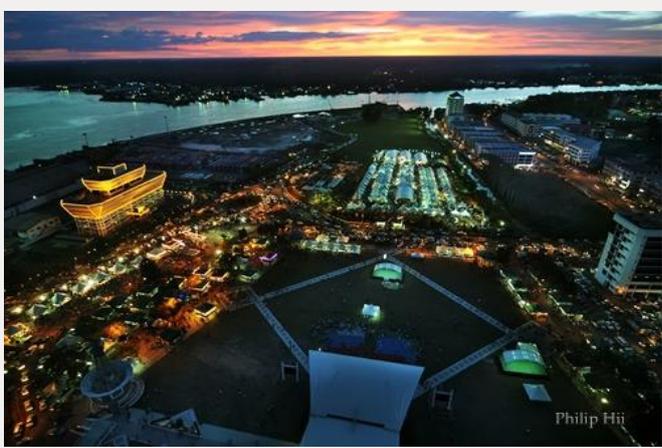
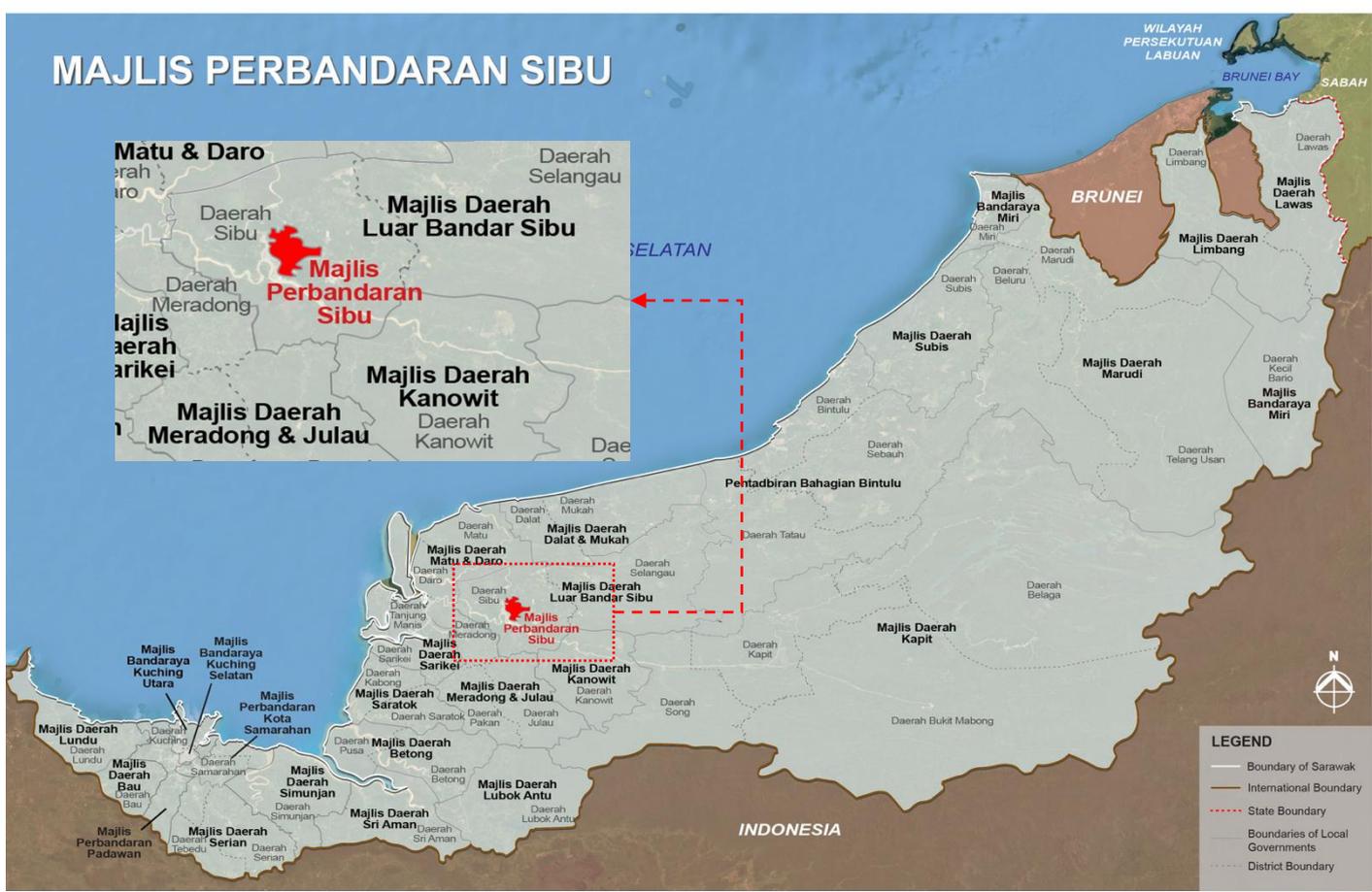
Source :DOSM (2024)

### Environmental Profile

**28**  
Air Quality Index

Source: DOSM (2024)

# Sibu District Map



Sarawak faces pressing socioeconomic and infrastructural challenges that hinder sustainable development. Economic disparities stem from the influence of Brunei's spending power, which raises local prices, while wages lag behind, compounding financial strains. High domestic airfares restrict mobility, and unemployment remains a significant issue in Limbang and Lawas. Urban poverty is visible in Miri's homelessness and squatter settlements. Public health concerns include limited access to healthcare in rural areas, stray dogs posing zoonotic risks, and localized drug abuse. Educational barriers persist in remote areas, while socio-economic issues contribute to high teenage pregnancy rates and a large number of single mothers.

Infrastructure and environmental management are critical areas of concern. Poor road connectivity, limited public transport, and unstable internet hinder economic and social progress. High housing costs, inadequate drainage systems, and unreliable electricity supply exacerbate urban challenges, while the absence of recreational facilities impacts community well-being. Waste management is inadequate, leading to river pollution and environmental degradation, with regions like Limbang lacking recycling facilities. Administrative inefficiencies, high crime rates, and weak regulatory enforcement further compound city management issues. These interconnected challenges call for a coordinated approach focusing on improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, waste management, and fostering economic resilience.



## 3.5 Current Governance Structure of Sarawak

Governance is crucial for ensuring sustainable development, urban resilience, and environmental protection in Sarawak. Sarawak is a dynamic state with a diverse urban landscape, economic activities centered around trade, tourism, and services, and ongoing infrastructure expansion. Effective governance is essential for balancing modernization with heritage conservation and environmental sustainability.

The Ministry of Public Health, Housing, and Local Government (MPHLG) Sarawak oversees public health services, affordable housing, local governance, and infrastructure development to ensure sustainable growth and well-being across the state. It supervises healthcare initiatives through the Sarawak State Health Department, develops housing projects via the Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and regulates 27 local authorities to maintain municipal services and urban management.

### Sarawak Local Authorities

In Sarawak, the Local Authorities are responsible for providing efficient and continuous municipal services, planning, implementing, and maintaining development projects within their jurisdiction. They ensure that all properties, including oil palm plantations, are properly assessed and subject to valuation tax and levies. Additionally, they review and enforce existing laws under their authority, oversee the planning, management, and provision of public library facilities, and implement community development programs while assessing their impact to enhance local well-being.



### Ministry of Housing and Local Government

#### Sustainable Living Environment for All

Sarawak Local Authorities under the MPHLG operate in compliance with various legislations which include and not limited to the following:

1. City of Kuching North Ordinance, 1988 – DBKU only
2. The Local Authorities Ordinance, 1996
3. Protection of Public Health Ordinance, 1999
4. Entertainment Ordinance, 2000
5. Building Ordinance, 1994
6. Public Parks and Green Ordinance, 1993

Covering jurisdiction area of 124,450 km<sup>2</sup> and serving a populace of 2.5 millions, MPHLG envisions Sarawak as a vibrant, premier destination. Their mission is to elevate living standards by cultivating a nurturing environment, promoting active citizen participation, and providing unparalleled services. To realise this vision and mission, These Local Authorities employs a strategic framework encompassing five main pillars which are cleanliness, aesthetics, safety, innovation, and sustainability.

The Ministry of Public Health, Housing, and Local Government has the following functions:

- Formulating and monitoring legislation.
- Providing services to target groups.
- Planning and overseeing development.
- Enforcement and community engagement.

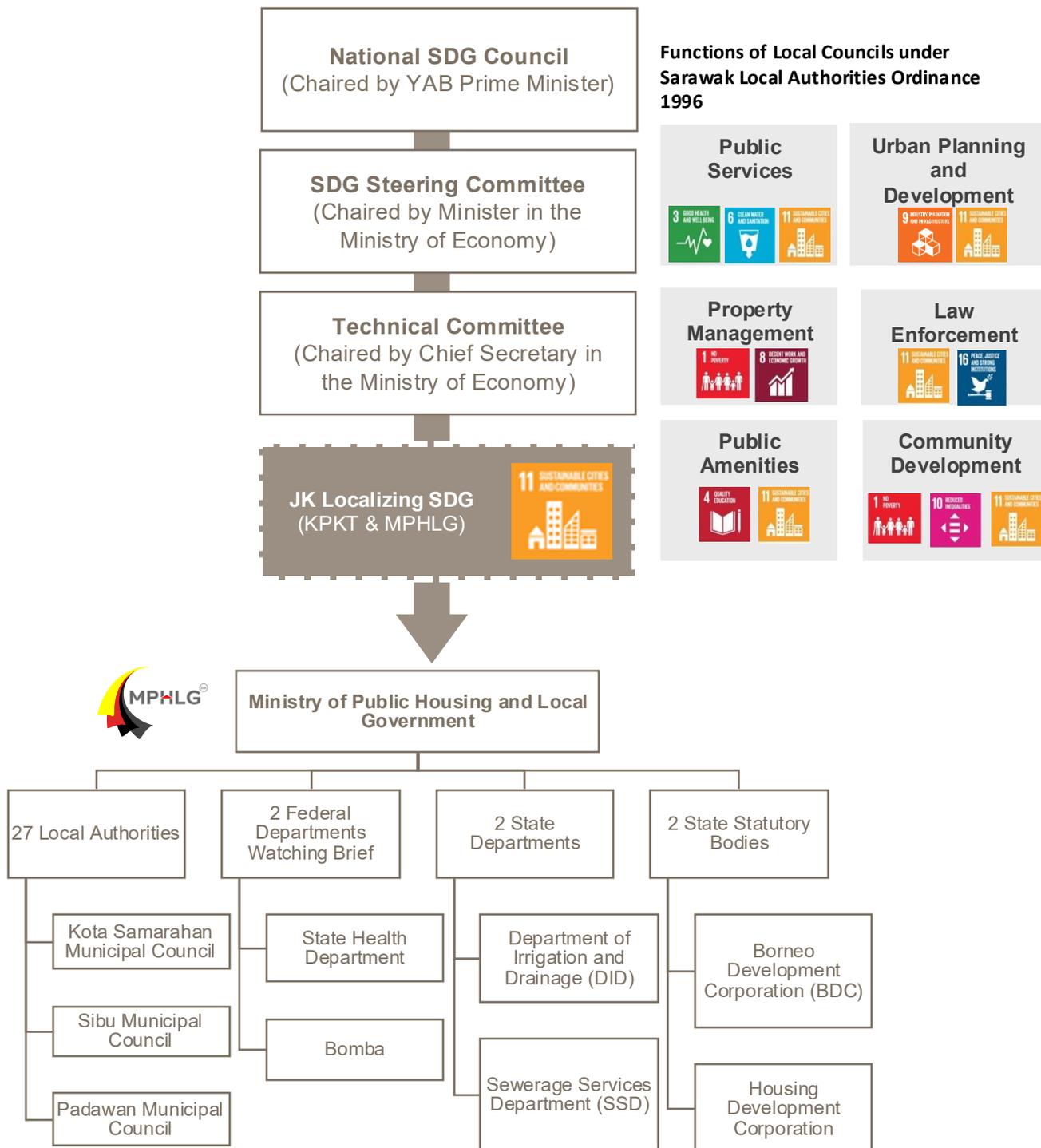
The Local Authorities core functions include:

- Continuously providing efficient and effective municipal services.
- Planning, implementing, and maintaining Local Authority development projects.
- Ensuring that all properties within the Local Authority's jurisdiction are assessed and subject to assessment tax and levies (including oil palm plantations).
- Reviewing and enforcing existing laws under the jurisdiction of the Local Authority.
- Planning, managing, and providing public library facilities.
- Planning, implementing, and evaluating the impact of community development programs.

### 24 Local Authorities for Sarawak SDG Roadmap



## Sarawak Sustainable Governance Structure



### Local Administration

Sarawak Local Authorities Ordinance 1996 sets out the establishment, administration, and duties of local councils in Sarawak, Malaysia.

### Development Planning System

The development planning system is primarily governed by the Sarawak Land Code and the Town and Country Planning Ordinance, 1952, which provide the legal framework for land use, development, and planning in the state.

## Governance and Funding for SDG Implementation

Effective SDG implementation in Sarawak requires adequate financial resources, technical support, and policy guidance from multiple levels of government and external partners. Several mechanisms support funding and decision-making for sustainable development in the district as follow:

- **State and Federal Support**

Local Authorities relies on funding from the Sarawak State Government and Federal Government allocations to implement SDG-related projects. State policies, such as the Sarawak Sustainable Development Strategy, provide the framework for aligning local plans with state and national goals. These policies help guide sustainable urban development, environmental conservation, and economic growth while addressing challenges such as climate resilience and land use management.

- **Federal Grants and Development Funds**

The district receives financial support from agencies such as the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) and Ministry of Housing and Local Government (MPHLG). These grants are allocated for various initiatives, including environmental conservation, green infrastructure, waste management, and renewable energy projects. Special funding programs also support local capacity-building efforts to enhance technical expertise and governance structures.

- **Decision-Making and Policy Coordination**

Key decision-makers involved in implementing the SDGs include the Mayors, Councillors and various technical agencies. These entities work closely with federal and state agencies to ensure integrated and sustainable urban planning, land management, and environmental protection. Coordination among these entities is essential for balancing economic growth with environmental preservation.

- **External Partnerships and Donor Support**

Few notable partnerships are collaboration between Local Authorities with several international agencies:

- Majlis Daerah Kapit: Collaboration with Japan, Thailand and Vietnam on low carbon initiatives
- Majlis Bandaraya Miri: Collaboration with nine sister cities towards developing research centre to attract investment and boost tourism
- Majlis Daerah Marudi: Sisterhood with Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Sarawak's governance for SDG implementation is currently structured through a combination of state and federal support, coordinated policy efforts, and external collaborations. With strong decision-making mechanisms and international partnerships, the district is making progress toward sustainable urban development, environmental conservation, and resource management. Continued funding, policy alignment, and community engagement will be key to achieving the region's long-term sustainability goals.

## 3.6 Current Governance Structure of Kota Samarahan Municipal Council

Initially, the Samarahan district began as a sub-district under the Kuching district. Later, the Samarahan District Council (MDS) was gazetted as a Local Authority in Sarawak under the provisions of the Local Authorities Ordinance Cap. 117 on January 1, 1985. MDS is a body recognized as a Local Authority and falls under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. MDS exercises the powers granted under the Local Authority Ordinance and has the authority to enact laws (Local Authority By-Laws) within its area of jurisdiction. The local population is subject to the governance of the Local Authority.



### Kota Samarahan Municipal Council

**Beautiful, Clean, Green & Safe**

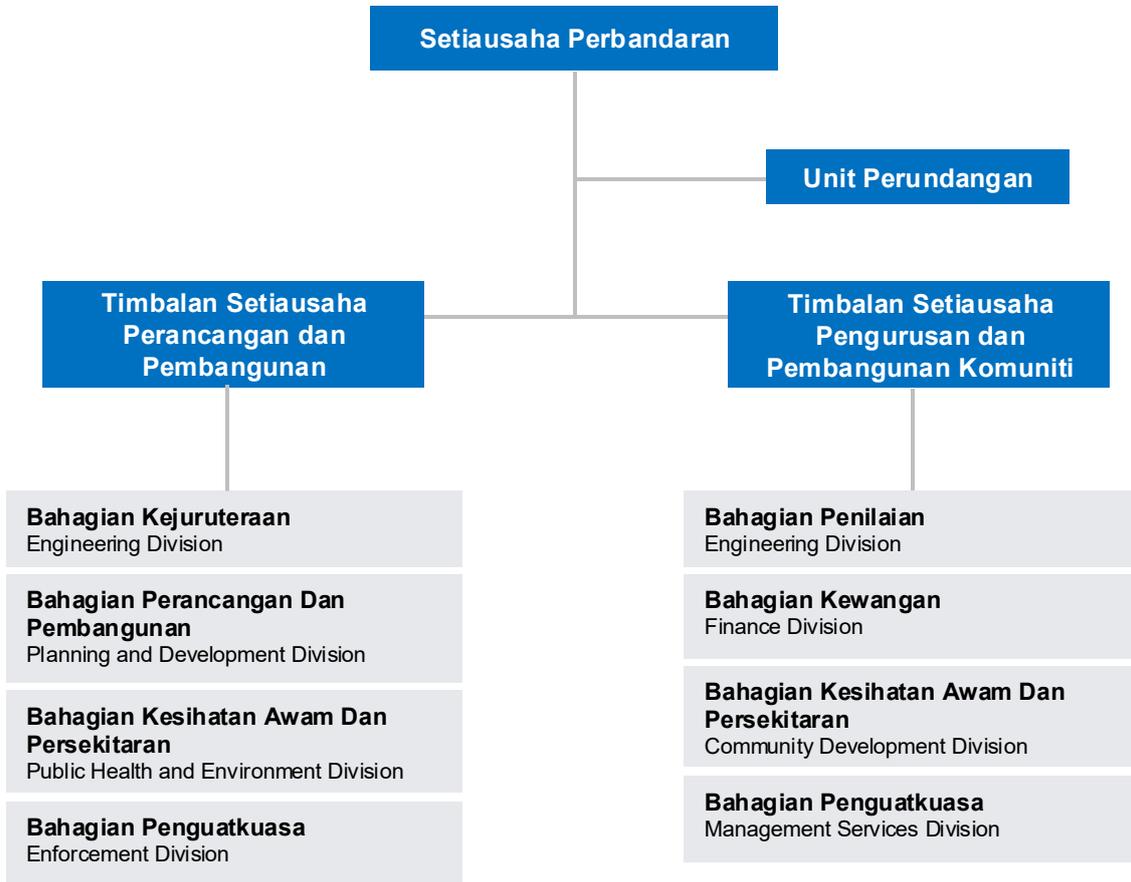
MDS is located in the Samarahan district, approximately 30 kilometers from Kuching City. The Kota Samarahan Municipal Council was gazetted on December 27, 1984, and began exercising its authority to govern areas under its jurisdiction on January 1, 1985. The areas under MDS's administration include the Asajaya sub-district and the Sadong Jaya district. In just about 10 years, significant development and progress were achieved through the efforts of the Local Authority, Government Agencies, and community involvement in driving these changes.

The government's vision is for the Samarahan Division to become a research and educational hub in the state, ultimately achieving international recognition as an education center. This vision is reflected in the establishment of various educational, training, and research institutions such as the permanent campus of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS), Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Tun Abdul Razak Teacher Training Institute, Samarahan Industrial Training Institute (ILP), Sarawak Technology Park, and Sarawak International Medical Centre (SIMC). Over time, these institutions will contribute to making Samarahan one of the fastest-growing centers of excellence in education, training, and research in Malaysia.

The Samarahan district covers an area of 593.9 square kilometers with a population of 63,581 people (according to the 2000 Population Census). This population includes residents from both Samarahan and Asajaya. The terrain in the Samarahan district is generally flat, consisting mostly of lowland or peat soil. Such land conditions are suitable for agricultural activities, and this is where the IADP project is implemented. Among the commodities produced are sweet oranges, coconuts, oil palm, and pineapples. Additionally, popular short-term crops include paddy, watermelon, sweet corn, and various vegetables.

Currently, MPKS’s governance structure consists of 8 departments, as illustrated below:

**Figure 3.3:** Organisational Chart of Kota Samarahan Municipal Council



Source: Kota Samarahan Municipal Council Official Website, 2025

# 3.7 Role and Function of MPKS in SDG Implementation

## Departments in MPKS

The role and functions of the 8 departments and their alignment with SDGs are as shown below:

Department / Division	Role and Functions
<p><b>Bahagian Penguatkuasa</b></p> <p>Management Services Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. General Administration</li> <li>ii. Human Resource Management and Human Resource Development</li> <li>iii. Council Meeting Secretariat</li> <li>iv. Meeting Management</li> <li>v. Records and Filing Management</li> <li>vi. Quality Management System</li> <li>vii. Strategic Management</li> <li>viii. Organizational Development</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bahagian Pembangunan Komuniti dan Korporat</b></p> <p>Community and Corporate Development Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Assisting and providing support for social, economic, and environmental programs and projects initiated by the community.</li> <li>ii. Helping the community manage and handle changes.</li> <li>iii. Transforming the local community towards building an independent and progressive society.</li> <li>iv. Encouraging volunteerism among youths.</li> <li>v. Providing opportunities and spaces for cooperation and sharing among communities under council supervision.</li> <li>vi. Complaint Management System</li> <li>vii. Secretariat for the Urban Poverty Eradication Program (PPKB)</li> <li>viii. Public and Rural Library Management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bahagian Kewangan</b></p> <p>Finance Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Financial Management</li> <li>ii. Accounting</li> <li>iii. Budget and Fund Management</li> <li>iv. Emoluments and Loans</li> <li>v. Asset Management</li> <li>vi. Store Management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bahagian Kesihatan Persekitaran</b></p> <p>Environmental Health Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Environmental and public health management through an effective waste collection system, drainage and grass maintenance, and street cleaning.</li> <li>ii. Control of infectious diseases such as dengue fever and other outbreaks.</li> <li>iii. Monitoring food quality and safety.</li> <li>iv. Maintenance of markets and public toilets.</li> <li>v. Processing various business license applications.</li> <li>vi. Reviewing building plans and issuing certificates of occupancy.</li> <li>vii. Enforcement of Acts and regulations related to environmental health.</li> </ul>

Cont...

Department / Division	Role and Functions
<p><b>Bahagian Kejuruteraan</b></p> <p>Engineering Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Implementation of development projects.</li> <li>ii. Maintenance of infrastructure and facilities such as roads, drains, bridges, streetlights, parks, and buildings.</li> <li>iii. Management of tender and contract documents.</li> <li>iv. Processing building plan applications and issuing certificates of occupancy.</li> <li>v. Monitoring project implementation.</li> <li>vi. Managing maintenance works.</li> <li>vii. Preparing performance reports on development projects.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bahagian Perancangan dan Pembangunan</b></p> <p>Planning and Development Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Building control</li> <li>ii. Landscape development</li> <li>iii. Recreational park management</li> <li>iv. Processing building plan applications</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bahagian Penilaian dan Pencukaian</b></p> <p>Valuation and Taxation Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Re-evaluating taxable properties.</li> <li>ii. Preparing assessment tax bills.</li> <li>iii. Preparing monthly and annual tax collection reports.</li> <li>iv. Managing claims for tax arrears.</li> <li>v. Preparing tax revenue estimates for the annual budget.</li> <li>vi. Managing tax payments from government agencies.</li> <li>vii. Processing applications for tax exemptions and reductions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Bahagian Penguatkuasa</b></p> <p>Enforcement Division</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Enforcing laws and policies under the jurisdiction of the Kota Samarahan Municipal Council.</li> <li>ii. Monitoring and taking enforcement action along main roads and open areas under the council's administration to ensure they remain free from unlicensed vendors.</li> <li>iii. Monitoring and enforcing regulations on shopkeepers and restaurant operators who fail to comply with the council's policies.</li> <li>iv. Monitoring banners and buntings to ensure they are in good condition and comply with council regulations.</li> <li>v. Monitoring and taking action against unauthorized structures.</li> <li>vi. Identifying potential areas for vendor centers.</li> <li>vii. Assisting other agencies, divisions, or sections when enforcement and regulatory assistance is required.</li> <li>viii. Monitoring and enforcing cleanliness violations in public spaces, council-managed roads, construction sites, and public housing areas.</li> <li>ix. Monitoring and taking action against unlicensed entertainment activities.</li> <li>x. Taking action against illegal use of parking lots without council approval.</li> </ul>

## 3.8 Current Governance Structure of Padawan Municipal Council

The Padawan Municipal Council (MPP), formerly known as the Kuching Rural District Council (KRDC), was established in late 1956 under the Local Authority Ordinance 1948, Chapter 117. Initially, from 1957 to 1961, the Council was chaired by the District Officer during the colonial era. Subsequently, between 1962 and October 31, 1981, chairpersons were elected during the government election period. From November 1, 1981, onwards, the chairperson has been appointed by the state government. On August 1, 1996, after 40 years as KRDC, it was elevated to a municipality and renamed the Padawan Municipal Council by the Chief Minister of Sarawak.



