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Newsletter – Special Issue May 2010

Heart of Borneo

New species report breaks new ground in trilateral government negotiations

WWF's new report *Borneo's New World: Newly Discovered Species in the Heart of Borneo* took centre stage at the 4th Heart of Borneo (HoB) Trilateral government meeting in Brunei on Earth Day, 22 April.

The report details 123 new species discovered since the February 2007 joint declaration by Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia to conserve 220,000 km² of irreplaceable tropical rainforest, designated the 'Heart of Borneo'.

Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, the Honourable Pehin Dato Yahya, launched the report and in a press statement paid tribute to the dedicated scientists who spent countless hours in challenging conditions to uncover the HoB's staggering biodiversity.

"These amazing new findings highlight the importance of our efforts to implement the HoB Declaration's bold vision," he said of the region, which is better known

for the pygmy elephant, orangutan, rhinoceros and clouded leopard.

This was the first time a report of this nature had been launched at a trilateral event and was evidence of the three governments' willingness to work with partners such as WWF to achieve a common conservation vision for the HoB.

HoB leader Adam Tomasek said at the launch that the significance of the publication was not just that 123 new species had been discovered in the Heart of Borneo, but the huge step for biodiversity conservation the three governments made when they signed the HoB Declaration.

Below: Brunei Darussalam's Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, the Honourable Pehin Dato Yahya, second from left, with Mahmud Yussof, Deputy Director of Forests and HoB leader Adam Tomasek and Dato Hj Hamdillah, Deputy Minister of Industry & Primary Resources (MIPR). Photo: Brunei MIPR.

A world of diversity

A FROG with no lungs, a 'ninja' slug firing love darts at its mate, and the world's longest insect were among new species featured in WWF's HoB Initiative's new species report.

The discoveries were all made in the Heart of Borneo and are the latest testament to its amazing biodiversity.

At the local and national level, the three governments have mapped out a course of conservation and management of the HoB around five pillars of protected area, trans-boundary and sustainable natural resource management, eco-tourism and capacity building.

WWF is supporting these efforts in all three countries, working very closely with government agencies to turn the paper declaration into tangible on-ground action, district by district, region by region, to fulfil the conservation promise of the Heart of Borneo Declaration.

The rate of discovery since the foundation of the HoB in 2007 is more than three new species per month, signalling in biodiversity terms the global relevance of turning the HoB vision into reality.

More photographs: page 6



Welcome to delegates

WWF's Heart of Borneo Initiative, WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia welcome all delegates to the Annual Conference, held not quite in the Heart of Borneo, but you can certainly see it from here! We hope your stay will be informative, productive and we look forward to sharing the splendours of the HoB with some of you on the field trip to Danum Valley.

WWF Indonesia CEO appointed

Dr Efransjah has recently been appointed Chief Executive Officer of WWF Indonesia. His last position was as Regional Coordinator for South-East and East Asia for the Centre for International Forestry Research in Indonesia.

He was earlier assigned as the senior adviser external relations at CIFOR Director General Office, in charge of the Liaison Office with the host-country and the Coordinator of Secretariat of Asia Forest Partnership (AFP).

Before joining CIFOR in mid-September 2008, Dr Efransjah was the UNDP Chief Technical Adviser in charge of a large GEF project (Global Environment Facility) working on the conservation of biodiversity in wetland ecosystems (2002-2008) in the states of Pahang, Sarawak and Sabah, Malaysia.

He previously served as the Projects Manager (Asia and Pacific region) at the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) in Yokohama, Japan (1993-2002). He started his earlier career with the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry (1981-1992).

Dr Efransjah brings a wealth of experience related to the HoB. He graduated from Bogor Agricultural University, and completed his Master and Doctoral degrees in Sciences du Bois, at the Universite de Nancy I, France.

He is married with one child.



HoB Leader's Statement

From Adam Tomasek

A year ago, the Network gathered in Copenhagen for the 2009 Annual Conference. This month we convene for the 2010 Annual Conference in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia. Although worlds apart, there is a similarity between the two conferences.

Last year, the Network started down the looming challenge of UNFCCC-COP15, using WWF's Annual Conference to build momentum and consolidate approaches. I was impressed by the way in which the Network rallied together to fight, and continues to do so this year under new circumstances.

This year's Annual Conference is on the doorstep of the Heart of Borneo (and Coral Triangle). Therefore, I believe this is the year to consolidate attention and seek Network commitments to address biodiversity and footprint issues in Southeast Asia, including the Heart of Borneo.

