



Heart of Borneo

Al Gore and WWF unite for Forest and Climate conservation

More than 600 Indonesian government and business leaders joined former US Vice President and Nobel Laureate, Al Gore and WWF-Indonesia's CEO, Dr Efransjah, at a gala dinner in early January in Jakarta.

The event celebrated the United Nation's International Year of the Forest and provided the opportunity to discuss the role business will play in finding forest solutions to the future challenges to come as a result of climate change.

HoB used the event to launch a new initiative called the *Green Business Network* (GBN). The GBN aims to get business engaged in delivering the Heart of Borneo Declaration made by the governments of Indonesia, Brunei

"A green economy may not be the easy choice today, but history will show that it is the right choice." - Al Gore

Darussalam and Malaysia in 2007, seeking to conserve and sustainably manage the 22 million hectares of trans-boundary forests that stretch across the island of Borneo.

WWF-Indonesia's CEO, Dr Efransjah said, "We know the commitments under the Heart of Borneo Declaration cannot be achieved without the support of the private sector. Tonight, we highlight solutions for involving business in green growth and offer them a range of tools to help them to do that."

Influential voice

As one of the world's most influential voices on the environment and climate change, Mr Gore delivered an exclusive keynote address, sharing his vision for the role of forests in a sustainable future.

"The beginning of the U.N. International Year of the Forests is the perfect time to instigate the impressive collaboration that this dinner and the forthcoming B4E gathering between the business community, government leaders and NGOs, represents," he said.

He went on to outline the huge advantage for Indonesia to become the regional leader in the pursuit of a green economy which is developed in partnership with business. "A green economy may not be the easy choice today, but history will show it is the right choice, morally, economically and environmentally," he said.



(c) WWF-Indonesia/Sapuli SIAGIAN

Al Gore addresses the crowd of 600 leaders from Indonesian business and Government.

Find our previous newsletters online at:

http://wwf.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/borneo_forests/publications

Business as (un) usual



From
Adam Tomasek,
Leader, Heart of
Borneo Initiative

In the last Newsletter, I foreshadowed "the beginnings of more successes to come in 2011" and we started the New Year with a really big bang!

On January 9th, WWF joined forces with Nobel Laureate and former U.S. Vice President Al Gore and more than 600 government and business leaders to celebrate the United Nations International Year of the Forests and discuss the role of business in finding forest solutions to the challenge of climate change. WWF-Indonesia's CEO, Dr Efransjah also took the opportunity to launch the *Business Solutions: Delivering on the HoB Declaration* report on behalf of the HoB.

The first of its kind, this report collaborated with 84 businesses in the Heart of Borneo to evaluate the current practices and potential for achieving sustainability within the forestry, palm oil

and mining sectors. WWF is keenly aware that the commitments under the Heart of Borneo Declaration cannot be achieved without the support of the private sector. WWF also launched the Green Business Network, a business-to-business platform to support transformation across key sectors.

Engaging with business and industry is not always an easy task, yet for WWF's goals of the HoB to be achieved, it cannot be avoided. The forestry, palm oil and mining sectors have been and will continue to be, the engines of economic growth in the region. Our challenge is to find ways to work with these sectors to catalyze "business as (un)usual", whereby more sustainable and equitable development pathways become the norm.

We have been collaborating with Indonesia's National Climate Council, Provincial governments and consulting firm, McKinsey to better understand opportunities and constraints as well as prioritize potential solutions to achieving green growth in East and Central Kalimantan areas of the HoB. We have also just wrapped up a scoping study with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, moving

towards the development of a green economy roadmap for the whole HoB. In both cases, it is clear that business and industry have a major role to play in a future green economy.

Earlier this month WWF International's Director General Jim Leape spoke to business media in Singapore about the importance of working with business and industry. "We need to move now to recognize the fundamental importance of the natural capital upon which the entire economy depends, and ensure that conservation of that capital is brought into the heart of public and corporate decision-making." He continued, "The way of the future is now being shown by the countries and companies that are now moving strongly to invest in renewable energy sources and better stewardship of forests, fisheries, and other resources."

These words ring very true for the Heart of Borneo Initiative. The work we are doing with governments, business and communities to create a green economy for the Heart of Borneo is fundamental to the long-term viability of biodiversity, ecosystems and livelihoods. This change will not be realized unless we are successful in working together with the private sector. We are hopeful that our efforts in the Heart of Borneo will provide practical examples of how "business as (un)usual" can create a green economy.

Brunei's unique landscape to benefit from establishment of Wildlife Departments

The HoB is encouraging the government of Brunei Darussalam to move forward with plans to establish a Wildlife Department in the Bornean Nation.

During an address to the Brunei Nature Society at Universiti Brunei Darussalam, HoB Special Advisor to Brunei, Dato Dr Mikaa'il Kavanagh (pictured), urged the government to formalize its plans for a department dedicated to the maintenance of wildlife in the dense forests of Brunei, saying this could help effectively address wildlife conservation issues. "Every country should have the capacity to manage its own natural resources," he said.

