



WWF

UPDATES

HoB

2017

# UPDATES ON HEART OF BORNEO PROGRAMME

# INTRODUCTION

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The Updates presented in this document aim to provide an overview of the progress of the ongoing conservation efforts undertaken by the WWF HoB Programme (also known as the Borneo Programme among the WWF network). It is the first updates for the year 2017 which covers series of programme activities over the last one and a half years. It provides some highlights of activities working with the governments, businesses, civil society, local communities and Indigenous Peoples, and the ongoing efforts to protect priority places and species within the HoB and beyond. The Updates also include some of the key accomplishments by the respective landscape teams in the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak and the Indonesian provinces of Kalimantan. It is to give an overall picture on how WWF's works by the HoB and the landscape teams have shaped the implementation of conservation and sustainable development by the governments and key players in Borneo.

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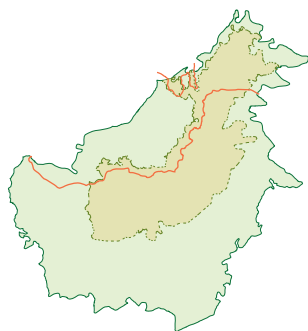
WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organisations, with more than five million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by: conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

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# PROGRAMME OVERVIEW



The Heart of Borneo Initiative is a transboundary collaboration of the three Governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia to conserve and sustainably manage the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources in the interior area of the island of Borneo, known as the Heart of Borneo (HoB). A joint declaration was signed by the three countries in 2007. Since the beginning, WWF has played a key role in supporting the Governments to implement the Initiative and developing new approaches, partnerships and model projects through four strategic pillars:



Promotion of policy frameworks that recognise, incentivise and report natural values;



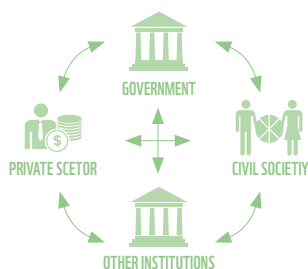
Transformation of corporate business behaviour to address impacts on natural resources;



Engagement and empowerment of civil society, local communities and Indigenous Peoples over natural resource management and well-being to secure a sustainable future;



Protection of priority species and habitats.



WWF's HoB Programme is a joint regional programme of WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia. This innovative collaboration is supported by WWF offices around the world. We work closely with our key partners - governments, private sector, civil society and other support institutions (donors, technical specialists, public and media) - to adopt, implement and build strong synergies around the four pillars of our work in Borneo.

In implementing its activities, the HoB Programme adopts WWF's global conservation goals, focusing on five key elements, namely: Forest, Wildlife, Water and Food as major goals, and Governance as a cross-cutting driver:

1. Forests - preserving natural capital by enlarging and restoring connectivity between protected areas and ensure the conservation of forest ecosystems, therefore, providing the foundation for sustainable development.
2. Wildlife - promoting effective conservation of key species like orangutans, elephants, clouded leopards, proboscis monkeys, Sumatran rhinoceros and Irrawaddy dolphins by protecting their habitats.
3. Water - protecting key watershed areas and securing the provision of water ecosystem services.
4. Food - managing sustainable, small-holders agriculture production for oil palm, rubber and other commodities, and sustaining traditional agriculture and agro-forestry systems to conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience to climate change, and secure fair benefits to rural communities.
5. Governance - engaging civil society and empowering Indigenous communities to secure their rights to continue to manage sustainably the natural resources of the island based on the social capital of the traditional knowledge and practices of the Indigenous Peoples.



# HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACTIVITIES

## CHANGING THE FUTURE THROUGH GOVERNMENT



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### Enhanced role of WWF in the Governments' Trilateral Process

Since the inception of the Trilateral Initiative in 2007, WWF has continued to support the HoB Member Countries in developing and proposing a number of conservation projects for the trilateral process. This includes facilitating the implementation of the Green Economy strategy, Ecotourism, and Biodiversity Conservation. In the last two HoB Trilateral Meetings, the HoB Member Countries have formally invited WWF to be directly involved in the process.

The 10th HoB Trilateral Meeting in Brunei Darussalam on 5- 6 September 2016 reaffirmed the strong role of WWF in assisting the HoB Governments implement the HoB Initiative. Specifically, this involves “supporting the HoB Member Countries to develop the details for the HoB CPI (Corridor Project Implementation) that includes mapping of the specific areas along the corridor as well as provide support on fund-raising.”<sup>1</sup>

The 10th HoB Trilateral Meeting also acknowledged the establishment of the Forum of Local Indigenous Communities of the HoB.

## CHANGING THE FUTURE THROUGH WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES



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### FORMADAT, a winner of the prestigious UNDP Equator Prize 2015

The Trilateral meeting also celebrated the award of the Equator Prize 2015 to FORMADAT, the Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo (Indonesia – Malaysia). The EP award was given to FORMADAT for outstanding local achievements in advancing sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities. Of all the Equator Prize 2015 winners, FORMADAT was the only one organization partnering and working together with two WWF offices.

WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia are partners of FORMADAT towards achieving sustainable development in the highlands of Heart of Borneo. The two national offices have worked and supported the alliance since the beginning of the transborder community initiative in the Heart of Borneo in 2003. The partnership was formalised in 2013 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between WWF-Indonesia, WWF-Malaysia and FORMADAT to forge a stronger and more formal partnership with community organizations in the HoB.



