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Newsletter - September 2010

Heart of Borneo

HoB roadshow makes its mark in Singapore

HoB's pilot roadshow in Singapore in July exceeded all expectations in terms of its outreach and public support. Held in association with renowned National Geographic photographer, Mattias Klum, the organised events achieved coverage on National Geographic Channel in 16 Asian countries with interviews on Prime time live television and radio channels in Singapore.

"The coverage of events and the reception we received went way beyond our expectations for a pilot project," said Chris Greenwood, HoB's International Communications Manager.

He said it showed the value of these sort of roadshow concepts – summed up very well by Amy Ho, CEO of WWF Singapore, one of HoB's key partners in the event.

"National Geographic photographer, Mattias Klum, presenting the uniqueness and beauty of the HoB, added to by WWF HoB NI leader, Adam Tomasek, presenting the conservation problems and solutions, proved a combination

"The success of this prompts the notion to organize a bigger event when the opportunity arises, generating even higher awareness and fund raising opportunities."
(Amy Ho)

which was thought provoking and captured the imagination of the media and the general public," she said.

Mr Klum was the guest international photographer chosen to headline Singapore's Month of Photography Asia (MOPAsia), which receives more than 50,000 visitors each year to its exhibitions. The Asian premiere at the Asian Civilisations Museum of his photographic exhibition *The Testament of Tebaran* and the media attention it garnered provided an ideal platform to raise awareness and support for WWF's HoB Initiative.

More than 200 people attended a public lecture at the National Geographic Store Auditorium entitled 'Inspiring Conservation in the Heart of Borneo', given by Mr Klum and Mr Tomasek.

National Geographic store management said the combination of Mr Klum's photographic fame and Mr Tomasek's field experience proved to be a strong crowd puller, attracting the largest audience in several years.

"The success of this prompts the notion to organize a bigger event when the opportunity arises, generating even higher awareness and fund raising opportunities," added WWF Singapore's Amy Ho, on the day.

The HoB Initiative hopes this pilot project will inspire other WWF offices to support the road show concept around the globe. Future planning and developments for the roadshow concept will rely heavily on this support as part of the WWF Network support for its Network Initiatives.

Mattias Klum and Adam Tomasek discuss the Heart of the Borneo with Channel NewsAsia morning program, Primetime presenters, Suzanne Jung and Steven Chia.



Photo credit: WWF Malaysia/Chris Greenwood

Welcome to our now quarterly issue of the Heart of Borneo newsletter. Our next issue will be out in December, but you won't have to wait for three months to hear the latest news. In coming weeks we will upload news stories to our website as they happen, providing much more timely information for all. Visit www.panda.org/borneo in the coming weeks to catch all the latest news and developments in the HoB Initiative.

WWF Malaysia HoB bids farewell to one of its best

HoB community liaisons officer, Dora Jok has left the organization. Dora joined WWF Malaysia in 2007 with extensive experience working with communities in the state of Sarawak on the island of Borneo.

In the course of her work with WWF-Malaysia, Dora facilitated many programmes with the highland communities in the HoB. Specifically she worked with the highland community group FORMADAT, on promoting the Green and Fair Products of the highlands and also exploring the potential linkages of trans-boundary eco-tourism in the highlands.

Dora was able to forge strong working relationships with the community due to her skills and ability to understand and garner the communities' trust and commitment towards achieving common conservation goals in the HoB. Dora has always been sensitive to community needs, while at the same time aware of the complexity of WWF-Malaysia's position in Sarawak, and maintaining the need for achieving WWF-Malaysia's conservation objectives.

Her special brand of community based conservation skills and ability, and her commitment to conservation work in Sarawak, will be sorely missed by the team specifically, and WWF Malaysia as a whole.

Taking the Heart of Borneo message to the world

In the coming weeks, we will be calling on WWF offices around the globe to get involved in our international HoB roadshow. We hope you will join us. For more information contact: chris.greenwood@wwf.panda.org

Looking backwards ... looking forward

From Adam Tomasek HoB Team Leader

As we often say, this past financial year has been a blur! Looking backwards the journey of the past 12 months has been both fruitful and informative for the Heart of Borneo Initiative. We have seen a number of goals achieved and have at the same time realized that we have a lot of work ahead of us. What has been encouraging to me personally is how the Heart of Borneo is continuously evolving not just as a priority for WWF, but also as a focal area for donors, public and private sector organizations. This is the sign of strength, and one that will generate expanded benefits to the Heart of Borneo member countries.