Towards a green economy

For the past year the HoB team has been building a platform to put the HoB on the path toward a green economy. We are bringing in new players under a strategic partnership approach, including governments, private sector actors, as well as donors, researchers, marketing and communications agencies.

We have found that many different groups want to invest their time, resources and relationships to work closely with WWF to tackle the challenges faced in delivering the vision set forth by the HoB. This expanding 'HoB team' requires WWF to operate in different ways, and on different levels. A consolidated Network approach is necessary if we are to be successful at turning interest into action.



A committed approach

We are working closely with Network offices to deliver a series of strategic commitments to reduce footprint, increase funding and leverage policy support, through what we call the 'HoB Challenge'. We will launch the initial commitments at this year's Annual Conference and be seeking further commitments during the course of the Conference. Using a multi-partner Roadshow approach over the next 12-18 months, we hope to highlight these commitments around the globe and provide tangible opportunities to overcome the HoB's biggest challenges.

Regional support

The conditions for HoB success have been strengthened over the past year.

At the recently concluded 2010 ASEAN Summit, the HoB was noted as a priority regional initiative during the Finance Ministers' meeting. This is a clear sign that HoB's natural capital is important to regional economic development.

Similarly, just last month the 4th HoB Trilateral government meeting concluded where the governments of Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia agreed to advance forest carbon work and development of sustainable financing mechanisms. Following the Trilateral, Brunei hosted a regional workshop on both Heart of Borneo and Coral Triangle, which produced recommendations on trans-boundary resource management, addressing climate change, and developing green economies to be taken forward to the upcoming BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting.

By many measures, we see a convergence of the HoB with regional agendas and global issues. Now is the time to act. I am convinced that together as a Network, we can harness the interest of many new "partners" and deliver lasting biodiversity and footprint results. I look forward to telling you more during this year's Annual Conference.

Network partners asked to meet the HoB Challenge

At the WWF Annual conference, on the island of Borneo, we are launching the **Heart of Borneo (HoB) Challenge**.

The Challenge is a 'call to arms' to all our Network supporters to renew their commitment to the HoB Initiative on their own terms: to present us with commitments which both meet their national office priorities, activities and capabilities and at the same time move forward on the HoB's strategic priorities.

It is also why we will be linking the Challenge to an ambitious global 'Roadshow' which will bring to life the conservation challenges faced in the HoB and deliver them to key Network offices' own backyards where they can use them to support their conservation, communication, education and marketing activities.

The Roadshow concept has already attracted enthusiastic private sector and government supporters – but we need the Network's commitment to bind the whole thing together and give it the conservation focus it requires.

The range and scope of events we can organise is only limited by our imaginations and our Roadshow supporters are encouraging us to let our imaginations run wild.

The first steps in our commitment

We will come to the Annual Conference with a commitment prepared and ready to be announced as the beginning of the HoB Challenge.

This will revolve around a major new initiative to catalyse China and India market power to drive sustainable palm oil production. This was developed through joint MTI/HoB workshops.

The first steps in your commitment

The actual commitments are purely up to you – whatever fits into your strategic priorities – if it aligns with our strategic plan, we will make it a priority and we will tell 'your world' about it when the Roadshow comes to your part of the globe.

We seek 10 of the most important Network countries to take up the Challenge and make commitments to achieve HoB's goals. We're also hoping that it won't stop there and more events, issues and ideas will surface as the Roadshow gathers momentum (and publicity). In your country, we expect it to stimulate debate around HoB-related issues and provide the vehicle to help the Network achieve meaningful conservation outcomes.