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FORMADAT has also engaged with regional and international networks like Slow Food as part of the efforts to protect local agrobiodiversity and contribute to local food security.

Working with indigenous communities in the empowerment of civil society, 60,000 ha of forest traditionally managed and conserved areas by Indigenous communities have been documented and mapped in four provinces in Kalimantan. A local government in North Kalimantan declared the Highlands in the Krayan as a traditionally and organic farmed area as well as decided March 9th as an Organic Agriculture Day in Krayan to be celebrated every year.

These achievements with the local communities in Kalimantan were fully supported by Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA).



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<sup>1</sup> Report of The 10th Heart Of Borneo (Hob) Trilateral Meeting, 5 – 7 September 2016, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam

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## PROMOTING HoB AT INTERNATIONAL FORA

### CoP 22 UNFCCC

At the invitation of the Government of Malaysia, WWF participated at CoP 22 UNFCCC in Marrakesh, Morocco from 12 -18 November. “WWF and the Heart of Borneo” was highlighted by the HoB Leader in presentation during the REDD+ Day hosted by Malaysia on 14 November 2016. The focus of the presentation was on the concept of HoB Green Investment Fund to support conservation in the WWF priority areas that are interconnected by the HoB Corridor. Several projects focusing on WWF global conservation goals were represented through posters displayed at the meeting venue which include Sustainable forest management of Kubaan-Puak Forest Management Unit in Sarawak; Wildlife conservation of orangutan; Watershed management; Ecotourism; Indigenous Peoples’ and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs); and Forest Restoration. Factsheets representing conservation and sustainable development projects implemented and proposed under the HoB Corridor Project were also circulated to the audience and presented to the Minister of the Natural Resources and the Environment, Malaysia.

### CBD CoP 13

Upon the request of the 10th Trilateral Meeting, WWF supported a Side Event “Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Inclusive Green Environment” at Convention for Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of Parties 13 (CoP 13) on 15 December 2016 in Cancun, Mexico. WWF HoB programme provided financial and logistical support for this side-event. With presentations from HoB countries and WWF, the event was successful in keeping international attention on the HoB Initiative. The HoB Initiative remains a strategic approach to the challenges of biodiversity loss and environmental pressures due to unsustainable development and climate change in one of the largest tropical forests in Southeast Asia. The transboundary collaboration of the three countries that share the island of Borneo is also an effective and innovative way to dealing with conservation and forging a path towards green and inclusive development in the Heart of Borneo. Development needs not be at the expense of the environment. A sound environment and biodiversity conservation are essential to human wellbeing and the future sustainability of the Heart of Borneo.



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The participation in the CBD CoP 13 conference was also an opportunity to profile the work done with Indigenous communities in the HoB. The Civil Society Thematic Lead/Deputy Director for Governance and Social Development from WWF-Indonesia participated to talk on Sustainable and Inclusive Tourism at the Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) Day at the Rio Conventions Pavilion. The main message delivered was on the importance of taking the economic/business aspect seriously and to promote private-community partnerships with strong community protocols and monitoring of impact. The day was also an occasion to celebrate several community initiatives of EP winners like FORMADAT.

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## PROTECTING PRIORITY PLACES AND SPECIES

### Connecting fragmented landscapes through Heart of Borneo (HoB) Corridor

WWF assisted the Member Countries in developing the HoB Corridor project. The project represents a concerted and collaborative action by the three Member Countries to address large scale deforestation and forest fragmentation across Borneo. The Member Countries recognise that under a business-as-usual scenario, with excessive logging and conversion of forest into other land uses, by 2020, Borneo could lose 75% of its forest. This deforestation would continue to occur despite the effort to establish protected areas to conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystem services.



**"WITH EXCESSIVE  
LOGGING AND CONVERSION  
OF FOREST INTO OTHER  
LAND USES, BY 2020,  
BORNEO COULD LOSE 75%  
OF ITS FOREST"**



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Spanning more than two thousand kilometres and five million hectares, the corridor is an attempt to secure and where necessary restore landscape connectivity in the Heart of Borneo by linking protected areas through sustainable and traditional land use, and forest management across the island. Strict measures of conservation to retain its ecological function as well as biodiversity conservation would be undertaken in areas designated for production forest and plantations. The project provides an overarching framework that coordinates different systems in the respective countries to be managed as a joint endeavour by connecting the dots and following the trails of nature throughout Borneo.

However, the HoB Corridor, as it is presently designed, is limited only to mountain ranges and sources of major river system. There is therefore the suggestion that other landscapes vital for conservation and ecosystem protection should also be connected to this corridor. Building on this framework of connectivity, WWF has proposed additional steps to further enhance the integrity of the corridor by using it to link the six priority areas into two large blocks of interconnected forest landscapes, therefore increasing the whole connectivity area to 10 million hectares.