In this newsletter you will read about some of the great progress made over the past few months. You will see the breadth of work, from local projects to regional conferences and international headlines. This is only possible because of the hard work and dedication of



WWF's staff and partners not only within the Heart of Borneo countries, but globally as well.

This issue provides updates about sustainability, participation, innovations and discoveries in the Heart of Borneo. All happening on many different levels. In forest and biodiversity conservation work we often talk about the vagaries of 'business as usual' approaches. But we have to realize that the same principle applies to ourselves, 'business as usual' approaches will not be sufficient to achieve the ambitions agreed under the Heart of Borneo Declaration.

This is one of the main reasons why we are approaching our work in support of delivering a green economy for the Heart of Borneo. To be successful we must address the realities of short-term resource exploitation models and unsustainable economic development trends. We feel strongly that this renewed approach will provide tangible benefits to the three Heart of Borneo governments, leverage much-needed additional investments from a broad base of partners, as well as catalyse large-scale, lasting biodiversity conservation which is rationalized against the economic realities of the region. The new journey has begun.

New staff

Freya Paterson has joined the HoB Initiative, to spend 12 months working in Jakarta with WWF Indonesia as a Communications Officer under the auspices of an Australian Youth Ambassador volunteer program. Freya will provide communications support to the HoB team to 'get the message out' on the significance of Indonesia's HoB commitment to help maximize conservation outcomes.



Freya has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Media and Cultural Studies from Macquarie University and has experience as a communicator and fundraiser within the not-for-profit sector in Australia. She has also held a range of long-term volunteer roles within independent media, particularly community radio and street press. Freya believes the Heart of Borneo Initiative has potential to genuinely transform the outlook for Borneo's biodiversity and its people. "I am thrilled to be a part of such a committed team, dedicated to securing a sustainable future in this incredible part of the world," she said.

“Ugly Duckling” makes waves in the Heart of Borneo

Activities for the conservation of Brunei's peat lands and design of rehabilitation works for disturbed areas within the Heart of Borneo (HoB) are progressing well and nearing completion, according to expert, Dr Jonathan Davies, who has recently returned from a visit to the Kuala Balai peat swamp forests in Brunei. Brunei's peat lands are in much better condition than those in other countries in South-East Asia, where drainage, logging and conversion to agriculture have led to widespread degradation. A rapid assessment using remote sensing images and extensive ground surveys reveals that only an estimated 20% of Brunei's peat lands have suffered degradation, which is a pleasing result.

The peat swamp forest at Kuala Balai, part of the 'Badas Dome', the largest peat dome in Brunei, was an example of one of Brunei's intact peat lands. During a recent field visit to Kuala Balai peat swamp forest, British High Commissioner Rob Fenn remarked, "Peat swamp forests might not be the most glamorous habitat on the planet but like the ugly duckling in the fairy tale, peat swamp forests are emerging as a focus of scientific enquiry, because they hold powerful evidence that the means to control global warming is still within our grasp."

Healthy peat lands provide essential natural protection against flooding and maintaining minimum flows in rivers during dry periods. They also play a key role in mitigating climate change through their unique ability to store huge amounts of carbon and actively absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. However, Dr Davies stressed that stakeholders should not be complacent in conserving these natural features, with sand mining and deliberate fire setting still causing significant degradation in nearby areas.

“Peat swamp forests ... hold powerful evidence that the means to control global warming is within our grasp.” (Rob Fenn)

From their role in mitigating climate change by acting as carbon sinks, to their ability to store huge amounts of freshwater and their very high biodiversity values, the peat lands needed to be protected and rehabilitated, Dr Davies said. "The major threats to peat lands in Brunei are drainage and disturbance from sand mining and from fire damage," he said, adding that drainage dries out peat, making it very susceptible to fire and consequent smoke haze. Apart from the resulting smog that usually envelopes parts of Borneo Island during the dry periods, the burning, as well as decomposition of peat lands,

allows stored carbon dioxide to be released back into the atmosphere.

The project, due for completion in early 2011, is sponsored by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in UK and Standard Chartered Bank (SCB). This second phase of the project, for which funds are now being sought, will see the installation of canal-blocking structures which ensure the water table remains high during dry periods, as well as re-vegetation of degraded areas and the implementation of a fire awareness and prevention programme. This process will follow the present project, which started in October 2008 and involves capacity-building activities such as community forums. The HoB initiative is also exploring how the natural benefits of these swamps can be developed for economic gain, such as through carbon trading schemes.

SCB Brunei CEO Danny Quah said: "Together with WWF's Heart of Borneo Initiative, we are very pleased to work hand-in-hand with the British High Commission and the HoB Council on this important project which plays an important role in mitigating climate change".