In the long term, it is hoped that a Wildlife Department could help nurture local Bruneian expertise in the environmental sector, making Brunei less reliant on foreign experts. "It has always been our purpose to have a department looking after our wildlife," said the Minister of Industry and Primary Resources, Pehin Yayha Bakar. "Considering the complexity... of the Heart of Borneo project, which involves flora and

fauna...it should be given closer monitoring and protection by relevant bodies," he said.

It is hoped the budget to establish a Wildlife Department such as this may be proposed next year. "Such priorities will mainstream the HoB both economically and socially," said Kavanagh. "If resourced adequately, this could be a major contributor to the national effort to diversify the economy in the long term," he added.

Brunei continues to play an instrumental role in the ongoing progress of the Heart of Borneo Initiative, allocating more than half of the country's land area to the HoB and rapidly establishing its National HoB Council to guide the implementation of a holistic, multi-sectored program.



Dato Dr Mikaa'il Kavanagh

The Brunei Times

First ever photograph of the rare and endangered Melanistic Bornean Clouded Leopard

By: J.K. Charles, Ang Bee Biaw, Samhan Nyawa, Simmons Benalai, Dato Dr Mikaaail Kavanagh

Photos have emerged from Brunei in the HoB, proving the existence of a rare, black form of the endangered Bornean Clouded Leopard. Scientists made the discovery through the use of an array of camera traps, which yielded the first photographic evidence that there is a melanistic (i.e. with predominantly black pigment) form of the Clouded Leopard living on Borneo.

The camera traps were placed in strategic locations around the Sungei Protected Forest as part of the Sungei Ingei Faunal Survey Expedition which has the aim of documenting the wildlife for science and to provide a basis for conservation management. As a project of Universiti

Brunei Darussalam, the Expedition will directly contribute to Brunei's national efforts to conserve the precious landscape in the Heart of Borneo.

Until now, only a few unconfirmed sightings have suggested that a melanistic form occurs in the population. The photograph, taken in the survey area in July 2010, though indistinct, definitely shows the animal approaching the camera, uphill at a distance. The Leopard, as can be seen in the enlarged picture (below), is very dark with patterned markings, which is a contrast to all other pictures of Clouded Leopards which show the usual colour forms.



The usual colour pattern of the Clouded Leopard

The Clouded Leopard is endangered throughout Borneo and under the Brunei Wildlife Protection Act (1984) it is a protected species. While it is not one of the big cats, it is the largest predator on Borneo, having dagger-like canine teeth that are the largest of any cat in relation to body size.

While Brunei is small compared with the overall size of Borneo, it is known to include some of the island's best preserved primary forest. It is vital that findings such as this photographic evidence of the Black Clouded Leopard are used to support the case for ongoing conservation in this, one of the most biologically rich areas in the world.



The new photo of the Melanistic clouded leopard

The Sungei Protected Forest is known for its extraordinarily diverse tree species. While the data are not yet complete or fully analysed, records emerging from the Faunal Survey are showing that this is reflected in a rich diversity of wild animals. This most recent discovery is part of a growing body of evidence that shows the significant conservation value of this area in the HoB.

The Borneo Initiative at top speed as four new forest concessions sign up to reach FSC certification in 2011

January 18th, 2011 saw a third group of four forest concessionaires sign support agreements with The Borneo Initiative (TBI) covering a total amount of 897,150 ha within the HoB region. This will bring the total area of natural forest on the way to Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification as a result of TBI to 2,308,940 ha.

This is a promising development for TBI, which aims to have added a total of 4 million ha of FSC certified forests in

Borneo by 2015. It also suggests that there may now be a possibility of moving well beyond this target both within Indonesia and elsewhere in the region.

TBI was established in 2010 to promote responsible management of tropical rainforests by supporting forestry companies in their movement towards achieving the national certificate for responsible logging (Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia or LEI) as well as the internationally renowned FSC certification.





HoB part of “the most mega-diverse sub-region in the world”

High level ministers representing the Brunei Darussalam-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asean Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA) pledged their continuing support for the conservation and sustainable development aims of the Heart of Borneo and Coral Triangle (CTI) Initiatives, at a Ministerial Conference held at the Ulu-Ulu Resort in Temborong, Brunei in early March.

During the meeting, Ministers recognised the importance of the two diverse ecological areas and significant roles these regions play in mitigating climate change. They acknowledged and commended the progress achieved so far under the two initiatives and noted that good strategies and plans were in place, including those to maintain ecological corridors to join terrestrial and marine biodiversity.

The Ministers also encouraged regional organizations and ‘dialogue’ partners, as well as the private sector to continue to work together under the umbrella of the two initiatives. Both the HoB and CTI aim to mitigate climate change, and support national efforts to reduce carbon emissions. The Ministers acknowledged that this would require the acquisition of much needed knowledge, technology and capacity building for the region.

The group also shared their belief that these efforts would complement each other, creating synergies that would significantly contribute to BIMP-EAGA’s rich biodiversity. In this regard, Ministers recognised the BIMP-EAGA region as “the most mega-diverse sub-region in the world” and welcomed discussions around promoting environmental sustainability to

ensure local communities benefited from the vast economic potential of the area.