### **Conserving biodiversity and endangered species through WWF Six Priority Landscapes**

Together with WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia, the WWF Heart of Borneo Programme has identified six priority areas across Borneo that contain, amongst others, the most important places for large-scale conservation of biodiversity and protection of ecosystem services. It is within these priority areas that the two WWF national offices will endeavour to collectively implement the five WWF global conservation goals mentioned above. These six priority areas are located both within the 22 million hectare Heart of Borneo as well as vital areas for conservation outside the HoB. In each of these priority areas, where forests remain intact and well connected, sustainable forest management is emphasised to retain healthy ecological conditions and to prevent deforestation. Conversely, where forests have been converted into other land uses and are therefore fragmented, WWF would collaborate with key government agencies, private sectors and local communities to identify specific locations that could undergo forest restoration. Focus would be on areas vital for wildlife corridors for the conservation of biodiversity and endangered species such as orangutans and elephants as well as areas important for ecosystem services such as watershed forests and peatlands.


The six priority areas are:

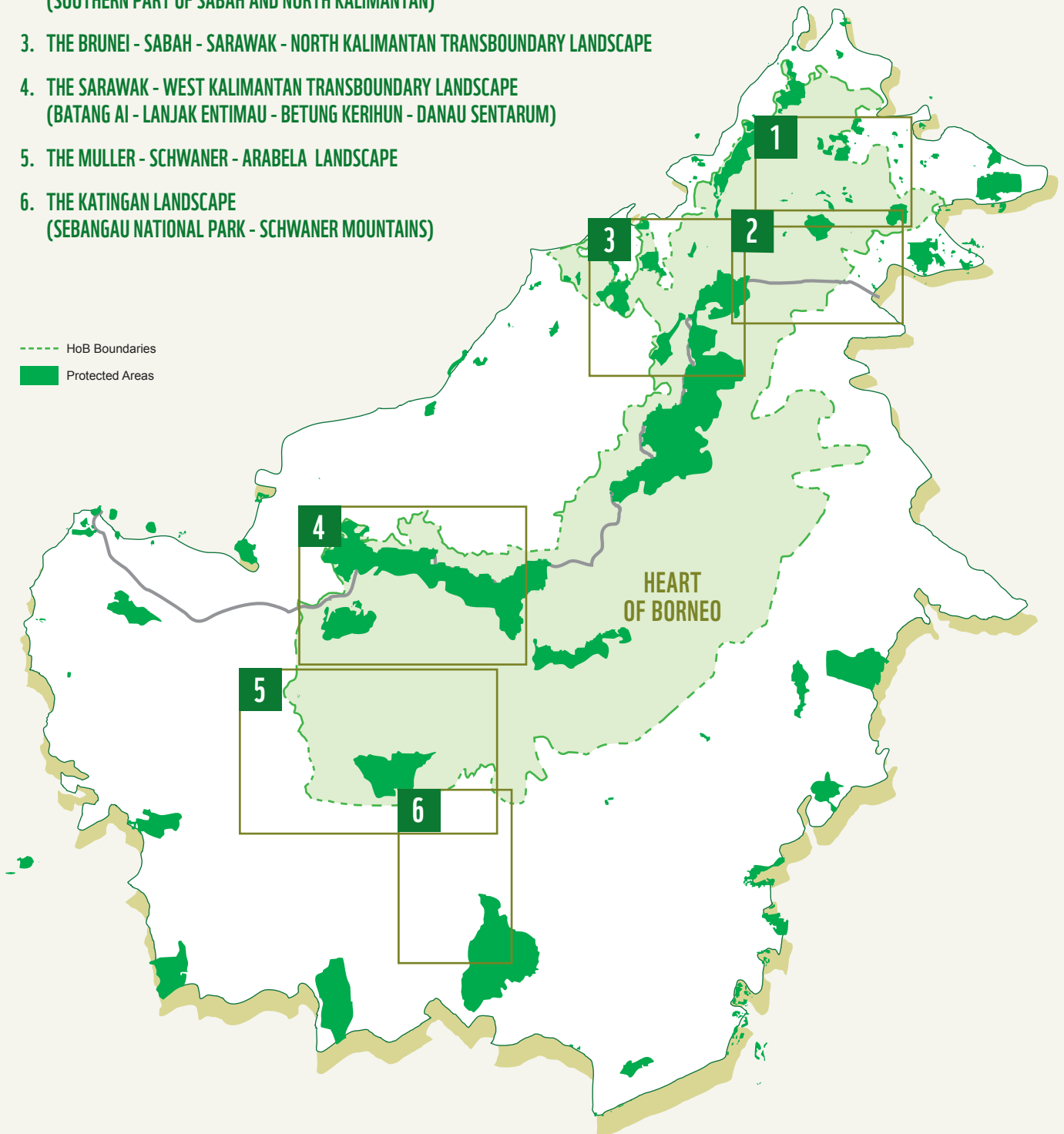
1. The Crocker Range - Central Forest Landscape
2. The Transboundary Elephant Landscape (southern part of Sabah-North Kalimantan)
3. The Brunei-Sabah-Sarawak-North Kalimantan Transboundary Landscape
4. The Sarawak-West Kalimantan Transboundary Landscape (the protected areas of Batang Ai-Lanjak Entimau-Betung Kerihun-Danau Sentarum)
5. The Muller-Schwaner-Arabela Landscape
6. The Katingan Landscape (Sebangau National Park-Schwaner Mountains)

Of the six priority areas, three are located within Malaysia and Indonesia. As shown in Map 1, they are: The Crocker Range - Central Forest Landscape (number 1) in Sabah; The Muller-Schwaner-Arabela Landscape (number 5); and The Katingan Landscape connecting Sebangau National Park to the Schwaner Mountains (number 6) in West and Central Kalimantan.

