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Newsletter Heart of Borneo

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Responsible forestry comes to Sarawak

Ta Ann Holdings Berhad became the first publically listed company in Sarawak, Malaysia, to support responsible forestry by joining WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network-Malaysia (GFTN-Malaysia).

The company signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with WWF-Malaysia, in early December in Sarawak's capital, Kuching, on the island of Borneo. An action which demonstrated its full commitment to implementing sustainable forest management and the pursuit of forest certification in the many phases of its operation - around 70% of which are carried out in forests within the Heart of Borneo (HoB).

Speaking at the signing ceremony, WWF-Malaysia's Executive Director/CEO, Dato' Dr. Dionysius Sharma, said that GFTN is a worldwide partnership between companies committed to improve management of valuable forests.

"The timber industry is facing several challenges ahead, including limited supply of raw materials, emerging procurement policies from buying countries, surging freight rates as well as fluctua-

tion of the US dollar. WWF-Malaysia constantly looks for ways to incorporate environmental awareness into the corporate sector by working hand in hand with the companies in better forest management practices. GFTN helps improve business by reducing their risks. The very first step of Ta Ann is to invite the independent certification bodies to conduct a full scale baseline assessment," Dato' Dr. Dionysius added.

"This collaboration with WWF-Malaysia through the GFTN program signals a new era for Ta Ann to strengthen our commitment in producing legal and sustainable timber. The global timber industry is a very volatile arena whereby requirements to supply environmentally friendly quality products are on the increase. Even bankers and financial houses are asking companies to operate in a responsible manner," said Datuk Abdul Hamed bin Haji Sepawi, Executive Chairman of Ta Ann Holdings Berhad.

For more information contact WWF-Malaysia



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Private sector relationships vital for achieving conservation outcomes

By Katie Stafford, HoB Corporate Engagement Leader

The conservation movement must continue to work closely with the private sector if it is to achieve its conservation goals. That was a major message emerging from the UNCBD Secretariats's Third Business and the 2010 Bio-diversity Challenge Conference, held in Jakarta in December, which attracted more than 300 people to discuss the role of the private sector in delivering biodiversity objectives.

With a conference theme of exploring the opportunities and challenges for biodiversity from the private sector, a presentation on WWF's work in the Heart of Borneo (HoB) stimulated considerable debate.

The challenges to HoB from business sectors such as timber, palm oil and mining are well known, but the audience was impressed with WWF's proactive approach to developing solutions, in the process making a positive contribution towards sustainable business development.



© WWF-Malaysia/Chris Greenwood

Working closely with the private sector to achieve conservation goals means different things to different groups. For the HoB Initiative, this means both supporting the existing work on palm oil and timber, as well as developing new innovative strategies to promote the HoB as a center of excellence for sustainable development in the region.

In this context, the HoB will be developing a report which outlines the role of the private sector in the HoB region. Released annually, this report will provide measures of progress towards sustainable development in key industry sectors, as well as promoting new strategies for a more sustainable private sector. The WWF Initiative is also planning to develop a private sector network to socialise and garner support for the HoB vision from business and industry.

The conference also heard about the long standing work of WWF's Global Forest Trade Network (GFTN) activities in Indonesia and Malaysia in supporting timber companies towards Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) accreditation in the HoB. (see front page story).

Other WWF work featured at the conference included new work led by WWF Indonesia and Market Transformation Initiative (MTI) Palm Oil leader, Cherie Tan, to train Indonesian banks in WWF's responsible financing guidelines.

Note: See future issues of HoB's newsletter for news on this strategy. In the mean time if you know of a great example of sustainable business in HoB no matter how big or small, contact Katie Stafford email: kstafford@wwf.or.id.

(Pic left) Looking to work closer with Jakarta's private sector

Obituary— Hendra Ramdan

It is with deep sadness that WWF-Indonesia announces the loss of one of its most respected field staff, Hendra Ramdan, following a field survey related boat accident in the Muller Schwanner conservation area of Borneo, on November 14, 2009.

As the field officer for the HoB Muller-Schwanner Programme, Hendra was responsible for building engagement with communities in the HoB region. Hendra achieved immediate impact, obtaining written support from Tumbang Tujang village for the WWF's conservation objectives, generating respect from all those who worked with him.

Born in Cianjur (West Java) in 1979, Hendra graduated from Universitas Winaya Mukti, Bandung (West Java) with a BSc in Forestry. After his studies, he worked as Education Manager for Yayasan Orangutan Indonesia (Yayorin) from 2005-2006 and Education-Community Center Officer from 2006-2009 before joining WWF-Indonesia in July 2009. Our prayers and thoughts are with his wife and children, family and friends. May strength and courage be with them during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely, Tati Darsoyo and Hadi Alikodra on behalf of the Board of WWF Indonesia.