HoB Leader, Adam Tomasek, commended BIMP-EAGA heads for their commitment to expand collaboration. “The Ministers have responded to the ‘call to action’ issued by their Heads of State last year. Working together across the BIMP-EAGA region, with the private sector, development partners and local communities will render immense benefits. The region’s governments have a unique opportunity to create a green economy, based on the economic, natural and social capital of the Heart of Borneo. WWF stands ready to mobilize partners and support to ensure that this bold commitment can be showcased at the Rio+20 Earth Summit in 2012.”

Go to http://www.panda.org/what_we_do/where_we_work/borneo_forests/ to read the joint ministerial statement from the BIMP-EAGA ministerial conference on the Heart of Borneo and Coral Triangle Initiatives.



Ministers enjoy an informal moment at the BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Conference held at the Ulu-Ulu Resort in Temborong, Brunei in early March. Photo courtesy of the Government of Brunei.

Brunei’s HoB Centre seeks new CEO

Brunei’s HoB Centre is being established to guide the national implementation of the initiative. Mr Mahmud Yussof, Deputy Director of Forestry, has been appointed Acting CEO while an experienced professional is recruited. Interested parties should write to *The Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, MIPR, Jalan Menteri Besar, Bandar Seri Begawan, BB3910, Brunei Darussalam.*

Tel: +673 238 1188.

2011 kicks off UN Decade of Biodiversity



WWF - Indonesia / Maritus Gunawan

The United Nations General Assembly has proclaimed the period 2011-2020 as the “United Nations Decade on Biodiversity”. The next ten years will also see the roll-out of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, an International plan which contains ambitious but crucial targets to help achieve the Millennium Development Goals around conservation.

“The Decade will spur efforts to secure the future of our planet’s biodiversity,” said Ahmed Djoghlaif Executive Secretary of the Convention

on Biological Diversity, “biodiversity forms the basis of life on Earth.”

This is heartening news for the three signatory governments of the Heart of Borneo Initiative as it reiterates their conservation objectives and builds on the momentum generated from the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

The official nature of this Decade not only reinforces the significance of the HoB’s efforts but also provides a tremendous opportunity to mainstream the objectives of the International Strategic Plan into actions and policies which could have an impact across societies worldwide.

International WWF Leaders get right to the Heart of Borneo

By: Albertus Tjiu and Masayu Y. Vinanda

Conservation partners from the HoB's Shareholder Group (SHG) came from every corner of the globe to visit protected areas within West Kalimantan in late February, 2011. The SHG representatives from WWF offices in England, Sweden, Germany, United States, Netherlands and WWF-International were invited to visit the HoB work which they contribute towards, through their high-level governance and support for the work undertaken by both WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia.

The three-day expedition, from 22 to 25 February, took in a range of areas which represent the conservation and development work WWF is doing in the West Kalimantan portion of the HoB region. Focused in Kapuas Hulu District, the trip included visits to Danau Aur, a protected orang-utan habitat on the Keturing river, as well as a special planting session of orang-utan-friendly fruit trees and various meetings with local communities and stakeholders in the region.

For many of the SHG, this was the first time they had set foot in the Heart of Borneo, allowing them to witness first-hand the dedication of WWF staff who make the HoB program what it is. The unique landscape of West Kalimantan



SHG members take in the lush surrounds of Danau Aur

with mountains, lakes, peat swamps, rainforests and countless rivers was the perfect environment to experience the diverse terrain of the HoB. "Meeting with communities reminds us of the importance of building relationships with the people and local governments here in Borneo," said Allard Stapel, Chairman of the HoB Initiative and Chief of External Affairs at WWF Netherlands. Strong partnerships at different levels, from

global to national to local play a critical part in ensuring the success of the HoB".

The SHG enjoyed the famously warm local hospitality (including the strong local palm wine) while they explored the area.

The group ended the trip with a dinner hosted by the Bupati (Regent) of Kapuas Hulu District government. Joined by the heads of several government agencies, the group exchanged ideas about the challenges and solutions to balancing conservation and economic growth. The Bupati reaffirmed his desire to work with WWF to achieve the goals of the HoB in his district, however he reminded the group that results need to be realized in the short-term in order to overcome the threats to forests and biodiversity.

The HoB Initiative and WWF are committed to developing strong relationships with local communities and governments in the Heart of Borneo as a way toward sustainable development in Kapuas Hulu. The SHG plays a key role in ensuring the work of the HoB is supported and understood by the International WWF network and its 6000 staff, and this recent visit strengthens this international connection.



Adam Tomasek, HoB Leader presents District head of Kapuas Hulu with a gift



Will Brunei remain an island of primary forest in Borneo?