**Padawan Municipal Council**

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**Efficient, Clean, Prosperous**

MPP operates under a councillorship system comprising the Municipal Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and 30 Councillors. The Chief

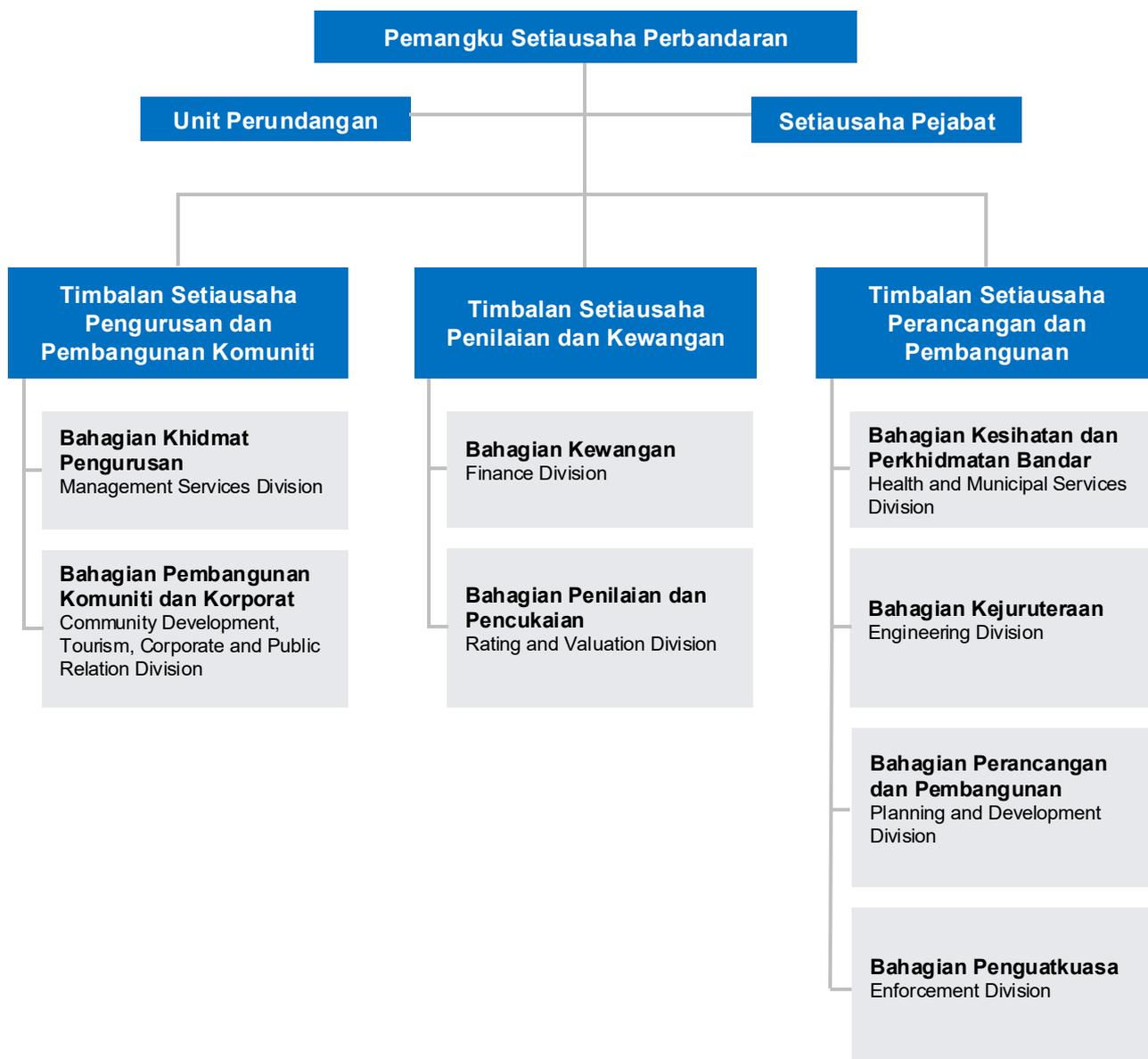
Administrative Officer and warrant holder of the council is the Municipal Secretary. The Council's jurisdiction covers an area of 984.34 square kilometers, primarily encompassing the outskirts of Kuching City. As of January 1, 2025, there are 81,356 private holdings within its jurisdiction, with residential properties accounting for 91%, commercial properties 7%, and industrial properties 2%. The population, according to the 2020 census, stands at 260,058, comprising Bidayuh, Chinese, Malay, Iban, and other ethnic groups.

MPP's vision is to be "An Efficient and Sustainable Padawan Municipality," with a mission committed to advancing the quality of life of the people by providing efficient municipal services and leveraging community participation. The Council's functions and services are organized into several divisions, including Management Services, Community Development, Tourism, Corporate and Public Relations, Finance, Rating and Valuation, Health and Municipal Services, Engineering, Planning and Development, and Enforcement. Each division plays a crucial role in ensuring the effective delivery of services and the sustainable development of the municipality.

The Council's main source of revenue is from assessment rates, amounting to RM 32.9 million in 2023. In 2024, MPP implemented 93 Rural Transformation Projects (RTPs), reaffirming its commitment to enhancing infrastructure and improving the quality of life for residents. These projects were funded through government grants, particularly RTP funding, with active participation from local assemblymen and collaboration with technical agencies such as the Public Works Department (JKR), Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID), Sarawak Energy Berhad (SEB), and Kuching Water Board (KWB).

Currently, MPP's governance structure consists of 8 departments, as illustrated below:

Figure 3.4: Organisational Chart of Padawan Municipal Council



Source: Padawan Municipal Council Official Website, 2025

# 3.9 Role and Function of MPP in SDG Implementation

## Departments in MPP

The role and functions of the 8 departments and their alignment with SDGs are as shown below:

Department / Division	Role and Functions
<p><b>Bahagian Khidmat Pengurusan</b></p> <p>Management Services Division</p>	<p>General administration, human resource management and development, mail registry, meeting management, transformation and innovation management.</p>
<p><b>Bahagian Pembangunan Komuniti dan Korporat</b></p> <p>Community Development, Tourism, Corporate and Public Relation Division</p>	<p>Public relations management and corporate affairs, management of library, tourism and community development. The division also responsible for the management and maintenance of the MPP's Pitcher Plant Park.</p>
<p><b>Bahagian Kewangan</b></p> <p>Finance Division</p>	<p>Management of collection of various revenue and fees, management of accounting, procurement and payment. and investment of funds.</p>
<p><b>Bahagian Penilaian dan Pencukaian</b></p> <p>Rating and Valuation Division</p>	<p>Valuation of holdings for the purpose of assessment rates administration including assessment rates recovery, property management and information technology management.</p>

Cont...

Department / Division	Role and Functions
<p><b><i>Bahagian Kesihatan dan Perkhidmatan Bandar</i></b></p> <p>Health and Municipal Services Division</p> 	<p>Provision of municipal services including solid waste management, sewerage, urban cleanliness, grass cutting, sanitation, vector control, food hygiene and cleanliness. In addition, the division is also responsible for managing licensing, market and hawkker.</p>
<p><b><i>Bahagian Kejuruteraan</i></b></p> <p>Engineering Division</p> 	<p>Planning, development and maintenance of infrastructure and public amenities including roads and streetlights. The division also manages development project through federal, state and other ministries or departments.</p>
<p><b><i>Bahagian Perancangan dan Pembangunan</i></b></p> <p>Planning and Development Division</p> 	<p>This division is responsible for processing building plans and issuing occupation permits. In addition, the division also carries out the planning, development and maintenance of landscape areas including councils recreational park and playgrounds.</p>
<p><b><i>Bahagian Penguatkuasa</i></b></p> <p>Enforcement Division</p> 	<p>Enforcement of Ordinances, Council By-Laws and other regulation from time to time. Ensuring the safety of MPP's building is also the main function under this division.</p>

## 3.10 Current Governance Structure of SibU Municipal Council

The SibU Urban District Council was restructured and upgraded to the SibU Municipal Council (SMC) on November 1, 1981. This restructuring expanded its administrative area from 50 square kilometers to 129.5 square kilometers, encompassing the SibU town center, Sungei Merah Market, the eastern bank of the Rejang River, including Pulau Kerto, extending up to KM 10 of Jalan Teku, KM 12 of Jalan Oya, and approximately KM 8 of Jalan Salim.

As of the 2010 population census, the SibU Municipal area had an estimated population of approximately 247,995 residents. The SMC operates under a leadership structure comprising a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and 24 Councilors, all appointed for a two-year term. The inaugural appointments commenced on November 1, 1981.



**SibU Municipal Council**

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**Towards Liveable And Sustainable City  
By 2031**

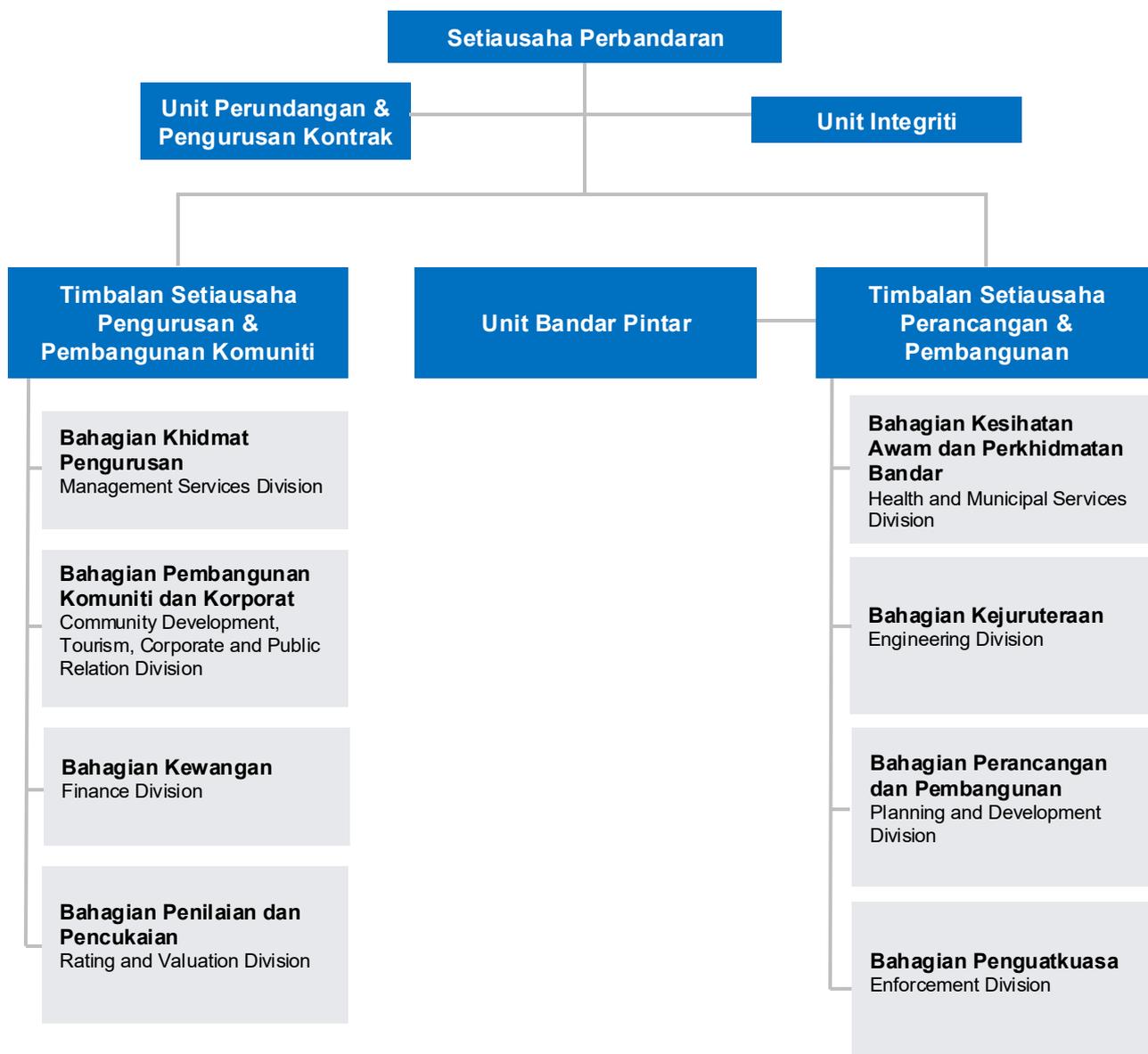
Over the years, SibU has developed into a vibrant urban center, balancing modernization with the preservation of its rich cultural heritage. The establishment of institutions like the Lau King Howe Hospital Museum, named after philanthropist Lau King Howe, reflects the town's commitment to honoring its history. This museum provides insights into the evolution of healthcare in the region.

Additionally, the SibU Cultural Heritage Museum, formed in 1988 by the Cultural Heritage Committee of SibU Civic Centre with support from various ethnic associations, showcases the diverse cultural heritage of the central region's ethnic groups, including the Orang Ulu, Iban, Malay, Melanau, and Chinese. Initially located at the ground floor of the SibU Civic Centre, it was relocated to the SibU Heritage Centre in 2010.



Currently, SMC’s governance structure consists of 8 departments, as illustrated below:

Figure 3.5: Organisational Chart of Sibiu Municipal Council



Source: Sibiu Municipal Council Official Website, 2025

# 3.11 Role and Function of SMC in SDG Implementation

## Departments in SMC

The role and functions of the 8 departments and their alignment with SDGs are as shown below:

SMC Core Business/ Scope of Works	Power and Division of SMC
<p><b>1. Developing A Sense of Community</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Regulatory Role</li> </ul> <p>Sibu Municipal Council therefore has to define by-laws and regulations which support this development of a sense of community. Sibu Municipal Council's regulatory role is not designed to constrain, restrict or limit the freedom or quality of life of the community - rather it is to encourage a sense of community and to protect it from the potential deprivations by just a few.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Education Role</li> </ul> <p>Sibu Municipal Council has a responsibility to disseminate and communicate these by-laws and regulations to the community at large, proactively endeavouring to educate the community as to how these by-laws and regulations will benefit them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Enforcement Role</li> </ul> <p>A necessary adjunct to this regulatory role is Sibu Municipal Council's role as an enforcer, to ensure that the Sibu community as a whole is protected and nurtured against minority, selfish and self-interest.</p>	<p><b>Administration Division:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Corporate Planning and Community Services</li> <li>Organisational Transformational and Innovation</li> </ul>  
<p><b>2. Provision of Basic Town Infrastructure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus Stop, Shelter &amp; Terminal</li> <li>Drain</li> <li>Pedestrian Walkway &amp; Footpath</li> <li>Road &amp; Car Park</li> <li>Street Lighting</li> <li>Market &amp; Hawkers Centres</li> <li>Parks &amp; Children Playground</li> <li>Library</li> <li>Public Toilet</li> <li>Public Swimming Pool</li> <li>Slaughterhouse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Building Control &amp; Town Beautification:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building Control</li> <li>Town and Beautification and Landscape</li> </ul>   

Cont...

SMC Core Business/ Scope of Works	Power and Division of SMC
<p><b>3. Management of Municipal Facilities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Car Parking</li> <li>• Municipal Drains</li> <li>• Pedestrian Walkway &amp; Footpath</li> <li>• Municipal Road &amp; Car Park</li> <li>• Road Furniture &amp; Street Lighting</li> <li>• Market &amp; Hawker Centres</li> <li>• Park &amp; Children Playground</li> <li>• Library</li> <li>• Community Centres</li> <li>• Slaughterhouse</li> </ul>	<p><b>Engineering Division:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning and Development</li> <li>• Town Transportation and General Works</li> <li>• Road and Drain Maintenance</li> <li>• Contract and Monitoring</li> </ul> 
<p><b>4. Provision @ Entrant of a Municipal Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Control</li> <li>• Processing of Building Plans and Engineering Plans</li> <li>• Grass Cutting &amp; Road Verge maintenance</li> <li>• Licensing of advertisement, dog, food outlets, enterprise &amp; entertainment outlets</li> <li>• Miscellaneous trading activities</li> <li>• Public Health &amp; Vector Control</li> <li>• Rating &amp; Valuation of holdings</li> <li>• Scavenging, Refuse Collection &amp; Waste Disposal</li> <li>• Sewerage &amp; drainage maintenance</li> </ul>	<p><b>Public Health and Services Division:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Quality Control</li> <li>• Market and Hawker Management</li> <li>• Entertainment, non-food premises and permit</li> <li>• Vector Control</li> <li>• LA21/ Health Education</li> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Building/ Environmental sanitation</li> </ul> 
<p><b>5. Rates and Valuation on Rateable Holdings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rating and Valuation of all rateable holdings</li> <li>• House Numbering</li> <li>• Road and Geographical Naming</li> <li>• Rates Collection</li> <li>• Property and Asset Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Treasury Division</b></li> <li>• <b>Rating and Valuation Division</b></li> </ul> 

Cont....

SMC Core Business/ Scope of Works	Power and Division of SMC
<p><b>6. Administration and Finance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resource Management Development</li> <li>• General Administration</li> <li>• Corporate Planning and Community Services</li> <li>• Organisational Transformational and Innovation</li> <li>• Revenue, budgetary control and proper accounting</li> </ul>	<p><b>Administration Division:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resource Management and Development</li> <li>• General Administration</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: 8px;">8 BROAD WORK AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: 8px;">16 PLANT, ACCORD AND STRONG RECESSION</div> </div>





4.0

# Alignment with SDGs

*SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP*

## 4.1 Policy Alignment with SDGs

According to the New Urban Agenda, policies are one of the instrument enablers in realizing SDGs. Hence it is important to understand the policies and strategies that are used at the local level. Local government in Malaysia heavily rely on 2 policies and strategies documents which are the local plan and the strategic plan. These two documents address and deliver different functions.

### Local Plan According to Act 172

A local plan is a physical development plan which is being prepared as a statutory document under the Town and Country Planning Act (Act 172). The act shall consist of a map and a written statement supported with implementation guidelines.

With policy writing at the local level and according to the local plan manual (2022), the written statement in the local plan shall consist:

1. Development direction and physical development framework including development in the regional context.
2. Detailed development proposal and its justification for:
  - i. Land Use and physical development
  - ii. Settlement and city boundary
  - iii. Urban design and building facade
  - iv. Population and labour force
  - v. Housing
  - vi. Public facilities
  - vii. Recreational and landscape facilities
  - viii. Industry (including mining)
  - ix. Commercial and services
  - x. Agricultural activities
  - xi. Tourism activity
  - xii. Traffic and transportation system
  - xiii. Infrastructure and utility (water supply, electric, gas, communication infrastructure, irrigation and drainage system, sewerage and solid waste management)
  - xiv. Natural resources and environment management including environmentally sensitive areas.
3. Suggestion on certain areas with specific physical development plan.

In other words, the local plan sets the development direction first and foremost from development goals and physical development framework together with written strategies addressing a few components as depicted in **Figure 4.1**.

**Figure 4.1:** Key component in Local Plan



### Strategic Plan

The strategic plan is an operational plan which is being prepared by the local government to guide its operations. This plan outlines the direction the local authority intends to take in terms of development, governance, service delivery, and resource management over a specific period, usually spanning several years.

By nature, a strategic plan will be strategically used by the local authority in:

- i. Enhancing Accountability
- ii. Administration
- iii. Fulfilling and improving basic services to the public as outlined in Acts 171, 172 and 133.
- iv. Allocating resources
- v. Facilitating Stakeholder Engagement

# Sarawak Land Code Chapter 81 (1958)

The Sarawak Land Code serves as the principal legal instrument governing all land matters in the state of Sarawak, Malaysia. Initially enacted in 1958 as Chapter 81 of the Laws of Sarawak, it has been amended multiple times to accommodate evolving land policies, development priorities, and the protection of indigenous rights.

## Main Features of the Sarawak Land Code

### Land Classifications

The Code outlines several categories of land in Sarawak, including:

- State Land: Land not lawfully held or occupied by any party.
- Native Customary Land (NCL): Land held under Native Customary Rights (NCR), recognized by the law.
- Reserved Land: Designated for public use or conservation.
- Alienated Land: Land officially leased or granted to individuals or entities for agricultural, residential, or commercial purposes.

### Native Customary Rights (NCR)

- NCR is legally recognized under Section 5 of the Land Code.
- Customary rights may be established through traditional practices such as:
  - Temuda (cultivated land)
  - Settlement
  - Burial sites, among others
- However, for full legal protection, NCR land must be surveyed and officially gazetted.
- Amendments in 2018 and 2022 introduced recognition of Native Territorial Domains (NTDs), enhancing legal protection for indigenous territories.

### Land Ownership and Transfer

Land in Sarawak is primarily held on a leasehold basis, commonly for 60 or 99 years. All land transactions—including sales, transfers, and leases—must be formally registered with the Land and Survey Department.

### Land Development and Use

- Land use can be changed subject to government approval.
- The Code also provides for land alienation and acquisition for public development projects.

### Administration and Enforcement

- The Sarawak Land and Survey Department is responsible for implementing the Code.
- It oversees land surveys, registration, enforcement, and administration of land matters across the state.

### Key component in Sarawak Land Code



Environment

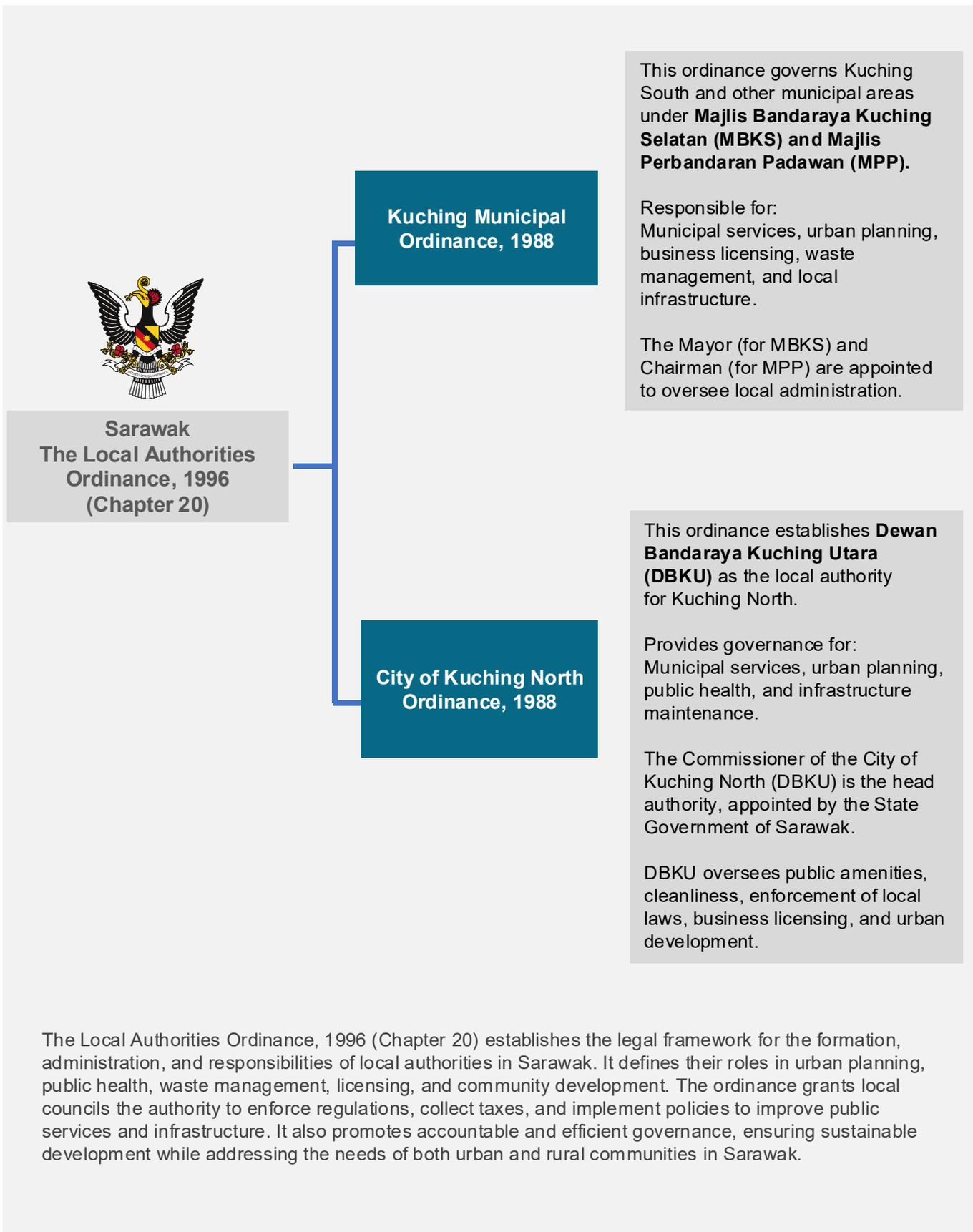


Land Development



Natural Resources Development

## Functions and Roles of the Acts in Sarawak



The Local Authorities Ordinance, 1996 (Part IX, Sections 97-139) defines the key functions and responsibilities of local authorities in Sarawak, ensuring governance, development, and service delivery align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

These responsibilities encompass various aspects, including urban planning, public health, environmental management, and economic development, all of which contribute to sustainable and inclusive growth.