Borneo in the 'heart' of climate talks at Copenhagen

You might not call it love at first sight – but two hearts certainly came together at the Forest Day exhibition which formed part of the Copenhagen climate change conference in December.

The Heart of Borneo found itself at the heart of the discussion of the role of Reduction of Emissions through Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) schemes in mitigating climate change.



© WWF-Indonesia / Verena Puspawardani

With presentations, displays and side events supported by WWF-Indonesia, the Indonesian government and several partners, the country's readiness for implementing REDD activities was highlighted to thousands of conference attendees.

The Indonesian government organized a 'Celebration of Indonesia' event which brought together more than 350 invited guests to understand the importance of the Heart to Borneo Initiative to realizing REDD activities. Thereafter WWF and the Indonesian government co-hosted a Heart of Borneo exhibit during Forest Day, which included an estimated 1,500 participants.

On the same day, the Heart of Borneo was highlighted as a prime case for action in the 'Fighting Deforestation - Inspiring to Act' event hosted by the Swedish Postcode Lottery. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and WWF Sweden CEO, Lasse Gustavsson addressed the Princess of Sweden and other distinguished speakers and guests during the event.

"The Heart of Borneo was recognized by thousands, including current world leaders, former heads of state, Nobel Laureates and academics as a global icon for trans-boundary cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation." said Adam Tomasek attending the event in Copenhagen.

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Strong Support for Heart of Borneo at local level in West Kalimantan

January 1, 2010, marks the opening of a new WWF HoB office in the Sintang District of West Kalimantan, which will coordinate activities in the Sintang and Melawi Districts and add to the existing office in Putussibau.

Head of Sintang District, Mr Milton Crosby, said he expected that WWF would now be able to more significantly assist in the implementation of National Strategic Plans of Action, in Sintang district. The government representative also offered WWF the opportunity to integrate WWF's conservation and sustainable development programs into Sintang government's program agenda.

These closer ties with government were revealed following a meeting of WWF-Indonesia's top officials, conservation director, Klaas J. Teule and forest-species-freshwater director, Ian Kosasih, with Milton Crosby in the first week of December, 2009.

WWF representatives also met with management officials of two national parks (NP), Danau Sentarum NP and Bukit Baka Bukit Raya NP, whose offices are also in Sintang.

In a very fruitful meeting all three parties agreed to align their conservation efforts and seek out synergy wherever possible, starting from January, 2010. Similar meetings are planned early next year with Betung Kerihun NP officials and the Office of Natural Resources Conservation Agency of West Kalimantan. Overall, these agreements are expected to significantly enhance the cooperation between WWF-Indonesia and these four technical implementation units of the Forestry Department in West Kalimantan, significantly assisting HoB strategy implementation in the area.

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Asian green governors see REDD in fight to halt climate change

Asian Green Governors from forest rich countries gathered in Singapore in November, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting, to urge APEC leaders and UNFCCC* negotiators to place forest protection, restoration of forests and payments for environmental services at the forefront of efforts to halt climate change.

Governors participating in the meeting (convened by the Asian Development Bank) are targeting compensation under the emerging global forest carbon market – including the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) mechanism – to support local development.

Discussions at the meeting featured examples of specific pilot projects and initial REDD design concepts. Specifically, the Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative was highlighted as a prime example of the sort of action needed in the region to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Speaking at the meeting, Indonesia's governor of central Kalimantan, the Honourable Augustin Teras Narang, said:

“The Heart of Borneo Initiative is an opportunity to address climate change through REDD, sustainable forest management and payment for environmental services, but we need real incentives and equitable financing mechanisms to realise the ambitious goals of the Heart of Borneo.”

REDD financing mechanisms and the HoB

Large scale carbon-rich landscapes such as the HoB can play a major role in achieving emission reduction targets while conserving and sustainably managing the contiguous trans-boundary forests of Borneo.

The basic idea behind REDD is that countries willing and able to reduce emissions from deforestation should be financially compensated for doing so. REDD financing as a win-win instrument can bring a whole range of benefits. For HoB countries, REDD would represent a new source of financing for national and provincial conservation and responsible growth. For developed countries, it would be a cost-efficient option for offsetting greenhouse gas emissions.

The Heart of Borneo is globally one of the most important centres of biodiversity with record rates of endemism.

