



WWF

FACTSHEET

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FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

INDONESIA

Maintaining the Heart of Borneo's forests for people and the planet

EAST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

The island of Borneo is home to one of the most biologically diverse ecosystems in the world. This is one of only two places on Earth where elephants, orangutans and rhinoceros share the same habitat. In the Heart of Borneo—a wild, remote region at the island's core that reaches into the nations of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei—live several species that are found nowhere else, and scientists suspect that the island still holds many species that have yet to be discovered. The highlands of the Heart of Borneo are also an essential water catchment that contains 14 of the 20 watersheds for the island's major river systems¹.

FORESTS UNDER PRESSURE

Indonesia is losing 1.17 million hectares of forest per year²—one of the highest rates of deforestation and forest degradation in the world. Forces driving forest loss include unsustainable logging practices, both legal and illegal, fires and clearing for palm oil, mining and small-scale community plantations.



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¹. Christopher E. and Annawati van Paddenburg, Eds. Heart of Borneo: Investing in Nature for a Green Economy. A Synthesis Report. WWF Heart of Borneo Global Initiative. Jakarta © 2012

². Rate of deforestation for period 2003 – 2006. Pusat Inventarisasi dan Perpetaan Hutan, Departemen Kehutanan. 2008. Perhitungan Deforestasi Indonesia Tahun 2008. Pusat Inventarisasi dan Perpetaan Hutan, Departemen Kehutanan. 2008: Rekalkulasi Penutupan Lahan Indonesia Tahun 2008. Available at <http://www.dephut.go.id/>

Despite these pressures, the Kutai Barat and Mahakam Ulu districts of Indonesia's East Kalimantan province still contain 2.4 million hectares of contiguous tropical forest. But proposals to develop oil palm plantations and timber concessions over thousands of hectares in the region present an imminent threat to these intact stands³. Innovative and quick action is needed to ensure sustainable development in this vibrant and vital part of the world.

REDD+ - A PROMISING SOLUTION

If forest loss can be halted in Indonesia, not only will a vital part of the Heart of Borneo's rainforests be conserved, but the carbon held in the plants and soil of these forests will remain sequestered – which is key to fighting climate change. Efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and to conserve, sustainably manage and enhance forest carbon stocks (together referred to as REDD+) while building economic benefits are underway in Indonesia. WWF is working in partnership with government, communities and the private sector in East Kalimantan to establish a sub-national jurisdictional model that effectively involves local and indigenous communities in decision making and managing their forests. WWF is also engaging with a variety of stakeholders, including government, the private sector and civil society, on the development of national REDD+ strategies and methodologies.

OUR WORK IN EAST KALIMANTAN

For the financial incentives from REDD+ to succeed in keeping forests standing in Indonesia, they must subsidise the costs of more productive development and encourage these to be adopted by communities, government and companies. So WWF set out to build and support programs that protect forests while strengthening rights and opportunities for increased income for the people of East Kalimantan.

One approach has involved Community Conserved Areas (CCAs), community-based conservation initiatives that protect and restore traditional or village forests for the ecological benefits and cultural value they hold for local and indigenous peoples. Another approach has centered on *Hutan Desa* and *Hutan Adat*, which are forms of forest management recognized in Indonesia's legal framework whereby community groups manage and use resources within the forests. WWF worked with local governments to secure protection for 41,125 hectares⁴ of tropical forest as *Hutan Desa* and *Hutan Adat*, to be managed by 14 communities as their own with government recognition and approval. Eight additional areas have also been proposed for designation as *Hutan Desa* and *Hutan Adat*⁵. This approach has empowered communities to engage in REDD+ in new ways, such as developing their own land

use plans, drafting regulations to seek legal protection for community conservation areas and management activities, and even conducting their own carbon monitoring. WWF now supports efforts to designate *Hutan Desa* and *Hutan Adat* in collaboration with local government and NGOs.

WWF has also partnered with timber companies in East Kalimantan to reduce the impact of their logging operations on the region's forests. Through a multi-year agreement with Ratah Timber, WWF was able to facilitate the logging company's transition to sustainable forest management and Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. The Ratah Timber concession is now the site of permanent sampling plots for pilot-testing of biodiversity safeguards and monitoring.

WWF provided assistance to the district governments of Kutai Barat and Mahakam Ulu in their development of a REDD+ strategic action plan. Drawing on four years of on-the-ground data collection and testing, this plan outlines specific policy objectives and actions needed to implement REDD+ effectively. All stakeholders, including local and indigenous peoples, reviewed and shaped the plan, which was then endorsed by district leaders. It will now be used as a reference for green development planning in both districts.

In partnership with The Nature Conservancy, WWF successfully arranged a US\$28.5 million debt-for-nature swap between the governments of the United States and Indonesia. The swap is supporting "green" economic growth and community development in three critical districts, including East Kalimantan. The region's REDD+ program has also received recognition and support from the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund of the World Bank.

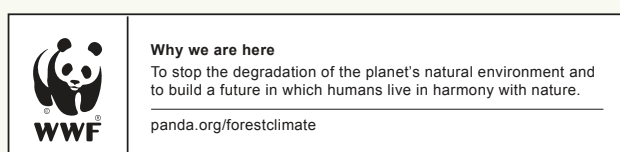
MAKING REDD+ WORK FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

If we get it right, REDD+ could reduce greenhouse gas emissions while protecting biodiversity, supporting sustainable development, and strengthening rights and livelihoods that benefit forest-dwelling communities. WWF's Forest and Climate Programme is initiating REDD+ demonstration activities in the world's key forest landscapes, including the Amazon, Borneo and the Congo Basin, by working at scale with communities and governments to test approaches for getting REDD+ right.

We are working to ensure that REDD+ delivers on its promise of maintaining forests for the benefit of people and nature.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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³ "Planned giant plantations threaten Borneo forests." The Jakarta Post, October 24 2005. <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2005/10/24/planned-giant-plantations-threatens-borneo-forests.html>

⁴ Phone interview with members of WWF-Indonesia team, February 2014.

⁵ "Securing the HoB's Forest for Carbon and Environmental Services Through Equitable Sharing Mechanism and Market Transformation" technical report compiled by members of the WWF-Indonesia team, July 2014.