A personal view by Peter Engbers

The forests of Borneo are rapidly disappearing. A few decades ago, Borneo Island was still covered by a green carpet of lush rainforest. Today, these forests have become a patchwork and are damaged due to extensive logging or have been transformed into palm oil plantations. Older residents of the region remember that encounters in the forest with orang utans and sun-bears were frequent and feared rather than romanticised as they often are today. Sadly, recent development has driven these and many other animals to the least hospitable parts of Borneo and to the brink of extinction.

The biologically diverse lowland rainforests can nowadays only be seen in some isolated protected areas. In the mountainous centre of Borneo, vast stretches of forest can still be found. Here, the Heart of Borneo initiative seeks to maintain a vast transboundary area (more than 200,000 sq km) of forested landscape, with room for sustainable human development alongside forests and the wildlife that they contain.

"The fight for Protected Areas is over" said Dr. Glen Reynolds, director of the Royal Society's South East Asia Rainforest Research Program, when I met him in Danum Valley in Sabah, Malaysia. His statement initially shocked me, but he explained "all of the big areas of primary forest that can be conserved on Borneo already have been", suggesting that everything outside the protected areas is already logged and degraded¹.

Indeed, the limited Protected Areas (10% of Borneo area - 9% of Kalimantan, 8% of Sarawak, 14% of Sabah, 17% of Brunei) have become a patchwork in between large areas of damaged and degraded land. By now, nearly all of Sarawak and Sabah (and much of Kalimantan) is covered by logging roads, many of which run precariously close to the protected areas. This, however, is not yet the situation in Brunei. Today, Brunei is still an island of primary forests as it is almost surrounded by logged degraded forests.

Brunei Darussalam is indeed a unique part of Borneo because nearly half of the country is still primary forest. Its peat swamp and lowland forests are still among the best preserved of the region and constitute rare

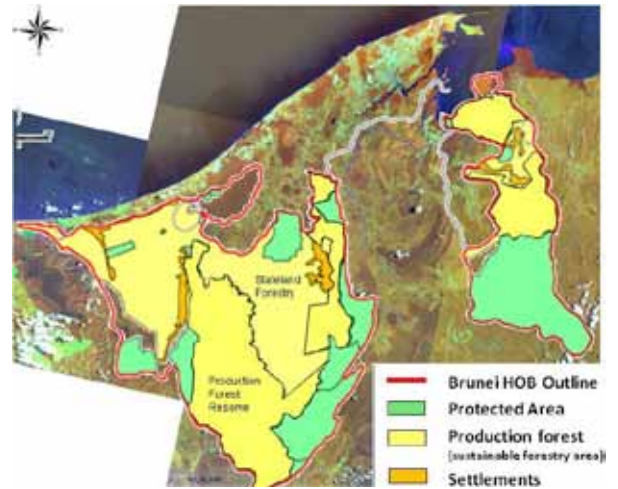
and precious ecosystems with vast carbon stores believed to play a key role in global climate control. Because of this, Brunei Darussalam has a responsibility to effectively manage these ecosystems for long-term conservation. The situation in Brunei Darussalam is special because the wealth generated from its petroleum reserves has limited the need to exploit other forms of resources, such as palm oil plantations.

But will this remain the case? According to the Brunei Forestry department¹, primary forest cover is reducing. The Brunei Development Plan (pictured) and the HoB PIF² show large areas of Brunei forests that are designated for logging (yellow= Production Forest /sustainable forestry) and only some Protected Areas (green, only 17% of Brunei area).

"Brunei has the enviable opportunity to preserve large stretches of primary forest for future generations"

The government states³ that "technically all forests are protected in Brunei" meaning the area will stay under forest cover and that "the Brunei HoB Implementation framework has harmoniously consolidated the protection and production function of Brunei's forest". Indeed, the PIF does recommend a mosaic of totally protected forests interspersed with areas under sustainable logging regimes, but even this regime will change the forests and open them to development pressures. Changes caused by logging and developments such as building roads, dams, houses, and farms have already been reported in the Brunei HoB area.

Under the current logging policy of the forestry department, it is estimated that all the production forest reserves will be logged in 30 years⁴. Extending the Protected Areas by keeping more primary forest, will



conserve biodiversity, enhance Brunei as an ecotourism destination and ensure that ecosystem services of the forests such as watershed protection, non-timber forest products, bio-prospecting and carbon storage are valued. The growth of ecotourism in Brunei will help diversify the economy and could provide a wide array of jobs.

Without further protection, I am afraid that Brunei will not remain an island of primary forest. While other countries have no other choice than managing their disturbed forest, Brunei has still the enviable opportunity to preserve large stretches of primary forests for future generations.

Peter Engbers is a Geophysicist who has lived in Brunei for 8 years. He enjoys nature and travel in Borneo

- 1 Primary forest is defined as pristine (undisturbed) forest or forest slightly disturbed by unnoticeable disturbances that do not cause change in forest ecosystem
- 2 FAO 2010 Brunei Forest Resource Assessment report by Brunei Forestry Department. The 1979 and 1996 numbers are based on actual forest resources studies. 2010* estimates based on linear extrapolation. Area percentages are relative to total Brunei land area. Brunei HoB Outline Protected Area Production forest (sustainable forestry area) Settlements Stateland forestry production Forest Reserve
- 3 Quotes from various articles in Borneo Bulletin
- 4 Brunei HoB Project Implementation Framework Negara Brunei Darussalam. Ministry of Industry & Primary Resources. 2008 and the Brunei Development Plan 2006-2025

Sabah's endangered species protected from coal powerplant

The Government of Malaysia has made a landmark decision to prioritize endangered habitats in its energy planning, scrapping existing plans to build a coal-fired power plant in the Heart of Borneo.