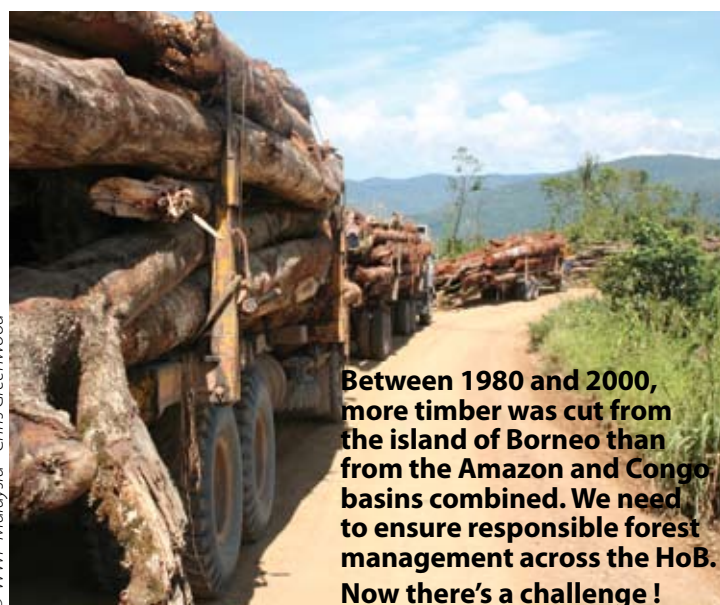
Scope of commitment

The scope of commitment should fall within the three broad HoB strategies. This still offers a huge range of opportunities for engagement on issues as diverse as regional and local policy advocacy, green business development, carbon banking, valuation of eco-system services and everything in-between. We are developing activities we can weave into a Roadshow concept such as: report and book launches, keynote seminars, public debates, business conferences, photo exhibitions.

The range and scope of events we can organise is only limited by our imaginations and our Roadshow supporters are encouraging us to let our imaginations run wild.

The first steps begin at the Annual Conference, where more information will be available.

We hope the rest will make history!



Between 1980 and 2000, more timber was cut from the island of Borneo than from the Amazon and Congo basins combined. We need to ensure responsible forest management across the HoB. Now there's a challenge !



Palm oil expansion is the greatest immediate threat to the HoB. We need to ensure all palm oil in the HoB is located on degraded lands and is certified under RSPO. Now there's a challenge !

Trilateral delegates focus on common goals

Brunei's capital of Bandar Seri Begawan was the venue in April of the 4th Heart of Borneo (HoB) trilateral meeting back to back with the New Frontiers: Forests to Reefs workshop.

Delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia gathered to discuss the next steps in their efforts to realise their collective vision agreed in the 2007 HoB Declaration.

"Let us shed our differences and focus on common goals to realize the Heart of Borneo vision"

That was the statesman-like call from Dato Paduka Haji Hamdillah Bin Haji Abdul Wahab, pictured, Deputy Minister of Industry and Primary Resources for Brunei and Chairman of the Brunei HoB National Council, delivering the welcome speech and opening remarks for the meeting, He referred back to the Declaration, where the three countries presented to the world

their commitment to conserve and protect one of the most diverse and natural ecosystems on earth.

"We have made a good start to this long and challenging journey. I take pride in what we have achieved in the past three years, but this is just the beginning. We still have a lot to achieve and collectively we can strengthen the HoB foundation even further."

In an amusing use of the local vernacular, Dato Hamdillah emphasised the need to finalise the document which determined the institutional arrangements and modalities under which the HoB Initiative would work.



"We cannot afford to prolong the deliberation of this important document. It must be seen by our stakeholders as inclusive by necessity, and not NATOL, that is 'no action, talk only- lah'!"

Single brand

The Heart of Borneo was already known across the globe – the letters HoB are already popular in many publications, but the HoB member countries agreed to develop a single brand and logo for the HoB which was simple, yet inspiring, incorporating common HoB values.

Sustainable finance

Dato Hamdillah noted that sustainable development of the HoB required equally sustainable finance.

"Our friends from the World Wildlife Fund will be assisting us to develop a long term financing scheme to realise our common objectives," he said.

It was clear that this trilateral meeting strengthened the trans-boundary collaboration through adoption of a rotating governance system, agreement to develop joint forest-carbon statement and to present results at an upcoming regional ministerial conference..

Reflecting a natural balance in economic development

The Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative aims to find an ecologically and economically balanced mix of protected areas, sustainably-managed forests and green economic development



But how do we get that balance asked Anna van Paddenburg, Sustainable Financing Strategy Leader with WWF's Heart of Borneo Initiative

Speaking at the New Frontiers: Forest to Reefs Workshop, she said the key was

to ensure that the value of ecosystem services was recognized in decision making in both monetary and non-monetary terms.

Ms van Paddenburg said the first steps in the process had already begun with a WWF sponsored report on HoB Sustainable Financing Options.

"This should be viewed as the first step in the longer process of establishing a Heart of Borneo Sustainable Financing Business Plan for each country," she said.

Ms Paddenburg highlighted the main recommendations coming out of the preliminary report:

- Ensure national and sub-national development plans include the HoB strategies and activities.

- Assess full cost of HoB sustainable landscape management.
- Move ahead with selected financing sources and direct this to the HoB landscape.
- Develop HoB Business Plans in Brunei, Indonesia, Sabah and Sarawak.
- Strengthen enabling conditions including subsidy and incentive instruments to encourage responsible investment and payment for services.