## MAP 1: THE SIX WWF PRIORITY LANDSCAPES WITH THE PROTECTED AREAS OF BORNEO

1. THE CROCKER RANGE - CENTRAL FOREST LANDSCAPE
2. THE TRANSBOUNDARY ELEPHANT LANDSCAPE  
(SOUTHERN PART OF SABAH AND NORTH KALIMANTAN)
3. THE BRUNEI - SABAH - SARAWAK - NORTH KALIMANTAN TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE
4. THE SARAWAK - WEST KALIMANTAN TRANSBOUNDARY LANDSCAPE  
(BATANG AI - LANJAK ENTIMAU - BETUNG KERIHUN - DANAU SENTARUM)
5. THE MULLER - SCHWANER - ARABELA LANDSCAPE
6. THE KATINGAN LANDSCAPE  
(SEBANGAU NATIONAL PARK - SCHWANER MOUNTAINS)

--- HoB Boundaries  
 Protected Areas





### **The Crocker Range - Central Forest Landscape**



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The Crocker Range or Kinabalu Park World Heritage property forms the eastern boundary of this priority landscape stretching eastward to the Central Forest Landscape (CFL) which comprises a complex of forest reserves. Dominated by Mt. Kinabalu rising to 4,095 m - the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia, this mountain range forms an important watershed of the Central Forest Landscape where logging remains active in isolated forest management units. Of particular interest is the Maliau-Imbak-Danum Conservation Areas which are entirely primary forests that are totally protected under the Forest Enactment. Palm oil plantations are taking over remnant natural forests outside the conservation area. Access provided by logging roads enabled local communities to settle adjacent to most forest reserves, which also results in occasional conflicts between local communities and forest licensees over water, land and customary rights issues.

The problem of human-wildlife conflicts becomes more serious over the eastern part of the Central Forest Landscape that is favoured by the Bornean orangutans and elephants who like to roam the lightly disturbed lowland forests for fresh food and shelter. These lowland forests, however, are also preferred by companies to develop large commercial mono-culture tree (e.g. acacia and rubber) or oil palm plantations. Overtime, the intensity of human-wildlife conflict is expected to escalate unless concerted efforts are taken to harmonize land uses in the Central Forest Landscape. A viable strategy to overcome human-wildlife conflict is to leverage on flagship species of orangutan and Borneo elephant to anchor areas vital for sanctuaries and wildlife corridors.

### **The Muller - Schwaner - Arabela Landscape**

The key natural attribute of this vast landscape is the Muller Mountains that is connected to Schwaner Central Mountains. The two mountain ranges form the backbone for an elongated area that serves as provincial boundaries of West and Central Kalimantan. On top of the Schwaner is the Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya National Park. Towards the west of the national park; the elevation of the Schwaner Central Mountain decreases, with WWF-Indonesia adopting a name of geo-strategic significance that combines all headwaters in the area as the Arabela-Schwaner landscape (with the name Arabela deriving from the abbreviation of the two small rivers called Arut



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and the Belantikan). Most of this landscape complex has been designated for logging and timber plantations. On species, orangutans are widely distributed over the lower elevations of the Schwaner and around Arabela. With many rivers flowing through different elevations and ecosystems, there is a high diversity of herpetofauna and numerous local communities and indigenous peoples living along the lower reaches of the major rivers. Depending on the locality, degree of population intensity and types of traditional economic systems, the wide variation of land uses spanning the vast landscape requires specific intervention measures to empower the local people to become stewards of the environment.



**The Katingan  
Landscape (connecting  
Sebangau National  
Park to the Schwaner  
Mountains)**



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This priority landscape is critical to maintain the connectivity required for movements of orangutans and dispersal of endangered wildlife between Sebangau National Park at the lower reaches of the Katingan River and its headwaters at the Schwaner Mountains. Under severe pressure from the conversion of natural vegetation, connectivity will be lost within a few years resulting in fragmentation of the landscape. Located far outside the Heart of Borneo area, WWF-Indonesia would work towards creation of wildlife corridors to enable orangutan at the Sebangau National Park to migrate northwards to the higher and cooler elevations. At the 2 degree Celsius temperature rise scenario of Climate Change, Sebangau National Park would no longer be viable for orangutan survival.

The other three priority areas are located along international borders and form a main part of the HoB Corridor Project Implementation of the HoB member countries. They are: The Transboundary Elephant Landscape between southern part of Sabah and North Kalimantan (number 2); the Brunei-Sabah-Sarawak-North Kalimantan Transboundary Landscape (number 3); and The Sarawak-West Kalimantan Transboundary Landscape (number 4).

**The Transboundary  
Elephant Landscape  
(southern part of  
Sabah-North  
Kalimantan)**

Today, the Borneo Pygmy Elephants (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) are currently under threat of population decline. The primary threats to these Borneo elephants are mainly due to the loss of continuous habitats and human-elephant conflict. This transboundary elephant landscape spanning southern part of Sabah and North Kalimantan is therefore proposed and is given a high priority status for conservation as the elephant habitats have been fragmented by various kinds of land use.

This project seeks to secure the future of this species by putting in place a comprehensive elephant conservation plan in the form of transboundary wildlife corridors that connect fragmented habitats and larger foraging areas. This also forms part of our climate-adaptive management strategy to secure fresh water and food sources. With the corridors linking vital areas to ease movements and proper placement of electric fences to prevent human-elephant conflict, the project would lead towards achieving sustainable production of the commodities in the wider landscape.