In addition the tropical forest and important peatlands of the HoB hold significant amounts of carbon and therefore, play a vital role in mitigating global warming.

Heart of Borneo part of the solution

Adam J. Tomasek, WWF's Leader for the Heart of Borneo Initiative, addressed the Governors and noted the opportunities and difficulties faced.

“The Heart of Borneo is a global treasure chest of ecosystem goods and services, but these life sustaining functions are not valued or properly compensated. It is important that the bold commitments made by the three governments under the Heart of Borneo Declaration are met with new and viable mechanisms for large scale forest conservation and sustainable management. Equitable compensation for REDD is not just a good idea, it is an absolute necessity,” he said.

At the closing reception, Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Haruhiko Kuroda said addressing climate change, via reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation, was one of the central goals of the ADB.

The ADB and WWF are jointly supporting the Heart of Borneo Initiative through mobilising much needed financial and technical resources to deliver goals agreed by the three Borneo governments.

UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)



Photo: © WWF Indonesia

(left to right) Front row : David McCauley (ADB), President Kuroda (ADB), Governor Teras Narang (Central Kalimantan Province), Back row: Adam Tomasek and Anna van Paddenburg.

Culture, ecotourism, environmental security and 'Formatat' provide the focus for Heart of Borneo highland communities' gathering

By Cristina Eghenter and Dora Jok

Heart of Borneo highland community representatives gathered recently in Lawas (Sarawak) to discuss areas of shared interest under the banner of Formatat, (the Forum of the indigenous peoples of the Highlands of Borneo).

The leaders of Formatat described the spirit and purpose of their gathering by highlighting that they (Formatat members) were relatives (*rurum tau*), with one set of ancestors and cultural roots, and not 'foreign' to each other.

John Tarawe, representative of Bario, in Sarawak, further pointedly expressed that, "We are not a political association, we exchange ideas and thoughts. Formatat is an organization linking all the ethnic associations into a greater/larger forum, a small voice might not be heard in this globalization era", he said.

Pak Lewi, traditional chief from Krayan Selatan, also underlined the sense of 'family' that bring the communities of the highlands together. "The meaning of Formatat is that we are from the Krayan land, not from Indonesia. This is not about politics, this is about development and the future of our common land, the highlands in the Heart of Borneo", he said.

At the gathering, participants agreed on important post meeting actions, especially the decision to formally register the organization (still regarded as a 'forum' or informal gathering) in each country. They also agreed to continue to develop trans-boundary eco-tourism loops and provide joint training on ecotourism, organic agriculture and marketing of 'adan', or 'Borneo' Rice, from the 'Highlands of Borneo'. The forum also agreed to build awareness of the importance of protecting vulnerable environments and habitats within the HoB, and continue to strengthen cultural revival. It was agreed to produce a booklet heightening awareness of Formatat's important role and for representatives to participate in the Rainforest World Music Festival in Kuching, Sarawak in July 2010.

Participation will help promote handicrafts and products from the highlands in the Heart of Borneo and support great new destinations for ecotourism in Borneo.

Organised with the assistance of WWF HoB representatives from WWF Indonesia and WWF Malaysia, the meeting was to have taken place in Long Pasia (Sabah). Following consultation it was moved to Lawas, generously hosted in the house of a local Formatat representative.

For more information contact Dora Jok, email: dorajok@gmail.com, or Cristina Eghenter email: awing@samarinda.org

Protected area management monitoring tools support conservation in HoB's Danum Valley

Monitoring and evaluation of protected area management systems are a vital part of successful forest protection. WWF Malaysia recently completed a re-assessment of the Danum Valley Conservation Area (DVCA) using a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool-kit (METT) initially developed by WWF and the World Bank to assess bank funded protected areas.

The re-assessment followed a survey conducted in 2006 by senior staff involved in the day to day management of the conservation area. The tool-kit is simple to use and provides a mechanism for monitoring progress towards more effective management over time. It is used to enable park managers and donors to identify needs, constraints and priority actions to improve the effectiveness of protected area management.

The METT consists of a 'rapid assessment' based on a scorecard questionnaire, including all six elements of management identified in the IUCN/WCPA* Framework - context, planning, inputs, process, outputs and outcomes - with an emphasis on the first four elements.

Benefits of the toolkit include its ability to provide a harmonised reporting system which is suitable for replication and can supply consistent data to allow tracking of progress over time. It is also relatively quick and easy to complete by protected area staff or non-specialists, and thus is not reliant on high levels of resource support.

