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# Newsletter Heart of Borneo

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### **In next issue:**

Orang-utan  
Re-introduction Program

Heart of Borneo  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tri-lateral Meeting

Visit the Heart of  
Borneo on the web:

[www.panda.org/  
heart\\_of\\_borneo](http://www.panda.org/heart_of_borneo)

This newsletter contains the latest updates about the Heart of Borneo, a global initiative to establish conservation and sustainable development across more than 20 million hectares of transboundary forests on the world's third largest island.

## International Headlines

### **Working with indigenous people**

Ba' Kelalan, Sarawak,  
MALAYSIA  
April 2009

WWF-Malaysia is a step closer in engaging the local communities in Ba' Kelalan as partners in conservation and sustainable development in highlands Sarawak. The recent committee meeting on Alliance of the Indigenous People of the Highlands of Borneo (FORMADAT) got participants to travel on foot for hours through muddy grounds, but it was a chance for them to explain their need for forests to be sustained for water resources, historical sites and ecotourism development.

Also at the meeting, participants welcomed the Green and Fair Products program introduced by WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia and recommended a few of their local products to be developed.



### **HoB-Asian Development Bank Annual Board Meeting** Bali, INDONESIA May 2009

The Heart of Borneo was profiled during the ADB Annual Board Meeting at Bali, Indonesia on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2009. During the ADB-WWF roundtable panel titled, "Greening Asia's Footprint: From Crises to Sustainability", Mrs. Erna Witoelar (previous UN Ambassador and Indonesian Minister) focused on the regional importance of the Heart of Borneo in balancing social, economic and environmental priorities across political borders. Also the ADB's Ms. Ursula Schaefer-Preus (Vice President, Sustainable Development) highlighted how the HoB provides an example of the critical role environmental sustainability plays in economic development, landuse planning and regional cooperation.

## Country Headlines



*Shorea albida* peat swamp forest in Brunei, a critically endangered ecosystem

### Standard Chartered goes green

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

May 2009

Standard Chartered recently organized a media trip to the Kuala Belait peat swamp forests with hopes to raise awareness on the importance of peatlands and to get support for the implementation of rehabilitation activities in degraded peatlands. Led by Dr Jonathan Davies of the Rehabilitation of the Peatswamp forest project under the Heart of Borneo and Wetlands International Indonesia Nyoman Suryadiputra, the project aims to follow the successful model practiced in Central Kalimantan and develop similar strategies for Brunei.

Also in the trip were the High Commissioner of Britain to Brunei, HE John Saville, Ambassador of Indonesia HE Herijanto Soepto, Deputy High Commissioner of Malaysia Agus Yusof Salim, CEO of Standard Chartered Tiew Siew Chuen as well as representatives from government departments.

### A Scandinavian Affair

Central Kalimantan, INDONESIA

April 2009

A group of Finnish Media to spend eight days in the Muller area, specifically the districts of Murung Raya and Barito Utara. WWF-Indonesia facilitated this trip with the help of WWF-Finland by connecting the journalists with local communities there and highlighting the local issues on nature resources including oil palm and mining.



## From the Field

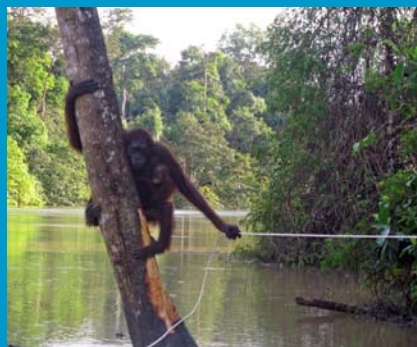
### Orang-utan saves baby

Lower Segama, Sabah, MALAYSIA

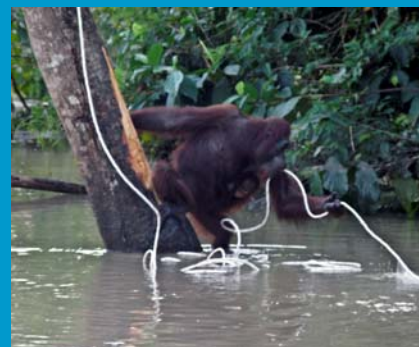
March 2009

WWF-Malaysia field staff in Lower Segama recorded this series of photographs illustrating the rescue of a wild orang-utan mother and her baby who had been hanging on to a laran tree for a week due to flood in the area. A unit from the Sabah Wildlife Department was rushed to the site and a rope bridge was immediately set up about four metres from the shore.

Previous documentation had stated orang-utans to be non-swimmers, supposedly due to their fear of water. However, this new discovery shows that orang-utans are actually able to swim in desperate situations, with the help of a tool.



Picture 1: The orang-utan mother used the rope bridge as soon as it was tossed to her direction.



Picture 2: She began her descent from the tree while still holding onto the rope. Her baby was seen to be tightly clinging onto her.



Picture 3: Water level is estimated to be one meter deep. Here, the adult orang-utan discovers that the water is deeper than waist-level.



Picture 4: The mother made sure heads were above water while she swam across. At the shore, they fed for 30 minutes before heading back into the forest.