She said the challenge now was to mobilise stakeholders (governments, businesses, civil societies and citizens) to shift focus toward new innovative practices which encourages sustainability and the maintenance of irreplaceable eco-system services.

Wildlife crime – a matter of life and death

In conjunction with the HoB Trilateral meeting, a two-day (April 18-19) workshop on Wildlife Crime in the Heart of Borneo was co-organised by Traffic Southeast Asia and the Brunei Forestry Department.

The workshop brought together representatives of customs and excise authorities from all the HoB countries and their provinces, to raise awareness of illegal wildlife trade, the smuggling of wildlife across borders and the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES).

Wildlife crime likened to drug trafficking

The Controller of Royal Brunei Customs and Excise Haji Yahya bin Hj Idris, pictured, likened the trafficking of endangered wildlife to illegal narcotics trafficking.



"In this age of transnational crime, there is no difference between the trafficking of endangered wildlife and illegal narcotics. It runs a close second or third behind money laundering and firearms," he told workshop participants.

"Combating such crime and illicit trade requires a multi-lateral approach, engaging national and international law enforcement experts including the CITES Secretariat, INTERPOL, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Customs Organisation as well as national wildlife inspectorates, police and the customs," he said.

"As far as the custom officers are concerned, their roles as the frontline enforcement agents are crucial in the fight against trans-boundary environmental crimes, particularly in enforcing CITES

at respective checkpoints. The border checkpoint is the first and the last line of defence to prevent smuggled goods from leaving our country of origin and reaching our domestic market respectively," he said.

Brunei not safe from illegal trade

Brunei is not spared from illegal wildlife trade, which is rampant in Southeast Asia, said Claire Beastall, the training and capacity building coordinator of Traffic Southeast Asia, a wildlife trade monitoring network.

Speaking to the media, on the sidelines of the Wildlife Crime workshop she said that Brunei, particularly the HoB, was one of the most biodiverse places in the world, but there are people who would exploit the Sultanate's animals and plants.



Trans-boundary links bind the HoB

Wildlife trade is a significant threat to the HoB according to Chris Greenwood, pictured, International Communications Manager with WWF's HoB Initiative.

"Trans-boundary issues and management are a perfect fit for cooperative action under the Heart of Borneo Initiative. It has been recognized as one of the components of joint effort under the HoB governments' Trans-boundary Strategic Plan of Actions," he said.

Opening the second day of the workshop, he noted that the three countries coming together to jointly fight wildlife poaching



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should be a natural development and a union in which the whole was much greater than the sum of its parts.

"The world has recognised the botanical and biological splendour of the HoB. Indeed, the three countries have been blessed with tropical wealth that is the envy of many in other countries."

"Networks of protected areas have been established by governments with the support of non-profit groups like the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), but it is the daily vigilance of customs officers, wildlife enforcement and support staff that is absolutely crucial for the on-going protection of this incredible landscape," he said.

The workshop was the second of its kind to be organised under the HoB Initiative and funded by US Department of State. The first, which focused on creating awareness towards judiciary took place in Sabah, in November 2009. The workshop was also attended by members of judiciary from all HoB countries and is linked to the ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network through WWF, TRAFFIC and other partners.

Species news from the Heart of Borneo

Flat-headed cat habit almost 70% gone

Almost 70% of the area that historically provided good habitats for the flat-headed cat has already been converted into plantations, creating a landscape in which the cats are unable to live.

These results were published in March in the Public Library of Science (PLOS) ONE, by an international team of scientists under the guidance of the Leibniz Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW) in Berlin, Germany

Borneo holds most of the potentially suitable habitats. Many are highly fragmented and only a very small fraction (16%) is fully protected according to the criteria of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

While the species seems to prefer the lowland forests and wetland habitat there is some indication that the species may use upland forest along rivers.

Listed as endangered on the IUCN Red List, the flat-headed cat (*Prionailurus planiceps*) is thought to be at increasing risk of extinction. Not much is known about the species, only what has been learnt through incidental observations and observations of animals in captivity.

"We gathered all available scattered information on this cat which showed us



that it mainly occurs in lowland or peat-swamp forests close to freshwater sources," said IZW's Andreas Wilting in a recent media release.

"With this information we developed a computer model to predict its historical and current distribution. The next step is to gain further information about the ecology of this little known species and to enforce the protection and thus ensure the sustainability of the key remaining forest habitats."