The 1.7 billion ringgit (US\$560 million) plant would have been located in a remote part of Sabah, about 20 kilometres from Tabin Wildlife Reserve which is one of the few remaining habitats for Borneo pygmy elephants, rhinoceros and orangutans.

As one of the three countries committed to the Heart of Borneo Initiative, Malaysia has an imperative to explore sustainable alternative uses for the valuable forests of Sabah and Sarawak. While Sabah's energy demand is expected to increase by up to

eight per cent annually, officials will now seek other ways to meet this need.

"Sabah needs to increase its power supply to meet the increasing development, but the state cannot afford to put its natural environment at risk," said Musa Aman, the chief minister of Sabah state.

This is another positive step towards the development of more sustainable approaches to economic growth for the country. It represents a desire to curtail projects that threaten the rainforests, in a part of Borneo teeming with unique and endangered biodiversity.

"The state cannot afford to put its natural environment at risk" - Musa Aman



WWF-Indonesia / Nancy ARIANI

Government of Malaysia and UNDP invite HoB to assist in economic planning for climate adaptation



The Star Online

WWF-Malaysia and HoB leaders were invited to participate in a key strategic workshop hosted by the Malaysian Government's Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in late January, 2011.

The Inception Workshop on Economics of Climate Change in Malaysia (ECCM) took place in Kuala Lumpur between 25-26 January and involved discussions around the economics of climate change and programs being developed to address this by the Federal Government.

Ivy Wong, HoB Coordinator within WWF Malaysia served as main rapporteur for the Technical Committee as part of an 18-month project.

Keynote speaker, Kamal Malhotra, United Nations Development Program Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam reiterated the need to drive innovation and economic alternatives for sustainable land-use in Malaysia. "Today it is becoming increasingly clear that the economic and social costs of inaction are very high and that inaction can make us highly vulnerable."

The consultation with HoB and WWF within the ECCM agenda highlights the increasing impact that the Initiative is having within Malaysian economic decision-making. It also reveals the willingness of the Government to work with partners to find solutions for environmentally sustainable growth, a positive step towards a greener future for Malaysia.

Kamal Malhotra, UNDP Representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam.

HoBP Murung Raya Expedition to Kalimantan

In February a group of intrepid young researchers from the UK and the Netherlands, in partnership with local Indonesian students and technical advisers, completed the first phase of their research, as part of the Heart of Borneo Project (HoBP) Murung Raya Expedition, in the Muller/Schwaner range in Kalimantan. The HoB Initiative sponsored aspects of the trip, provided logistical advice and will share some of the research results with its Indonesian government partners.

Below is an edited version of the expedition leader Martin Holland, as he reports on two months of discovery, adventure and hard work.

For 8 weeks, the team set base halfway up the Mohot River, a tributary of the Joloi. Our base, Camp Foyle, was built on the bank of the river, set against the Schwaner Mountains. The selected research area is right against a conservation forest, and lies upriver from the villages of Tumbang Naan and Tumbang Tohan. With a near disaster already under our belts (a boat accident which could have resulted in the loss of most of our equipment), meetings were set up with the heads of both villages. In Tumbang Naan, support for the expedition was forthcoming, borne out of concerns that logging and mining companies had been granted concessions in the rainforest, and illegal logging already happening around the village. This is a threat to the villagers' very existence, as the forests provide them with food, building materials, fuel and water.



Setting the transects - straight lines which researchers can walk down with ease and use different methods to collect data about the different species present in the area.

The reaction was more tepid at Tumbang Tohan, the most remote village in the area. Villagers there voiced their concerns that the research work would eventually stop them from their current practices of using the forests for fuel, agriculture, hunting, and gathering Gaharu. A village-wide meeting gave the team a chance to address those concerns and common ground was found which enabled the expedition to proceed unhindered.

After setting 12km of transects, research began. The team set out to study the vegetation, diurnal and nocturnal mammals, birds, invertebrates, reptiles and amphibians, with assistance from guides hired from Naan and Tumbang Tohan. Exploration of the forest canopy was done by rope access, with additional hopes to capture footage of some of the more elusive creatures on camera traps.