Fires during a dry spell in March damaged areas of good-quality peat swamp forest. The implementation of a fire prevention and awareness programme is a priority for the next phase of the project.



Participative Village Mapping

By Arief Data Kusuma,
HoB co-ordinator, West Kalimantan

"We saw Orang-utan here", said Samuel, a resident of Long Isun, a village located about eight hours boat-ride from Kutai Barat's main town, Sendawar in the Heart of Borneo, as he points at the map. "He is really big, covered long and dark hairy, nesting on the rocks."

A village elder added that he had also seen Orang-utan in the area, "I only saw it alone, and the place is far from this village, we need to travel more or less two days from here," he explained, pointing to another part of the map.

Since the 1970s when scientists first began documenting Orang-utan sightings throughout Borneo there has been little or no research into Orang-utan habitats and behaviour in Kutai Barat District.

While the factual integrity of Samuel's remarks remains to be seen, his was just one of many useful testimonies given during a participative mapping workshop, held in the village Customary Hall in early April, 2010. The Long Isu community had finished their farming activity and were gathered together to prepare its Dangai

**"Rural communities of Borneo ...
have a deep and ancient
relationship with the forest and its
unfathomable intricacies."**

festival, an annual celebration of their harvest, providing the WWF team with the ideal opportunity to seek local advice about the surrounding land.

Role of workshops

The process of participatory mapping uses conversational and informal workshops with local residents to identify and discuss the wildlife in their region. While assisting the Heart of Borneo (HoB) team in developing clear and detailed information about the local flora and fauna (including Orang-utans and other primates), the participatory mapping process also allows the views and voices of the local community to play an integral role in the development of sustainable forest management in their region. By identifying all areas of the village, such as community forests,

water sources and historic landmarks, the residents can plan more effective use of their land and available natural resources, enabling more sustainable land use in the long-term.

The WWF's HoB Initiative continues to place a strong emphasis on engaging the local community within all conservation efforts within Borneo. "Humans and wildlife have lived in relative harmony in the Heart of Borneo for thousands of years," said Adam Tomasek, Leader of the WWF's HoB. "If we are to understand the natural history and habitats of these remote areas, it is absolutely critical that we work with the local people every step of the way,"

Traditionally, Dayak people of Borneo have relied entirely on surrounding land for their livelihoods and as such have a deep and ancient relationship with the forest and its unfathomable intricacies. In many instances, participatory mapping has revealed that remote communities have already independently identified and documented several components of their surrounds, such as biodiversity, natural resources reserves, village delineation, land-use, historical sites, as well as naming rivers and other major landmarks.

Other advantages

The mapping process is also useful in identifying borders between villages, which assists local government to establish administrative boundaries and deter unnecessary conflicts over land rights. When boundary issues are identified and discussed in an open forum between residents, village authorities and local leaders (and often neighbouring villages) unnecessary boundary conflicts can be avoided.

It is hoped that the consultative nature of the participatory mapping process will empower the rural communities within the HoB to take positive steps towards sustainable use of their natural resources. It will also increase their capacity to interact and engage with external parties, such as industry, government and investors whose concessions and commercial practices intersect with or infringe on their village area.

By identifying significant places in their village, local communities can plan effectively for the use of available natural resources in the future.



Sustainability and growth: can we have both?

That was the question posed by this year's National Environment Conference in Brunei hosted by Asia Inc. Forum. Speakers, including HoB's own Katie Stafford, lined up to discuss how sustainable innovation, for example renewable energy and carbon trading, was leading to economic growth opportunities all around the world including Singapore, Canada and within the Heart of Borneo. The conference showcased some exciting examples of how green innovation is pushing the boundaries of sustainability and creating new economic opportunities in Brunei.

The Hon. Pehin Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, Brunei's new Minister of Development, opened the conference with a positive speech about the need to maintain good environmental management within economic growth. His address included an observation that business and civil society could work together towards a sustainable, green economy and also detailed Brunei's new national requirements for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), a key priority identified within the Brunei HoB National Project Implementation Framework.

Katie Stafford, HoB's corporate engagement strategy leader was able to complement the Minister's speech with some concrete examples of how WWF and the HoB initiative are working with business to develop practical and sustainable solutions to their environmental challenges. Some of these programs include the Global Forest and Trade Network in Indonesia and Malaysia, which works directly with logging companies to encourage Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) as well as a number of ongoing partnerships with community-based eco-tourism within HoB.