The tiny flat-headed cat, weighing no more than 1.5kg has webbed feet, and is believed to hunt fish and crabs within wetland habitats. This wild cat is one of the world's least known cat species with a very restricted distribution and is now only found in a handful of tropical rainforests within Peninsular Thailand, Malaysia (both East and West), Brunei, and Indonesia (Kalimantan and Sumatra).

Hose's civet caught on film

Hose's Civet, a small carnivore endemic to Borneo has been captured on film for the first time in the Heart to Borneo. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) has been undertaking a four year expedition to monitor small carnivores such as the Hose's civet in Selaan-Linau, Sarawak, but little is known about the species or its conservation status.

In media reports, WCS wildlife and logging unit assistant head, John Mathai described the civet as a 'specialist' because unlike the Malay civet or the mongoose, it was only found in a specific area in the Heart of Borneo, though nobody knew why.

Of concern to researchers is the fact that records of sightings indicate presence in timber concession areas, rather than protected areas so the civet's precious habitat may come be under threat. Further study will be required to better understand this species and determine its conservation status.



A closer look at some of the newly discovered Heart of Borneo species

A new Flowerpecker



© Richard Webster

A long-tailed slug (*Ibycus rachelae*)



© Menno Schilthuizen

Rare rhino captured on film in the HoB

Images of the rarely seen and critically endangered Sumatran Rhino, captured by Sabah Wildlife Department (SWD) and WWF-Malaysia's remote camera traps in the Heart of Borneo (HoB), were revealed by Malaysian authorities in April.

With the rhino population in the HoB estimated to be less than 40 in Sabah, with fewer than 60 island-wide, speculation that the rhino may be pregnant has added further to the excitement for researchers viewing the images.

International rhino expert, Dr Terri Roth said: "It would be wonderful if this female is pregnant, since there are so few Sumatran Rhinos left in the world that each calf represents a lifeline for the species."

Monitoring and survey work in the central forest of Sabah is currently supported by HONDA Malaysia, WWF-Netherlands, WWF-Germany and US Fisheries and Wildlife Service. WWF-Malaysia is working closely with Sabah Forestry Department, SWD and the Sabah Foundation, with the support from the Royal Malaysian Police, to ensure the safety and survival of this endangered species in Borneo.

"The future of rhinos in Borneo now depends on how seriously the



© WWF-Malaysia/Borneo Species Programme

enforcement and security work in the forest reserves can be implemented and coordinated," said Raymond Alfred, Head of the Borneo Species Programme, WWF-Malaysia.

Mr Alfred noted that data gathered from rhino monitoring and survey programmes in the region showed that:

- the home range of rhinos is shrinking,
- sustainable logging activities have minimal impact on the rhino population,
- conversion of the natural forests, especially those adjacent to key habitat for the rhino, into plantations (particularly oil palm) would further worsen the fragmentation of the rhino population.

WWF-Malaysia believes co-operation with land developers and forest managers to restore habitat corridors and address illegal encroachment would do much to help support the survival of rhinos.

SWD and WWF-Malaysia are also working with the Borneo Rhino Alliance (BORA) to implement the Rhino Action Plan. Habitat protection and enforcement has been recognised as the main strategy in order to ensure the survival of a viable rhino population in forest reserves, while a rhino breeding programme has been identified as the key strategy in order to address the conservation plan for the isolated rhinos.

The breeding programme is currently supported by Sime Darby, the Malaysian federal government and WWF-Malaysia.

The world longest insects (*Phobaeticus chan*),

A flame coloured snake (*Dendrelaphis kopsteini*),

A new freshwater prawn (*Macrobrachium kelianense*).



© Oragn Asli



© Gernot Vogel



© Daisy Wowor



HSBC helps WWF take a fresh approach to water

HSBC Bank Malaysia and WWF-Malaysia have embarked on a project to improve the natural fresh water systems of the Heart of Borneo.

The three-year project will take place in the district of Tambunan, where the existence of pristine and forested headwater catchments will benefit most from improved land use management and further protection from conversion to other land uses.

This is critical to safeguard the catchments that serve as the source for gravity feed water supply and for ensuring optimum water level and flow in the river for generating electricity through mini hydropower which the local community

depend on. Additionally, there are promising prospects for enhancing capacity of the community in water catchment and river management with regard to community-based catchment mapping, land use, river quality monitoring, and good

practices in freshwater fisheries management.

