

Intrinsic geological resources for ecotourism development: a case study of an ancient oceanic crust in Tandek, Sabah

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The intrinsic geological resources which embodies the formation of a particular rock or landscape not only adds value to existing ecotourism sites but open up new sites. This case study of an ancient oceanic crust along Baliojong River in Tandek describes the intrinsic values attached to it. The oceanic crust, comprising of pillow lava and chert is one of the oldest rocks in Sabah. It provides not only information on the early geological evolution of Sabah and surrounding areas, but also potentially generate models for the formations and occurrence of industrial minerals associated with it. Since such sites of high quality (well-exposed and easily accessible) could not be found easily in other parts of Sabah or even the whole of Southeast Asia, it is recommended that this site be gazetted as a heritage site for the present and future generation. To pay not only for its conservation but generate economic revenue for local communities it may be possible to utilise its intrinsic value for ecotourism development.