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The overall project objective is to conserve the Borneo elephant species by improving elephant protection and management with key government agencies and private sectors operating in the area.

Our recommendation to the State Governments of Sabah and North Kalimantan is to submit a joint proposal to the HoB Trilateral process for implementation under the framework of the HoB Corridor. In conjunction with the International Conference on the Heart of Borneo in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia, 8-9 November 2016, WWF-Malaysia, Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Wildlife Department have signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on 8 November 2016 to develop this transboundary project. Earlier, in North Kalimantan, the Ministry of Forestry and Environment has set up a Wildlife Taskforce, with WWF-Indonesia, as a key member to address human-elephant conflicts in the areas close to the Sabah border.

#### **The Brunei - Sabah - Sarawak - North Kalimantan Transboundary Landscape**

This Transboundary Landscape would form a truly HoB Trilateral Project as it provides connectivity from Brunei to Indonesia through the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. A common attribute in this priority area is a series of mountain complexes that form the source of rivers flowing northwards into the Brunei Bay and southward towards the Celebes Sea. A second common attribute is the presence of eight National Parks in all three countries. This includes the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Kinabalu Park in Sabah and Gunung Mulu National Park in Sarawak, as well as the biggest national park in Borneo, the 1.3 million ha Kayan Mentarang in North Kalimantan.

Our conservation intervention seeks to identify remaining intact forests along a network of eight protected areas and manage them with stringent conservation measures that allow creation of wildlife corridors for an unimpeded movement of animals. Outside the network of protected areas and wildlife corridors, the approach is to





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promote sustainable forest management among neighbouring forest concessions and collaborate with local communities to ensure ecosystem and habitat integrity of the connected forest landscape.

In this priority area that involves multiple stakeholders and land uses, we have implemented several activities concurrently. Whilst in the midst of developing the project brief for the overall landscape, we have already started engagement with the forest concessions, with a majority of them agreeing to contribute to this corridor project. We have also implemented a pilot project with financial support from the German Federal Ministry of Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry. This project involves only one small Forest Management Unit in Sarawak that has a size of 32,000 hectare. The goal is to support Kubaan Puak FMU attain a successful compliance of forest management certification through gaining Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the local Penan community.

On 6 December 2016, an inaugural meeting among the forest concessions in north eastern Sarawak with the Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation had been undertaken to discuss the corridor concept for consideration. A follow-up field visit in early January 2017 shows the potential and willingness of one company to incorporate landscape connectivity between Brunei, Sabah and North Kalimantan into its forest management plan.

### **The Sarawak - West Kalimantan Transboundary Landscape**

A two-million hectare site, spanning from northern West Kalimantan to the southwest of Sarawak, has been identified for this HoB Transboundary Corridor project funded under the International Climate Initiative, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

Through cooperation between WWF-Indonesia, WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Germany, this corridor project aims at developing a green economy management concept that promotes environmentally-friendly resource use and production within the trans-boundary HoB Corridor for West Kalimantan and Sarawak. It is expected to generate economic, social and environmental benefits to mankind and nature.



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The Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo project contributes to all the five pillars under the HoB Strategic Plan of Action - transboundary management, protected area management, sustainable resource management, ecotourism and capacity building. Thus, it will demonstrate how sustainable economic development can be integrated with conservation.

This transboundary project was launched on 19 April 2016 in Putussibau, Kapuas Hulu District, West Kalimantan. The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) hosted the HoB International Climate Initiative (IKI) Green Economy in Kuching on 18 November 2016 to discuss on joint deliverables for transboundary work and activities for 2017. The Meeting was attended by representatives from WWF-Malaysia, WWF-Indonesia, WWF-Germany and stakeholders from Sarawak's administrative divisions of Kapit and Sri Aman.

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## THE WAY FORWARD

Our message to partners and stakeholders is that the overarching goal for each priority area is to enlarge and restore connectivity between protected area networks and larger landscape forest ecosystems. We promote setting aside wildlife habitats that are interconnected by wildlife corridors to ensure conservation of biodiversity. We advocate ecological corridors linking different ecosystems and spanning administrative districts to secure the provisioning of ecosystem services. Through policy intervention to preserve natural capital; transformation of business behaviour for sustainable production of commodities; and empowering civil society to manage sustainably the environment, we are working with policy makers and advocating the private sector to implement conservation activities in these priority landscapes.

In the context of the HoB Corridor project, WWF plays a dual strategic role: as we support the HoB Trilateral process in convening cross-border intergovernmental agencies to develop the transboundary corridor, we also work with national-level agencies and organizations within each respective country to support and implement conservation projects in all six WWF priority landscapes.

In support of the governments' planning process, WWF and partners would need to undertake field studies such as wildlife assessments, social baseline studies, and spatial planning to determine and advocate the acceptance of specific intervention measures. We envision specific plans are needed for each of the six priority landscapes. Further, detailed plans outlining precise activities are needed at the administrative district or region for implementation by partner institutions. Based on this, for each of the priority landscapes, three of which transcend international boundaries, dedicated funding is needed to develop comprehensive and sustainable development plans.