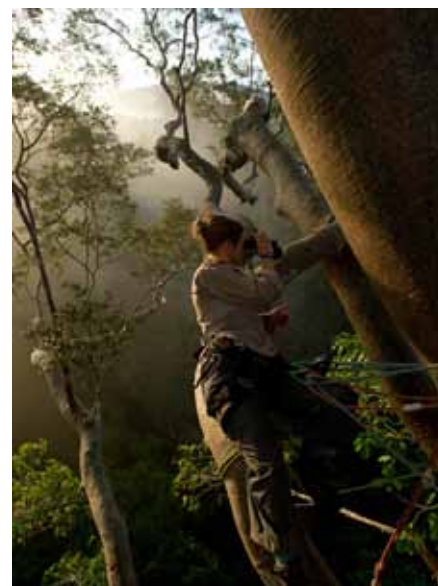


The research site, set against the Muller/Schwaner range in Kalimantan

Exciting Wildlife Encounters

*There were several exciting wildlife discoveries made, not always as a result of research conducted, such as the small Malay soft shell turtle (*Amyda cartilaginea*), said to have been found in the area, which was handed over by a local villager, and the 'home invasion' by a sun bear in the food hut of the base camp. The location of Camp Foyle on the Mohot River brought about many cat prints on the wet mud of the exposed river bed. Although smaller cats are difficult to identify from their prints alone, one cautious identification made was that of the Marbled Cat (*Felis marmorata*), with its distinctive slight 'V' at the top of the pad and the three lobes at the bottom.*

Conducting research on a transect one day, researchers were thrilled to hear



Exploring the forest canopy.

what was assumed to be a mother clouded leopard and her cub. While an actual sighting of the animals was not realized, further investigation and discovery of prints suggest the assumption was accurate. Clouded leopard prints are at least double the size of the other cats in Borneo making them easier to positively identify.

A sub-team spent nearly two weeks travelling up the Joloi River in search of a hybrid gibbon species thought to be in the area. The hunt is conducted by sitting quietly at various points in the rainforest, in the early hours of the morning, and waiting to hear the territorial great calls of mated couples. The female call differs between the species, and is what the team were listening out for. After 11 days of shifting camp further upriver, the team had almost given up, until on the last morning a single, distant call believed to be that of the hybrid was heard. The recording is now being scrutinised to make sure it is indeed that of the hybrid, as it may mean extending the known range of this unrecognised species by up to 7,500km/sq.

Throughout the expedition, team members continuously used satellite communications to interact with the rest of the world, sharing their experiences through online communications. This was in line with the purpose of the expedition - to help conserve this important piece of rainforest by bringing together research and the media, empowering local people, and creating educational resources.

European Space Agency InVESTs in the Heart of Borneo

Many of the benefits of natural resources do not pass through commercial markets and are greatly under-appreciated in the economy. Natural capital such as water sources and soil, are rarely assigned a monetary value. Without factoring in these valuable resources, decisions around the development, management and use of land and resources within the Heart of Borneo are being made without sufficient economic information.

As part of the Heart of Borneo Initiative's work supporting the three Borneo governments in their efforts to find out what the 22million ha of land in the HoB is worth, WWF is using an innovative GIS based tool called Integrated Valuation of Ecosystem Services and Trade-offs (InVEST). Supported by the European Space Agency (ESA), which has recently granted €50,000 (US\$70,000) towards data acquisition and GIS resources, InVEST provides maps showing the quantity and location of ecosystem services (such as forest or peat carbon, water yields and non-timber forest products) within the landscape. The tool also predicts how these resources are likely to change with future land use scenarios, such as the introduction of plantations, mining or hydropower to the environment. This data can also be paired

with biodiversity information, for the first time allowing us to see where valuable ecosystem services and conservation priorities may overlap.

"Systems can be set up to have users and beneficiaries pay for the use of services like carbon stores, clean water or flood prevention"
- Anna Van Paddenburg

The technology presents an exciting opportunity for measuring the value of the Borneo landscape and has been welcomed by the governments of Borneo. "InVEST helps us build the economic case to encourage large scale financial incentives and payments for environmental services," explains Anna Van Paddenburg, Sustainable Financing and Policy Strategy Leader of HoB. "With a strong enough case and legislative support, systems can be set up to have international, national and even local users and beneficiaries pay for the use of services like carbon stores, clean water or flood prevention."

Using InVEST, the HoB aims to predict changes to the state of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the region over the

next 50 years. The tool draws on both historical and up-to-date data as a means of predicting the 'business as usual' compared to the 'green economy' scenarios within the HoB landscape.

The tool will help the three Bornean governments, business and other communities to see the direct link between the long term ecosystem services these standing forests and healthy rivers provide to their local economy. By determining which areas in the landscape provide the greatest ecosystem services, governments may incorporate these environmental resources within future economic planning and decision-making processes.

In partnership with ESA, Hatfield Consultants, an environmental services agency based in Bogor, Indonesia will support WWF with the GIS-based modeling, mapping and valuation assessments. One larger overall assessment will cover Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia, while more detailed assessments will be done in HoB pilot regions within West Kalimantan (Kutai Barat) and Sabah. Only with national government initiatives to encourage the creation of fiscal and economic incentives can the unique forests, biodiversity and ecosystem services within the HoB be preserved.