Katie put forward the notion that longer-term economic growth would be impossible without the incorporation of environmentally sustainable business practices. As businesses and humans alike depend on the earth's natural



The speakers panel discuss breakthroughs in sustainable economic growth.

resources in the form of air, water, food and many other vital services for ongoing development – the inefficient and unsustainable use of these (i.e. at a rate at which they cannot replenish) will diminish and eventually terminate our ability to sustain economic growth and our life-support systems in the future.

Developed countries around the world still represent a significant threat to rainforests, largely through their consumption practices which stimulate demand for non-renewable resources. Some tough questions were raised at the conference about how WWF addresses the need for promoting sustainable consumption in developed areas in Europe and the US as well as working on sustainable production in places such as

Borneo. For this reason, the HoB team continues to form closer links with the 'One Planet Living' team in WWF-UK.

The topic of profitable low carbon growth was also raised at the conference, given the setting in Brunei, a country that has made very ambitious commitments to maintain its natural forest cover, natural gas reserves and lower its carbon fossil fuel consumption in the short to medium term, despite its economic reliance on the prosperity of the oil and gas sector.

Bruneians in the audience engaged in an enthusiastic debate about whether Brunei could become the region's leading light for low carbon growth whilst maintaining its economic strength. The discussion culminated in the signing of a MOU between a company called Carbon Conservation and the Brunei Economic Development Board (BEDB) as a means to promote green, low carbon development in Brunei.

WWF is convinced that sustainability is the key to ongoing economic growth and prosperity in the Heart of Borneo. The inspiring ideas discussed in the conference, particularly those which displayed innovative approaches have influenced its upgraded strategic direction for 2010-12 – 'Towards a Green Economy' – which will guide us as we continue to advocate for the conservation of forests in HoB.

Pursuing a green economy - necessary and achievable

The Brunei leader's sentiments on sustainable development and a green economy were echoed by its press in a recent article in *The Brunei Times*, by Zhang Xiaojun, which noted that the development of a green economy based on sustainable development was necessary for a world short of energy.

The article said while many had suspected that the financial crisis would discourage costly green projects, more countries were committed to continued investment in the sector.

Indeed oil-rich Gulf countries and fast-growing Asian economies were likely to continue to invest in renewable energy. Western powers also pledged to increase their green spending despite the looming budget squeeze.

In a recent statement about the pursuit of green economy objectives, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said striving for the green economy was "an ambitious goal, but it is achievable and is necessary".

Community and government form one voice to declare Gunung Lumut a National Park

The Heart of Borneo working group in Central Kalimantan has facilitated meetings and discussions between villagers and regional government to redefine Gunung Lumut as a National Park of Indonesia. A meeting between community leaders, government representatives and WWF-Indonesia staff in June 2010 allowed for open discussion and dialogue about the consequences of converting the area to National Parkland. "The proposal is derived from the people who want this area preserved and have maintained its function for the survival of people who are still dependent on results of processed woods," explained Syahdan Sindrah, Chairman of the Foundation of Gunung Lumut.

Situated in the Eastern part of Central Kalimantan, this sacred site straddles three chains of hills, the Gunung Lumut, Gunung Peyuyan, and Gunung Penyetau in North Barito, Central Kalimantan, making collaborative conservation a potential challenge. Gunung Lumut is also regarded as a sacred place for the followers of Kaharingan, the ancient Dayak religion. The area is home to the traditional place for the *Wara* ceremony in which, according to the Dayak indigenous religion, the dead spirits are woken.

Based on the outcome of a 2004 study of the area conducted by the Indonesian Institute of Science, Gunung Lumut is fully eligible for national park status. As home to rich biological diversity, water catchments and pristine forest, the area has huge potential to be used as a biosphere reserve. Lister Gobeth, a member of the local parliament explained that acknowledging the local traditions of the Dayak people would ensure the ongoing preservation of the area. "If its purpose is to keep the area sacred to the people, Kaharingan tradition and ecosystems in the region will be maintained," he said.

Norway Agency for Development brings REDD for people and nature

Reversing tropical deforestation and drastically reducing forest based carbon emissions is a fundamental imperative if humankind is to avert catastrophic climate change. WWF's Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative is working with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) to develop innovative mechanisms to achieve meaningful shifts in the decision making regarding resource utilization. The proposed program of work will address forest ecosystem management and engage forest dependent communities and civil society as key agents and beneficiaries from forest carbon management. The ultimate aim of this collaboration is to develop alternative financing to secure high carbon forest ecosystems through conservation and sustainable forest management for the benefit of both people and nature.