The METT assessments between the two periods (2005 -2009) showed very little statistical difference, indicating that management of the protected area was maintaining its already high standards over the course of time.

For more information contact Rashidah Maqbool, email: rmaqbool@wwf.org.my

*IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature/WCPA: World Commission on Protected Areas

East Kalimantan Governors head west for climate change talks

The governors of Kalimantan participated in a Climate Change workshop held in California in early November and committed the Borneo local governments under their control to taking a role in mitigating the climate change impact through a declaration called Balikpapan Declaration, as it took place in Balikpapan, East Kalimantan.

The workshop was attended by more than 200 people including heads of districts/cities in East Kalimantan, heads of environment agencies and forestry agencies in East Kalimantan Provinces, community organizations, NGOs and international organizations.

Through the Balikpapan Declaration, they acknowledged

the urgency for integrated, systematic and measurable efforts to reduce climate change and agreed to five important undertakings:

- (1) implementation of low carbon initiatives;
- (2) integration of sustainable development targets at sub-national level;
- (3) analysis and adjustment of current development policy towards sustainable development by local government;
- (4) utilization and development of research to respond to climate change issues, especially with respect to forestry activities;
- (5) support toward mitigation activities such as the current and on-going cooperation with international organizations on REDD and related activities.

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Muller Schwanner Management Plan emerges from Central Kalimantan

Management plans for the Muller Schwanner forest area in Central Kalimantan were the subject of vigorous debate at a recent stakeholder meeting in Palangka Raya, Central Kalimantan.

One result of the WWF Indonesia supported meeting was the presentation of recommendations on the management of Muller Schwanner forests, signed by provincial and district level government representatives. These included the pledging of central government support for the strengthening of HoB area activities in Central Kalimantan including the Muller Schwanner area. Support for spatial plan analysis and community-based conservation management activities, particularly in sustainable livelihood areas also featured in the recommendations.

For more information please contact; Ambang Wijaya, ambangw@wwf.or.id



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Building capacity to carry out conservation

WWF-Indonesia in West Kalimantan facilitated a series of workshops on wildlife, targeted governments, students and local communities in November and December 2009.

In mid November, a workshop on wildlife crime and law enforcement was organized in Pontianak, This was followed in December by a seminar on Orangutan conservation for District Level in Putussibau, Kapuas Hulu District.

The workshops were attended by law enforcement officers, local police and state prosecutors

from 3 districts in the Heart of Borneo - Kapuas Hulu District, Sintang District and Melawi District.

WWF's marine program representatives from customs, agricultural and fish quarantine, navy and Office of Natural Resources Conservation Agency of West Kalimantan also attended the workshop.

Recommendations emerging from the meetings included the idea that orangutans should become the districts' 'icon' in order to get more support for their conservation.

Malaysia hosts first ever Heart of Borneo wildlife trafficking workshop

Malaysia's first regional judiciary workshop on wildlife trade and trafficking was held in November, with legal representatives from the Bruneian, Indonesian and Malaysian courts gathering to discuss enforcement and the prosecution of wildlife crimes.

Jointly organized by TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, Sabah Wildlife Department, supported by WWF's HoB Initiative and funded by the US State Department, this historic event enhanced the three governments' ability to tackle organized poaching and trafficking of wild animals and plants across Borneo.

Opening the two-day workshop, Sabah's Tourism Culture and Environment Minister, Datuk Masidi Manjun, said illegal wildlife trade was a multi-billion dollar global business, which had taken on the characteristics of trans-national organised crime.

He said it involved an intricate web of collectors, middlemen, smugglers and traders - the same ones sometimes known to traffic people, arms and drugs.

"The courts are the most important link in the crime-fighting chain and the government is looking to the courts to impose more severe sentences on those who break the law," he said.

He noted that as part of three countries, each with their own regulations, Borneo's ecosystems were treated differently in each nation, but ecosystems did not stop at border crossings and administrative boundaries. As a result it had become clear that Borneo's diversity of flora and fauna cannot be sustained if forests are divided into patchwork regions.

"Conservation requires the maintenance of very large areas of inter-connected forests and the answer to this problem, is the 'Heart of Borneo' ... a cross-boundary area encompassing more than a quarter of Borneo's landmass.

"Malaysia is committed to this project and is in constant discussion with the two other nations on institutionalising

protection and conservation arrangements for our natural resources," Datuk Masidi said.

Illegal trade of wildlife is a major threat to Borneo's biodiversity, from species little known to the public like pangolins, through to high profile animals like Orangutan and Rhinoceros.