One of the primary areas of focus is urban development and infrastructure, where local authorities regulate land use, public transportation, housing, and urban resilience strategies to create well-planned and sustainable cities. Proper planning ensures efficient resource management and improved quality of life for residents.

Another crucial function is public health and sanitation, which involves ensuring access to clean water, proper waste management, and disease prevention efforts. These initiatives help promote the well-being of communities and maintain a healthy living environment.

In supporting economic growth and business regulation, local authorities oversee business licensing, market regulations, and provide support for small enterprises. These efforts foster economic sustainability, encourage entrepreneurship, and promote responsible consumption and production.

Environmental sustainability and climate action are also key responsibilities, as local authorities enforce environmental regulations, implement climate adaptation measures, and work towards biodiversity conservation. These efforts are essential in mitigating climate change impacts and preserving natural resources for future generations.

Lastly, good governance and community engagement play a vital role in ensuring transparency, public participation, and collaboration with stakeholders. By fostering accountable governance and effective policy implementation, local authorities can create inclusive, well-governed communities. By integrating these responsibilities with global SDG targets, Sarawak's local authorities play a crucial role in promoting long-term sustainability, economic resilience, and an enhanced quality of life for its residents.



Figure 4.2: Sarawak Policies



# Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA)



The Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) is a statutory body established under the RECODA Ordinance 2006 to lead and manage the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) development plan. As the primary agency overseeing the corridor's growth, RECODA plays a vital role in driving economic progress, particularly in infrastructure development and socio-economic programs. Through its strategic initiatives, the authority aims to enhance connectivity, foster industrialisation, and create investment opportunities that align with both national and global development frameworks.

RECODA's development strategy is built upon

## 3

# PILLAR

### Economic Development

# 1

Attracts investments in key industries such as renewable energy, manufacturing, agriculture, and tourism.

### Infrastructure Development

# 2

Enhances connectivity through road networks, bridges, ports, and utilities.

### Social Development & Human Capital

# 3

Implements programs to improve livelihoods and reduce wealth disparities in rural areas.

## Roles of RECODA and Its Relation to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

<h3 style="color: #0056b3;">Attracting Investments and Promoting Industrial Growth</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages foreign direct investment (FDI) and domestic investments.</li> <li>Develops industrial parks and economic zones.</li> <li>Promotes sustainable industries like renewable energy, agro-industries, and manufacturing.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	<h3 style="color: #0056b3;">Developing Sustainable Infrastructure and Connectivity</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Builds transportation networks (roads, bridges, ports, and airports) to enhance accessibility.</li> <li>Expands digital infrastructure to bridge the urban-rural digital divide.</li> <li>Strengthens public utilities such as electricity and telecommunications.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	<h3 style="color: #0056b3;">Expanding Renewable Energy and Green Initiatives</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develops hydropower, solar, and other renewable energy sources.</li> <li>Supports energy efficiency and green technology adoption.</li> <li>Reduces dependency on fossil fuels to lower carbon emissions.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>
<h3 style="color: #0056b3;">Improving Water Supply and Sanitation</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements clean water projects for rural and urban communities.</li> <li>Enhances wastewater management and sanitation facilities.</li> <li>Ensures sustainable water resource management.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	<h3 style="color: #0056b3;">Strengthening Human Capital and Workforce Development</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides skills training and education programs for the local workforce.</li> <li>Encourages entrepreneurship and SME development.</li> <li>Reduces youth unemployment through job placement programs.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>	<h3 style="color: #0056b3;">Enhancing Social and Economic Well-being</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements poverty alleviation programs.</li> <li>Reduces wealth disparities between rural and urban areas.</li> <li>Improves health care access in underserved communities.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> </div>



5.0

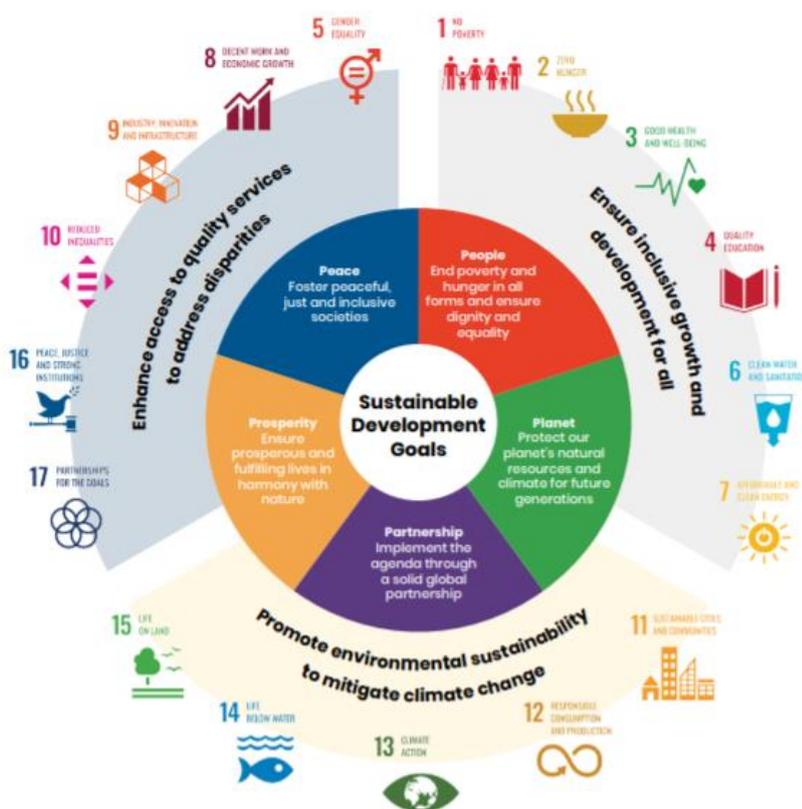
# PROGRESS ON SDGS

*SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP*

# 5.1 Unveiling 3 Essential Outcomes

Assessing the local adaptation of the 17 SDGs in Malaysia focuses on three main outcomes: promoting inclusive growth and development for all, improving access to quality services to reduce disparities, and advancing environmental sustainability to combat climate change. These outcomes

are tailored to align with the specific objectives of each SDG, ensuring that strategies are customized to address local needs and challenges effectively. This approach ensures that the overarching goals of the SDGs are met in a way that is both relevant and impactful within the Malaysian context.



**Outcome 1**  
**Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All**  
 Aims to foster equitable development by tackling critical issues such as poverty, hunger, health, and education, while improving access to essential services like water, sanitation, and energy. It seeks to create opportunities that enable all individuals to thrive and benefit from sustainable progress.  
**SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7**

**Outcome 2**  
**Enhance Access to Quality Services to Address Disparities**  
 Focuses on expanding access to high-quality services and reducing social and economic disparities. It underscores the importance of achieving gender equality, providing decent work, building resilient infrastructure, and strengthening institutions to ensure that essential services are accessible to everyone.  
**SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 16, SDG 17**

**Outcome 3**  
**Promote Environmental & Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change**  
 Aim to advancing environmental sustainability through the development of sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and climate action. It aims to protect marine and terrestrial ecosystems, enhance resilience to climate impacts, and ensure long-term environmental health and stability.  
**SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15**

## SDG Performance Dashboard for Sarawak Municipal Councils



Sarawak Municipal Councils have made strong progress in several key areas, including poverty reduction, agriculture, education, water and sanitation, renewable energy adoption, and ecosystem conservation. Urbanization efforts are also aligned with Sarawak PCDS 2030, contributing to sustainable development. Policies are improving, helping to drive further progress across sectors.

However, challenges remain in healthcare, waste management, environmental sustainability, and marine initiatives, where only moderate progress has been made. Gender equality is improving, but income inequality and employment growth still need more focused efforts. While partnerships are progressing, further collaboration is required to achieve long-term sustainable goals.

The outcomes outlined here are designed to align with the specific objectives of each SDG, ensuring that strategies are tailored to address local needs and challenges effectively. This approach ensures that the overarching goals of the SDGs are achieved in a meaningful and impactful manner within the Malaysian context.

**Outcome 1**

**Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All**

Aims to foster equitable development by tackling critical issues such as poverty, hunger, health, and education, while improving access to essential services like water, sanitation, and energy. It seeks to create opportunities that enable all individuals to thrive and benefit from sustainable progress.

**SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7**



**Outcome 2**

**Enhance Access to Quality Services to Address Disparities**

Focuses on expanding access to high-quality services and reducing social and economic disparities. It underscores the importance of achieving gender equality, providing decent work, building resilient infrastructure, and strengthening institutions to ensure that essential services are accessible to everyone.

**SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 16, SDG 17**



**Outcome 3**

**Promote Environmental & Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change**

Aim to advancing environmental sustainability through the development of sustainable cities, responsible consumption, and climate action. It aims to protect marine and terrestrial ecosystems, enhance resilience to climate impacts, and ensure long-term environmental health and stability.

**SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15**



## Prioritised SDG for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Based on the assessment and focus group discussions with Sarawak Municipal Councils, five SDGs—SDG 3, 8, 9, 11 and 12—have been prioritised for Sarawak Municipal Councils further analysis of their progress is conducted in this chapter.





## Good Health and Well-Being

### Objective:

To ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Interrelation of Goal 3 with other SDGs



## Overview of SDG 3 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Padawan, Sibul, and Kota Samarahan are actively implementing SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by enhancing healthcare accessibility, promoting sustainable living, and improving public health infrastructure. These efforts align with Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), which aims to build a healthier and more resilient population through innovation, digital transformation, and sustainability.

Sibu, a major commercial and medical hub in central Sarawak, is expanding healthcare facilities, improving sanitation, and addressing environmental health challenges such as waste management and flood mitigation. Padawan, known for its suburban and rural communities, focuses on increasing healthcare access in remote areas, promoting traditional and modern medicine integration, and strengthening clean water supply systems.

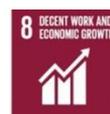
Meanwhile, Kota Samarahan, home to key research institutions and medical centers, is advancing medical education, biotechnology, and urban planning to support a healthier population. These cities' commitment to SDG 3 is closely linked to other SDGs, ensuring that health improvements go hand in hand with sustainable development.

By strengthening healthcare services, promoting environmental conservation, and enhancing public health awareness, Padawan, Sibul, and Kota Samarahan are driving long-term well-being while balancing economic and environmental needs.

### Relationship of SDG 3 with other SDGs



**SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** More farmers are using modern and sustainable farming methods, leading to better food quality and supply. Local food production is improving, making fresh and healthy food more available.



**SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** Better healthcare ensures that workers stay healthy and productive, reducing absenteeism and boosting economic growth. Access to healthcare services in Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan helps workers perform better in agriculture, industries, and services.



**SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** Expanding green spaces, parks, and urban forests in Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan improves air quality and promotes physical activity. Sustainable urban planning reduces pollution and minimizes health risks like respiratory diseases.



**SDG 15 (Life on Land):** Forest conservation in Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan helps improve air quality, reducing respiratory diseases. Green spaces and tree planting initiatives create healthier environments for communities.



### SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN SIBU - MPS)

The Sibu Municipal Council's vision of "Towards a Liveable and Sustainable City by 2031" aligns with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by promoting a clean and sustainable urban environment. Initiatives such as improved public transport, green spaces, and better waste management contribute to cleaner air and reduced pollution, which directly enhance public health. Additionally, the focus on sustainable development ensures access to safe living conditions, promoting overall well-being for Sibu's residents.



### KOTA SAMARAHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN KOTA SAMARAHAN - MPKS)

Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS) vision of a Clean, Beautiful, Green, and Safe city supports SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by promoting a healthier environment. Clean surroundings reduce pollution and disease risks, while beautiful public spaces encourage physical activity. Green areas improve air quality and mental health, and a safe environment helps prevent accidents and injuries. Together, these efforts enhance the overall well-being of the community.



### PADAWAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PADAWAN - MPP)

The vision of an Efficient & Sustainable Padawan Municipality aligns with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by ensuring a clean, well-planned, and eco-friendly living environment. Efficient public services, waste management, and transportation reduce pollution and health risks, while sustainability efforts like green spaces and clean water supply promote physical and mental well-being. By focusing on smart urban planning and safety, Padawan aims to create a healthier and more livable community for its residents.

## Relationship of SDG 3 with other SDGs (Cont..)



**SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Quality education (SDG 4) teaches children and communities about hygiene, disease prevention, mental health, and healthy lifestyles, contributing to overall well-being.



**SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Ensuring women and girls receive quality healthcare, including maternal care, reproductive health services, and nutrition, reduces maternal mortality and improves overall well-being.



**SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and low-income communities, often face barriers to healthcare. Addressing these gaps ensures fair treatment and better health outcomes.



**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Access to clean water, toilets, and handwashing facilities in homes, schools, and healthcare centers reduces infections and promotes well-being.



**SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Reliable electricity ensures access to clean cooking, safe lighting, and proper heating/cooling, reducing indoor air pollution and improving living conditions.



**SDG 14 (Life Below Water):** Preventing chemical and plastic pollution in oceans keeps drinking water sources clean, reducing diseases linked to contaminated water.



**SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** Effective governance and institutions help ensure fair access to healthcare, protect public health policies, and manage resources efficiently.



Health and well-being in Sarawak show concerning trends, with declining birth rates and rising mortality, possibly due to demographic shifts, lifestyle diseases, and healthcare access challenges. Ischemic heart disease remains a leading cause of death, along with COVID-19 and pneumonia, highlighting the need for better disease prevention and healthcare services. Road accidents are also increasing, resulting in more injuries and fatalities, emphasizing the importance of stricter traffic enforcement and improved infrastructure. To enhance public health, Sarawak must focus on strengthening healthcare, promoting healthy lifestyles, and implementing effective road safety measures, aligning with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being.

### Number of Live Births

**30,937**  
(2022)

**35,449**  
(2020)

### Number of Deaths

**16,627**  
(2022)

**14,114**  
(2020)

### Number of Road Accidents

**19,508**  
(2022)

**16,158**  
(2020)



### Principal Causes of Death (2022)

1. Ischaemic Heart Diseases – 793
2. COVID-19 Infection – 1,617
3. Pneumonia – 729

### Death Rate Due to Road Traffic Injuries

**387**  
(2022)

**315**  
(2019)





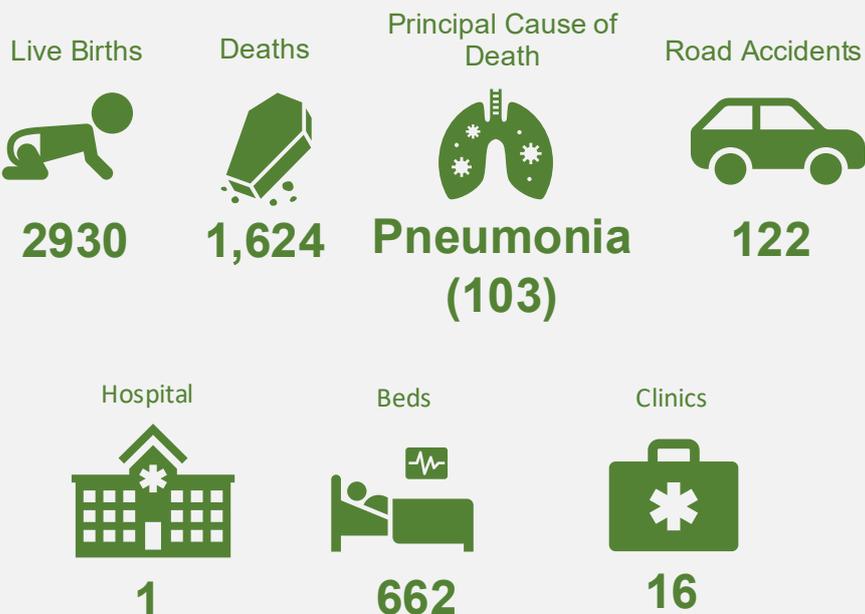
In Sibü, the number of live births has shown slight fluctuations, increasing from 2,605 to 2,930 over the recorded years. Meanwhile, the number of deaths has generally declined from 2,004 to 1,624, indicating possible improvements in healthcare. Pneumonia remains the leading medically certified cause of death, with cases varying between 96 and 103. Road safety data shows inconsistent trends, with road accidents peaking at 1,822 before dropping to 122. Injuries due to road accidents remain low, ranging from 15 to 17 cases, but fatalities have increased significantly from 30 to 53, highlighting a need for better road safety measures in Sibü.

### Healthcare Accessibility

- Rural communities face difficulties accessing healthcare due to distance and transportation issues.

### Healthcare Potential

- Strengthening emergency medical response systems can help manage accident-related injuries more effectively.



### Healthcare Infrastructure and Accessibility

Sibü, with a population of 252,900, relies on Sibü Hospital with 662 beds and 16 government clinics for medical services. However, the hospital often experiences overcrowding and long waiting times, affecting service quality, especially for specialized treatments. Accessibility is a major concern for rural communities, as many face transportation challenges in reaching healthcare facilities, leading to delayed treatment and potential worsening of health conditions.

### Disease Burden and Mortality Trends

While the overall number of deaths in Sibü has decreased, certain health risks persist. Pneumonia remains the leading cause of death, highlighting the need for improved respiratory healthcare, better vaccination programs, and air quality management. The continued presence of pneumonia-related deaths suggests a gap in public health initiatives, particularly for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and individuals with chronic illnesses.

### Road Safety and Public Health Risks

Road safety remains a significant concern in Sibü, with fatalities from road accidents rising from 30 to 53, despite a reduction in the total number of reported accidents. This trend indicates that while fewer accidents occur, they are more severe, possibly due to reckless driving, inadequate enforcement of traffic laws, or insufficient emergency response systems. Strengthening road safety measures through stricter regulations, better infrastructure, and awareness campaigns is essential to reducing fatalities and injuries.

### Opportunities for Healthcare Improvement

To enhance healthcare services in Sibü, expanding medical facilities by building additional hospitals or upgrading clinics can help reduce the burden on Sibü Hospital. Telemedicine and mobile health services can provide better healthcare access, especially for rural populations, bridging the gap in medical service delivery. Additionally, preventive health programs, including public awareness campaigns on hygiene, nutrition, and vaccinations, can significantly reduce the prevalence of diseases and improve overall well-being.



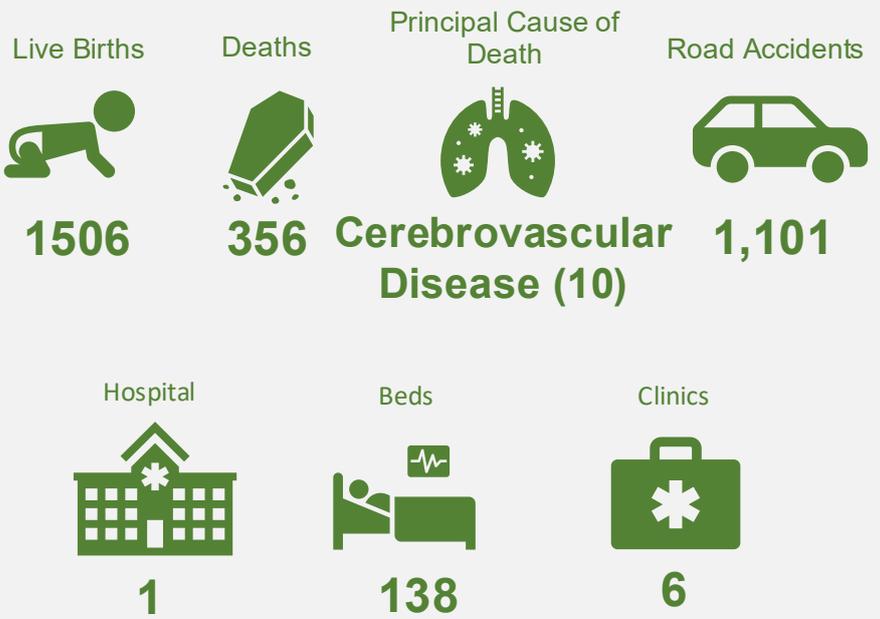
Kota Samarahan’s health and safety trends show progress and challenges in achieving SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. Live births have remained stable, between 1,352 and 1,506, while deaths ranged from 326 to 356. The main causes of death are stroke and heart diseases, showing the need for better heart health care. Road accidents have increased from 831 to 1,101, but injuries from accidents have dropped from 78 to 28, possibly due to better safety measures. However, road accident deaths remain a concern, with numbers between 24 and 26, highlighting the need for stricter road safety rules. Improving health programs, road safety, and medical services will help create a healthier and safer Kota Samarahan.

### Healthcare Accessibility

- Kota Samarahan has limited hospital access, with the Sarawak Heart Centre mainly treating heart patients. For general treatment and emergencies, clinics like Klinik Kesihatan Kota Samarahan offer basic care, but long waiting times are common.

### Healthcare Potential

- Strengthening emergency medical response systems can help manage accident-related injuries more effectively.



### Healthcare Infrastructure and Accessibility

Kota Samarahan has one hospital with 138 beds and six government clinics, providing essential healthcare services. The Sarawak Heart Centre specializes in heart treatment but does not offer full general medical care. For serious illnesses and emergencies, residents must travel about 30 minutes to Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) in Kuching, which can be challenging for those without private transport. Government clinics offer outpatient services, maternal care, and vaccinations, but long waiting times remain a common issue.

### Disease Burden and Mortality Trends

The number of live births in Kota Samarahan has remained stable, ranging between 1,352 and 1,506, while deaths range from 326 to 356. The leading causes of death are cerebrovascular diseases (such as stroke) and ischemic heart diseases, highlighting the need for better heart health awareness, preventive measures, and improved healthcare access.

### Road Safety and Public Health Risks

Road accidents in Kota Samarahan have increased from 831 to 1,101, though the number of injuries has dropped from 78 to 28, possibly due to better emergency response or vehicle safety measures. However, road fatalities remain a concern, fluctuating between 24 and 26 deaths, emphasizing the need for better traffic enforcement, improved road conditions, and public safety awareness.

### Opportunities for Healthcare Improvement

To achieve SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, Kota Samarahan needs better healthcare infrastructure, including expanding hospital services beyond heart care. More healthcare professionals, improved transport to major hospitals, and investment in telemedicine can enhance healthcare accessibility. Additionally, stronger road safety measures and preventive health programs focusing on heart disease and stroke awareness can help improve overall public health.



Padawan’s health and safety trends show progress and challenges in achieving SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being. Live births have remained stable, between 1,352 and 1,506, while deaths ranged from 326 to 356. The main causes of death are stroke and heart diseases, showing the need for better heart health care. Road accidents have increased from 831 to 1,101, but injuries from accidents have dropped from 78 to 28, possibly due to better safety measures. However, road accident deaths remain a concern, with numbers between 24 and 26, highlighting the need for stricter road safety rules. Improving health programs, road safety, and medical services will help create a healthier and safer Kota Samarahan.

### Healthcare Accessibility

- The Rajah Charles Brooke Memorial Hospital serves as the main medical facility, but with only 20 beds, it has limited capacity for inpatient care. For general outpatient services, the two government clinics offer basic medical treatments, maternal care, and vaccinations.

### Healthcare Potential

- Strengthening emergency medical response systems can help manage accident-related injuries more effectively.



### Healthcare Infrastructure and Accessibility

Padawan has one hospital with 20 beds and two government clinics, which provide basic healthcare services. However, the limited number of hospital beds means that many patients need to seek treatment in Kuching, particularly at Sarawak General Hospital (SGH), located about 30 minutes away. The local clinics offer outpatient services, maternal care, and vaccinations, but demand is high, leading to long waiting times.

The shortage of doctors and medical staff further limits access to quality healthcare, leading many residents to travel to Sarawak General Hospital (SGH) in Kuching for treatment. This distance creates challenges, especially for those without private transport or in emergency situations.

### Dengue and Rabies Cases

Padawan faces health risks from dengue fever and rabies, which require strong preventive measures. Dengue cases increase during rainy seasons due to mosquito breeding, emphasizing the need for vector control, community awareness, and regular fogging. Rabies remains a serious concern in Sarawak, including Padawan, due to stray dog populations. Vaccination programs for animals and public awareness campaigns are crucial to controlling outbreaks and preventing human infections.

### Opportunities for Healthcare Improvement

To achieve SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, Padawan needs better healthcare infrastructure, including expanding hospital services and increasing medical staff. Investing in mobile health services and telemedicine can help provide medical care to remote areas. Strengthening health awareness programs and improving road safety measures will further enhance public health and overall quality of life.

# Key Findings of SDG 3 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Areas like Kota Samarahan, Padawan and Sibu benefit from district hospitals and health outreach programs. However, these areas face shortages of healthcare professionals and gaps in emergency services. Transport difficulties also hinder quick access to care for more remote populations.