While large parts of the lowland areas of Borneo have been converted to other forms of land use, much of the Heart of Borneo is still intact, however the threat to deforestation and forest degradation is high. Growing populations' demand for large-scale land conversions for agriculture and development can affect the ability of natural ecosystems to support biodiversity and to continue to supply various ecosystem services, including carbon. "In the current market,

oil palm development provides an opportunity cost that is too large for any stakeholder to ignore", said Anna van Paddenburg, Sustainable Finance Leader with WWF's HoB Initiative, "we need to find innovative ways to sustain forests within the HoB which can generate similar economic revenue. Carbon financing is one of these opportunities." The NORAD and HoB partnership is a response to various challenges associated with preserving the Heart of Borneo rainforests.

This partnership will focus on the Kutai Barat district in East Kalimantan, an important forest corridor within the HoB which includes more than 100,000ha of community forests. As a newly formed district, boasting fertile soils, Kutai Barat is a popular choice for large-scale land conversion, with an estimated 500,000ha of forest tipped for conversion to palm oil plantations.

For thousands of years, large tracts of forest in Kutai Barat have been sustainably managed by adat or customary institutions and regulations of Dayak communities. These and other existing land categories within Kutai Barat will be identified and documented using the titles; Traditional Community Conservation Areas, forests with High Conservation Value and Responsible Cultivation Areas.



Communities involved in the planning of the NORAD trials.

Consumers looking for green and fair products encouraged to 'do the rice thing'

Adan Rice from Krayan in the Borneo highlands is the first product to be granted the 'Green and Fair Product' (GFP) trademark. The GFP program was initiated by WWF-Indonesia as part of an effort to promote eco-friendly consumption and enhance 'fair' value trading for producers within conservation areas. Following a workshop organized by WWF-Malaysia, in collaboration with Forum Masyarakat Adat (FORMADAT), 26 participants from the local area identified three main products; adan rice, mountain salt and wild cinnamon, of which the rice is currently being sold, and salt and cinnamon are still being developed and assessed for distribution.

Through the three 'E's' of environment, economy and equity, the initiative uses messages to appeal to informed and socially aware consumers. WWF-Indonesia developed the GFP to promote sustainable and ethical products developed within conservation focus areas, including those in the Heart of Borneo. The products are cultivated in an environmentally sustainable way, managed by the communities who produce them and traded at a fair price, with all profits from product sales redirected to the community through the producers.

The products from communities with whom WWF-Indonesia is working include:

- Robusta coffee from Bukit Barisan Selatan NP in Lampung;
- Forest honey from Tesso Nilo NP;
- Cajuput oil from Wasur NP in Merauke;
- Forest honey (East Nusa Tenggara);
- Rhino carvings from Ujung Kulon NP;
- Aloe vera products from Sebangau NP; and
- "Banuaka" beads from Betung Kerihun NP in West Kalimantan.

Before its first introduction to the public at the World Rainforest Music Festival in Kuching in July 2010, the GFP program started as an economic empowerment and conservation-based enterprise development initiative by WWF-Indonesia in 2003. As part of the program, local community members worked together with WWF-Indonesia staff and design consultants to determine the packaging, branding and labelling of the products.

According to CEO of WWF-Indonesia, Dr Efransjah, sustainable natural

resource management and innovative marketing can play an important role in securing livelihoods for the communities living in and around conservation areas. "The Green and Fair Products initiative is an effort to synergize both the ecological and economic dimensions of sustainable development" he said. It is hoped that the widespread reach of these products over time will also benefit existing eco-tourism focus areas in the highlands.

The GEF program also aims to highlight the common origin of these products, allowing various communities to identify as a group, with the products and producers telling the story of their place or region. The indigenous identity of the producers will be reinforced through the goods they produce, as the products are branded as being from the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo. "It is about time that our local products were produced and processed into 'green' products to enhance their value in the market," said one of the growers in a post-workshop survey.

Longer term, a total of eight Green and Fair products, including two produced within the Heart of Borneo, will be available for purchase exclusively through Ranch Market in Jakarta.



Harvest time in Pa' Upan, Krayan Highlands.



Adan rice is traditionally farmed in Kayan Mentarang National Park using fresh water from the surrounding mountain ranges.

Eight new Indonesian forest concessions join The Borneo Initiative

An exciting event in Jakarta, in late June 2010, saw eight new Indonesian forestry companies with logging concessions sign up to The Borneo Initiative, committing to develop more responsible management of rainforests including four located within the Heart of Borneo. The eight new concessions (Indexim Utama, Narkata Timber, Sinerji Hutan Sejati, Kemakmuran Berkah Timber, Dwima Jaya Utama and Ratah Timber, Gema Hutani Lestari and Wapoga Mutiara Timber Unit II) joined five existing concessions already to have signed on at the Initiative's launch in January 2010.