"This project underlines the importance of protecting environmental resources especially with the increasing focus on climate change issues. We also hope that the communities here will

learn and understand the importance of carrying out economic activities that are sustainable and compatible with the environment," said Elizabeth Wee, Head Group Communications (Malaysia) & Corporate Sustainability, HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad.

"The project will focus on the following thematic targets: Freshwater resources, water catchment and forest protection, enhanced management, conservation and restoration of wildlife as well as community education," said Dato' Dr Dionysius Sharma, WWF-Malaysia Executive Director/CEO.

Further information: Daria Mathew, e-mail: Dmathew@wwf.org.my; Rashidah Maqbool, e-mail, rmaqbool@wwf.org.my



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Left to right: Y. Bhg Dato' Dr Dionysius Sharma, Executive Director/CEO of WWF-Malaysia, Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Joseph Pairin Kitingan, Deputy Chief Minister and Minister of Infrastructure Development of Sabah & Ms Elizabeth Wee, Head of Communications of HSBC Bank Malaysia Berhad

Expanding freshwater conservation

In the coming year, WWF's HoB team will be expanding work to secure high conservation rivers (including 'no-go areas') in key river basins in the HoB. This is particularly important for its engagement with infrastructure planners/ water resource managers and advocacy with the government.

The HoB landscape contains 14 of the 20 major rivers and headwater catchments on the island, making freshwater ecosystems services critical for sustaining economic growth and well-being of the populations in the three HoB



© Merrill Halley

countries.

Sustainable management and protection of the catchment forests help to safeguard freshwater resources. Some rivers in the HoB are being targeted for construction of

dams, with potentially severe adverse affects on hydrological flows that freshwater fauna and flora rely on.

Degradation of freshwater ecosystem in HoB is on the increase and a key driver to

this is agricultural expansion. Expansion of oil palm plantations has led to loss of large areas of wetlands, primarily peat swamp forests and more freshwater habitats have been earmarked for conversion.

Assessment of the freshwater ecosystems, including data analysis, mapping and conservation is crucial for stakeholder consultation. These findings will complement high conservation value assessments in the HoB that are more applicable to terrestrial habitats.



© WWF-Malaysia/Engelbert Duasip



Search for an alternative diet for the 'Grandmothers'

Residents of Sebuk in East Kalimantan know Borneo's pygmy elephant as 'Grandmother' – something magical and sacred. They believe that if they disturb 'Grandmother' destroying their crops, they will be hit by a curse.

The pygmy elephants, *Elephas maximus borneensis*, have habitual migration paths that they use at least once a year. With oil palm plantations and forestry concessions increasingly encroaching on these paths, the result is solitary elephants, separated from the group, entering the farmland of the local communities.

With around 98% of Sebuk residents making a living as farmers, the subsequent destruction of their crops is devastating. However, their belief in 'Grandmother's' powers makes them hesitant to react.

WWF-Indonesia has trained 20 locals to form an elephant patrol team, with a goal of driving away the elephants entering the settlement and farmland areas. Unfortunately, their long-held fear of retribution from 'Grandmother' hampers their effectiveness.

Additional efforts to thwart the destruction include the development of alternative crops that are not attractive to the elephants, but still with a high economic value.

Some community groups have developed vanilla plants that the elephants shun. Other options include rubber and agarwood, with further study needed to find appropriate crops that won't provide a tasty meal for 'Grandmother'.

Park management discussed with local stakeholders

In late March 2010, WWF-Indonesia and the Muller-Schwaner Project (MS) held discussions in four sub-districts of Katingan to introduce the community to the National Park Management Plan and the Collaborative Management concept.

Katingan contains about 60% of the 181,000 ha Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park in the Schwaner mountain range, straddling Central and West Kalimantan in the HoB.

About 50 local residents, including Heads of Villages and key elders, attended the discussions. They overwhelmingly endorsed the initiatives, and proposed further enlargement of the National Park.

The participants also suggested further activities such as the development of agroforestry (rattan plantations, rubber, agarwood) and livestock/animal husbandry (goats, cows, chickens, fish, etc).

Local input is key to collaborative management, and WWF-Indonesia with National Park staff will explore the potential for implementing these ideas.

Central Kalimantan Tourism Guide to be launched

WWF Indonesia, in collaboration with the provincial Department of Tourism, plans to explore the tourism potential of Central Kalimantan, including Sebangau National Park, with the aim of publishing a guide to tourist destinations in the area next year.

This move follows the growing popularity of eco-tourism, a trend that has great potential for the Heart of Borneo. As well as traditional societies, the region offers a spectacular range of flora and fauna including endangered species such as orangutans, gibbons, sun bears and the clouded leopard.

