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Newsletter Heart of Borneo

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**Standard Chartered Bank
commits US \$500,000**

**Business Case for Palm
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*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

Heart of Borneo Profiled at the UN General Assembly

New York City, USA

September 2008

At the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, HRH the Crown Prince of Brunei Haji Al-Muhtadee Billah reiterated the global need to jointly address the challenges of climate change. He noted the country's commitment to work with Indonesia and Malaysia on the Heart of Borneo as a testament to cooperative efforts to address global environmental challenges.

International Community-Based Ecotourism Conference

Manado, INDONESIA

October 2008

The Heart of Borneo was one of the initiatives highlighted at the BIMP-EAGA community-based ecotourism conference. The focus was on the socioeconomic and conservation benefits of community-based ecotourism. Together with the Coral Triangle, a number of tourism destinations were highlighted during the conference. Additionally, in cooperation with the Indonesian Ministry of Tourism and Culture, WWF signed a Memorandum of Understanding to formalize joint activities aimed at improving ecotourism opportunities within the Heart of Borneo.

Country Headlines

A Royal Visit to the Heart of Borneo

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

October 2008

HRH the Prince of Wales and HRH the Crown Prince of Brunei extended their support to the Heart of Borneo through a VIP visit to Badas Forest Reserve in Brunei's peatlands. Their Royal Highnesses each planted a tree at a restoration site where the Forest Department and the International School of Brunei's Million Trees Programme are working together in support of Heart of Borneo.

The two princes were briefed by the Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources and the Ministry of Development, as well as key corporate supporters and WWF on the Heart of Borneo Initiative. The Prince of Wales commented that the approach taken by Heart of Borneo is very consistent with that of his own Prince's Rainforests Project which seeks to help make rainforest conservation economically and socially sustainable.



Protected Areas Workshop
East Kalimantan, INDONESIA
October 2008

In accordance with the fifth collaborative program of Heart of Borneo, namely Capacity Building, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry and WWF conducted a Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Areas Management (RAPPAM) workshop in Samarinda.

The workshop was intended to increase the capacity of national parks' staff in Kalimantan. More than 50 participants from 8 national park offices, 4 local conservation offices and 4 local NGOs from four provinces in Kalimantan were involved.



Image of another rhino captured
Sabah, MALAYSIA
September 2008

A second rhino image was captured in the forests of Heart of Borneo by two clouded leopard researchers from the United Kingdom. In 2006, WWF-Malaysia reported the first image of a rhino in the wild using camera trap device.

WWF-Malaysia's Borneo Species Programme currently working in the Heart of Borneo is focusing on translocating 'doomed' rhinos to a location with a more viable rhino population. In August, the team came closest to the elusive rhino when one male individual was discovered in a plantation. Together with Sabah Wildlife Department the rhino was rescued and later moved to a safer area.

More protection for orang-utan habitat
Sabah, MALAYSIA
December 2008

Heart of Borneo Malaysia received the biggest funding to date from a Malaysian private sector to restore and protect orang-utan habitat in Northern Ulu Segama. Malaysia oil palm producing company, Sime Darby handed a sum of RM25million (about US \$7million) to Sabah Government through the Forestry Department to plant indigenous trees species on 5,400 hectares of degraded land for a 10-year period.

There are an estimated 11,000 orang-utans in Sabah and about 4500 are found in Ulu Segama Malua. In 2007 State Government announced the end of all logging activities in Ulu Segama to restore orang-utan habitat that has been degraded by years of bad logging practices, multiple forest fires and threats of encroachments.



Photo credit: New Straits Times Malaysia