Good forest management

Now engaging with concessions that cover 1.4 million hectares of natural forest, The Borneo Initiative is fast becoming the world's largest forest certification program. "This puts Indonesia into the vanguard of good

"Nowhere else is forest certification being realized at such a scale, with such speed." (Jesse Kuijper)

forest management, worldwide," said Jesse Kuijper, Executive Board member of the Borneo Initiative. "Nowhere else is forest certification being realized at such a scale, with such speed and we are just starting!" The Initiative is expected to continue this rate of growth with rapid expansion into a further four million hectares of FSC certified rainforest anticipated for Borneo by 2015.

Annual forest destruction

Around 1.8 million hectares of tropical rainforest are destroyed each year to make way for industrial agriculture and logging enterprises, many of which are illegal and unsupervised. By certifying

and 'rewarding' sustainable land use, The Borneo Initiative redirects all agricultural expansion into existing cleared and idle land rather than pristine forests. The Initiative also works to remove all possible hurdles which prevent speedy certification, by providing subsidies, professional networks and support to motivated but under-resourced companies.

The Borneo Initiative

Established in 2008, The Borneo Initiative is a non-profit foundation based in The Netherlands. Bringing together the consumers who demand 'certified' timber with the suppliers in Borneo, the Initiative seeks to stimulate competitive trade of sustainable timber, which is a win-win for both consumers and loggers.

The Initiative currently focuses on the conservation of forests within Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) with potential to expand into neighbouring regions within Malaysia. Sustainable management of rainforests not only ensures the longevity of endemic flora and fauna, but as is the case throughout Borneo, ensures the ongoing prosperity and livelihoods for the people who call them home.

Pictured (L to R): Jesse Kuijper, PT Wapoga Mutiara Timber II, Listya Kusumawardhani, PT Kemakmuran Berkah Timber, PT Ratah Timber, PT Narkata Rimba, PT Dwimajaya Utama, PT Indexim Utama, PT Gema Hutani Lestari, Nanang Roffandi.



'No net loss' – means lots to gain

By Katie Stafford, Corporate Engagement Leader

'No Net Loss' (NNL) is an innovative new policy development in response to government recognition that their country or region cannot afford to lose any more biodiversity. In June, WWF's HoB Initiative team co-sponsored a workshop about 'No Net Loss' in Sandakan, Sabah, on the island of Borneo. The session was run by Land Empowerment, Animals, People (LEAP) a local Sabahan NGO and Business & Biodiversity Offset Program (BBOP).

Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of the Sabah Forestry Department opened the conference by acknowledging the complexity and challenges associated with such a policy, but urging all stakeholders to see this as an opportunity for Sabah to show innovation and leadership on biodiversity protection.

Implementing an NNL policy involves governments putting restrictions on private sector development of areas deemed high in biodiversity. Under such a policy, companies in areas of business that could potentially destroy biodiversity must first take steps to try and avoid such losses. If that is not possible, they should mitigate the impact of that loss and finally once all steps have been taken

to reduce and mitigate loss, companies can 'offset' impacts by ensuring the protection and management of an area of similar ecological value to that which will be lost.

The conference heard that Sabah was one of a growing group of leading countries/states who have implemented or begun to investigate NNL, including Namibia, Brazil and Madagascar. After much constructive debate, the conference concluded on a very positive note with a road map to implementation, including piloting NNL projects within Sabah and also initiating a study to understand the economic costs and benefits of such a policy – acknowledging in particular, concerns about impacts on costs for key industries, smallholders and SMEs.

WWF International is currently finalizing a new policy on Biodiversity offsets and though there are still many questions to be answered, it was great to see Sabah taking such a proactive stance to investigate this issue. With funding from the HoB Initiative towards the conference, the seeds may have been sown for the development of a major new policy tool for government decision makers to stem the tide of biodiversity reduction in the HoB.



No Net Loss – may mean lots to gain for the rainforests of the Heart of Borneo.

Dogs join fight to save rhinos in HoB

WWF Malaysia's Borneo Species Programme is turning to man's best friend to help track rhino movements and assist in determining population size.

The critically endangered Sumatran Rhino formerly occurred throughout Borneo, but are now thought to only occur in Sabah, Malaysia. Due



Storm

to hunting for their horn and forest loss over the past millennium, the population has decreased to a few remnant individuals. It is believed that fewer than 40 of the Bornean subspecies of rhino survive in small and highly fragmented populations in eastern and central Sabah.