Major palm oil producer, GAR commits to stop deforestation in HoB

Indonesian palm oil producer Golden Agri-Resources Limited (GAR) and its subsidiaries including PT SMART Tbk (SMART) announced that they will work with others to find solutions to forest conservation and stop deforestation associated with the expansion of their palm oil businesses. With operations throughout the HoB focus area, GAR's announcement on February 9, 2011 marks a promising step forward for more sustainable land use within the palm oil industry.

"We welcome this move," stated Nazir Foad, WWF Indonesia's Director of Corporate Engagement, "GAR's commitment not to convert high carbon stock areas, including peat lands, alongside its commitment not to convert high

conservation value areas, sets a powerful precedent for the oil palm industry. We challenge other oil palm growers to follow suit in order to break the Indonesian palm oil sector's association with deforestation and climate change."

Last year GAR and SMART were the subject of a campaign by Greenpeace, which led several major palm oil buyers to cancel contracts with SMART.

"As with any commitment, the true test will be in its implementation," stated Cherie Tan, WWF International's Lead on Palm Oil. "While this move is encouraging, we look forward to seeing credible third party evidence that GAR

is complying with these commitments and demonstrating a time bound plan towards RSPO certification. The only way to be sure that a company is acting responsibly is for them to produce or trade only certified sustainable palm oil."



naturepl.com/Tim Laman/WWF

Japanese retailer, AEON to help reforest orang-utan habitats in Sabah

By Dorothy Lim

Another milestone in conservation was reached in Sabah in January 2011, with the signing of a five year agreement between AEON Co (M) Bhd and WWF-Malaysia to engage in reforestation and rehabilitation at North Ulu Segama (NUS) Forest Reserve within Sabah in the HoB.

In 2007, NUS was discovered to have a high orang-utan population, but its forest cover remains in a poor condition due to heavy logging and frequent forest fires. As orang-utan populations grow, so does the risk of extinction as the quality of local flora is impacted, leading to potential food scarcity.

Under the new agreement, AEON will invest RM500,000 (around US\$160,000) towards an area that covers approximately 80 hectares. The funding will support the planting of 30,000 saplings of fast-growing tree species, many of which will provide food for local fauna, including orang-utan. Upon completion of this project, it is hoped that a healthy forest canopy will enable the orang-utan to roam freely within the NUS area where they can find food and build nests.

Sabah's Tourism, Culture and Environment Minister, Datuk Masidi Manjun witnessed the signing ceremony between AEON and WWF-Malaysia and expressed his hopes that more corporate organizations like AEON would take actions to preserve the endangered wildlife in Sabah. Managing Director of AEON, Mr Nagahisa Oyama said it is the company's aspiration to preserve the environment and orang-utan habitats in NUS.

WWF-Malaysia Executive Director and CEO Dato' Dr Dionysius Sharma said it was vital to restore degradable forest, as quality of life depends on healthy forest ecosystems which serve as the source of freshwater supplies, as well as nature's shield against global warming and flash floods.

To date, more than 700ha hectares have been replanted in NUS and the local ecosystem will be the greatest to benefit from this.



WWF-Malaysia / Nazidi Abd Ghani

Managing Director of AEON, Mr Nagahisa Oyama (front left) and WWF-Malaysia Executive Director/ CEO Dato' Dr Dionysius Sharma (front right) shake hands while witnessed by Datuk Masidi Manjun (centre standing) Minister of Tourism Culture and Environment, Sabah.

HoB's Indonesian experts share conservation approaches with Government of Vietnam

Ten Government officials from Vietnam met with Indonesia's Heart of Borneo National Working Group in Jakarta on 3 March, 2011 to discuss regional biodiversity conservation approaches and climate change adaptation measures.

The meeting provided an opportunity for HoB experts to share their experience with Indonesia's land-use planning and in turn, learn about the experiences of integrated conservation and development/infrastructure planning from the Biodiversity Conservation Corridors Initiative (BCI) in Vietnam.

The meeting was initiated as part of a study trip (which also took officials to Australia) and was funded by the Asian Development Bank to encourage discussion between focus

countries and exchange lessons learned on different REDD+ approaches.



Officials from the Government of Vietnam meet with HoB National Working Group in Jakarta.

WWF-Indonesia

Local experts commit to assessing value of forests in Borneo

WWF–Malaysia recently held a three-day training programme in Sabah to strengthen the understanding of the High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) concept and to outline the method in which this concept is applied.

HCVFs are forests with special values in terms of bio-diversity, or benefits to local people. With Sabah moving towards compulsory certification of all its forests by 2014, it is seen as vital to build independent expertise in HCVF identification and planning.

Participants were chosen from those Sabah based organisations already active 'in the field'. These individuals were seen to be better placed to rapidly 'ramp up' their knowledge and skills to meet the expected demand for HCVF assessments in the lead up to 2014.

Workshop modules included the application of the HCVF concept for the timber, as well as the palm oil industry, as this approach can be used for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) as well as Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification.

Best practices which ensure quality control across the different steps in the HCV assessment process were outlined. To those with vested interests in both protecting and managing forests within the Heart of Borneo, understanding that the value of forests goes beyond economic values and includes environmental and social values is vital.