The HoB team is currently exploring a possible financial scheme of the HoB Green Investment Fund with partners that could support work in the HoB particularly for the implementation of a comprehensive conservation and sustainable development plan as well as the development of the HoB Corridor Project. Conceptual thoughts have been shared in the HoB International Conference in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia and the UNFCCC CoP 22 in Marrakesh, Morocco.

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## ACHIEVEMENTS BY THE LANDSCAPE TEAMS

While the HoB programme addresses Borneo-wide and transboundary matters, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia implemented various conservation projects on the ground. The following are some of the key accomplishments achieved by the respective landscape teams in the Sabah and Sarawak Conservation Programmes, the joint programme of West and Central Kalimantan, West Kalimantan and East and North Kalimantan:

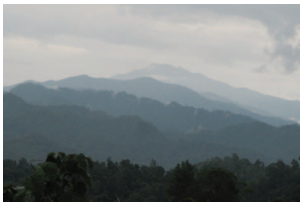


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### Sabah Terrestrial Conservation Programme

- In the endeavour to prevent deforestation in Sabah, WWF-Malaysia through the Technical Working Group of the UNDP project area (Gunung Rara and Kalabakan FRs) supported the reclassification of a 13,810 ha buffer for Maliau Basin Conservation Area from Class II (production) to Class I (protection) Forest Reserve. The improved protection status of the buffer zone means that the core conservation area is further enhanced against threats such as poaching, encroachment and fires.

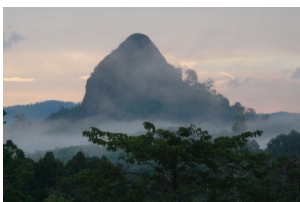
- Against poaching, WWF-Malaysia supported the establishment of an anti-poaching task force comprising government enforcement agencies: Sabah Forestry Department (SFD), Sabah Wildlife Department, Yayasan Sabah and the Police Department (PDRM).
- In addressing human–elephant conflict (HEC), WWF-Malaysia also supported the establishment of the HEC working group in Sabah that provided a platform for plantation companies involved in conflict to come together and jointly develop HEC mitigation options for the landscape. These include re-alignment of electric fences, and setting aside parts of the land to enable movement of elephants.



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### Sarawak Conservation Programme

- The signing of MoU between WWF-Malaysia and Forest Department Sarawak on 11 November 2015 has cemented WWF-Malaysia's collaboration and roles in driving conservation related agenda in Sarawak.
- One Forest Management Unit (FMU) has committed to 11,600 ha to be set aside as orangutan habitat and conservation area, where no logging activities will be carried out. In another FMU called the Kubaan-Puak, commitment has been gained for HCV management and monitoring in important wildlife connectivity area. WWF-Malaysia is now developing the HCV management plan with support from the FMU concessionaire and the local Penan community.
- On protected areas, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) has added 10,000 ha peat swamp forest protected through Maludam National Park extension. WWF-Malaysia in Sarawak also provided institutional support for development and implementation of integrated watershed management plan to various government agencies.
- In support of responsible ecotourism programme in the highlands, a compilation of folklores "Highland Tales in the Heart of Borneo" by FORMADAT and WWF-Malaysia was published in collaboration with Forest Department Sarawak and Ministry of Tourism Sarawak to be used as a reference by eco-tour guides and for ecotourism development in the highlands.



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### West and Central Kalimantan Programme

WWF's integrated conservation work in West and Central Kalimantan focuses on a contiguous landscape spanning Muller and Schwaner Mountains that form the natural divide for the two provinces. The goal of this integrated work is to deliver landscape level sustainable development and on-site conservation in a pristine tropical forest that is inhabited by countless biodiversity such as orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*), Kalimantan hornbill (*Buceros sp*), Malayan sun bear (*Helarctos malayanus*), and Muller's gibbon (*Hylobates muelleri*). The scope of conservation covers 10 (ten) districts and a forest block called the Gunung Lumut conservation area (comprising 28,548 ha).

### West Kalimantan Programme

- The West Kalimantan programme features work on the upper Kapuas region covering two districts – Sintang and Hulu Kapuas, as well as work in other areas.





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VICTOR FIDELIS SANTOSA

WWF identified 6 Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCAs) - protected by village regulations - and conducted capacity building for local organization to enhance various aspects of managements. The community forum were also established to promote cooperation among the local people in documenting their social-culture and customary law.

- The Government of Kapuas Hulu in collaboration with the HoB National Working Group and Ministry of Environment & Forestry conducted national and district level seminars on District Strategic Area for the Labian-Leboyan Corridor which also features orangutan conservation work. The outcome was an agreement of three main programs: to prepare the institution and the management mechanism of the corridor; data collecting and analysis; and arrangement of prioritisation.
- WWF supported the development of a number of forums including the Sustainable palm oil forum among various cooperatives to share experiences and lessons learnt and to formulate solutions that address their common problems. At the community level, community cooperatives were also set up to increase members' welfare through sustainable palm oil development and adoption of eco-friendly activities such as avoiding conversion of forest into palm oil plantations and maintaining community forests as HCVs.
- WWF supported the Eyes on the Forest (EoF) which investigates forest and land fires occurring inside concessions. The evidence was used to pressure the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) to take legal action against corporation involved in the fires. MoEF had issued a list of 23 companies that are allegedly responsible for the burnings in 2015. Consequently, their licenses were suspended, revoked or forced to take action. Arising from this advocacy work, the MoEF also released a Letter on Prohibition of Peatland clearing and the Minister's decree "to stop land clearing in peatlands for forestry and plantation business, even in already licensed areas" and "stop operating and plant trees in burnt areas because its prohibited."
- WWF facilitated ecotourism as a vehicle to protect environmental services in three areas in the HoB. The activities conducted served to encourage the district government and stakeholders to develop tourism in accordance to sustainable principles. The outcome was the adoption of an Ecotourism Development Roadmap for the Kapuas Hulu District that also features the Betung Kerihun National Park (BKNP) and Danau Sentarum National Park (DSNP). In addition, WWF worked with a partner to develop wild honey as a FSC certified product.