Thunder

Rhinos are notoriously difficult to find as they have solitary lifestyles. The males have very large home ranges and are in extremely low

numbers. In fact, even the rhinos find it difficult to find each other and as a result breeding activity is infrequent and there are very few births.

The use of tracker dogs has been successful in Cat Tien National Park in Vietnam. The dogs are trained to search for rhino dung and samples found are recorded and sent overseas for DNA analysis. The two new recruits, Storm and Thunder, are currently finishing their training and will be used in the field in the coming months.

Roundtable discussions help strengthen HoB Donor Relationships

**By Masayu Yulien Vinanda,
Media Content Development for
WWF-Indonesia**

The HoB National Working Group organized a successful 'Roundtable' discussion in June at the Four Seasons Hotel in Jakarta, as a way of building on the outcomes of a recent 'Feasibility Assessment for Financing the Heart of Borneo Landscape' completed in April 2010. The event also served as an opportunity to understand and link donor priorities with the strategies relevant to the tri-national HoB Initiative, as a means of strengthening the dialogue between all stakeholders. The feasibility document was well-received by HoB's partner organizations, many of whom are now keen to work together with the governments to ensure the recommendations are implemented. The roundtable was made up of representatives from a range of HoB's

international stakeholders and partner organizations. Among the participants were representatives of several supporting governments, development agencies and WWF-Indonesia CEO, Dr Efransjah.

The session was opened with a presentation from Andi Novianto, from the Government of Indonesia and chair of the HoB working group, who detailed the recent Feasibility Assessment undertaken on financing the Heart of Borneo Initiative. The roundtable attendees were then encouraged to share thoughts and suggestions on how the HoB could move forwards strategically. The Asian Development Bank's Nazimul Islam emphasized the importance of cooperation between district and provincial governments to ensure the ongoing success of the HoB Initiative saying, "there should be a good mechanism to generate support from all potential partners," he said.

WWF-Indonesia CEO, Dr Efransjah took the opportunity to urge HoB partner organizations to make more effort to apply their support to on-ground actions. "Sustainable financing and land use are good efforts but in my opinion it's not enough. The three countries could be working more on spatial planning so we can address the issue of fragmented ecosystems," he explained. Another outcome from the roundtable was a keen interest from partners to continue such roundtable discussions including the opportunity for similar meetings to take place within HoB focus sites, to meet with local government and local stakeholders.

The successful conservation and management of the HoB landscape relies on proper policies and financial incentives, institutional capacities and sufficient resources. HoB is invested in linking closely with the needs of our technical and financial partners, as they play a vital role in the ongoing success of the initiative. WWF's HoB team will continue to work with the three signatory governments, along with their partners, to address issues such as policies, regulations, agreements and financing mechanisms.

Incredible old sculptures found in the Heart of Borneo

In June this year, during a two-month expedition into Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park (BBBR), located within the Heart of Borneo, WWF-Indonesia's West Kalimantan team discovered an incredibly rare and old selection of indigenous sculptures.

The statues, located within Uud Danum Cultural Site in West Kalimantan, represent the totem animals common in Uud Danum and Iban mythology, specifically amphibious animals such as frogs and lizards, long valued for their guardianship over the forest area in Bukit Beribit.

WWF-Indonesia has collaborated with a number of local partner organizations to conduct Dayak Uud Danum site surveys in the area, focusing on mapping cultural sites and preservation of traditional anthropological artifacts. This latest



WWF-Indonesia staff from West Kalimantan, discovered this sculpture in Bukit Baka Bukit Raya National Park. The statue is believed to represent a hybrid of amphibian (frog) and reptilia (lizard), both common mythological animal totems in the area.

finding is a result of ongoing research into the natural anthropological and geological history of the area. Various suggested uses for the artifacts include tools for defending and protecting the residents of traditional long houses, as well as dowry for a young bride.

As with most discoveries of this type,

interpretations of these artifacts vary, however the discovery warrants further research and study. In October 2010 a delegation of archaeologists and researchers from various disciplines will return to the area as part of the International Expedition of Biodiversity and Culture, organised by WWF-Indonesia and the local government.

BBBR borders both West and Central Kalimantan. Its large catchment area makes BBBR home to some of the most significant and widely utilized hydrological functions in the whole of Kalimantan. The preserved rainforest area within BBBR also provides researchers with excellent opportunities to study typical rainforest ecosystems that are synonymous with the mountain peaks of the Schwaner mountain area in which BBBR is situated.

HoB takes centre stage at Malaysia's Rainforest World Music Festival

Indigenous cultural traditions from the Heart of Borneo were on show at the annual 2010 Rainforest World Music Festival, held near Kuching, Sarawak, in Malaysian Borneo.