## Sibu Progress

Sibu's healthcare system has improved with Sibu Hospital and several clinics, but overcrowding and long wait times remain issues. Live births are stable, and mortality rates have declined, though pneumonia is still the leading cause of death. Road accidents have increased, but fewer injuries suggest better safety, though fatalities remain a concern. Rabies remains a serious threat, worsened by stray animal overpopulation, low vaccination rates, and limited public awareness. Municipal councils must strengthen animal control programs, conduct mass vaccinations, and enforce stricter pet licensing, while educating communities to prevent further outbreaks.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Expand Healthcare Facilities – Increase hospital capacity, improve medical staff availability, and enhance emergency response systems.
- Reduce Overcrowding – Improve resource allocation, introduce telemedicine, and optimize healthcare services.
- Improve Rabies Control – Strengthen stray animal management, enforce mass vaccinations, and educate communities on responsible pet ownership and licensing regulations.

## Kota Samarahan Progress

Kota Samarahan has seen improvements in healthcare with one hospital (138 beds) and six clinics providing medical services, but demand is increasing due to population growth. Live birth rates remain steady, while mortality rates have fluctuated, with cerebrovascular and heart diseases as leading causes of death, emphasizing the need for better heart health awareness and preventive care. Road safety remains a concern, with rising road accidents and fluctuating injury and fatality rates, highlighting the need for better traffic management and road infrastructure. Additionally, dengue and rabies remain significant health risks, requiring vector control, vaccination programs, and community education.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Expand Healthcare Services – Increase hospital capacity, improve medical staff availability, and enhance emergency response systems.
- Enhance Road Safety – Improve traffic management, upgrade road infrastructure, and conduct public awareness campaigns on safe driving.
- Control Dengue and Rabies – Strengthen mosquito control measures, conduct mass rabies vaccinations, and educate communities on disease prevention.

## Padawan Progress

Padawan faces challenges in healthcare access, with only one hospital (20 beds) and two clinics serving the population. The limited number of medical staff and facilities leads many residents to seek treatment in Kuching, creating accessibility issues. Live birth rates remain stable, but cardiovascular diseases and strokes are the leading causes of death, highlighting the need for better preventive healthcare and awareness programs.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Expand Healthcare Facilities – Increase hospital capacity, add more clinics, and improve access to medical specialists.
- Strengthen Disease Prevention – Promote heart health programs, increase screenings, and encourage healthier lifestyles.
- Improve Road Safety – Enhance road conditions, enforce stricter traffic laws, and increase public awareness campaigns.
- Control Dengue and Rabies – Implement stronger mosquito control measures, mass rabies vaccinations, and community education.

# Roles of Municipal Councils in Sarawak for SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a crucial role in promoting public health, disease prevention, and healthcare accessibility by maintaining clean environments, managing waste disposal, enforcing sanitation standards, and ensuring food safety. They also help control vector-borne diseases like dengue and malaria through mosquito fogging and drainage improvements, while supporting healthcare services by collaborating with authorities to enhance clinics, mobile health services, and emergency response systems.

## Challenges in Health and Well-Being Governance

Municipal councils are responsible for urban health services, sanitation, and disease control, but healthcare accessibility and quality are influenced by multiple stakeholders beyond their jurisdiction. Limited healthcare infrastructure in rural areas, shortages of medical personnel, and rising cases of infectious diseases like dengue and rabies present major challenges. Additionally, non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart disease and diabetes are increasing due to lifestyle changes. Municipal councils alone cannot implement large-scale healthcare policies but can collaborate with health agencies to improve public health awareness, disease prevention programs, and emergency response services to ensure better health outcomes.

## Key Strategies for Municipal Councils to Support SDG 3

### 1. Strengthening Healthcare Access & Infrastructure

- Expand healthcare facilities and improve medical services in underserved areas.
- Invest in upgrading hospitals, clinics, and medical equipment.

### 2. Enhancing Disease Prevention & Public Awareness

- Implement vaccination campaigns, hygiene programs, and health education initiatives.
- Strengthen public awareness on disease prevention and responsible pet ownership.

### 3. Ensuring Sustainable Healthcare Funding

- Secure adequate financial resources to sustain and expand health initiatives.
- Strengthen collaborations between municipal councils and health agencies for long-term healthcare sustainability.

To ensure sustainable and inclusive health and well-being, municipal councils in Sarawak must enhance multi-sector collaboration with government agencies, private healthcare providers, and academic institutions. A key strategy is policy alignment and inter-governmental cooperation, where councils work with health ministries and economic planners to improve healthcare accessibility and infrastructure.

Strengthening coordination between local councils, the Ministry of Health, and regional health agencies can bridge gaps in medical services, especially in rural areas.

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) play a vital role in expanding healthcare facilities, telemedicine services, and emergency response systems. By collaborating with medical institutions and NGOs, councils can drive initiatives such as community clinics, vaccination drives, and disease prevention programs. Workforce development is another priority, focusing on training more healthcare professionals, especially in underserved regions. Partnering with universities and medical training centers can help increase the supply of skilled doctors and nurses.

Additionally, health education and disease control must be strengthened. Municipal councils should implement mass awareness campaigns on non-communicable diseases, hygiene practices, and responsible pet ownership to curb rabies and dengue outbreaks. Lastly, localized healthcare strategies tailored to specific district needs—such as maternal health services in rural areas or mental health programs in urban centers—can ensure an inclusive approach to public health in Sarawak.



## Decent Work and Economic Growth

### Objective:

To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.



## Overview of SDG 8 for Sarawak Municipal Council

Majlis Perbandaran SibU (MPS), Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS), and Majlis Perbandaran Padawan (MPP) are actively implementing SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through economic diversification, urban development, and workforce enhancement. These municipalities play a crucial role in Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), which aims to transform the state into a high-income economy by promoting innovation, digital transformation, and sustainability.

Sibu, as a major commercial in central Sarawak, is strengthening its industrial and logistics sectors while expanding into digital entrepreneurship and creative industries. Kota Samarahan, known as Sarawak's "Education Hub," is driving growth in knowledge-based industries, biotechnology, and research while supporting start-ups and SMEs. Meanwhile, Padawan is focusing on eco-tourism, agriculture, and sustainable urban planning to create diverse economic opportunities.

Majlis Perbandaran SibU, Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan, and Majlis Perbandaran Padawan's pursuit of SDG 8 is closely linked with various SDGs, ensuring that economic development remains inclusive, resilient, and sustainable. By fostering urban innovation, improving workforce skills, and implementing green economy initiatives, these municipalities are driving Sarawak's long-term prosperity while balancing social and environmental needs.

### Relationship of SDG 8 with other SDGs



**SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Urban farming, hydroponics, and local food markets in MPS, MPKS, MPP to enhance food security while creating job opportunities, especially for low-income communities.



**SDG 14 (Life Below Water):** Kota Samarahan's coastal tourism, marine conservation, and sustainable fisheries provide employment while protecting marine biodiversity.



**SDG 15 (Life on Land):** Eco-tourism in sustainable forestry in Padawan and Sibu create green jobs and promote conservation-based economic growth. Urban greening projects improve air quality and local livelihoods.



**SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being):** Decent work leads to better health. Workplace safety policies, healthcare access, and stress management programs in MPS, MPKS and MPP contribute to a healthier and more productive workforce.



### SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN SIBU - MPS)

The Sibu Municipal Council's vision of "Towards a Liveable and Sustainable City by 2031" aligns with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by fostering economic resilience and employment opportunities. Initiatives such as business-friendly policies, digital transformation, and infrastructure development support local entrepreneurs, SMEs, and job creation. Additionally, the focus on economic diversification—particularly in trade, manufacturing, and digital industries—ensures long-term growth and prosperity for Sibu's residents.



### KOTA SAMARAHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN KOTA SAMARAHAN - MPKS)

Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS) supports SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by creating a clean, beautiful, green, and safe environment that fosters economic growth. Clean and green spaces can attract businesses, tourists, and residents, generating job opportunities in areas like maintenance and conservation. This vision helps stimulate local economic development.



### PADAWAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PADAWAN - MPP)

The vision of an Efficient & Sustainable Padawan Municipality supports SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by creating a business-friendly environment, improving infrastructure, and promoting sustainable industries. Better public services, transportation, and waste management help businesses grow and create jobs. Support for local enterprises, eco-tourism, and skills development ensures long-term economic opportunities for all residents.

## Relationship of SDG 8 with other SDGs (Cont..)



**SDG 4 (Quality Education):** TVET programs, digital skills training, and entrepreneurship workshops in both cities help prepare workers for high-demand sectors, reducing youth unemployment and increasing economic mobility.



**SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** Economic growth is tied to urban renewal, smart city projects, and green mobility initiatives, all of which create jobs and improve living conditions in both cities.



**SDG 1 (No Poverty):** Job placement programs, business grants, and microfinance initiatives support vulnerable communities in MPP, MPKS and MPS, driving inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction.



**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Investments in wastewater treatment, flood mitigation, and sustainable water supply projects generate employment while ensuring access to clean water for businesses and residents.



**SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Women's economic participation is encouraged through business grants, skills development programs, and workplace equity policies, helping to reduce gender disparities in employment.



**SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** MPP leading the Green City Action Plan (GCAP) in Kuching. This plan focuses on reducing carbon emissions, boosting new businesses, attracting investments, and creating green jobs.



**SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** MPS, MPP and MPKS work to close economic gaps by supporting informal workers, providing financial literacy training, and strengthening social welfare programs for marginalized groups.

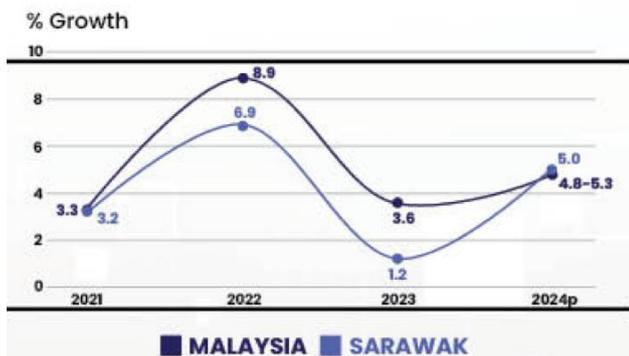


**SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** Transparent governance, fair labor policies, and business-friendly regulations in MPS, MPP and MPKS attract investors and ensure long-term economic stability.



Sarawak's progress towards SDG 8 is reflected in its positive economic indicators. The state's GDP grew from RM140.7 billion in 2022 to RM142.4 billion in 2023, with a forecasted 5.0% growth in 2024. The labour force increased to 1.23 million in 2023, while unemployment declined to 3.4%, showing resilience in job creation. The services sector remains a key driver, expanding its share to 38.3%, while manufacturing and mining continue to contribute significantly. These trends highlight Sarawak's steady economic expansion, aligning with SDG 8's objectives of inclusive and sustainable growth.

### Malaysia and Sarawak Economy



### Sarawak GDP Distribution by Economic Activities



### Sarawak Employment



### Sarawak Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

Sector	2022		2023		2024f	
	RM Billion	% Change	RM Billion	% Change	RM Billion	% Change

#### REAL GDP (at constant 2015 prices)

Agriculture	14,727.1	1.8	15,028.9	2.0	15,443.8	2.8
Mining & Quarrying	29,911.2	7.3	29,605.3	-1.0	30,260.6	2.2
Manufacturing	39,229.0	5.8	37,695.9	-3.9	39,564.7	5.0
Construction	4,671.3	4.0	5,059.1	8.3	5,499.5	8.7
Services	51,732.7	9.3	54,543.2	5.4	58,219.9	6.7
Plus : Import Duties	427.6	20.4	419.4	-1.9	435.4	3.8
<b>GDP at Purchasers' Prices</b>	<b>140,698.8</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>142,351.8</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>149,424.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>GDP / CAPITA (RM)</b>	<b>81,342</b>		<b>72,411</b>		<b>80,788</b>	

Source : DOSM, Economic Planning Unit Sarawak



Sibu's labor force has expanded from 119,400 to 129,200 workers, with 121,900 currently employed and a 70.1% labor force participation rate. The unemployment rate stands at 4.9%, reflecting the job market's challenges. Income levels show a mean income of RM6,645 and a median income of RM5,248, while the mean expenditure is RM4,366. Despite a slight decline in total businesses from 12,878 to 12,486, key sectors like manufacturing, construction, and services continue to drive economic activity. The shifts in employment and business trends suggest evolving market demands and industry changes in Sibu.

### Land Use and Economic

- Sibu's land use has changed significantly over time, adapting to economic needs and development. Initially, land was used for agriculture, with early settlers trying rice farming before switching to rubber plantations due to soil conditions.

### Economic Pattern

- Sibu's economy has evolved over time, shifting from early rice farming to rubber plantations, timber, and shipbuilding. Today, the city remains a hub for timber and manufacturing, with around 40 shipyards exporting vessels internationally.

### Investment Potential

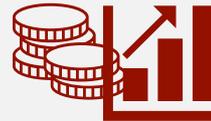
- Sarawak's SCORE (Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy) initiative is attracting investments, making Sibu a key area for development.

Mean Income



RM6,645

Median Income



RM5,248

Mean Expenditure



RM4,366

Labor Force Participation Rate



70.1%

Employed



121.9K

Unemployment Rate



4.9%

### Sibu Economic Growth

Sibu's economic growth has been shaped by its strong industrial base, strategic location along the Rajang River, and ongoing development efforts. Over time, the economy diversified into commerce, manufacturing, and services, supporting local businesses and creating jobs. The Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) has boosted investment potential, encouraging renewable energy, agriculture, and infrastructure projects. The Sarawak government is also working on a long-term plan to elevate Sibu to city status, focusing on urban development, better transport networks, and modern industries. These initiatives aim to attract investors and drive sustainable economic growth for the region.

### Economic Challenges and Inequality

Despite economic growth, another challenge is population decline and youth migration. Many young people move to Kuching, Miri, or West Malaysia for better job opportunities, leading to a shrinking workforce and slower economic expansion. This also impacts local businesses and urban development.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Economic Gaps

The Sarawak government has approved 17 road construction projects worth RM826 million under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) to enhance connectivity and boost economic activities in Sibu. Additionally, plans are underway to construct a 400-meter bridge connecting Sibu's west bank to the town center, improving accessibility and stimulating local commerce.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

To bridge economic gaps, strengthening labor protections, wage policies, and access to digital education is essential. Encouraging inclusive financing for small businesses and green industry incentives will promote equitable growth. By integrating innovation, social equity, and sustainability, Sibu can achieve SDG 8's vision of sustained and inclusive economic progress.



Kota Samarahan's income levels are shaped by its growing economy, mainly in services, construction, and manufacturing. The mean income is RM7,123, while the median income is RM5,953, showing stable earnings. The services sector, with 1,562 businesses, likely offers higher wages, while agriculture (21 businesses) and mining (4 businesses) may have lower earnings. With a 70.0% labor force participation rate and 67,000 employed workers, job opportunities are growing, though the 5.5% unemployment rate shows some challenges. Overall, rising incomes and steady job growth support SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, improving livelihoods in Kota Samarahan.

**Land Use and Economic**

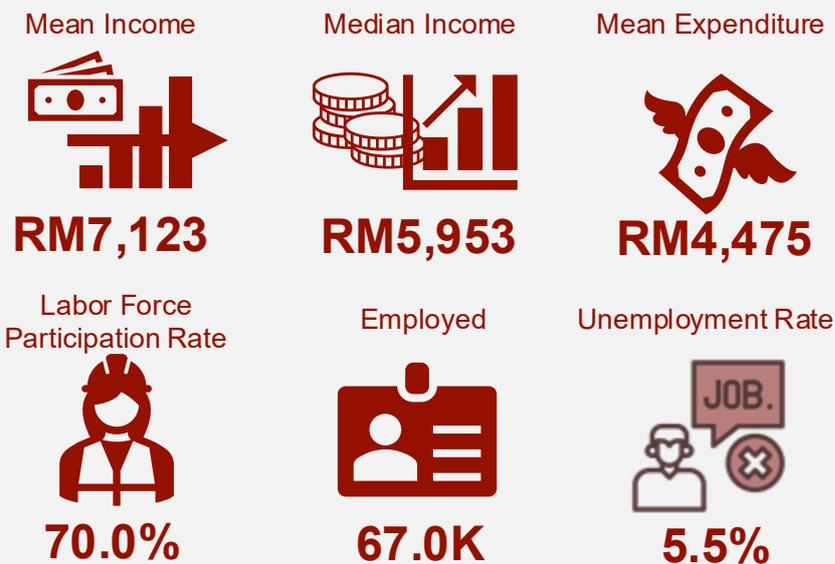
- Kota Samarahan is rapidly developing, transitioning from an agricultural hub to an urban and commercial center.

**Economic Pattern**

- The services sector dominates, with 1,562 businesses, followed by construction (111), manufacturing (73), and agriculture (21). The presence of universities, research institutions, and medical facilities drives knowledge-based economic activities.

**Investment Potential**

- Education and Healthcare, Industrial & Manufacturing, Agribusiness



**Kota Samarahan's Economic Growth**

Kota Samarahan is experiencing steady economic growth, transitioning from an agricultural town to an education, healthcare, and commercial hub. The services sector leads the economy, with over 1,562 businesses, supported by construction (111), manufacturing (73), and agriculture (21). The expansion of universities, medical facilities, and retail centers has increased job opportunities and income levels, with a mean income of RM7,123 and median income of RM5,953.

**Economic Challenges and Inequality**

Despite Kota Samarahan's economic growth, several challenges remain, including 5.5% unemployment, with limited high-skilled job opportunities for graduates, infrastructure gaps requiring better public transport and road networks, rising property prices and living costs, and a reliance on the services sector with limited large-scale industries.

**Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Economic Gaps**

The district is also strengthening education and innovation by expanding research and tech-driven industries linked to universities. To attract investments, the government is promoting SMEs, manufacturing, and agro-tech through business incentives. Additionally, urban development initiatives focus on affordable housing, commercial expansion, and improved public services, ensuring a balanced and sustainable economic ecosystem. These efforts position Kota Samarahan as a key economic hub in Sarawak, aligning with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.

**Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

Kota Samarahan's future lies in smart urban planning, economic diversification, and green growth initiatives. By investing in high-tech industries, renewable energy, and modern infrastructure, the district aims to create sustainable jobs, reduce inequalities, and enhance economic resilience, aligning with SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth.



Padawan, located within the Kuching District, plays a crucial role in agriculture, eco-tourism, and suburban development. The area supports economic growth by providing residential expansion, green spaces, and industrial zones, catering to businesses seeking affordable land and infrastructure. Padawan also benefits from smart city initiatives and green construction efforts, aligning with the broader goals of sustainable development within the greater Kuching metropolitan region.

**Land Use and Economic**

- Its economy is driven by agriculture, services, small-scale industries, and tourism.

**Economic Pattern**

- Eco-tourism is also rising, with attractions like nature reserves and cultural sites bringing visitors. Small manufacturing and construction support urban growth, making Padawan an important part of Kuching's economic development.

**Investment Potential**

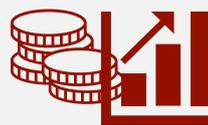
- Eco-tourism, agriculture, real estate, and small industries.

Mean Income



RM6,200

Median Income



RM5,100

Mean Expenditure



RM4,500

Labor Force



35.2K

Employed



33K

Unemployment Rate



3.6%

**Padawan Economic Growth**

Padawan's economy is growing but faces challenges. The mean income is RM6,200, while the median income is RM5,100, with a mean expenditure of RM4,500. However, GDP declined by 4.5% (2018-2020), reflecting economic slowdowns. The labor force is 35.2k, with an employment rate of 3.6% and a participation rate of 68.5%, showing moderate workforce engagement.

**Economic Challenges and Inequality**

Padawan faces several economic challenges, including a 4.5% GDP decline, indicating instability and the need for recovery strategies. Limited job opportunities contribute to a 3.6% unemployment rate, particularly affecting skilled workers. The rising cost of living pressures household income and savings, making financial stability a concern. Additionally, the local economy relies heavily on agriculture and small-scale industries, restricting industrial growth and diversification. Addressing these challenges requires strategic investment, workforce development, and economic diversification efforts.

**Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Economic Gaps**

Padawan is implementing several initiatives to drive economic growth and sustainability. Infrastructure upgrades, including road expansions and improved connectivity, aim to boost economic activities and attract investments. Business support programs provide incentives for SMEs, agro-industries, and tourism, encouraging entrepreneurship and job creation. The green economy is also a focus, with investments in eco-tourism, sustainable agriculture, and renewable energy projects to promote long-term environmental and economic benefits. Additionally, workforce development initiatives, such as skills training and education programs, are being introduced to enhance employability and equip the local labor force for emerging industries.

**Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth**

Padawan can achieve sustainable growth by diversifying its economy, enhancing infrastructure, and promoting green industries. Strengthening the service and digital economy, along with eco-friendly investments, will improve resilience and create long-term economic stability.

# Key Findings of SDG 8 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Sibu, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan are working towards SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) with different approaches. Sibu focuses on infrastructure and industry to create jobs, while Padawan supports SMEs, agro-industries, and tourism for a stronger economy. Kota Samarahan uses its universities to drive innovation and digital jobs. Challenges like slow economic growth, limited skilled jobs, and rising costs remain. To address this, these areas are improving infrastructure, job training, and business support to create sustainable and inclusive growth.

## Sibu Progress

Sibu's economic progress is driven by its strong manufacturing, timber, and agriculture industries. The Sibu Municipal Council (MPS) actively promotes sustainable forestry practices to ensure long-term resource availability while balancing economic and environmental needs. Efforts to improve market access for agricultural products help small-scale farmers and agribusinesses expand their reach, boosting local incomes. Additionally, the services sector is being strengthened through infrastructure improvements, business incentives, and digitalization efforts.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Expand Industries: Develop manufacturing, agro-based industries, and the digital economy.
- Improve Infrastructure: Upgrade roads, transport, and logistics hubs for better connectivity.
- Promote Green Economy: Support sustainable timber processing and renewable energy.
- Enhance Workforce Skills: Provide training for high-demand jobs.

## Padawan Progress

Padawan's economy is growing, mainly in construction, retail, education, and tourism, creating more jobs.

The Padawan Municipal Council (MPP) and other relevant authorities such as Public Works Department, Kuching Water Board, Sarawak Tourism Board and others are improving business infrastructure, upgrading public transport, and supporting local businesses with incentives and training. Tourism is also a focus, with eco-tourism and cultural attractions being promoted.

The objective is to balance development with sustainability to ensure long-term economic growth.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Boost Infrastructure – Improve roads, public transport, and digital connectivity.
- Support Local Businesses – Provide incentives, training, and funding for SMEs.
- Promote Tourism – Develop eco-tourism and cultural attractions.
- Enhance Education & Skills – Offer training programs to match job market needs.\*

*\*The proposed Way Forward, the matters are within the purview of relevant authorities and agencies.*

## Kota Samarahan Progress

Kota Samarahan's growth as an education hub creates jobs in education, healthcare, and retail. The Kota Samarahan Municipal Council (MPKS) improves infrastructure, attracts investments, and supports SMEs. Key efforts include better roads, business incentives, and partnerships with universities to boost the digital economy and research. These initiatives help drive sustainable economic growth.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Improve Infrastructure – Expand roads, public transport, and digital connectivity.
- Support SMEs – Provide funding, training, and incentives for small businesses.
- Boost Education & Innovation – Strengthen partnerships with universities to promote research and tech-driven industries.

# Roles of Municipal Councils in Sarawak for SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a crucial role in fostering sustainable economic growth and promoting decent work in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8. However, local councils do not have direct control over economic policies such as labor laws, investment incentives, or industrial regulations, which are managed by federal and state agencies like the Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Human Resources, and Sarawak Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). Despite these limitations, municipal councils serve as key facilitators in creating an environment that supports business growth, employment, and sustainable urban economic development.

## Challenges in Economic Development Governance

Municipal councils in Sibü, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan focus on basic urban infrastructure, business development such as hawker centres & markets, and related public services, but broader economic growth depends on multiple stakeholders. Sibü's reliance on timber and agriculture, Padawan's expanding services sector, and Kota Samarahan's education-driven economy highlight the need for diversification. Challenges such as job market mismatches, digital gaps, and rising living costs widen economic disparities. While councils cannot drive large-scale economic reforms alone, they can collaborate with government agencies and businesses to support inclusive and sustainable growth.

## Key Strategies for Municipal Councils to Support SDG 8

### Facilitating Business Growth & Investment

1. Streamline business licensing and approval processes.
2. Promote investment in sustainable industries such as renewable energy, eco-tourism, and green construction.

### Enhancing Workforce Development

1. Collaborate with state agencies, universities, and industry leaders to provide upskilling programs.
2. Support digital literacy and vocational training for workers in traditional sectors.

### Encouraging Sustainable Urban Economy

1. Implement smart city initiatives to boost innovation and entrepreneurship.
2. Support small and medium enterprises (SMEs) with grants, advisory services, and business-friendly policies.

To ensure sustainable and inclusive economic growth, municipal councils in Sarawak must intensify multi-level collaboration with government agencies, private sector players, and academic institutions. One key approach is policy alignment and

inter-governmental cooperation, where city councils work closely with state economic planners and federal ministries to address employment challenges, ensuring that local economic policies are integrated into broader national development frameworks. Strengthening coordination between local councils, Sarawak Government Agencies, the Ministry of Economy, the Ministry of Human Resources, and regional development agencies can help bridge gaps in workforce development and job creation.