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### East and North Kalimantan Programme

- WWF's work in East & North Kalimantan covers specifically the Kayan Mentarang Landscape, promotion of Green Economy Development in the Upper Mahakam Landscape, and the protection of Borneo Pygmy Elephants as well as the newly re-discovered Sumatran Rhino.
- WWF's main role was to mainstream conservation with government agencies, partners and stakeholders. This included drafting the Presidential Decree on National Strategic Area of the HoB (KSN HoB), a process led by the East Kalimantan

Regional Planning Authority that involved overlaying the KSN HoB into provincial spatial planning as well as incorporating data related to High Conservation Values (HCV) on key species habitat/areas, watershed and peatland areas.

- For the conservation and connectivity of key habitat for Borneo Pygmy Elephant outside the protected area system, WWF worked with various government agencies and palm oil concessions in the North Kalimantan province to adopt and implement the Elephant Conservation plan. This included the drafting of a Decree of Human-Elephant Conflict Coordination Team for submission to the Governor of North Kalimantan. As for the protection of Sumatra Rhino habitats, ground work focused on survey and monitoring as well as patrolling to search for and remove a variety of traps that could ensnare the rhinoceros. Information gathered would be used to better manage the rhino habitats.
- Capacity building on GIS application focusing on conservation was undertaken for government agencies. WWF- Indonesia supported the public consultation of the Kayan-Mentarang National Park zoning system in the two districts of Malinau and Nunukan to strengthen park management and zonation through collaborative management. On the ground, WWF collaborated with other NGOs and supported various community engagement works to promote environmental stewardship based on conservation and sustainable land uses.

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## KEY PUBLICATION

The Environmental Status of Borneo Report is an ongoing work of report previously published in 2012 and 2014 with original funding from WWF-Germany. This report was based on a set of conservation targets put together by groups of experts. Most were indicators of biological states, primarily forest cover of different forest types. These reports have been the best measures of progress in the Heart of Borneo and have highlighted many of the remaining issues. The 2016 edition covers the whole of Borneo and involved the development of improved methodology of MODIS satellite image classification for mapping of forest cover as well as setting up a new protocol that included expansion of indicators following global network standards and development of tools for impact monitoring. The Report is expected to be launched in 2017.

# HIGHLIGHTS OF EVENTS IN 2016

- 15-19 February** ● WWF represented Brunei Darussalam in the presentation of the HoB Corridor to the ASEAN Conference on Biodiversity 2016: Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in Bangkok.
- 9-10 March** ● The annual consultation between WWF and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in Manila highlighted the HoB as an important regional collaboration for support.
- 17-18 March** ● WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia held a HoB Workshop on Priority Landscape Planning in Kota Kinabalu. The meeting identified and selected six priority landscapes after a thorough discussion on major issues and suggested intervention in each of these priority landscapes.
- 14 May** ● The HoB Leader presented “Connecting Our Fragmented World: the Heart of Borneo Corridor” at the Youth Speak Forum in Miri. The objective of the forum was to inspire and educate youth in Miri to take action to be empowered to make a social change.
- 2-3 August** ● The first HoB Green Ecotourism held in Tanjung Selor, North Kalimantan, Indonesia focused on building a common understanding among the three countries and representatives of the three main actors (private sector, government, and communities and Indigenous Peoples) on the terms of reference and framework for policy and action to support the declaration of Visit HoB Year, and reinforce the common commitment to building transboundary destinations in HoB.
- 26 – 28 August** ● The HoB Leader presented “The Role of Heart of Borneo in Tackling Climate Change: Opportunities and Challenge” at Heart of Borneo Youth Seminar: Empowering Youth Leaders for Sustainable Development in Brunei Darussalam.
- 5-6 September** ● The Chairman of WWF HoB Programme presented on “The Role of WWF in Supporting the HoB Governments to Promote Conservation and Sustainable Development in the Heart of Borneo” at the 10th Trilateral Meeting in Brunei Darussalam. The HoB Leader presented the HoB Corridor Project Implementation on behalf of Brunei Darussalam. The Meeting “emphasized the role of WWF ... on supporting the HoB Member Countries to develop the details for the HoB CPI that includes mapping of the specific areas along the corridor as well as provide support on fundraising.”