Nearly 30,000 visitors from around the world visited Sarawak Cultural Village over the weekend of 9-11 July to attend one of Malaysia's largest musical events. The festival was an ideal platform for promoting the cultural traditions of the indigenous people in the area and highlighting their cultural investment in preserving the Heart of Borneo.

WWF in Indonesia and Malaysia are working with Forum Masyarakat Adat (FORMATAT), the grassroots, cross border organization representing the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands in the Heart of Borneo. FORMATAT Representatives used the exhibition booth at the festival to promote locally produced 'Green and Fair' products, part of a new initiative supported by WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia to encourage and support sustainable livelihoods in rural areas of Borneo. Adan rice, mountain salt, wild cinnamon, indigenous handicrafts and musical instruments were displayed and sold at the festival.

"FORMATAT has a vision and commitment to protect and sustainably

"Music and lyrics have the capacity to bind people together with a shared understanding or vision. In many ways this is exactly what FORMATAT represents." (Cristina Eghenter)

develop the common cultural heritage and land that lies within both Malaysia and Indonesia in the Heart of Borneo," said Cristina Eghenter, WWF-Indonesia's Social Development Advisor. "Music and lyrics have the capacity to bind people together with a shared understanding or vision. In many ways this is exactly what FORMATAT represents."

FORMATAT's integrated and holistic presence at the Rainforest World Music Festival aimed at bringing widespread attention to the traditional skills and enterprise of the highland people.

John Terawe, a Malaysian coordinator of FORMATAT, said another of the organisation's aims was to preserve the traditional cultures of the groups it represented.

"The idea of coming together at the Rainforest Festival is to promote our beliefs and make people aware of the Heart of Borneo," he said.



The elusive and very rare hairy-nosed otter.

Back from the brink - the hairy-nosed otter

The world's rarest otter, the hairy-nosed otter (*Lutra sumatrana*), has been rediscovered in the Heart of Borneo in the Malaysian state of Sabah. The re-discovery was made by field staff from WWF Malaysia and the Sabah Forestry Department with involvement from the Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research as part of its Conservation of Carnivores in Sabah project.

No one was sure if the hairy-nosed otter was still alive in Sabah and initially researchers did not realise they had recorded the species, mistaking it for the more common smooth-coated or Asian short-clawed otter. Closer examination revealed the otter had a white throat, a long, flat head, and dark fur, all distinctive features that distinguish the hairy-nosed otter from its two relatives. According to press reports, evidence of the existence of the otter was last recorded in Borneo in 1997, when an individual was found killed by a car. Before that, the animal had not been seen in Sabah since the late 19th Century, until recent surveys conducted by conservationists using automated camera traps captured the elusive species in the Dermakot Forest Reserve.

These latest findings of rare and enigmatic mammals emphasise the importance of long-term habitat protection in conserving some of the world's most threatened species.



Malaysia's Minister of Tourism, Datuk Sri Dn Ng Yen Yen, visited the HoB booth at the Rainforest World Music Festival in July, 2010.

In search of new species – a two-year expedition begins in Brunei's Heart of Borneo

By Dr Mike Kavanagh and Ang Bee Biaw

On July 2, 2010, in the presence of the Hon. Pehin Yahya bin Dato Bakar, Minister of Industry & Primary Resources, and Dr Hj Zulkarnain Hanafi, Vice-chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), an excited group of scientists and students, set out for one of the least-studied forests on Borneo. This was the official launch of what is to be a series of expeditions over a two year period, led by Dr Joseph Charles of UBD's Science Faculty, into the Sungai Ingei Protection Forest.

The Sungai Ingei Protection Forest covers 18,491 ha found along the international boundary with Sarawak's World Heritage Gunung Mulu National Park. Its natural habitats are a spectacular mosaic of three forest types – pristine mixed dipterocarp forest, areas of upland *kerangas* (heath forest) and patches of freshwater swamp in the lower valleys. The area is known to be extraordinarily rich in animal life, yet its wildlife has never been studied and the survey is certain to yield new species records for Brunei, and likely to find animals that are completely new to science.

The project is funded by Standard-Chartered Bank in collaboration with WWF's Heart of Borneo (HoB) programme, with support from various Brunei government departments such as the Forestry Department. In the spirit of HoB and ASEAN, experts from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore have been invited to participate. The results of the survey will provide information essential to the proper conservation management of the area in future. WWF's *Heart of Borneo Newsletter* and website will bring you regular bulletins on important discoveries made.

In search of new species: launch of the of Brunei's expedition into the Heart of Borneo.



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