Additionally, fostering public-private partnerships (PPPs) is crucial for accelerating economic diversification. By partnering with industry leaders, city councils can attract investments in high-growth sectors, including digital economy, green energy, and sustainable tourism. Establishing economic incentives such as tax breaks, grants, and streamlined business regulations can encourage entrepreneurial activity and SME development, ultimately leading to more job opportunities and economic resilience.

Another critical focus is workforce upskilling and industry transition support, particularly for workers in industries like tourism, manufacturing, and agriculture. Municipal councils can facilitate skill-building programs in collaboration with universities, vocational training centers, and private sector stakeholders to prepare the local workforce for digital transformation and sustainable industries. Expanding training initiatives in automation, green technology, and digital services will enable a smoother transition into emerging sectors, reducing unemployment risks and economic inequality.

Lastly, municipal councils should adopt localized economic development strategies tailored to the strengths of each city. For instance, Sibü can strengthen its position as an industrial hub, Padawan focuses on eco-tourism and green energy while Kota Samarahan focuses on agriculture and services. By leveraging local expertise and natural resources, municipal councils can drive sustainable economic growth while ensuring that no community is left behind in the development process.



## Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

### Objective:

To build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation.

Interrelation of Goal 9 with other SDGs



## Overview of SDG 9 for Sarawak Municipal Council

Majlis Perbandaran Sibul (MPS), Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS), and Majlis Perbandaran Padawan (MPP) are actively implementing SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through industrial development, digital transformation, and infrastructure enhancement. These municipalities play a key role in Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030) by promoting technological advancements, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable industrialization.

Sibu, as a major commercial hub in central Sarawak, is strengthening its manufacturing, logistics, and digital infrastructure to support industrial growth. Kota Samarahan, known as Sarawak's Education and Research Hub, is advancing biotechnology, smart industries, and digital economy initiatives while fostering innovation-driven enterprises. Meanwhile, Padawan is prioritizing eco-friendly infrastructure, sustainable agriculture, and smart urban planning to support long-term industrial and technological progress.

Majlis Perbandaran Sibul (MPS), Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS), and Majlis Perbandaran Padawan (MPP) are actively implementing SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) through industrial development, digital transformation, and infrastructure enhancement. These municipalities play a key role in Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030) by promoting technological advancements, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable industrialization.



**SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Research and development (R&D) in smart farming, biotechnology, and climate-resilient crops (SDG 9) supports sustainable and efficient food production



**SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** Investment in hospitals, clinics, and digital health infrastructure (SDG 9) ensures better healthcare access, especially in rural areas.



**SDG 15 (Life on Land):** Smart infrastructure projects, like green transportation systems and nature-based solutions, help preserve forests, wetlands, and biodiversity hotspots.



**SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** Cross-border trade agreements and investment in green industries help accelerate industrialization while reducing environmental harm.



Sarawak prioritizes infrastructure and industrial growth for economic transformation, with notable progress in roads, industrial parks, and manufacturing. However, rural connectivity gaps and SME financing challenges persist. R&D and digital infrastructure are expanding but need more funding and collaboration. Green technology integration must improve. Strengthening rural infrastructure, SME support, and digital connectivity is key to achieving a resilient and sustainable industrial landscape under SDG 9.

### Infrastructure Development

Sarawak has made steady progress in enhancing its road networks, transportation hubs, and industrial infrastructure. The government continues to invest in major highways, bridges, and industrial parks to improve connectivity and economic opportunities.

#### Key Developments:

- Expansion of major road networks linking rural and urban areas, improving logistics and accessibility.
- Increased investment in industrial parks, fostering economic growth and manufacturing hubs.
- Sustainability initiatives incorporated into infrastructure projects, including energy-efficient buildings and public transport upgrades.

#### Challenges in Infrastructure Development:

- Remaining gaps in rural connectivity – Some remote areas still lack access to well-developed roads.
- Funding constraints for large-scale projects – Infrastructure growth depends on consistent financial allocations.
- Need for more green infrastructure – Adoption of eco-friendly materials and technologies is increasing but remains limited.

### Industrialization & Economic Growth

The industrial sector in Sarawak is experiencing steady growth, with positive trends in employment, exports, and SME expansion. However, access to financing for small businesses remains a challenge.

#### Key Developments:

- Manufacturing sector expansion – Increased production and higher demand for industrial exports.
- Strong SME growth – More businesses registered, contributing to employment.
- Rising foreign investments – More international companies investing in industrial projects.

#### Challenges in Infrastructure Development:

- Urban-rural disparities – Industries are concentrated in major cities, leaving rural areas with fewer job opportunities.
- Access to financing for SMEs – Small businesses still face challenges in obtaining loans.
- Need for more skilled workforce – The industrial sector requires more trained professionals and technical workers.

**Table 5.2 : Infrastructure Data in Sarawak (2022-2023)**

Category	2022	2023	Change (%)
<b>Total Length of Paved Roads (km)</b>	32,150	33,280	+3.5%
<b>Number of New Bridges Completed</b>	15	18	+20%
<b>Industrial Parks Developed</b>	5	6	+20%
<b>Public Infrastructure Investment (RM Million)</b>	4,500	5,200	+15.6%
<b>Highway Construction Projects (Ongoing)</b>	12	14	+16.7%
<b>Port Expansion Projects (Completed)</b>	2	3	+50%
<b>Renewable Energy in Infrastructure (%)</b>	30%	35%	+5%

Source : DOSM, Sarawak YB2023 - Table 09 Industry and Manufacturing

**Table 5.3 : Infrastructure Data in Sarawak (2022-2023)**

Category	2022	2023	Change (%)
<b>Industrial Output (RM Billion)</b>	62.4	68.9	+10.4%
<b>Number of SMEs Registered</b>	4,800	5,200	+8.3%
<b>Manufacturing Sector Employment (Total Jobs)</b>	130,000	135,500	+4.2%
<b>Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Industrial Sector (RM Million)</b>	6,200	7,000	+12.9%
<b>Total Number of Factories</b>	850	910	+7%
<b>Export Value of Industrial Goods (RM Billion)</b>	45.8	50.3	+9.8%

Source : DOSM, Sarawak YB2023 - Table 09 Industry and Manufacturing



### SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN SIBU - MPS)

The Sibü Municipal Council's vision of "Towards a Liveable and Sustainable City by 2031" aligns with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by promoting technological advancement, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable industrialization. Efforts such as smart city initiatives, digital transformation, and investment in modern infrastructure support economic development while enhancing connectivity and innovation. Additionally, the focus on green industries, manufacturing upgrades, and digital entrepreneurship ensures long-term economic sustainability and industrial growth for Sibü's residents.



### KOTA SAMARAHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN KOTA SAMARAHAN - MPKS)

Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS) supports SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by developing resilient infrastructure, promoting digital transformation, and fostering sustainable industrialization. Investments in smart urban planning, improved transportation networks, and digital connectivity enhance economic opportunities and attract businesses. Additionally, green infrastructure and eco-friendly developments contribute to long-term sustainability, positioning Kota Samarahan as a hub for innovation, research, and technology-driven industries.



### PADAWAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PADAWAN - MPP)

The vision of an Efficient & Sustainable Padawan Municipality supports SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by enhancing urban infrastructure, promoting technological innovation, and fostering sustainable industries. Investments in modern transportation systems, resilient public utilities, and smart waste management solutions improve efficiency and sustainability. Additionally, support for eco-friendly businesses, green construction, and digital transformation strengthens economic resilience, positioning Padawan as a hub for sustainable industrial growth and innovation-driven development.

## Relationship of SDG 9 with other SDGs (Cont..)



**SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Investing in technical training and vocational education equips individuals with skills needed for modern industries, fostering innovation and economic growth.



**SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities):** Investing in sustainable transport systems (e.g., efficient public transit, smart road networks) reduces congestion and improves urban mobility.



**SDG 1 (No Poverty):** Investments in industry and infrastructure generate employment, lifting individuals and communities out of poverty by providing stable incomes and improving livelihoods.



**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Investing in modern water supply systems ensures safe and sustainable access to clean drinking water.



**SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Promoting women-led businesses in innovation-driven industries fosters gender equality in economic decision-making.



**SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Investment in solar farms, wind turbines, and hydropower stations provides sustainable energy sources.



**SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Promoting equitable access to industries and innovation ensures that marginalized groups



**SDG 14 (Life Below Water):** Investing in AI and satellite monitoring systems helps track illegal fishing and protect marine reserves.



The infrastructure changes in Sibuland (2021-2023) support SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by improving transport networks and connectivity. The land area adjusted from 2,229.8 km<sup>2</sup> in 2021 to 2,192.2 km<sup>2</sup> in 2023, reflecting urban planning updates. State roads decreased from 2,484.0 km to 2,038.5 km, while roads under the Public Works Department grew from 446.1 km to 479.5 km, and Department of Irrigation & Drainage roads increased from 63.2 km to 71.6 km, improving flood management. Local Authority roads reduced from 1,974.7 km to 1,487.4 km, reflecting shifts in municipal planning. These changes highlight efforts to enhance infrastructure and support sustainable growth.

### Land Area and Roads

- Sibuland's infrastructure development reflects strategic urban planning and resource reallocation, aligning with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure. The land area adjusted from 2,229.8 km<sup>2</sup> (2021) to 2,192.2 km<sup>2</sup> (2023) due to urban planning changes. State road length decreased from 2,484.0 km to 2,038.5 km, reflecting infrastructure reallocation, while Public Works Department roads increased from 446.1 km to 479.5 km, improving accessibility. Additionally, Irrigation & Drainage roads expanded from 63.2 km to 71.6 km, enhancing flood resilience, whereas Local Authority roads declined from 1,974.7 km to 1,487.4 km, indicating shifts in jurisdictional management.

### Digital and Public Service Expansion

- Five PEDi centres were set up to improve internet access and digital skills, helping communities join the digital economy. One Citizen Information Centre was introduced to make public services more accessible and improve communication between residents and authorities.

### Road Length



2,038.5

### Digital Economy Centre (PEDi)



5

### Citizen Information Centre



1

### Sibuland Infrastructure and Innovation Growth

Sibuland has seen significant infrastructure improvements, including road expansions, better drainage systems, and enhanced public facilities. The length of Public Works Department roads increased, while Irrigation & Drainage roads expanded, improving connectivity and flood resilience. Additionally, digital infrastructure has grown with the establishment of PEDi centres and a Citizen Information Centre, supporting digital access and governance.

### Infrastructure Challenges and Inequality

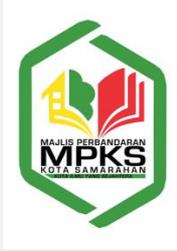
Sibuland faces several infrastructure challenges, including aging roads and drainage systems that require upgrades to support urban growth. Traffic congestion has worsened due to increased urbanization, affecting mobility in key areas. Additionally, flood risks remain a concern, especially in low-lying areas prone to heavy rainfall. The digital divide also persists, with some rural communities still lacking adequate access to digital services and connectivity.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Infrastructure Gaps

Sibuland is implementing several ongoing initiatives to address infrastructure challenges. Road upgrades and widening projects are being carried out to ease congestion and improve connectivity. Flood mitigation projects, including better drainage systems and riverbank reinforcements, aim to reduce flood risks in vulnerable areas. The Smart City Development initiative focuses on expanding digital infrastructure, increasing public Wi-Fi access, and enhancing e-services. Additionally, sustainable urban planning ensures that infrastructure growth aligns with environmental protection, promoting long-term resilience and development.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Sibuland's pathway to sustainability focuses on integrated urban planning, incorporating eco-friendly infrastructure and smart city initiatives. Sustainable transport solutions, such as improved public transit and non-motorized mobility options, aim to reduce congestion and emissions. Additionally, resilient infrastructure efforts focus on strengthening flood defenses and ensuring long-term climate adaptability.



Kota Samarahan's infrastructure has expanded, with its land area growing from 407.1 km<sup>2</sup> (2021) to 421.1 km<sup>2</sup> (2023) and state road length increasing from 1,937.7 km to 2,029.3 km. Roads under the Public Works Department, Local Authority, and Department of Irrigation & Drainage improved, enhancing connectivity and flood resilience. Six PEDi centres were set up to improve digital access, while one Citizen Information Centre enhances public services. These efforts support SDG 9 by promoting better infrastructure, digital inclusion, and sustainable urban growth.

### Land Area and Roads

- Kota Samarahan's land area grew from 407.1 km<sup>2</sup> in 2021 to 421.1 km<sup>2</sup> in 2023, reflecting urban expansion to support economic activities and population growth. The state road network increased from 1,937.7 km to 2,029.3 km, with upgrades by the Public Works Department, Local Authority, and Irrigation & Drainage Department, enhancing connectivity, accessibility, and flood resilience.

### Digital and Public Service Expansion

- The establishment of six PEDi (Pusat Ekonomi Digital) centres enhances internet accessibility and digital literacy, supporting businesses, students, and communities in adapting to the digital economy. Additionally, a Citizen Information Centre improves government service accessibility, transparency, and engagement, ensuring residents can efficiently access public services and information.

### Road Length



2,029.3

### Digital Economy Centre (PEDi)



6

### Citizen Information Centre



1

### Kota Samarahan Infrastructure and Innovation Growth

Kota Samarahan has experienced significant infrastructure expansion, with its land area increasing from 407.1 km<sup>2</sup> (2021) to 421.1 km<sup>2</sup> (2023) and state road length extending from 1,937.7 km to 2,029.3 km. Investments in road networks, digital infrastructure, and public services have improved connectivity, economic opportunities, and quality of life. The addition of six PEDi (Pusat Ekonomi Digital) centres has enhanced digital accessibility, while the Citizen Information Centre has streamlined government service access and transparency.

### Infrastructure Challenges and Inequality

Rapid urbanization in Kota Samarahan has led to traffic congestion, requiring better transport planning to ease bottlenecks. Flood risks persist in low-lying areas, highlighting the need for stronger mitigation measures. While digital infrastructure is expanding, some communities still struggle with accessibility, creating a digital divide.

Additionally, balancing urban growth with environmental conservation remains a challenge, emphasizing the need for sustainable development strategies.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Infrastructure Gaps

Under the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK-12), road expansion and upgrades focus on widening and maintaining roads to accommodate increasing traffic. Flood mitigation projects strengthen drainage systems and riverbank protections to reduce flood risks. Smart city development initiatives enhance public Wi-Fi, e-services, and digital literacy programs to promote digital inclusion. Sustainable urban planning integrates green spaces and eco-friendly infrastructure to balance development with environmental conservation.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Kota Samarahan's development focuses on integrated urban planning, promoting smart and eco-friendly infrastructure. Public-private collaboration drives investments in transport, housing, and digital services to support growth. Resilient infrastructure efforts strengthen flood defenses and ensure climate-resilient development. Additionally, sustainable transport solutions enhance public transport and create walkable urban spaces for a greener, more connected city.



The infrastructure developments in Padawan align with SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure by enhancing transport networks and connectivity. Road networks have been upgraded to improve accessibility and support economic growth. Municipal planning has led to adjustments in infrastructure management, ensuring sustainable urban expansion. Investments in flood management, road maintenance, and digital connectivity reflect efforts to create a more resilient and well-connected region.

### Land Area and Roads

- Kuching's road length of 3,341.9 km highlights its extensive connectivity, with Padawan playing a vital role in infrastructure development. Majlis Perbandaran Padawan (MPP) focuses on maintaining and expanding road networks to support urban and rural mobility. These efforts improve accessibility, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance economic opportunities, ensuring sustainable growth while integrating eco-friendly and resilient infrastructure solutions.

### Digital and Public Service Expansion

- One PEDi centres were set up to improve internet access and digital skills, helping communities join the digital economy.

### Road Length\*



3,341.9

### Digital Economy Centre (PEDi)



1

\*Kuching district

### Padawan Infrastructure and Innovation Growth

Padawan is characterized by a blend of urban and rural areas, leading to diverse infrastructure needs. Urban expansion in areas like Batu Kawa and Matang is driving demand for modern infrastructure, including improved roads, transportation networks, housing, and utilities. The region holds potential for industrial growth, particularly in agriculture, food processing, and tourism-related sectors, although it remains underdeveloped in comparison to its urban counterparts.

### Infrastructure Challenges and Inequality

Padawan faces challenges in rural areas, such as poor roads, lack of street lighting, limited public transportation, unreliable electricity, and weak internet coverage. Local government budget constraints slow down infrastructure development. Development must also consider the environment to protect forests and wildlife. Additionally, there is a need for better education and training to prepare the workforce for new industries.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Infrastructure Gaps

The Sarawak government is investing in rural development, focusing on improving roads, telecommunications, and electricity in remote areas through programs like the Rural Electrification Scheme. In urban areas, efforts to modernize include developing smart infrastructure, such as better waste management and e-governance. Public-private partnerships are being explored to attract investment for key infrastructure projects, particularly in agriculture and tourism. Padawan is also promoting ecotourism with sustainable infrastructure, like eco-lodges and improved roads in tourist areas.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

To achieve SDG 9 in Padawan, the focus should be on improving connectivity with better roads and internet access, promoting sustainable industries like clean energy and green manufacturing, and fostering innovation through technology hubs and R&D support. Public-private partnerships can help fund infrastructure projects, while investing in education and vocational training will prepare the local workforce for new industries.

# Key Findings of SDG 9 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Sibu, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan are working towards SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) with different focuses on infrastructure development. Sibu emphasizes expanding infrastructure and industrial sectors to drive economic growth and create jobs. Padawan focuses on improving infrastructure for SMEs, agro-industries, and tourism to boost the local economy sustainably. Kota Samarahan leverages its universities to enhance digital infrastructure and foster innovation in the region. Despite challenges such as slow infrastructure growth, limited skilled workers, and rising costs, these areas are investing in infrastructure development, job training, and business support to ensure sustainable and inclusive growth.

## Sibu Progress

Sibu has made significant progress in infrastructure development, particularly in expanding roads, transportation networks, and industrial zones. Key initiatives have focused on establishing industrial parks and upgrading utilities to support manufacturing and industrial growth. Additionally, Sibu's port plays a crucial role in trade, facilitating both local and international economic connections, further boosting the region's economic growth.

## Proposed Way Forward

- Invest in digital infrastructure and smart technologies to support industrial and economic growth.
- Encourage green industrial practices and sustainable manufacturing processes to reduce environmental impact.
- Continue developing transport and logistics infrastructure to enhance connectivity for industries and businesses.

## Kota Samarahan Progress

Kota Samarahan has made notable progress by leveraging its universities to drive innovation and the development of digital industries. The region has invested in research and development (R&D) infrastructure and tech parks to foster startups and support digital industries. Key infrastructure improvements have been made to modernize transport networks and urban facilities, ensuring they can accommodate the growing population and expanding industries in the area.

## Proposed Way Forward

- Enhance digital infrastructure further to support the development of tech startups and digital jobs.
- Promote public-private partnerships to support infrastructure projects that integrate smart technologies for urban management.
- Strengthen R&D investments in both technology and green industries to foster innovation and attract investment..

## Padawan Progress

Padawan has concentrated on improving rural infrastructure, such as road development, rural electrification, and better internet connectivity. The region supports SMEs and agro-industries, with initiatives aimed at enhancing tourism and agriculture through infrastructure upgrades. Ecotourism and sustainable development are key priorities, particularly in areas like the Borneo Highlands, where efforts are focused on preserving the environment while fostering economic growth.

## Proposed Way Forward

- Strengthen infrastructure for eco-friendly tourism and agro-industries by improving transport links and sustainable energy solutions.
- Increase access to high-speed internet to support innovation and digital services in rural areas.
- Continue to develop smart infrastructure solutions for rural areas to bridge the urban-rural divide.

# Roles of Municipal Councils in Sarawak for SDG 9: Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a crucial role in fostering sustainable infrastructure development and promoting innovation in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9. While local councils do not have direct control over policies related to industrial regulations, investment incentives, or technological innovation—areas managed by federal and state agencies like the Ministry of Infrastructure and Port Development, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, and Sarawak Digital Economy Corporation (SDEC)—they are key facilitators in creating an environment that supports infrastructure growth, industrial development, and innovation. By improving local infrastructure, encouraging the adoption of green technologies, and enhancing connectivity, municipal councils contribute significantly to building sustainable industrial systems and driving innovation at the local level.

## Challenges in Economic Development Governance

Municipal councils in Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan play a crucial role in advancing SDG 9 by enhancing urban infrastructure, fostering innovation, and supporting sustainable industrial growth. Sibul's reliance on timber and agriculture, Padawan's expanding services sector, and Kota Samarahan's education-driven economy highlight the need for modernized infrastructure and technological advancement. Challenges such as outdated industrial practices, digital divides, and limited support for small businesses hinder inclusive development. While councils alone cannot drive large-scale industrial transformation, they can collaborate with government agencies, businesses, and research institutions to promote resilient infrastructure, inclusive industrialization, and innovation-driven economic growth.

## Key Strategies for Municipal Councils to Support SDG 9

### Facilitating Sustainable Industrial Growth & Investment

1. Streamline infrastructure project approvals to attract investment in green construction, renewable energy, and eco-friendly industrial parks.
2. Support public-private partnerships (PPPs) to finance and implement smart infrastructure solutions.

### Enhancing Workforce Development

1. Collaborate with state agencies, universities, and industry leaders to provide upskilling programs.
2. Promote digital skills and automation training to modernize infrastructure-related sectors, such as construction, transportation, and energy.

To advance SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, municipal councils in Sarawak must strengthen resilient infrastructure, foster innovation, and promote sustainable industrialization through strategic collaboration with government agencies, private sector players, and academic institutions.

Enhancing transportation networks, logistics hubs, and digital infrastructure will improve connectivity, boost economic efficiency, and support industrial expansion. Upgrading industrial zones with smart technologies, renewable energy integration, and green building practices will drive sustainable urban development.

Expanding high-speed internet access and smart city solutions will accelerate digital transformation and innovation-led growth. Encouraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) can facilitate investments in advanced manufacturing, clean energy, and circular economy initiatives, ensuring sustainable industrialization.

Supporting research, development, and technology commercialization in collaboration with universities and industry leaders will foster homegrown innovation, enhance productivity, and position Sarawak as a hub for sustainable infrastructure and industrial progress.



## Sustainable Cities and Communities

### Objective:

To create inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities by improving housing, infrastructure, public transport, and urban planning while preserving cultural heritage and reducing environmental impact.



## Overview of SDG 11 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Majlis Perbandaran Sibü (MPS), Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS), and Majlis Perbandaran Padawan (MPP) are actively implementing SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by developing resilient infrastructure, sustainable urban planning, and inclusive public services. These municipalities are key players in Sarawak's Post COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030), focusing on smart urban growth, environmental sustainability, and disaster resilience to enhance the quality of life for residents.

Sibü is prioritizing public transport improvements, flood mitigation systems, and urban renewal projects to create a more climate-resilient and livable city. Kota Samarahan, as Sarawak's Education and Research Hub, is expanding pedestrian-friendly zones, green spaces, and digital connectivity to support a smart and inclusive urban environment. Meanwhile, Padawan is leading efforts in eco-friendly urban planning, sustainable housing development, and waste management solutions to ensure a clean and healthy living space for communities.

The commitment of these municipalities to SDG 11 aligns with the broader goal of creating sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities. By investing in smart infrastructure, promoting green urban development, and strengthening disaster preparedness, these councils are shaping urban environments that are safe, sustainable, and future-ready for the people of Sarawak.



**SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Sustainable cities can integrate food hubs, farmers' markets, and agro-parks to support small-scale farmers and ensure food accessibility for all residents.



**SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** Sustainable cities promote clean energy, public transport, and green spaces to reduce air pollution, contributing to better respiratory and cardiovascular health.



**SDG 15 (Life on Land):** Urban parks, green belts, and tree planting initiatives help preserve biodiversity and provide habitats for wildlife in cities.



**SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) can finance urban infrastructure, smart city solutions, and affordable housing.



### SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN SIBU - MPS)

The Sibul Municipal Council's vision of "Towards a Liveable and Sustainable City by 2031" aligns with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities by promoting inclusive urban development, resilient infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Efforts such as smart city initiatives, green urban planning, and enhanced public transportation aim to improve the quality of life, safety, and accessibility for residents. Additionally, the focus on affordable housing, waste management, and climate adaptation strategies ensures a sustainable, well-connected, and disaster-resilient urban environment



### KOTA SAMARAHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN KOTA SAMARAHAN - MPKS)

Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS) supports SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities by promoting inclusive urban development, resilient infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Investments in smart urban planning, efficient public transportation, and digital connectivity enhance livability, mobility, and economic opportunities for residents. Additionally, initiatives such as green infrastructure and climate-resilient developments contribute to long-term urban sustainability, ensuring Kota Samarahan evolves into a well-planned, accessible, and environmentally friendly city.



### PADAWAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PADAWAN - MPP)

The vision of an Efficient & Sustainable Padawan Municipality aligns with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities by promoting inclusive urban development, environmental sustainability, and resilient infrastructure. Investments in sustainable mobility, efficient waste management, and climate-responsive urban planning enhance livability and environmental resilience. Additionally, initiatives supporting affordable housing, green spaces, and disaster risk reduction contribute to safe, inclusive, and sustainable urban growth, positioning Padawan as a model for smart and resilient urban development.