In terms of conservation, the region is strategically important as it sits upstream of the five major rivers in Borneo.

WWF-Indonesia is pleased to support government efforts to boost the economic situation of local communities. In this case, eco-tourism should become a source of livelihood for local residents while conserving natural resources.

Gunung Lumut National Park nominated

The District Government of Barito Utara and the Gunung Lumut-Muller Foundation, a locally based NGO, have announced the nomination of Gunung Lumut protection forest in East Kalimantan to be a National Park.

WWF-Indonesia, with the Muller-Schwaner Project, has been facilitating the process since 2007. The area is internationally recognised as important for biodiversity conservation and watershed management. Also considered was the religious function for the Kaharingan people, who believe their spirits reside in the mountain after death.

Green and Fair products from the Heart of Borneo

By Dora Jok and Cristina Eghenter

Products from the Borneo highlands will be marketed using 'Green and Fair Products' (GFP) branding for the first time in July 2010.

This follows a GFP workshop organised by WWF in collaboration with Forum Masyarakat Adat (FORMADAT). The workshop, 25 to 26 March, in Ba Kelalan, in the Sarawak highlands in the HoB, attracted 26 participants from the area.

Participants identified three main products to develop and market as Green and Fair. One of the products, adan rice, is planted by communities in Krayan, Ba Kelalan, Bario and Long Pasia. This is an original, local variety from the Highlands in the Heart of Borneo. The adan rice comes in white, black, and red varieties.

The community also seeks recognition of collective Intellectual Property Rights for the rice as a product of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo.

Other products to use the GFP branding are mountain salt and wild cinnamon.

The GFP initiative aims to promote and market products from conservation landscapes by adding value and targeting increasingly knowledgeable and socially responsible consumers.

GFP emphasises sustainability and the three "E's" of environment, economy and equity.

The initiative has the potential to be adopted in other areas and by offices to magnify its impact and effectiveness, as evidenced by the current collaboration with WWF-Malaysia under the HoB Initiative.

The move will also help promote areas in the highlands for potential tourism purposes.

This Green and Fair Workshop was timely for the participants and also for WWF to guide them through the process. All participants agreed the workshop had further enhanced the working relationship between WWF (both Malaysia and Indonesia) and FORMADAT.

Sustainable use and sale of forest products and other natural resources with market potential can become a conservation measure and help protect significant biodiversity while fulfilling essential economic needs and affording good livelihoods to the communities living in and around conservation areas.

As one of the participants mentioned in the evaluation questionnaire: "It is about time that our local products were

produced and processed into 'green' products to enhance their value in the market."

Participants of the workshop are to come to a common consensus on packaging, branding and documentation of products.

These products will be first marketed under the GFP Green and Fair brand at the World Rainforest Music Festival in Kuching, July 2010.

For more information contact Dora Jok, e-mail: dorajok@gmail.com or Cristina Eghenter e-mail: awing@samarinda.org

Cutting the environmental cost of roads in the HoB

Roads play an essential role in development, but they are also one of the biggest threats to the conservation areas which lie in their path.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has been working with WWF to develop training materials for government agencies to reduce the environmental impacts of road infrastructure.

One of the biggest challenges occurs with roads near international borders, such as in Kalimantan, on the Indonesian side of the HoB. Some government agencies consider the HoB a strategic defence zone and suggest that infrastructure projects in the area do not require Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs).

WWF's HoB Initiative has worked with government partners to ensure that the EIA process and certain environmental restrictions are included in the roll-out of the new spatial plans and zoning regulations under Indonesian Presidential decree. An important finding was that despite the massive increase in road infrastructure in West and East Kalimantan since 2000, only one EIA was completed. There are many challenges ahead in harmonising infrastructure development with environmental regulations; we will look to continue work with ADB to strengthen implementation of the HoB Initiative objectives.



Active participation by women in the group discussion to identify products to be marketed under Green and Fair Products brand.

Sustainable noodles – yes please!

By Katie Stafford

What impact does China's food industry (and the humble instant noodle) have on palm oil plantations throughout South-East Asia and on priority conservation



areas like the HoB? This was the question the HoB, Market Transformation Initiative (MTI) and WWF-China teams was seeking to answer in March, with a HoB-sponsored workshop in Beijing with WWF-China.

Six million tonnes of palm oil are imported into China, principally for the food industry – in particular instant noodles. Across many of WWF's most important commodities the story is the same, large populations and increasing prosperity mean that China is now an important market for producers around the world.