Prior to 2009, WWF-Malaysia convened a multi-stakeholder forum to develop the first Malaysian interpretation of the HCVF Toolkit, which aimed to provide an overview of the practical guidance available to forest managers and other stakeholders to identify, manage, and monitor HCVFs in Malaysia. With knowledge fresh in the mind, participants took on their next task to identify how the toolkit could be improved in order to ensure credible HCV assessments on the ground and better management recommendations. The decision to create a HCV Management Supplement for Sabah was also made during the workshop to provide more detailed guidance on identifying HCVs and managing them at the landscape level.

Joining Hands – the Sabah Resource Group is Established

The group agreed to being named the Sabah Resource Group, expanding the scale of skills that can be drawn upon to conduct HCV assessments. This is good news for Borneo as the second group (the first being the Sarawak Resource Group) to pledge their commitment. Committing to assess values of forests within the Heart of Borneo increases the scope of available information, providing valuable knowledge needed for the sustainable management of these forests.



Field training saw participants discussing and debating the application of HCV assessments.

Stunning film highlights HSBC partnership with HoB

HSBC and WWF-UK have collaborated on a special film, highlighting their unique partnership in the Asia Pacific region, which includes contributions towards essential programs in the HoB in Malaysia.

The film was produced in 2010 and features images and profiles of the Liwagu Project in Sabah. This three-year project (due for completion in December 2012) aims to safeguard the resilience of water catchments in the Crocker Ranges area within the HoB.

The catchments in these areas deliver freshwater resources which make a critical contribution towards the economic growth of local communities and the protection of regional biodiversity. By supporting this innovative pilot project, HSBC will assist the HoB to develop stronger, more relevant solutions to conserving freshwater catchments in the HoB.

To see the film, head to: www.panda.org/borneo/greenbusinessnetwork



The participants of the 3 day training programme, which was funded by the United States Agency for Development (USAID) Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade Programme (RAFT).

A day in the life of...

Wiwin Effendy

National Coordinator,
Sustainable Palm Oil
Program, WWF-Indonesia.



I am 35 years old and originate from Samarinda, East Kalimantan. I majored in Forestry at Mulawarman University-Samarinda, which is one of Indonesia's best institutions focusing on forestry issues.

My passion as a conservationist began after finishing university, working at a local NGO in East Kalimantan on conservation and biodiversity issues. At that time (around 1999) Palm Oil was a growing issue, both locally and internationally. East Kalimantan was planning to develop one million hectares of palm oil plantations but as a local, I saw little benefit from this growth directed back into the local community. Also, there were many environmental impacts on the land, so I worked campaigning for "a total no" against any palm oil plantations in East Kalimantan.

Around this time, the Heart of Borneo campaign was launched by WWF, which brought power to the global campaign for sustainable palm oil. This was a different approach to the ways I had been dealing with the palm oil issue! I was hired by WWF-Indonesia as a local expert to develop a comprehensive database of

palm oil companies in Kalimantan, with other experts from other parts of Kalimantan. I then took on a role with WWF, advocating for sustainable palm oil in Kalimantan. It was an opportunity to help ensure that Palm Oil plantations did not continue to cause destruction to local habitats.

At first I found it challenging. We are not just shouting "no", but we are working together with our partners to find solutions. Now I am campaigning "how to develop oil palm plantations by not converting natural forest with high conservation values".

"I still love to go to the forest and meet the communities there. It is where you see the real world of conservation and are recharged for the fight"

WWF uses a wide network, in-depth studies, strong assessments and analysis on policy and regulation to come up with workable solutions for sustainable palm oil. "Collaboration" is the key, as we seek to learn from our partners and local networks, exchanging knowledge and experiences.

In 2008, I participated in an international course on high conservation value and responsible agriculture in Oxford, England for two weeks. This was a special learning experience for me, as I made many new contacts for my network and developed

new tools for analysing High Conservation Value Forest issues.

On a normal day of work, in all of my roles with WWF, I have been committed to making sure that sustainable palm oil is adopted and workable. I am always ready to meet people to talk about this - from governments, academics, NGOs and business people to the local communities I meet when I go to the field. Even though I am now working in management and based in Jakarta, I still love to go to the forest and meet the communities there. It is where you see the real world of conservation and are recharged for the fight.

I like working with WWF. The most rewarding part of my job is when our proposed solutions are agreed upon, accepted and implemented by stakeholders. Years ago, it seemed that palm oil businesses were only interested in clearing the natural forest to make way for plantations. Now, we advocate for the idea of developing these plantations on idle, degraded and abandoned land instead. Because governments are the policy makers, we need to understand their policies and adapt to them to ensure that our valuable recommendations are considered. Indonesia has announced that a key strategy for "low carbon prosperity" is the use of degraded land rather than forested or peat land for oil palm plantation expansion.

As someone who comes from Kalimantan, I want to see my own homeland prosper. I believe that development is important here because we need businesses to develop and public facilities to become more accessible. However, I believe that good development goes hand-in-hand with environmental protection.

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