## Relationship of SDG 11 with other SDGs (Cont..)



**SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Educational institutions can promote awareness of sustainable living, climate action, and disaster resilience among urban populations.



**SDG 9 (Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation):** Technological innovation enables efficient and sustainable urban management, reducing congestion and pollution in cities.



**SDG 1 (No Poverty):** Slum upgrading projects, social housing schemes, and secure land tenure ensure that vulnerable communities have access to dignified and stable living environments.



**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Expanding water infrastructure, reducing leaks, and investing in smart water management systems helps cities become more sustainable and livable.



**SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Well-lit streets, safe pedestrian zones, and gender-sensitive infrastructure help prevent harassment and violence, promoting a safer urban environment.



**SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Integrating renewable energy in urban planning helps create energy-efficient buildings, smart grids, and low-carbon public services.



**SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Supports affordable housing policies, social housing programs, and urban planning strategies that reduce housing disparities.



**SDG 14 (Life Below Water):** Emphasizes resilient urban infrastructure and climate-adaptive designs, helping protect marine habitats while ensuring safe and sustainable coastal cities.



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities aims to make urban areas inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. In Sarawak, which covers a vast land area of 124,171 km<sup>2</sup> with a population density of 20 people per km<sup>2</sup> and 821.5 thousand living quarters, urbanization poses challenges such as affordable housing, infrastructure development, public transport, and environmental sustainability. Initiatives like the People’s Housing Project (PPR), smart city strategies, and green infrastructure investments support sustainable urban growth. By enhancing urban planning, disaster resilience, and eco-friendly developments, Sarawak is working towards building livable and sustainable communities for its residents.



**Sarawak Land Area**  
**12,171 km<sup>2</sup>**



**Population Density**  
**20/km<sup>2</sup>**



**Living Quarters**  
**821.5 thousand**

### People’s Housing Project (PPR) Completed in Sarawak

Owned	Rent
1,775 (2022)	3,016 (2022)





SDG 11 focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. As one of the major urban centers in Sarawak, Sibü faces challenges related to affordable housing, transportation, infrastructure, and environmental sustainability. Efforts to improve urban resilience and sustainability are crucial in ensuring a better quality of life for its residents.

### Housing and Urban Development

- The People’s Housing Project (PPR) enhances affordable housing availability in Sibü, with 461 units under construction and 500 rental units completed, addressing the needs of lower-income groups. With 92.6 thousand living quarters, urban planning efforts must prioritize sustainable housing expansion, ensuring adequate infrastructure and livable communities for the growing population.

### Population Density and Land Use

- Sibü, with a land area of 2,192.2 km<sup>2</sup> and a population density of 113/km<sup>2</sup>, requires efficient urban planning to accommodate its growing population. Sustainable infrastructure and community facilities are essential to ensuring balanced development while maintaining livability and quality of life for residents.

### Landed Area



**2,192.2 km<sup>2</sup>**

### Population Density



**113/km<sup>2</sup>**

### Living Quarters



**92.6 thousand**

### People’s Housing Project (PPR) – Owned:

**461**  
(under construction)

### People’s Housing Project (PPR) – Rent:

**500**  
(Completed)

### Sibü Sustainable City and Community

Sibü is striving to become a more sustainable and livable city, balancing urban growth with environmental and social well-being. With a land area of 2,192.2 km<sup>2</sup> and a population density of 113/km<sup>2</sup>, the city faces challenges in urban expansion, infrastructure development, and environmental conservation.

### Challenges

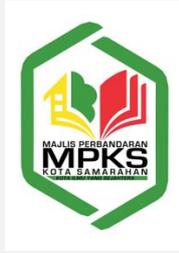
Sibü faces several urban challenges, including affordable housing and urban sprawl, where the rising demand for housing necessitates sustainable development strategies to prevent uncontrolled expansion. Additionally, flood management remains a critical issue due to Sibü’s geographical conditions, requiring climate-resilient infrastructure to mitigate risks. The city also struggles with public transportation and traffic congestion, as the lack of efficient transit options leads to increased carbon emissions and road congestion, highlighting the need for improved mobility solutions.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Sustainable City Gaps

Sibü’s sustainable urban development incorporates a redevelopment plan focusing on modern construction technologies such as concrete piling and suspension slabs to enhance structural resilience. The People’s Housing Project (PPR) continues to expand affordable housing, with 461 units under construction and 500 completed rental units. Additionally, green infrastructure projects, including flood mitigation efforts, sustainable drainage systems, and river rehabilitation programs, aim to address environmental challenges.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

To achieve SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, Sibü must focus on better urban planning, clean energy, and waste management. Developing affordable housing, green spaces, and accessible infrastructure will help create an inclusive and resilient city. These efforts will support a sustainable and livable future for Sibü.



Kota Samarahan is rapidly developing into a sustainable urban center, aligning with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. As urbanization increases, the focus is on affordable housing, efficient land use, and resilient infrastructure to support sustainable growth.

### Housing and Urban Development

- Kota Samarahan’s urban growth is guided by strategic planning to ensure sustainable development while addressing housing needs. The completion of 180 People’s Housing Project (PPR) units reflects the government’s commitment to providing affordable and accessible housing for low- and middle-income residents. These housing projects not only improve living conditions but also support social inclusivity and economic stability.
- To prevent urban sprawl, authorities are focusing on compact and well-connected developments that integrate residential areas with commercial zones, public services, and green spaces.

### Population Density and Land Use

- Kota Samarahan spans 421.1 km<sup>2</sup> with a population density of 331 people/km<sup>2</sup>, highlighting the need for effective land management to support sustainable urban growth. As the population increases, balanced development is essential to prevent overcrowding, reduce environmental degradation, and maintain a high quality of life.

#### Landed Area



421.1 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Population Density



331/km<sup>2</sup>

#### Living Quarters



48.5 thousand

#### People’s Housing Project (PPR) – Owned:

180 (completed)

### Kota Samarahan Sustainable City and Community

Kota Samarahan is growing into a sustainable city by planning its development, improving infrastructure, and protecting the environment. Green spaces and better drainage help reduce flooding and improve the environment. Improved roads and transport make it easier for people to move around. Smart city projects, like digital services and clean energy, make life better. By balancing growth and sustainability, Kota Samarahan is becoming a better place to live.

### Challenges

Kota Samarahan faces several challenges in achieving sustainable urban development, including unorganized and unsystematic planning, which leads to congestion and imbalanced land use. The presence of unmanaged street vendors and commercial areas creates traffic disruptions and environmental concerns. Limited road connectivity results in heavy congestion, particularly in key zones, while many residential areas are prone to flooding due to inadequate drainage systems. Additionally, the lack of essential public facilities, such as recreational spaces and healthcare centers, affects the overall quality of life.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Sustainable City Gaps

Kota Samarahan is implementing several initiatives to support sustainable urban development. Green infrastructure, such as sustainable drainage systems and flood mitigation projects, helps reduce environmental risks. A flood simulation program by the Resident’s Office enhances disaster preparedness and response. Road expansion and improved public transport aim to ease traffic congestion and enhance connectivity. Smart city initiatives, including digital services and renewable energy adoption, improve urban management and sustainability.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Kota Samarahan is working towards a sustainable future with better housing, improved roads, and flood prevention efforts. Affordable housing projects support growing communities, while green spaces and drainage systems help manage floods. Upgraded transport and smart city initiatives make daily life easier.



Padawan is working towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 by promoting inclusive, safe, and sustainable urban development. As the district expands, efforts are focused on balancing housing needs, infrastructure growth, and environmental conservation to enhance livability.

### Housing and Urban Development

- With 74,003 residential units making up 91% of total land use, Padawan emphasizes structured housing development to prevent urban sprawl and ensure accessibility to essential services. The district is improving housing infrastructure by integrating affordable housing projects, sustainable designs, and public amenities to enhance the quality of life for residents. Additionally, green spaces and proper drainage systems are incorporated to mitigate environmental impacts.

### Population Density and Land Use

- Covering 984.34 km<sup>2</sup>, Padawan's land use distribution includes 7% commercial areas (5,652 units) and 2% industrial zones (1,701 units). Strategic planning aims to improve transport infrastructure, reduce congestion, and integrate smart city solutions to create a more resilient and efficient urban environment..

#### Jurisdiction Area



984.34 km<sup>2</sup>

#### Commercial (No)



5652  
(7%)

#### Residential (No)



74,003  
(91%)

#### Industrial (No)



1,701  
(2%)

### Padawan Sustainable City and Community

Padawan is advancing towards Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 by promoting well-planned urban growth, sustainable infrastructure, and environmental resilience. The district aims to balance development with livability, ensuring that urban expansion supports economic opportunities while maintaining ecological sustainability.

### Challenges

Padawan faces several challenges in becoming a sustainable city, including unplanned urban growth, limited public transport, and connectivity issues, leading to congestion and inefficient land use. Flood risks and drainage problems threaten residential and commercial areas, while gaps in affordable housing and infrastructure impact lower-income communities. Additionally, rapid urbanization increases pressure on waste management and environmental sustainability. Addressing these challenges through sustainable urban planning, resilient infrastructure, and smart city initiatives is essential for Padawan's progress toward SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Sustainable City Gaps

Padawan is implementing various initiatives to promote sustainable urban development, including structured housing projects to improve affordability and livability. Flood mitigation projects, such as improved drainage systems, are being developed to address climate resilience. Additionally, local authorities are focusing on sustainable waste management and environmental conservation to balance urban expansion with ecological preservation. These initiatives align with SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, ensuring a greener and more inclusive future for Padawan.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Padawan aims to be a sustainable city by improving urban planning, infrastructure, and the environment. Better roads and public transport will improve connectivity, while flood control and drainage projects will help manage climate risks. More affordable housing and mixed-use areas will balance residential, commercial, and industrial spaces. Green spaces, waste management, and digital solutions will support a cleaner and smarter city.

## Key Findings of SDG 11 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Sibu, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan are working towards SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) with different focuses on urban development. Sibu aims to enhance housing, public transport, and flood management to improve livability. Padawan focuses on structured urban expansion, better infrastructure, and sustainable housing for a balanced and inclusive community. Kota Samarahan integrates smart city initiatives, green infrastructure, and efficient land use planning to support sustainable growth. Despite challenges like rapid urbanization, traffic congestion, and environmental concerns, these areas are investing in better planning, infrastructure, and community engagement to create more resilient and livable cities.

### Sibu Progress

Sibu is enhancing its urban sustainability by focusing on flood mitigation, improving drainage systems, and expanding affordable housing projects such as the People's Housing Project (PPR). Efforts to improve public transportation and reduce traffic congestion are ongoing, alongside initiatives to promote green infrastructure and better waste management. Despite challenges like unplanned urban expansion and climate-related risks, Sibu continues to strengthen its infrastructure for a more resilient and inclusive city.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Manage urban sprawl through compact and sustainable development.
- Strengthen flood resilience with improved drainage and mitigation projects.
- Expand affordable housing to meet growing demand.
- Improve road connectivity and invest in public transportation.

### Padawan Progress

Padawan is prioritizing structured urban planning to prevent uncontrolled development while improving road connectivity and public transport services. Investments in affordable housing, sustainable land use, and community facilities aim to support population growth and economic activities. Challenges such as inadequate public facilities and inefficient drainage systems are being addressed through infrastructure upgrades and better urban management strategies.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Enhance road networks and public transport to ease congestion.
- Integrate green spaces into housing developments.
- Expand digital infrastructure to support economic growth.

### Kota Samarahan Progress

Kota Samarahan is leveraging smart city initiatives and digital connectivity to enhance urban development. Green infrastructure projects, including flood mitigation programs and sustainable drainage systems, are being implemented to address environmental challenges. With a strong focus on education-driven growth, the district is integrating sustainable land use planning to accommodate residential, commercial, and institutional development while ensuring a balanced and livable urban environment.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Promote smart city initiatives and digital innovation.
- Expand public transport for better connectivity.
- Implement flood mitigation projects to reduce climate risks.

# Roles of Municipal Councils in Sarawak for SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a crucial role in fostering sustainable urban development and enhancing community well-being in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. While local councils do not have direct control over national policies related to housing, public transportation, or major urban infrastructure—areas managed by federal and state agencies like the Ministry of Public Health, Housing, and Local Government (MPHLG), the Sarawak Housing Development Corporation, and the Ministry of Transport—they are key facilitators in creating livable, resilient, and well-planned urban areas. By improving public infrastructure, promoting sustainable housing development, enhancing waste management systems, and ensuring better mobility solutions, municipal councils contribute significantly to building cities and communities that are inclusive, safe, and environmentally sustainable.

## Challenges in Sustainable Cities Development Governance

Municipal councils in Sibü, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan play a crucial role in advancing SDG 11 by promoting sustainable urban development, improving public services, and enhancing community resilience. Sibü's focus on upgrading public infrastructure, Padawan's efforts to improve housing and community facilities, and Kota Samarahan's development as an education and innovation hub highlight the need for better urban planning and smart city solutions. Challenges such as traffic congestion, limited public transport, inadequate waste management, and vulnerability to climate-related risks hinder sustainable growth. While councils alone cannot drive large-scale urban transformation, they can collaborate with government agencies, private sectors, and local communities to create inclusive, resilient, and environmentally friendly cities.

## Key Strategies for Municipal Councils to Support SDG 11

### 1. Enhancing Urban Infrastructure & Livability

- Streamline urban development approvals to support sustainable housing, green spaces, and eco-friendly public facilities.
- Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) to finance and implement smart city solutions for efficient waste management, public transport, and disaster resilience.

### 2. Building Inclusive & Resilient Communities

- Collaborate with state agencies, universities, and local organizations to provide capacity-building programs on urban planning and sustainable living.

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a key role in building sustainable, resilient, and inclusive urban areas through strategic collaboration with government agencies, private sector players, and academic institutions.

Enhancing urban mobility and connectivity by improving public transportation, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and smart urban planning will create more livable and accessible cities. Upgrading housing developments with green building practices, renewable energy integration, and climate-resilient design will promote sustainable urban growth.

Expanding smart city initiatives, digital infrastructure, and green spaces will enhance urban quality of life and drive environmental sustainability.

Encouraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) can facilitate investments in affordable housing, sustainable waste management, and climate adaptation projects to ensure inclusive and resilient urban development.

Supporting community-led urban initiatives and participatory planning in collaboration with universities and local stakeholders will empower communities, promote social cohesion, and position Sarawak's cities as models for sustainable urban development aligned with SDG 11.



## Responsible Consumption and Production

### Objective:

To ensure sustainable consumption and production by promoting resource efficiency, reducing waste, adopting eco-friendly practices, and encouraging responsible behavior across industries and communities for a sustainable future.



## Overview of SDG 12 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Sibu, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan, are actively advancing SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production through various sustainability initiatives. One of the key focus areas is waste management, where Sibu has implemented waste segregation programs and zero waste campaigns to encourage recycling and minimize landfill waste.

Similarly, Kota Samarahan has introduced waste-to-energy projects and community composting programs, while Padawan has been leading efforts in recycling and solid waste management through collection centers and segregation initiatives.

Another crucial aspect of SDG 12 is promoting a circular economy and green practices. The Sarawak government has been pushing for sustainable industrial practices under the Sarawak Green Economy Plan, encouraging businesses to adopt eco-friendly production methods.

In urban areas like Sibu and Kota Samarahan, urban farming and community gardens have been established to enhance local food security and minimize food waste. These efforts contribute to a more sustainable and resilient food system in the region.



**SDG 2 (Zero Hunger):** Sustainable food production, reduced food waste, and eco-friendly agricultural practices, which enhance food security and contribute to better nutrition and overall well-being



**SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being):** Promotes environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste reduction, which helps lower air, water, and soil pollution, directly benefiting SDG 3 by reducing diseases and improving overall well-being.



**SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth):** The transition to a green economy, driven by renewable energy, eco-friendly manufacturing, and sustainable tourism, creates new job opportunities while maintaining environmental integrity.



**SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals):** Partnerships under SDG 17 enable knowledge sharing, policy harmonization, and trade agreements that support eco-friendly production and fair labor standards.



### SIBU MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN SIBU - MPS)

The Sibu Municipal Council's vision of "Towards a Liveable and Sustainable City by 2031" aligns with SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting efficient resource management, sustainable waste reduction, and circular economy initiatives. Efforts such as eco-friendly urban planning, sustainable waste management systems, and green procurement policies aim to minimize environmental impact and encourage responsible consumption habits among residents. Additionally, the focus on reducing food waste, promoting recycling programs, and encouraging sustainable business practices ensures a more resource-efficient, low-carbon, and environmentally conscious city.



### KOTA SAMARAHAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN KOTA SAMARAHAN - MPKS)

Majlis Perbandaran Kota Samarahan (MPKS) supports SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting sustainable resource management, waste reduction, and eco-friendly urban practices. Investments in green infrastructure, circular economy initiatives, and responsible urban planning enhance efficiency, environmental sustainability, and long-term resilience. Additionally, initiatives such as waste recycling programs, sustainable procurement policies, and public awareness campaigns on responsible consumption contribute to a cleaner, more resource-efficient, and environmentally responsible Kota Samarahan.



### PADAWAN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL (MAJLIS PERBANDARAN PADAWAN - MPP)

The vision of an Efficient & Sustainable Padawan Municipality aligns with SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production by promoting sustainable resource management, waste reduction, and environmentally responsible urban planning. Investments in efficient waste management systems, circular economy initiatives, and sustainable procurement policies enhance resource efficiency and environmental sustainability. Additionally, initiatives supporting eco-friendly public services, responsible consumption awareness, and green infrastructure contribute to a cleaner, more sustainable, and resource-efficient Padawan, positioning it as a model for responsible urban development.

## Relationship of SDG 12 with other SDGs (Cont..)



**SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Sustainability education fosters innovation in green technologies, waste management, and sustainable supply chains.



**SDG 9 (Industry, Infrastructure and Innovation):** Green manufacturing and resource-efficient technologies help industries transition to circular economy models, reducing dependency on finite resources.



**SDG 1 (No Poverty):** Affordable and sustainable production methods can make food, water, and energy more accessible to low-income populations, addressing basic needs.



**SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation):** Industries and agriculture are major consumers of water. Sustainable production methods, such as water-efficient manufacturing processes and precision irrigation in agriculture, help reduce water wastage.



**SDG 5 (Gender Equality):** Encouraging women entrepreneurs in sustainable businesses, such as eco-friendly product development and circular economy initiatives, fosters financial independence.



**SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy):** Energy-efficient manufacturing, green building designs, and sustainable transportation systems contribute to both SDG 12 and SDG 7.



**SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Promoting responsible production ensures that workers, especially in developing countries, receive fair wages and decent working conditions, reducing income inequality.



**SDG 15 (Life on Land):** Supporting reforestation, afforestation, and sustainable forest management ensures long-term ecosystem health and biodiversity preservation.



Sarawak, Malaysia's largest state, faces significant challenges in achieving Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. With rapid urbanization and growing waste generation, ensuring sustainable waste management practices is crucial. Currently, Sarawak relies heavily on landfills, with low recycling rates and limited waste treatment infrastructure. To align with SDG 12, the state must prioritize waste reduction, recycling, composting, and sustainable consumption.

Despite efforts to improve waste management, Sarawak's recycling rate remains below 10%, significantly lower than Malaysia's national target of 22% by 2025. The state primarily relies on landfills, which pose environmental and public health risks. While some composting initiatives exist, they remain small-scale. To achieve SDG 12, Sarawak must expand recycling facilities, enforce waste segregation policies, and promote sustainable consumption habits.

**Table 5.18 : Outcome of Waste Management in Sarawak**

Indicator	Sarawak (State Level)
<b>Total Waste Generation</b>	~2,500–3,000 tonnes/day
<b>Recycling Rate</b>	<10%
<b>Primary Waste Disposal Method</b>	Landfilling
<b>Organic Waste Processing</b>	Limited initiatives
<b>Key Challenges</b>	Low awareness, lack of infrastructure

Source :  
 1. *The Borneo Post* (2018)  
 2. *Sarawak Tribune* (2023)

Sarawak faces significant challenges in waste management, with a recycling rate of less than 10%, far below Malaysia's national target of 22% by 2025. The state produces an estimated 2,500 to 3,000 tonnes of waste daily, most of which is sent to landfills due to the lack of adequate waste processing facilities. The continued reliance on landfilling not only contributes to land scarcity but also leads to environmental issues such as leachate contamination of water sources and increased greenhouse gas emissions from decomposing organic waste. Without improved waste diversion strategies, Sarawak will continue to struggle with waste accumulation and its associated environmental and health risks.

One of the key challenges in Sarawak's waste management system is the lack of infrastructure to support large-scale recycling and waste recovery. The state has a limited number of material recovery facilities (MRFs), making it difficult to process recyclable waste efficiently. Additionally, there is an absence of proper waste collection and segregation mechanisms, leading to most waste being mixed and disposed of in landfills. The vast geographical landscape of Sarawak, with its rural and remote communities, further complicates waste collection and disposal efforts, as logistics and transportation costs remain high.

Public awareness and participation in sustainable waste management practices are also major concerns. Many households and businesses do not actively practice waste separation due to a lack of education on its importance and the absence of incentives for recycling. Unlike other states in Malaysia that have implemented mandatory waste segregation policies, Sarawak has yet to enforce strict regulations that require residents to separate waste at the source. As a result, recyclables such as plastic, paper, and glass that could be repurposed continue to be discarded in landfills, reducing the efficiency of resource recovery.

Another pressing issue is the inadequate processing of organic waste, which makes up a significant portion of municipal solid waste. While there are some small-scale composting and food waste recycling initiatives, they remain limited in reach and effectiveness. Without proper organic waste treatment facilities, food waste continues to decompose in landfills, generating methane—a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Addressing these challenges will require a multi-faceted approach, including increased investment in waste infrastructure, stricter policy enforcement, and stronger public engagement efforts to create a sustainable and circular waste management system in Sarawak.



SDG 12 focuses on ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns. In the context of SibU, this goal is highly relevant as the city faces challenges related to waste management, resource efficiency, and sustainable industrial practices. Promoting responsible consumption and production practices is crucial to improving SibU's environmental footprint. Efforts could include reducing waste, promoting recycling, encouraging sustainable business practices, and enhancing the efficiency of resource use across sectors. Achieving this SDG in SibU will contribute to long-term sustainability and a healthier environment for its residents.

SibU's achievement of having 0 illegal dumpsite locations is a significant accomplishment in waste management and environmental sustainability.

This suggests that the local authorities have implemented effective waste management policies, enforcement, and public awareness programs to prevent the establishment of illegal dumping sites.

### Effective Waste Collection Systems

An efficient waste collection and disposal system could ensure that residents and businesses have access to proper waste disposal methods. This would reduce the likelihood of people resorting to illegal dumping due to convenience or lack of alternatives.

### Sustainable Alternatives and Recycling Programs

SibU is fostering recycling initiatives that encourage residents and businesses to reduce waste generation and properly dispose of recyclable materials, reducing the need for improper waste disposal methods.

### SibU Efficient Waste Management and Consumption

SibU has effectively tackled waste management and consumption through a combination of strict enforcement, efficient waste collection systems, and public awareness campaigns. The local authorities have implemented regulations to prevent illegal dumping, ensuring proper waste disposal channels are available to residents and businesses. Recycling initiatives and resource-efficient practices are promoted, reducing waste generation and encouraging sustainable consumption patterns. Community involvement in waste management further supports the city's clean and sustainable environment. These efforts align with SDG 12, promoting responsible consumption and production while maintaining environmental resilience in SibU.

### Challenges

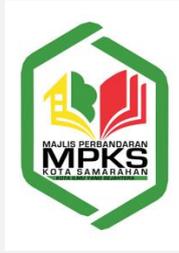
SibU faces challenges with landfill space and growing amounts of waste. As the city grows, more rubbish is produced, putting pressure on landfills. This can lead to environmental problems and health risks. The rise in single-use plastics and packaging waste adds to the issue. To tackle this, SibU needs to improve recycling, reduce waste, and consider alternative waste management solutions, like waste-to-energy options or expanding landfill capacity.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Sustainable Gaps

SibU has been implementing several initiatives to address waste management challenges. These include promoting recycling programs, improving waste segregation at the source, and increasing public awareness on the importance of reducing waste. The local authorities are working to enhance waste collection systems and encourage businesses and residents to adopt sustainable practices. Additionally, SibU is exploring options for alternative waste management solutions, such as waste-to-energy technologies, to reduce landfill dependence.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

The pathway forward for SibU aligns with SDG 12 by focusing on sustainable consumption and production. Expanding recycling programs and waste segregation helps reduce waste and encourage responsible consumption. Getting the community involved ensures that everyone plays a part in reducing waste and saving resources. Innovative solutions like waste-to-energy technologies can help decrease reliance on landfills and promote recycling.



