WWF

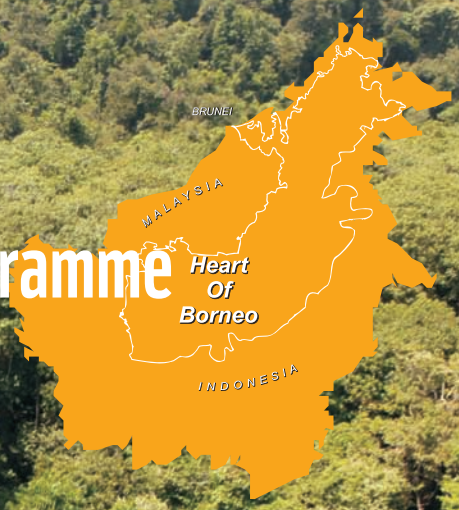
FACTSHEET

HoB

2012

The Forest Restoration Programme in North Ulu Segama, Sabah

FACTSHEET 2



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North Ulu Segama (NUS), part of Ulu Segama Malua Forest Reserve in the Heart of Borneo (HoB) is one of many heavily logged forest areas in Sabah. Poor harvesting techniques and forest fires have degraded the quality and value of this forest, making it attractive for conversion to agricultural land including oil palm plantation. Once conversion occurs, all biodiversity is lost and prospects for restoration are gone forever. As the majority of wild Orang-utans in Borneo live in areas like NUS, outside protected forests, this also spells disaster for their survival.

Increasing the value of degraded forests

Through forest restoration work, WWF aims to increase the economic value and ecological functions of degraded forest areas to:

- Deter the demand for conversion of such land areas for commercial agricultural purposes;
- Enhance the carrying capacity of forests in supporting a high density of Orang-utans;
- Provide evidence that forest restoration can bring back to good health the most severely degraded commercial forest reserves in Sabah; and
- Produce a report on all known forest areas in Sabah requiring restoration work – part of the programme is a proposal to the Sabah government to implement a state-wide forest restoration programme.

That is why WWF-Malaysia is working through its HoB programme to restore and rehabilitate the forest - providing habitat for Orang-utan and protecting bio-diversity. Aerial surveys of the reserve carried out in 2007 showed a high density of Orang-utan species *(Pongo pygmaeus morio)* listed since 2000, as endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened

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Restoring the forests

Working alongside Sabah Forestry Department, open and exposed areas are planted with fast growing pioneer species such as Binuang *(Octameles sumatrana)* and Laran *(Neolamarckia cadamba)*. In areas heavily shaded with forest canopies, shade tolerant species are planted, mostly Dipterocarps. Tree species known to produce fruits edible to Orang-utans are planted such as Sengkuang *(Dracontomelon dao)*, Terap *(Arthocarpus sp)* and Figs *(Ficus sp)*.

The 2,400 hectares to be restored are located on the northern bank of the second longest river in Sabah, the Segama River. North Ulu Segama is one of the three areas (the other two being Malua Forest Reserve and Ulu Sungai Danum) within Ulu Segama Malua Forest Reserve which qualifies to be part of the forest restoration programme.

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Key achievements so far

(expected completion in 2013)

- Approximately 700 hectares have been planted;
- Business and employment opportunities in reforestation work have been given to local community members;
- Community engagement provides the opportunity to promote forest restoration and conservation of wildlife species especially the Orang-utan;
- Studies on feeding behaviour, home and territorial ranges of Orang-utans have been conducted, providing baseline data to enable comparative studies in the future when forest habitats are fully restored and functioning naturally; and
- Worked with project partners, Sabah Forestry Department and Sabah Foundation, to enhance collective skills in forest restoration, using practised forest restoration techniques.

WWF

Why we are here

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

http://www.panda.org

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Towards a Greener HoB

Raising the economic value of degraded commercial forests creates future economic returns in forestry, via sustainable harvesting, and via employment for local communities. Extensive tree planting helps mitigate climate change by storing carbon and improves habitat for Orang-utan ensuring their survival in more forest areas throughout Borneo.

WWF - Heart of Borneo Initiative

Ensuring the forests of the Heart of Borneo are worth more standing than cut down...

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