"The support of the judiciary is crucial in the battle against wildlife crime. Illegal trade in wildlife benefits only a few individuals, but the resulting loss of biodiversity will affect many for generations to come," said Chris R. Shepherd, Acting Director of TRAFFIC Southeast Asia.

Adam J. Tomasek, leader of WWF's HoB Initiative added that, "this workshop is testament to the commitments of the three governments under the Heart of Borneo Declaration to address one of the biggest challenges across the region - illegal wildlife trade. Success depends on proactive cooperation and trans-boundary collaboration, cornerstones of the HoB Initiative".

Two additional workshops on enforcement and an additional forum have been scheduled for 2010 to further enhance delivery of the commitments under the Heart of Borneo regional initiative.



© Merrill Halley

New year start for conservation project in Heart of Borneo

January 1, 2010 will mark the beginning of the Liwagu project, in the Tambunan District in the west of Sabah, designed to address freshwater, forest land use, community and species issues in the HoB. Liwagu is the name of a sub-catchment area, which lies within the buffer zone of the Crocker Range National Park. There are at least 19 villages in the project area with inhabitants consisting primarily of the Dusun ethnic community.

The project aims to collect baseline information on forest and wildlife resources, land use, community and catchment threats and assess their vulnerability to climate change and man made related threats. During the course of the three year, RM160,000 project, maps of the catchments will be prepared, along with a feasibility study into the establishment of a mini hydropower system and gravity feed water supply system for rural communities. Other objectives of the project include canvassing options for restoring the local 'tagal' system of community-based fisheries resource management, as well as providing recommendations to the authorities for sustainable use and improved protection of critical catchments in the project area.

The project will also establish a community-based catchment and river monitoring and reporting programme and carry out community training in catchment mapping, catchment and river monitoring and reporting, and best practices in fish farming as well as educating the community in water resources and climate change issues.

For more information contact Rashidah Maqbool, rmaqbool@wwf.org.my

Heart of Borneo in the News!

Each issue we will try and bring you a selection of the HoB news reported by media in the region and beyond. All stories have been edited for length and focused for content.

Sabah wants to be at the forefront of the Heart of Borneo success concept.

Source: *Kota Kinablaun, Sabah, November, 2009,*

Sabah State Forestry department Director, Datuk Sam Mannan said as the HoB was mainly about sustainable forest management, good governance and good environmental practice, his state wanted to be at the forefront of the Heart of Borneo concept.

Brunei government seeks to keep it forest cover record

Source: *Brunei Times – Nov, 2009*

The Brunei Government is intent on keeping its position in the world's top five in terms of percentage of forest cover... even in the face of the needs of development and progress.

Mahmud Yussof, deputy director of the Forestry Department, Ministry of Industry and Primary Resources, emphasised that Brunei's adherence to sustainable forest management and its Heart of Borneo (HoB) initiative do not oppose development... but under the HoB initiative, there had to be integrated planning.

Mahmud attributed the HoB achievement and success to His Majesty's leadership and support from various government and private agencies. These, he added, led to the Sultanate positioning itself on the global map in terms of climate change sustainability.

Heart of Borneo Initiative - an answer to wildlife trafficking

Source: *Daily Express – Nov. 2009*

Opening a two-day workshop on wildlife trafficking, Sabah's Tourism Culture and Environment Minister, Datuk Masidi Manjun, said illegal wildlife trade is a multibillion dollar global business, which has taken on the characteristics of trans-national organised crime.

He went on to say that it had become clear that the diversity of flora and fauna cannot be sustained if forests are divided into patchwork regions. Conservation requires the maintenance of very large areas of inter-connected forests.

"The answer to this problem is the Heart of Borneo. It is a cross-boundary area encompassing more than a quarter of Borneo's landmass. Malaysia is committed to this project and is in constant discussion with the two other nations on institutionalising protection and conservation arrangements for our natural resources," he said.

Brunei renown for efforts on heart of Borneo

Source: *Chinese Embassy website – following exclusive interview with the Chinese Ambassador to Brunei, by The Brunei Times, Dec, 2009.*

"Conscious of the adverse effects of climate change, the Bruneian government has done much to tackle the problem, along with the international community. In recent years, Brunei has been renowned for its relentless efforts in the Heart of Borneo (HOB) project covering Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia."

H.E. Mme. Tong Xiaoling, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Brunei Darussalam.

To those who celebrate Christmas, on behalf of all the team in Malaysia and Indonesia and our supporters in the network, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a safe, happy and peaceful New Year.

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