In Kota Samarahan, SDG 12 focuses on promoting sustainable consumption and production. This is important because the city faces challenges with waste management, using resources efficiently, and supporting sustainable industries. To improve, Kota Samarahan can reduce waste, increase recycling, encourage eco-friendly businesses, and use resources like water and energy more wisely. By adopting these practices, the city can lessen its environmental impact and provide a cleaner, healthier place for residents to live. This will help ensure a sustainable future for the community and the environment.

## Number of Illegal Dumpsite Locations

13

## Illegal Dumpsite Closed

6

### Waste Management

In Kota Samarahan, there are currently 13 illegal dumpsite locations. Out of these, 6 have been successfully closed as part of ongoing efforts to address improper waste disposal. The closure of these sites is an important step in improving waste management and reducing environmental pollution in the area. Local authorities are actively working to prevent further illegal dumping through awareness campaigns and stronger enforcement of regulations.

### Sustainable Waste Management Solutions

The city is exploring more sustainable waste management solutions to prevent future dumping and improve recycling efforts. These actions not only help in cleaning up the environment but also protect local ecosystems, contributing to a healthier and cleaner living environment for residents.

### Kota Samarahan Efficient Waste Management and Consumption

Kota Samarahan is focusing on improving waste management and promoting efficient resource consumption to ensure a sustainable future. Efforts include reducing waste generation, encouraging recycling, and implementing stricter regulations to prevent illegal dumping. The city is also working to raise public awareness about responsible consumption, supporting eco-friendly practices, and enhancing waste management infrastructure.

### Challenges

Some challenges in waste management in Kota Samarahan include a lack of budget and suitable land for proper landfill sites, making waste disposal difficult. The waste disposal sites are often far from residential areas, which increases transportation costs. Illegal dumping in open spaces remains a significant issue, causing environmental pollution and additional cleanup efforts. Additionally, irregular waste collection schedules lead to waste accumulation in residential and commercial areas, affecting cleanliness and public health. These challenges require immediate attention to improve waste management systems.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Sustainable City Gaps

Ongoing initiatives in Kota Samarahan to address waste management and sustainability include the Healthy Cities Program, which promotes overall public health and environmental well-being. Few school programs encourage students to adopt sustainable practices, raising awareness about environmental conservation from a young age. Additionally, the 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) Program under the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK12) aims to promote waste reduction, recycling, and the responsible use of resources.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

The pathway forward for Kota Samarahan aligns with SDG 12 by prioritizing sustainable consumption and production. Expanding recycling initiatives and improving waste segregation will help reduce waste and promote responsible consumption. Engaging the community ensures that everyone contributes to reducing waste and conserving resources. Innovative solutions, such as waste-to-energy technologies, can also reduce the reliance on landfills while supporting recycling efforts and sustainable waste management practices.



In Padawan, SDG 12 aims to promote sustainable consumption and production, which is essential given the region's challenges with waste management, efficient resource use, and fostering sustainable industries. To make progress, Padawan can focus on reducing waste, enhancing recycling efforts, supporting eco-friendly businesses, and using resources like water and energy more efficiently. By implementing these practices, the area can minimize its environmental impact, providing a cleaner and healthier environment for its residents and paving the way for a more sustainable future.

**Number of Illegal Dumpsite Locations: 20**  
**Illegal Dumpsite Closed: 10**

### Waste Management

In Padawan, there were initially 20 illegal dumpsite locations. However, efforts have been made to address this issue, and 10 of these dumpsites have been successfully closed. This reduction is part of the ongoing efforts to improve waste management and promote environmental sustainability in the area. By closing these illegal dumpsites, Padawan is not only reducing pollution but also making strides toward cleaner, safer public spaces, and supporting the broader goals of environmental conservation and community health.

### Padawan Efficient Waste Management and Consumption

Efficient waste management and consumption in Padawan involve minimizing waste generation, maximizing recycling, and promoting the sustainable use of resources. Key actions include encouraging waste segregation at the source, promoting the use of eco-friendly products, and supporting businesses that prioritize sustainability. Composting organic waste, implementing waste-to-energy solutions, and increasing awareness about responsible consumption are also crucial steps. Strengthening waste management infrastructure, such as providing more recycling bins and enforcing regulations against illegal dumping, ensures a cleaner environment.

### Challenges

In Padawan, one of the challenges in efficient waste management is that garbage collection often does not follow a consistent schedule. This irregularity leads to accumulation of waste in public areas, contributing to littering and illegal dumpsites. Without a reliable collection system, residents may resort to improper waste disposal, which affects both cleanliness and the overall effectiveness of waste management efforts. One of the major challenges in waste collection within the Padawan Municipal Council (MPP) area is accessibility, particularly in suburban and rural regions.

Many of these areas are difficult for waste collection fleets to reach due to inadequate infrastructure or remote locations. Without a reliable collection system, residents may resort to improper waste disposal, which affects both cleanliness and the overall effectiveness of waste management efforts.

### Sustainable Waste Management Solutions

Sustainable waste management solutions for Padawan include promoting waste segregation at the source, encouraging recycling, and composting organic waste. Implementing waste-to-energy technologies and using eco-friendly packaging further reduce waste. Public awareness campaigns educate residents on the importance of recycling and responsible waste disposal, while stronger regulations help prevent illegal dumping.

### Ongoing Initiatives to Bridge Sustainable City Gaps

The "Beli Barang Kitar Semula" (Buy Recycled Goods) campaign is an ongoing initiative aimed at promoting the purchase of recycled products in Padawan. This campaign encourages consumers to choose products made from recycled materials, which helps reduce waste, conserve resources, and support sustainable production. By boosting demand for recycled goods, the campaign not only promotes environmental sustainability but also supports local businesses that prioritize eco-friendly practices.

In addition, MPP through strategic public-private partnerships with licensed recycling vendors has launched a Buy-Back Campaign for used cooking oil. This initiative enables residents to sell their used cooking oil, which is then processed into biofuel, advancing the Council's commitment to waste-to-energy solutions and circular economy practices. Another key effort is the composting of organic waste generated from three Council's markets. This initiative plays a vital role in promoting responsible consumption and production, while significantly contributing to landfill diversion and reducing the environmental impact of organic waste. Together, these ongoing programs demonstrate MPP's dedication to closing the gaps in sustainable urban living and reinforcing a greener, cleaner future for the Padawan community.

### Pathway to Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

To achieve SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) in Padawan, the focus should be on reducing waste, improving recycling, and promoting sustainable practices. This includes encouraging waste reduction, supporting eco-friendly businesses, and educating the community on responsible consumption. Developing better waste management systems, supporting a circular economy, and enforcing regulations against illegal dumping are also key steps.

## Key Findings of SDG 12 for Sarawak Municipal Councils

Sibu, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan are working towards SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) with focused efforts on sustainability. Sibu is prioritizing improved waste management, recycling, and reducing resource consumption in urban settings. Padawan is promoting green building practices and reducing environmental impact through sustainable urban growth. Kota Samarahan is incorporating smart technologies and green infrastructure to optimize resource use, reduce waste, and ensure sustainable production practices. Each area is addressing the challenges of urbanization and waste, striving for more responsible consumption and production to support long-term sustainability.

### Sibu Progress

Sibu has made significant progress in improving waste management systems, with the introduction of better recycling programs and waste separation efforts. The local government has also focused on raising awareness about responsible consumption, waste reduction, and promoting sustainable practices among residents. These initiatives have helped foster a more environmentally conscious community.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Enhance waste recycling and composting programs to reduce landfill dependency.
- Encourage businesses and households to reduce single-use plastics and adopt sustainable alternatives. Introduce incentives for businesses and residents who actively engage in sustainable practices.
- Strengthen policies on resource conservation, including energy efficiency and water-saving initiatives.

### Kota Samarahan Progress

Kota Samarahan has made strides in promoting sustainable practices, particularly through the integration of smart city initiatives. The local government has implemented intelligent water management systems and energy-efficient solutions to optimize resource use. Efforts are also being made to improve waste management systems and promote recycling across the city, helping reduce environmental impact and fostering more responsible consumption patterns.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Strengthen waste management and recycling programs to minimize landfill usage and encourage waste diversion.
- Promote circular economy practices among local businesses to reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.
- Implement sustainable public procurement policies that prioritize eco-friendly products and services.

### Padawan Progress

Padawan has made progress in promoting responsible consumption and production by focusing on sustainable urban development. The local government has worked on improving waste management systems and expanding recycling programs to reduce landfill waste. Efforts have also been made to encourage businesses and residents to adopt more sustainable practices, such as reducing single-use plastics and minimizing waste. Additionally, Padawan has supported the use of eco-friendly materials in construction and promoted resource conservation through various community initiatives.

### Proposed Way Forward

- Enhance waste separation and recycling programs to divert more waste from landfills.
- Promote sustainable consumption by encouraging businesses and households to reduce single-use plastics and adopt eco-friendly alternatives.
- Strengthen policies to support the use of sustainable materials in construction and urban development.
- Implement programs to raise awareness about responsible consumption and production among local communities.

# Roles of Municipal Councils in Sarawak for SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a crucial role in promoting responsible consumption and production in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. While local councils do not have direct control over national policies related to industrial practices or resource extraction—areas managed by federal and state agencies such as the Ministry of Natural Resources and Urban Development (MUDeNR) and the Ministry of Public Health, Housing, and Local Government (MPHLG)—they are key facilitators in implementing sustainable consumption practices within urban areas. Municipal councils contribute by enhancing waste management systems, encouraging recycling and resource conservation, promoting sustainable building practices, and advocating for the reduction of single-use plastics.

## Challenges in Responsible Consumption and Production Governance

Challenges in responsible consumption and production governance include a lack of awareness and education on sustainable practices, inadequate waste management systems, and limited infrastructure for recycling and a circular economy. Financial constraints often hinder the adoption of green technologies, while policy and regulatory gaps fail to adequately address sustainable production and consumption. The widespread use of single-use products, coupled with competing priorities in urban development, further complicates efforts. Additionally, resistance to changing consumer behavior, a lack of effective public-private partnerships, and global supply chain complexities make it difficult to implement widespread sustainable practices and foster responsible resource use.

## Key Strategies for Municipal Councils to Support SDG 12

### 1. Enhancing Responsible Consumption & Production

- Streamline urban development approvals to support the construction of eco-friendly housing, green spaces, and public facilities that promote waste reduction, resource efficiency, and sustainability.
- Promote public-private partnerships (PPPs) to finance and implement smart city solutions for efficient waste management, resource conservation, and minimizing environmental impact in public transport and infrastructure.

### 2. Building Resource-Efficient & Waste-Resilient Communities

- Collaborate with state agencies, universities, and local organizations to provide capacity-building programs focused on sustainable consumption, waste management, recycling, and promoting a circular economy within urban communities.

Municipal councils in Sarawak play a key role in promoting responsible consumption and production, fostering sustainable, resource-efficient, and waste-resilient urban areas through strategic collaboration with government agencies, private sector players, and academic institutions. Enhancing waste management and resource efficiency by improving recycling programs, promoting sustainable materials, and encouraging responsible consumption practices will reduce environmental impacts and foster a circular economy in urban areas. Upgrading housing developments with eco-friendly construction materials, energy-efficient designs, and waste-reducing systems will contribute to sustainable urban growth.

Expanding smart city initiatives and digital infrastructure focused on optimizing resource use, reducing waste, and promoting energy efficiency will enhance the quality of life while driving environmental sustainability. Encouraging public-private partnerships (PPPs) can facilitate investments in sustainable waste management, recycling, and resource conservation projects, ensuring responsible production and consumption practices in urban development.

Supporting community-led initiatives focused on waste reduction, recycling, and sustainable living, in collaboration with universities and local stakeholders, will empower communities, promote resource efficiency, and position Sarawak's cities as models for sustainable urban development aligned with SDG 12.

## 5.2 Role of Local Authorities in SDG Implementations

The Sibu Municipal Council (SMC), Kota Samarahan Municipal Council (MPKS), and Padawan Municipal Council (MPP) play a crucial role in implementing SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-Being), SDG 8 (Decent Work & Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities), SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption & Production), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through governance, policy enforcement, and sustainable urban development initiatives.

For SDG 3, SMC, MPKS, and MPP support public health and well-being by advocating for clean water and sanitation, encouraging compliance with hygiene standards, and facilitating community health programs, including disease prevention and health awareness initiatives.

For SDG 8, the councils support local economic development by attracting investments, promoting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and enhancing tourism sectors to create job opportunities. They facilitate entrepreneurship programs, vocational training, and business-friendly policies to drive economic growth.

For SDG 9, SMC, MPKS and MPP support infrastructure improvements through community engagement on public transport needs, advocacy for digital connectivity, and promotion of sustainable industrial practices to foster local economic growth.

Under SDG 11, SMC, MPKS, and MPP work to make their municipalities livable and inclusive by improving public transport, housing, waste management, and green spaces. They implement urban planning regulations, upgrade drainage systems, and promote affordable housing projects to address issues like flooding, traffic congestion, and squatter settlements. For SDG 12, these councils encourage waste reduction, recycling initiatives, and green procurement policies, promoting a circular economy and responsible consumption habits.

By actively implementing policies aligned with these SDGs, SMC, MPKS, and MPP contribute to sustainable economic growth, environmental resilience, and social inclusivity, ensuring a better quality of life for their residents.





**6.0**

**FUTURE  
ACTIONS AND  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

***SARAWAK SDG ROADMAP***

# 6.1 Categoricalised SDG By 5 Focus Areas

Social, Infrastructure, Cities and Community Livability, Environmental and Governance are the **five focus areas** for the roadmap, the foundation for the 17 global SDGs. This Roadmap provides a comprehensive framework for addressing Sarawak’s most pressing challenges. It involves analysing the effectiveness of existing policies and strategies and identifying additional interventions to pave the way for a more equitable and sustainable future of the city.

### Social SDGs

Addressing Societal Needs and Inequalities

### Infrastructure SDGs

Addressing essential infrastructure needs

### Cities and Community Livability SDGs

Focused on sustainability in cities and communities

### Environmental SDGs

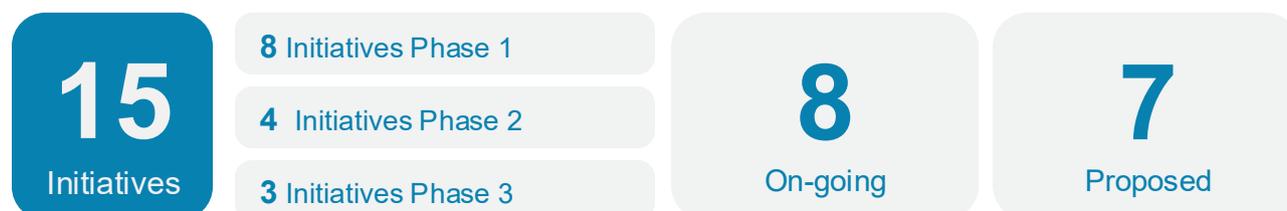
Tackling Climate Action and Sustainability Challenges

### Governance SDGs

Strengthening Institutional Frameworks and Transparency

## The Roadmap Timeframe

The SDG strategy timeline for Sarawak Municipal Councils is designed to align the city's development with the SDGs, ensuring a balanced approach to social, economic, and environmental sustainability. The strategy outlines specific actions and project components categorized into three phases (1, 2 and 3), ensuring a phased and systematic implementation.



**Table 6.1:** Project Timeframe by Focus Areas for Municipal Councils

Timeframe		
Phase 1 (2025 – 2026)	Phase 2 (2026 – 2030)	Phase 3 (after 2030)
<b>Social SDGs</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural Public Library</li> <li>Projek Pusat Perniagaan Usahawan Tempatan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposed Mobile Library Service – Community Education Section, MPH LG</li> </ul>	
<b>Infrastructure SDGs</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading of roads, irrigation, and piping systems</li> <li>Development of a new water treatment plant</li> </ul>		
<b>Cities and Communities SDGs</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Skim Penempatan Semula</li> <li>Proposed Affordable Housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Smart City</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental SDGs</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sarawak Low Carbon Initiative</li> <li>Greening Sarawak Campaign</li> <li>Seed Ball Project</li> <li>Coastal and River Clean Up Program</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste-to-Energy Study</li> </ul>	
<b>Governance SDGs</b>		
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Empowering the SDG Committee at the Local Government Level</li> <li>Proposed Data Centre and Digitalisation</li> </ul>

# Social SDGs

## Addressing Societal Needs and Inequalities

Sarawak Municipal Councils demonstrate a strong commitment to social equity and inclusive development, striving to improve living standards and reduce disparities across communities. By addressing key societal challenges such as healthcare access, education quality, employment opportunities, and gender equality, Sarawak aims to enhance social well-being and economic resilience. Ensuring equitable access to essential services and strengthening social support systems will be crucial in fostering a more inclusive and sustainable future for all residents.



# 6.2 Social SDGs: Addressing Societal Needs and Inequalities

## Current Situation

In Sibü, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan, efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are actively underway as local governments address key social and economic challenges. Rapid urbanization, economic shifts, and disparities between rural and urban areas have contributed to issues like housing affordability, income inequality, food insecurity, and limited access to healthcare and education. While various programs have been introduced to improve living conditions, enhance social welfare, and promote inclusive economic growth, challenges remain in ensuring poverty alleviation, food security, healthcare access, quality education, gender equality, and economic opportunities for all communities.

### SDG 1: No Poverty

Efforts to combat poverty focus on low-income and rural communities. Programs like Bantuan Sara Hidup (BSH) provide direct financial assistance to B40 groups, single parents, and persons with disabilities, helping alleviate financial hardship. Housing initiatives in areas like Sibü aim to reduce the cost of living by providing affordable housing options. However, challenges remain in creating sustainable job opportunities and long-term economic stability, particularly in rural areas, where access to economic activities is more limited.

### SDG 2: Zero Hunger

Food security remains a key concern in Sibü, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan, particularly among low-income households. Local projects, such as community farming and small-scale agriculture initiatives, aim to boost local food production, improve farmers' incomes, and reduce food costs. These efforts also focus on providing families with access to fresh and nutritious produce. However, challenges such as fluctuating food prices, limited access to affordable nutritious food, and reliance on imported goods continue to affect food security. Continued policy support is needed to address these challenges and ensure long-term food sustainability.



### **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**

In Sibul, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan, access to healthcare remains a major concern, especially in rural and remote areas. While programs like mobile clinics and community health initiatives aim to provide essential services, challenges such as inadequate healthcare infrastructure, long travel distances to medical facilities, and a shortage of healthcare professionals continue to hinder public health, especially in more isolated areas.

### **SDG 4: Quality Education**

Education in Sibul, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan faces issues related to outdated infrastructure and limited resources, particularly for children with special needs. Efforts to upgrade schools and improve digital access have been made, but inequalities in educational opportunities remain, especially in rural areas, where better investment in facilities and teacher training is needed to bridge the gap.

### **SDG 5: Gender Equality**

Gender equality efforts in Sibul, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan focus on empowering women economically and raising awareness through programs aimed at improving entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and leadership skills. Despite these initiatives, gender disparities in employment, leadership roles, and economic opportunities persist, requiring further action to implement gender-inclusive policies and ensure equal opportunities for all genders.

### **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Sibul, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan face challenges related to job availability and informal employment, particularly in rural areas. Although programs aimed at youth skills training and supporting small businesses are in place, the limited industrial expansion and dependence on traditional sectors like agriculture hinder broader economic growth and the creation of stable, decent jobs.

### **SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities**

In Sibul, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan, efforts to reduce social exclusion and income inequality are crucial. Programs supporting persons with disabilities and the elderly aim to provide financial, vocational, and healthcare support. However, persistent rural-urban disparities in income and access to essential services continue to limit opportunities for marginalized communities, requiring ongoing efforts to address these inequalities and promote social inclusion for all.



## Issues and Challenges

### Financial Hardship and Housing Accessibility

Many low-income families in Sarawak face financial hardship due to unstable incomes, rising living costs, and limited access to affordable housing. The shortage of low-cost housing units forces some residents into overcrowded living spaces or informal settlements, affecting their well-being. Additionally, high construction costs and slow housing project approvals further limit housing availability for underserved communities. Addressing these issues requires expanding affordable housing programs, improving financial assistance schemes, and streamlining housing development policies.

### Gaps in Healthcare Services and Medical Accessibility

Healthcare services in Sarawak remain unevenly distributed, particularly in rural and interior regions where residents have limited access to hospitals, clinics, and specialists. Long travel distances and a shortage of trained medical personnel further delay essential treatments. Additionally, many communities face gaps in preventive healthcare awareness, leading to a higher prevalence of preventable diseases. Strengthening rural healthcare infrastructure, expanding mobile clinics, and increasing investment in medical workforce development are crucial to improving healthcare accessibility.

### Unstable Job Market and Employment Barriers

The job market in Sarawak remains uncertain, with many workers struggling to secure stable, well-paying jobs. The limited presence of high-value industries and reliance on traditional economic sectors restrict employment growth, particularly for youth and fresh graduates. Additionally, rural workers often lack access to training programs and job placement opportunities, further widening economic inequalities. Expanding job creation initiatives, promoting entrepreneurship, and investing in workforce upskilling programs are essential to enhancing employment stability.

### Education Quality and Learning Gaps

Many schools in rural Sarawak lack adequate facilities, trained teachers, and access to digital learning resources, creating significant learning gaps between urban and rural students. Limited specialized education programs also affect children with disabilities or special learning needs, preventing them from receiving inclusive education opportunities. Strengthening school infrastructure, enhancing teacher training programs, and integrating digital learning tools can help bridge educational disparities.

### Infrastructure and Connectivity Limitations

Many areas in Sarawak, particularly in rural districts, face poor road conditions, unreliable public transport, and inadequate digital connectivity. These infrastructure gaps hinder economic growth, limit access to essential services, and slow down development. Additionally, remote communities remain isolated due to a lack of transportation networks, making it difficult for residents to travel for work, healthcare, and education. Investing in infrastructure modernization, expanding road networks, and enhancing digital access will be key to improving overall connectivity and economic opportunities.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

## Issues and Challenges

### Increased Population of Stray Animals

The issue of free-roaming dogs remains a persistent problem within the MPKS jurisdiction, with daily complaints highlighting its ongoing impact. Challenges related to dog ownership, including roles and responsibilities, continue to pose difficulties in the area. Additionally, greater awareness and stricter enforcement of the current Dog Licensing By-Laws (2018) are necessary to ensure full compliance and proper follow-up.

### Dengue and Rabies Outbreaks in Samarahan

Dengue cases fall under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. In the Samarahan District, MPKS collaborates closely with the Samarahan Health District upon receiving notifications of cases or outbreaks. Key challenges in managing disease outbreaks (such as Dengue and Rabies) include the supply of insecticides and psychotropic chemicals for containment. Additionally, disruptions and objections from animal rights NGOs remain a persistent challenge across the nation.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

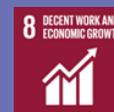


## Rural Public Library



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
<p>The Rural Public Library project aims to establish a community learning hub that provides books, digital resources, and educational programs for rural residents. The library will serve as a space for students, teachers, and the public to access reading materials, conduct research, and participate in literacy workshops. In addition to physical books, the library will be equipped with computers and internet facilities to promote digital learning and online education. Special programs such as storytelling sessions, skill-building workshops, and reading campaigns will be introduced to encourage community participation and foster a culture of learning.</p>	Padawam Municipal Council	-	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Entire Sarawak	Schoolchildren & Students of Sarawak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourages lifelong learning and supports schoolchildren, youth, and adults in acquiring knowledge.</li> <li>Some libraries are equipped with computers and internet facilities, allowing rural communities to access online education, job opportunities, and government services.</li> </ul>	SDG 9 and SDG 10

## Projek Pusat Perniagaan Usahawan Tempatan



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
<p>The Local Entrepreneurs Business Center Project aims to establish a centralized marketplace and business hub for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs in Kota Samarahan. This facility will provide retail spaces, co-working areas, and training facilities to support business growth. The center will also offer business development programs, networking events, and mentorship opportunities to help entrepreneurs enhance their skills in marketing, financial management, and digital business strategies. By fostering an entrepreneurial ecosystem, this project seeks to encourage innovation, economic self-sufficiency, and community development.</p>	Kota Samarahan Municipal Council	-	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Kota Samarahan	Rural Entrepreneurs of Sarawak	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrepreneurs gain increased visibility, leading to potential sales growth and business expansion.</li> <li>Participants acquire new skills and knowledge through workshops and consultations, improving their business operations.</li> </ul>	SDG 8 and SDG 11

## Proposed Mobile Library Service – Community Education Section, MPH LG



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
<p>The Mobile Library Service aims to provide reading and learning resources to students in underserved and remote areas. By utilizing mobile libraries, students in schools without sufficient library facilities can access books, educational materials, and digital resources. This initiative helps bridge the gap in educational resources, ensuring that students, regardless of their location, have access to knowledge and opportunities for learning. The program is implemented in collaboration with local councils and the community education section, covering multiple districts in Sarawak.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seksyen Pendidikan Komuniti</li> <li>Sibu Municipal Council</li> </ul>	-	-	Phase 2 (upcoming)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SJK Siniawan, Bau</li> <li>SJK Batu 15, Padawan</li> <li>SK St. Michael, Entingan, Samarahan</li> <li>SK St. Elizabeth, Tijirak, Serian</li> <li>SK Java, Sarikei</li> <li>SJK Sing Ming, Sarikei</li> <li>SK Rantau Panjang, Sibu</li> <li>SK Nanga Pedai, Kanowit</li> <li>SK St. Lawrence, Sri Aman</li> <li>SK St. Bamabas, Sri Aman</li> <li>SK Kpg. Bungai, Subis</li> <li>SK Kpg. Selanyau, Subis</li> <li>SK Kuala Balingian, Mukah</li> <li>SK Kpg. Teh, Mukah</li> </ul>	Primary school students in rural and remote areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased access to reading materials for students in rural and remote schools</li> <li>Improved literacy rates and education quality among students</li> <li>Strengthened collaboration between local authorities and schools</li> <li>Promotion of lifelong learning and knowledge-sharing</li> </ul>	SDG 10 and SDG 11

# Infrastructure SDGs

## Addressing essential infrastructure needs

Sarawak Municipal Councils are advancing its SDG 6, 7, and 9 commitments by improving water access, energy sustainability, and infrastructure resilience. Efforts to expand piped water coverage and upgrade sanitation systems enhance public health, while investments in hydropower and renewable energy support cleaner, more affordable electricity. However, high tariffs and slow adoption of renewables remain challenges.