In addition, China is an increasingly important source of finance for palm oil expansion in Indonesia and Malaysia through both public and private finance sources. This was why the MTI and HoB teams worked with the WWF-China team to develop its palm oil strategy.

Targets include:

- 10% of the total palm oil imported into China certified sustainable palm oil by 2015 and 25% by 2020.
- Support and influence China overseas investment in palm oil in key WWF eco-regions to implement sustainability principles.

The challenges are clear but the team also recognised the big opportunities from working in collaboration with Chinese companies and the government. China alone could drive many thousands of tonnes of new sustainable palm oil demand and could provide a key leverage point through its finance to encourage important investors to invest in palm oil

on degraded lands rather than in high conservation value forests of HoB.

Beyond these overall targets, the China teams are looking for opportunities to link more closely with HoB to pilot the development and implementation of sustainable investment and supply chain toolkits in the Asian context.

While the market for unsustainable palm oil remains, conversion to this crop will remain the biggest threat to the forests of HoB.

We encourage our partners and supporters interested in helping to transform business in Asia to get in touch and let us know how you can help!

In early May, a similar workshop will be held with WWF-India, now the world's number one palm oil importing market, after a 150% uplift in import volumes in the past five years.

Achieving market transformation in these key markets could dramatically reduce the threat of palm oil expansion to the irreplaceable forests of the HoB, Sumatra and other priority places.

For more information contact Katie Stafford, HoB Corporate Engagement Leader, e-mail: kstafford@wwf.or.id



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Borneo's 'Lost World' nominated as Heritage Site

Malaysian authorities will nominate the Maliau Basin in the Heart of Borneo as a World Heritage Site. The basin, which environmentalists call the Lost World, is deep within the remote interior of North Borneo, was only discovered in the 1970s and remains largely unexplored.

Scientists hailed the decision, saying it was a victory for the environment and the species that remain undiscovered.

Dr Glen Reynolds, director of the Royal Society's South East Asian rainforest program, said that a listing, coupled with project funding from the plantation group Sime Darby would go a long way towards securing the long-term future of the forest.

"It gives the Maliau Basin an extra layer of protection, if you like, to what is one of the most important habitats," Mr Reynolds said.

The basin covers almost 400 square miles (600 sq km) and ranges from 1,650ft (500m) to about 6,500 (2,000m) deep.

"Maliau really does comprise a range of unique forest types, one of the truly last undisturbed forests," Mr Reynolds said. "It is certainly an excellent candidate for World Heritage status. There are almost certainly many new species to be discovered there."

Mining and timber conglomerates have long eyed the rich coal deposits and potential concessions in the basin. But changing world opinion, concerns over climate change and Malaysia's dwindling native habitat prompted a cabinet decision by the Sabah state government that cleared the path for the Maliau Basin to be given protected status by UNESCO.

Masidi Manjun, Sabah's Environment Minister, said the decision to nominate Maliau Basin proved his Government had no interest in disturbing an area that possessed a unique natural heritage not found anywhere else in the world. But he added that the ministry had not yet decided whether the surrounding Danum Valley would also be nominated for listing.

– Source Times-online

Taking the HoB message to the world

World renowned National Geographic photographer, Mattias Klum, and his partner company, Tierra Grande, have joined forces with WWF's HoB Initiative to promote the conservation and related challenges within the Heart of Borneo.

The first of a series of global events will occur in Singapore, where Mr Klum will present a powerful and inspiring photographic exhibition on biodiversity in Borneo's rainforests and the current threats to this fragile ecosystem.

Mr Klum has dedicated more than 20 years to exploring the unique flora and fauna of Borneo and his advocacy on behalf of biodiversity earned him a medal from his Majesty, the King of Sweden and designation as a 2008 Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.

HoB Initiative Communications Manager, Chris Greenwood, said Mr Klum's profile and long standing commitment to conservation issues in the HoB, made him and his colleagues at Tierra Grande important partners towards developing new communications strategies and raising awareness of the challenges facing the HoB. Particularly as these challenges will be the focus of a major new campaign for the HoB Initiative.

"In the coming months, we will be progressively launching the HoB Challenge with our Network partners and the wider community. Part of that approach involves a travelling Roadshow to take HoB conservation issues to the world. Having a photographer of Mattias Klum's calibre on board, is a wonderful base on which to build our public, government and industry engagement strategies, he said.

© Mattias Klum



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