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During this two-day trilateral meeting, WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia held a joint exhibition together for the first time to showcase some of the organization's work with local communities in support of the governments' efforts in promoting the HoB Initiative. Themed on 'Colours of HoB Communities', the exhibition comprises three parts of photo and poster exhibitions, and display of local communities' products. The communication team from Sabah, Sarawak,

- Jakarta and Kalimantan jointly set up 40 photos representing 5 key elements of WWF Global Conservation Goals (Forest, Wildlife, Water, Market and Governance), 10 Posters on WWF Conservation Programme in Borneo and factsheets and flyers about the exhibition, ongoing projects and community products.
- 5-7 October** ● WWF-Japan held a symposium on timber procurement policy and actions with Japanese buyers and meetings with companies in Japan as a means to influence the market to support certified timber. The symposium was attended by about 80 Japanese buyers comprising major timber purchasing companies and NGOs representatives. During the symposium, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia sent out a clear message to ask the market to help drive certification in Sarawak. After the symposium, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia had follow-up meetings with the top management of timber purchasing companies i.e. Itochu, Japan Kenzai and Sojitz to discuss further on the need to buy certified timber, particularly Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).
- 19-23 October** ●  The HoB team participated at Indonesia Cultural Week in Jakarta exhibiting and promoting “Green and Fair products” from the HoB areas. WWF used this opportunity to inform the visitors about our activities and programmes, including the Heart of Borneo Initiative as well as green and fair products by local communities in the HoB. Some of products that were displayed include wild honey from Kapuas Hulu District, Adan Rice and Mountain Salt from Krayan Highlands, and handicrafts from Ukit-Ukit Village, Kapuas Hulu District.
- 8-9 November** ● WWF HoB Chairman and HoB Leader presented in a HoB panel on the HoB Corridor project and a schematic proposal for the HoB Green Investment Fund at the HoB International Conference in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. A factsheet proposal on The Transboundary Elephant Landscape Connecting Sabah and North Kalimantan as part of the HoB Corridor Project Implementation was circulated at the Conference. WWF-Malaysia, Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Wildlife Department signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) on the first day of the Conference (8/11/16) to collaborate on this project.
- 14 November** ● WWF participated at CoP 22 UNFCCC in Marrakesh, Morocco from 12 -18 November. The HoB Leader presented on “WWF and the Heart of Borneo” at the REDD+ Day hosted by Malaysia on 14 November 2016. The focus of the presentation was on the concept of HoB Green Investment Fund to support conservation in the WWF priority areas that are interconnected by the HoB Corridor.
- 18 November** ● An IKI Regional Team Meeting with Forest Department Sarawak, WWF-Germany, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia was held in Kuching to discuss on joint deliverables for transboundary work and activities for 2017. A side trip was also organised to Menyang Tais, one of the longhouses inside the project area to see the orangutan landscape.
- 6 December** ● A HoB Corridor Meeting among stakeholders was held in Kuching, facilitated by WWF-Malaysia and chaired by Forest Department Sarawak. This stakeholder meeting was participated by Sarawak Forestry Corporation, the Ministry of Resource



- Planning and the Environment, and three companies controlling forest concessions in this landscape. This inaugural meeting among these players will set the direction over 2017 to develop the details for the Sarawak component of the transboundary connected landscape connecting to Brunei, Sabah and North Kalimantan. The overarching goal is to establish a stakeholder management mechanism that develops the prerequisites for project implementation and fund raising under the auspices of the HoB corridor
- 7-8 December** ● WWF-Malaysia participated in the inaugural Sarawak Heart of Borneo Seminar 2016 organised by the Forest Department Sarawak in Kuching.
- 9 December** ● Heart of Borneo Seminar on Scientific Expedition to Upper Baleh, Kapit was organised in collaboration with the Forest Department Sarawak and other partners.
- 14-16 December** ●  Two back-to-back meetings on Conservation Spatial Planning and Orangutan among WWF-Malaysia, WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Netherlands were held in Kuching. The first meeting shared policy and legal frameworks, processes and challenges pertaining to conservation spatial planning. The second meeting discusses proposals on Strategic Action Plan for orangutan as well as addressing orangutan as an IUCN Critically Endangered Species. The overall goal for these two meetings was to consider common conservation approaches that could be implemented by both national offices in their respective landscapes.
- 15 December** ● WWF HoB supported a Side Event “Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services for Inclusive Green Environment” at Convention for Biodiversity (CBD) Conference of Parties 13 in Cancun, Mexico. The presenters were Dr. Prabianto Mukti Wibowo, Assistant Deputy Minister for Forestry, Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs, Republic of Indonesia; Mr. Frederick Kugan, Deputy Director of Forest Sector Planning, Sabah Forestry Department, Malaysia; and Mr. Adrian Dellecker, Global Policy and Advocacy, WWF.
- 5-11 January 2017** ● Field visit undertaken in north east of Sarawak showed the opportunity for landscape connectivity linking Brunei to Sabah and North Kalimantan through forest concessions in Sarawak.

PAPER FROM  
RESPONSIBLE  
SOURCES

# BORNEO FOREST FACTS

## FORESTS LOSS

About half of Borneo's natural forests have been lost and losses continue at a rapid pace.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> LARGEST

Borneo is the third largest island on the planet.



## 850,000

Between 1985 and 2005 Borneo lost an average of 850,000 hectares of forest every year. If this trend continues, forest cover will drop to less than a third by 2020.

## 75.5 MILLION

East Kalimantan alone is believed to lose over €75.5 million a year in business tax revenue due to illegal logging and illegal timber processing.



### Why we are here

To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

[wwf.panda.org/borneo](http://wwf.panda.org/borneo)