Strategic investments in transportation and digital infrastructure drive economic growth, improve connectivity, and foster innovation. Strengthening these sectors is key to building a more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Sarawak in line with the 2030 Agenda.



## Development of New Water Treatment Plant



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
The development of a new water treatment plant in Kota Samarahan is an ongoing project aimed at improving water supply and ensuring better quality water for the growing population in the area. This plant is expected to enhance water distribution capacity, reduce water shortages, and support sustainable urban growth by providing clean and safe drinking water. The project aligns with efforts to improve infrastructure and address the increasing demand for water due to urbanization in Kota Samarahan.	Kota Samarahan Municipal Council	-	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Kota Samarahan	Kota Samarahan residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase water supply capacity</li> <li>Enhance water distribution efficiency</li> <li>Improve water quality</li> </ul>	SDG 9 and SDG 11

## Upgrading of Roads, Irrigation, and Piping Systems



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
Under the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK-12), the upgrading of roads, irrigation, and piping systems in Sibu, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan aims to enhance infrastructure and support sustainable development. Road improvements will improve connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and facilitate better access to key areas. The modernization of irrigation systems will ensure efficient water management for agriculture, promoting sustainable farming practices. Upgrading the piping systems will address water supply challenges, ensuring reliable access to clean water for residents and supporting urban growth. These initiatives are designed to improve the quality of life, boost economic activities, and enhance resilience in these regions.	Kota Samarahan Municipal Council, Padawan Municipal Council, Sibu Municipal Council	-	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Kota Samarahan, Padawan, Sibu	Sarawak residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved road connectivity</li> <li>Sustainable Agricultural Practices</li> <li>Enhanced Transportation Efficiency:</li> </ul>	SDG 8 and SDG 11

# 6.3 Infrastructure SDGs: Addressing Essential Infrastructure Needs

## Current Situation

In Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan, efforts to improve clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) focus on enhancing accessibility and addressing quality concerns, especially in both urban and rural areas. Key challenges include insufficient water supply infrastructure, maintenance problems, and inconsistent reliability, particularly in expanding urban centers. To ensure long-term sustainability, investments in centralized water treatment systems, regular monitoring, and extending piped water access to underserved communities are essential to reduce reliance on unsafe or alternative water sources.

For affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), major issues include high energy costs and heavy dependence on conventional energy sources. While these regions benefit from Sarawak's hydroelectric potential, there is a need to diversify energy generation by incorporating solar and other renewable energy sources for long-term affordability and sustainability. Energy efficiency programs and incentives for households and businesses can help control costs while reducing carbon emissions. Policies promoting the transition to green energy and reducing reliance on fossil fuels should be further explored.

In terms of industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG 9), Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan face challenges such as aging infrastructure, accessibility barriers for vulnerable groups, and gaps in digitalization. While development projects are underway, concerns remain regarding infrastructure maintenance, connectivity, and inclusivity. Strengthening digital infrastructure and promoting smart city initiatives in rapidly developing areas can help address these issues. Ensuring that urban planning caters to the needs of persons with disabilities (OKU), the elderly, and children is also crucial to improving inclusivity. Effective enforcement of building standards and infrastructure policies is key to achieving long-term resilience.

In summary, although Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan are making progress on SDG 6, 7, and 9, additional steps are needed to improve water access, advance the clean energy transition, and enhance infrastructure inclusivity. Prioritizing renewable energy adoption, investing in digital innovation, and ensuring adherence to accessibility standards will be critical for shaping a more sustainable and future-ready Sibul, Padawan, and Kota Samarahan.



## Issues and Challenges

The following section summarizes key issues, challenges, and recommendations identified for infrastructure SDGs through analysis and stakeholder engagements, which this report aims to address and advance in support of the 2030 Agenda. This summary highlights pressing issues and challenges with supporting data, providing a comprehensive understanding to guide informed decision-making and strategic policy development.

### Challenges in Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6)

Sibu, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan face significant challenges in water accessibility, especially in rural and remote areas where many communities still lack a reliable piped water supply. Existing infrastructure struggles to meet the increasing demand, resulting in intermittent disruptions in water supply. In these regions, aging water treatment facilities and insufficient maintenance further increase the risk of contamination, impacting the quality and safety of drinking water. The reliance on alternative sources such as rainwater harvesting and groundwater extraction exposes communities to potential health risks, particularly in areas where waterborne diseases and pollution are concerns. Without continuous investment in infrastructure improvements and more rigorous water quality monitoring, these challenges are likely to escalate, affecting both urban and rural populations in Sibu, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan.

### Infrastructure Accessibility and Digitalisation Gaps (SDG 9)

Regarding SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), the challenge is aging infrastructure and limited access to modern technologies. Despite ongoing efforts to improve urban services, there are still gaps in digital connectivity, maintenance of infrastructure, and inclusivity for vulnerable groups. This hinders the region's capacity to innovate and develop a more resilient and sustainable urban environment..

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

# Cities and Community Livability SDGs

**Focused on sustainability in cities  
and communities**

Sarawak Municipal Councils have made significant strides in advancing sustainable urban development under SDG 11, focusing on resilient infrastructure, inclusive public spaces, and smart city initiatives. The district prioritizes on efficient public transportation, and green urban planning to enhance the quality of life for residents. Additionally, digital connectivity, smart city solutions, and community-driven urban programs support economic vitality and social inclusivity. Expanding public green spaces and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure fosters a more livable and sustainable city.



## 6.4 Cities and Community Livability SDGs: Focused on sustainability in cities and communities

### Current Situation

Sibu, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan face several challenges in achieving SDG 11: Sustainable Cities & Communities, particularly in housing, urban infrastructure, and waste management. Housing shortages remain a significant concern, with high property prices making homeownership difficult for lower-income groups. Many residential areas lack proper infrastructure and amenities, impacting overall living conditions. Additionally, rapid urbanization in Kota Samarahan and Sibu, coupled with land constraints in Padawan, complicates infrastructure development, making it costly and challenging to provide adequate housing. While PCDS 2030 (Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030) outlines strategies for sustainable urban growth, more targeted efforts are needed to improve housing affordability, accessibility, and quality.

Another key issue is the limited availability of green spaces, which are vital for environmental sustainability and community well-being. Rapid urban growth, especially in Sibu's commercial zones and Samarahan's expanding townships, has reduced access to public parks and recreational areas. In Padawan, although natural spaces are abundant, integrated urban greening initiatives are needed to enhance accessibility and promote environmental conservation. The Smart City Implementation initiatives aim to incorporate sustainability into urban planning by promoting green infrastructure and eco-friendly developments, but more proactive measures are required to balance development with environmental preservation.

Waste management challenges also persist across these areas, with insufficient landfill sites, inadequate recycling facilities, and poor waste disposal practices contributing to environmental pollution. Sibu and Kota Samarahan frequently experience waste overflow due to population growth, while Padawan's scattered settlements make waste collection and disposal more difficult. Without dedicated recycling facilities and improved landfill management, improper waste disposal will continue to impact urban cleanliness and environmental sustainability. Strengthening waste reduction policies, expanding recycling programs, and enforcing sustainable waste practices are essential steps toward a cleaner and more resilient urban environment.

Despite ongoing efforts, further advancements in housing affordability, urban greening, and waste management are necessary to create more sustainable, inclusive, and well-planned communities in Sibu, Kota Samarahan, and Padawan, aligning with the goals of SDG 11.

## Issues and Challenges

The following section summarizes key issues, challenges, and recommendations identified for Cities and Communities SDGs through analysis and stakeholder engagements, which this report aims to address and advance in support of the 2030 Agenda. This summary highlights pressing issues and challenges with supporting data, providing a comprehensive understanding to guide informed decision-making and strategic policy development.

### **Rising Housing Costs and Affordability Issues**

One of the major challenges in Sarawak is the rising cost of housing, which has made homeownership and rental options increasingly unaffordable for low- and middle-income residents. Rapid urbanization and growing demand for residential properties have driven prices up, creating affordability concerns for many households. While the Post-COVID-19 Development Strategy 2030 (PCDS 2030) outlines government efforts to address housing issues, more targeted initiatives are needed to ensure sustainable and affordable housing solutions for all.

### **Insufficient Green Spaces and Environmental Sustainability**

The lack of sufficient green spaces poses a challenge to Sarawak's urban sustainability. Parks and recreational areas are crucial for enhancing community well-being, improving air quality, and mitigating urban heat effects. However, urban expansion has resulted in reduced allocation for green spaces, limiting public access to natural environments. The Smart City Implementation initiative aims to integrate sustainability into urban planning, but further efforts are needed to prioritise environmental conservation in future developments.

### **Insufficient Landfill Sites Urban Planning Challenges**

Sarawak Municipal Councils faces significant waste management and urban planning challenges due to insufficient landfill sites and a lack of sustainable waste disposal solutions. With rapid urban expansion and population growth, existing landfills are reaching capacity, leading to issues such as illegal dumping, environmental pollution, and health hazards. The absence of dedicated recycling centers further exacerbates the problem, increasing reliance on landfills. Additionally, poorly planned urban development, traffic congestion, and inadequate public facilities affect the overall quality of life. To address these issues, Sarawak needs modernized landfill sites, waste-to-energy solutions, and integrated recycling initiatives, alongside improved land-use planning to create a cleaner and more sustainable urban environment.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

## Smart City

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authority	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
Sarawak is actively pursuing smart city principles to become a model of sustainable urban development and improve the quality of life for its citizens. The integration of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and technological advancements is essential in addressing urban challenges such as congestion, pollution, outdated infrastructure, and crime. These initiatives align with the Post-Covid-19 Development Strategy (PCDS) 2030, which aims to create an inclusive society, enhance economic prosperity, and promote environmental sustainability.	All local authorities	Smart City Committee (Economic Planning Unit)	-	Phase 3 (beyond 2030)	EPU
		<b>Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Outcome of Project</b>	<b>Other Related SDGs or Targets</b>
		Sarawak	Public	Improved urban living standards,	SDG 9

## Proposed Skim Penempatan Semula

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
Skim Penempatan Semula is a government initiative aimed at relocating and providing proper housing for communities living in squatter areas. This scheme is designed to improve the living conditions of affected families by offering structured housing solutions with basic amenities like clean water, electricity, proper drainage, and roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sibu Municipal Council</li> <li>Kota Samarahan Municipal Council</li> </ul>	Sarawak State Planning Authority (SPA)		Phase 2 (2026-2030)	
		<b>Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Outcome of Project</b>	<b>Other Related SDGs or Targets</b>
		Kuching, Miri, Sibu, Dalat and Mukah, Selangau, Kota Samarahan	Public	Relocation assistance, affordable housing	SDG 1, 9

## Proposed Affordable Housing



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authority	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
Aims to address housing affordability and accessibility, particularly for B40 and low-income households.	All local authorities	Housing Development Corporation		Phase 2 (2026-2030)	
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Sarawak	Local Community	New housing developments with subsidized pricing.	SDG 2, 9

# Environmental SDGs

## Tackling Climate Action and Sustainability Challenges

Sarawak Municipal Councils are actively working to address environmental challenges related to SDGs 12, 13, 14, and 15 by improving waste management and collaborating with local businesses to reduce agriculture and tourism impacts. However, the region faces difficulties with waste management and climate resilience due to erratic weather, landslides, and shifting agricultural patterns. To combat these, climate action strategies focusing on both mitigation and adaptation are being developed. Conservation efforts, including reforestation and biodiversity protection, aim to preserve natural resources and combat deforestation. Continuous efforts are needed for long-term sustainability.



## 6.5 Environmental SDGs: Tackling Climate Action and Sustainability Challenges

### Current Situation

Municipal councils across Sarawak are actively implementing environmental sustainability initiatives in alignment with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

Under SDG 12, various community recycling programs and plastic waste reduction initiatives have been introduced to promote responsible consumption. Additionally, municipal councils are planning the development of new waste disposal facilities to improve waste management efficiency. These initiatives align with Sarawak's environmental policies, including The Environment (Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Emission) Bill, 2023.

For SDG 13, local authorities are spearheading Low Carbon City initiatives, urban greening projects, and climate change awareness campaigns to support Sarawak's goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.

In line with SDG 14, efforts are underway to protect marine ecosystems, reduce river pollution, and enhance water quality. These actions complement broader conservation projects in collaboration with the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and other environmental agencies. Regarding SDG 15, municipal councils are implementing biodiversity conservation programs and large-scale tree planting initiatives as part of Malaysia's national target to plant 100 million trees by 2025.

These collective efforts underscore the proactive role of Sarawak's municipal councils in advancing sustainable development, promoting environmental conservation, and ensuring resilient urban ecosystems.

## Issues and Challenges

The following section summarises key issues, challenges, and recommendations identified for Environmental SDGs through analysis and stakeholder engagements, which this report aims to address and advance in support of the 2030 Agenda. This summary highlights pressing issues and challenges with supporting data, providing a comprehensive understanding to guide informed decision-making and strategic policy development.

### **Illegal Dumping and Waste Management (SDG 12) in Sarawak’s Municipal Councils**

Illegal dumping remains a pressing issue across Sarawak, contributing to environmental pollution and public health risks. Insufficient waste disposal infrastructure and weak enforcement have led to the accumulation of waste in open spaces, drainage systems, and along riverbanks. Addressing this challenge requires enhanced public awareness, stricter enforcement, and community engagement in waste management efforts. Implementing sustainable waste management strategies, including expanded recycling programs and community-led clean-up initiatives, can help mitigate pollution and improve urban living conditions.

### **Limited Sanitary Landfill Capacity (SDG 12) in Sarawak’s Municipal Councils**

Sanitary landfills are essential for managing solid waste in an environmentally responsible manner. However, many landfills in Sarawak are nearing full capacity, posing serious environmental and operational challenges. Urban expansion, increasing waste generation, and limited land availability have intensified the urgency to adopt sustainable waste management solutions. Identifying new landfill sites has become increasingly difficult, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas such as peatlands and forests. Additionally, population growth and rising economic activities have led to greater waste production, highlighting the need to enhance recycling efforts and reduce dependency on landfills through waste reduction strategies.

### **Improper Waste Management (SDG 12) in Sarawak’s Municipal Councils**

Improper waste management remains a critical environmental issue, leading to pollution, habitat destruction, and health risks. The rapid expansion of urban and industrial activities has significantly increased waste production, yet inefficient waste collection systems and weak enforcement measures have resulted in widespread illegal dumping. Many unauthorized dumping sites, including riverbanks, vacant lands, and roadsides, continue to worsen pollution and threaten water sources. Strengthening waste collection systems, enforcement mechanisms, and community participation is essential to ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable environment.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

## Waste-to-Energy Study



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authority	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
A study on the waste management system that uses high-tech incinerators to generate energy. The plan involves zonal waste collection with centralized incinerators, which could transform waste into energy and other products.	All local authorities	Economic Planning Unit (EPU)	-	Phase 2 (2026-2030)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Sarawak	Public	Helping to reduce waste and protect the local environment	SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 15

## Sarawak Low Carbon Initiative



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authority	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
The Low Carbon Initiative in Sarawak is a strategic effort to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, mitigate climate change impacts, and promote sustainable urban development. It aligns with Malaysia's Low Carbon Cities Framework (LCCF) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) by integrating eco-friendly policies, green technologies, and community-driven programs	All local authorities	All local authorities	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Sarawak	Public	Reduction in carbon emission	SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 15

# Greening Sarawak Campaign



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authority	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
Greening Sarawak Campaign, which aims to plant 35 million trees by 2025, contributing to Malaysia's national goal of 100 million trees. Remarkably, Sarawak achieved this target ahead of schedule in mid-2024, highlighting the state's commitment to environmental sustainability.	All local authorities	Forest Department Sarawak, Sarawak Biodiversity Centre	Sarawak Energy	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Sarawak	Public	Enhance ecological functionality, support forest-dependent communities, and preserve Sarawak's status as a sanctuary of greenery	SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13

# Seed Ball Project



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
An innovative reforestation initiative aimed at restoring degraded forest areas, particularly in remote and inaccessible regions. This project involves the use of small, nutrient-rich balls made of soil, clay, and organic matter, which contain seeds of native tree species. These seed balls are designed to enhance germination rates and promote natural afforestation with minimal human intervention.	All local authorities	Sarawak Forestry Department	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		<b>Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Outcome of Project</b>	<b>Other Related SDGs or Targets</b>
		Sarawak	Public	Accelerates reforestation	SDG 11 SDG 15



# Coastal and River Clean Up Program



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
<p>The Coastal and River Clean-Up Program is a community-driven environmental initiative aimed at reducing pollution, preserving marine and freshwater ecosystems, and promoting sustainable waste management. This program involves multiple stakeholders, including local authorities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community volunteers, working together to remove waste from rivers, beaches, and coastal areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sibu Municipal Council</li> </ul>	Department of Irrigation and Drainage (DID)	-	Phase 1 (2025-2026)	-
		<b>Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)</b>	<b>Target Group</b>	<b>Outcome of Project</b>	<b>Other Related SDGs or Targets</b>
		Simunjan, Lubok Antu, Sarikei, Maradong & Julau, Sibu	Public	Waste reduction, biodiversity protection	SDG 11 SDG 15



# Governance SDGs

## Strengthening Institutional Frameworks and Transparency

Sarawak Municipal Councils are committed to strengthening local governance and institutions to enhance transparency, decision-making, and institutional capacity in alignment with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). However, further efforts are necessary to promote inclusivity and build public trust. Achieving SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) requires stronger collaboration between the government, private sector, and civil society, particularly in SDG reporting, implementation, and monitoring. Key challenges such as illegal plantations, jurisdictional overlaps in land governance, and resource management issues continue to hinder sustainable development. Strengthening both local and international partnerships is essential to overcoming these obstacles and ensuring long-term sustainability in Sarawak.



# 6.6 Governance SDGs: Strengthening Institutional Frameworks and Transparency

## Current Situation

Sarawak’s municipal councils are actively working to enhance governance, institutional capacity, and collaborative partnerships in alignment with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Efforts have been directed towards increasing transparency, improving administrative efficiency, and optimizing public service delivery. However, challenges persist, including overlapping jurisdiction in land governance, law enforcement issues, and the need for more inclusive decision-making to strengthen public trust.

Under SDG 17, municipal councils in Sarawak have fostered collaborations among government agencies, the private sector, and civil society to advance sustainable development initiatives. Public-private partnerships and international cooperation play a key role, particularly in areas such as environmental conservation, digital transformation, and economic growth. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, including limited data-sharing mechanisms, resource constraints, and the need for improved SDG monitoring frameworks.

## Issues and Challenges

The following section summarizes key issues, challenges, and recommendations identified for Governance SDGs through analysis and stakeholder engagements, which this report aims to address and advance in support of the 2030 Agenda. This summary highlights pressing issues and challenges with supporting data, providing a comprehensive understanding to guide informed decision-making and strategic policy development.

### Challenges in Ensuring Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) in Sarawak Municipal Councils

Sarawak’s municipal councils face several challenges in maintaining peace, justice, and strong institutions. Issues such as scams, drug abuse, illegal gambling, and cybersecurity threats pose significant risks to public security. The presence of undocumented migrants (PATI) raises legal and social concerns, necessitating improved enforcement and integration strategies. Additionally, online fraud, digital crimes, theft, and vandalism remain persistent problems, requiring stronger law enforcement and community policing. A lack of trust in local government institutions in some communities further hampers public cooperation in governance and security initiatives, highlighting the need for transparency and inclusive engagement.

### Challenges in Strengthening Partnerships for Sustainable Development (SDG 17) in Sarawak Municipal Councils

Efforts to achieve SDG 17 within Sarawak’s municipal councils are hindered by weak coordination between local authorities, the private sector, and NGOs, reducing the effectiveness of sustainability initiatives. Limited community engagement in certain programs results in low participation and minimal impact. Funding constraints and resource limitations slow the implementation of development projects, while inefficient data-sharing mechanisms among agencies affect decision-making and project execution. Additionally, private sector involvement in sustainability efforts remains inadequate, emphasizing the need for better incentives, collaboration strategies, and policy support to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development.

*Note: These findings are sourced from the focus group discussion carried out in January 2025.*

## Empowering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Committee at the Local Government Level



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
<p>The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Committee within the local authorities in Sarawak is envisioned as a dedicated task force to drive sustainability initiatives in alignment with the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. This committee aims to integrate SDG principles into urban governance, ensuring that Sarawak progresses towards becoming a more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient city.</p>	All local authorities	All local authorities	-	Phase 3 (after 2030)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Sarawak	Public	Regular meetings, progress reports, and policy recommendations	SDG 11, SDG 16

## Proposed Data Centre and Digitalisation



Explanation of Project/Program	Local Authorities	Lead Agency/Department and Focal Point	Partners Involved	Project Priority	Project Authority Source
<p>The proposed data centre in Sarawak will serve as the central hub for smart city management, digital governance, and real-time data processing.</p> <p>This facility will support Sarawak's digitalisation efforts, ensuring secure, efficient, and scalable data management for municipal services, businesses, and the public sector.</p>	All local authorities	All local authorities	-	Phase 3 (after 2030)	-
		Target Area (Entire Local Authority Area/Specific Area)	Target Group	Outcome of Project	Other Related SDGs or Targets
		Sarawak	Public	Improved efficiency, economic growth, better public engagement	SDG 11, SDG 16

## Process Flow of the Sarawak SDG Roadmap

Each phase is strategically designed to build upon previous achievements, ensuring that Sarawak progresses towards becoming a sustainable, resilient, and globally connected state.

By following this phased approach, Sarawak’s SDG Roadmap aligns with both local development goals and international sustainability standards.

Phase	Key Focus Areas
<b>Phase 1 (2025-2026)</b>	<b>Immediate actions</b> – Addressing urgent social needs, basic infrastructure, climate resilience, and governance frameworks.
<b>Phase 2 (2026-2030)</b>	<b>Expansion</b> – Scaling up initiatives, strengthening urban planning, improving environmental policies, and fostering economic growth.
<b>Phase 3 (After 2030)</b>	<b>Long-term vision</b> – Implementing smart cities, advanced environmental strategies, and digital transformation.

### Phase 1 (2025-2026): Immediate Actions

The initial phase focuses on foundational programs to address social welfare, infrastructure needs, and environmental sustainability. Key initiatives include affordable housing programs, poverty assistance schemes, rural healthcare expansion (mobile clinics), and school infrastructure upgrades. Infrastructure projects such as clean water supply, rural electrification, drainage system improvements, and solar lighting installations lay the groundwork for future development. Environmental efforts include plastic waste reduction, e-waste recycling, river cleanups, and the Greening Sarawak Campaign, while governance initiatives establish strategic international cooperation to support long-term SDG implementation.

### Phase 2 (2026-2030): Expansion and Scaling Up

The second phase expands on the groundwork of Phase 1, with a stronger focus on urban planning, economic empowerment, and environmental conservation. Initiatives such as resilient housing for flood-prone areas, smart city planning, affordable housing expansion, and business capital assistance for women and youth aim to enhance economic and social development. Infrastructure improvements continue with new water treatment plants, upgraded village roads, and waste-to-energy projects. Environmental conservation is emphasized through marine ecosystem protection, the Sarawak Reef Ball Project, and sanitary landfill development, while governance efforts focus on strengthening the SDG Committee at the local government level.

### Phase 3 (Beyond 2030): Long-term Vision

The final phase prioritizes long-term sustainability, smart city transformation, and digital governance. Major projects include the Kuching Low Carbon Hub, smart city digital infrastructure, governance reforms, and institutional capacity building. Environmental efforts shift towards biodiversity conservation, renewable energy expansion, and strategic waste management to ensure climate resilience. Governance improvements, including data center digitalization and strengthening international partnerships, solidify Sarawak’s commitment to sustainable urban development and global SDG alignment beyond 2030.