



## International Conference on HEART OF BORNEO +5 and Beyond "Shaping and Nurturing Sabah's Future Together"

The Magellan Sutura, Sutura Harbour Resort, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia  
6 - 7 November 2012

### Background

#### Borneo and the Heart of Borneo

The island of Borneo represents one of the most biologically diverse habitats on earth. The highly varied topography of Borneo resulted in the development of a rich variety of forest ecosystems, ranging from swamp and dipterocarp forest in the lowland to upper montane cloud forest in the mountains. An extremely high number of plant and animal species have evolved in these forest ecosystems and many are endemic to the island of Borneo. The tropical rainforest of the Heart of Borneo (HoB) which lies in all the three Bornean countries of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei cover almost 30% (22 million hectares) of this third largest island in the world and forms one of the largest contiguous forests remaining in all of Southeast Asia. It is also an existing government priority for Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, with strong foundation in terms of national action plans, governance bodies and emerging partnerships. In 2007 the three Bornean Governments signed the HoB Declaration, committing to conserve and sustainably manage the biodiversity, ecosystems and natural resources in HoB. Domestic political commitments have since been boosted by international support for action to tackle climate change and protect biodiversity in HoB.



#### Sustainability and Growth within the HoB

Economic growth depends on our ability to use natural and social capital, in order to create new physical and financial capital. Progress in transforming our economic and social life over the past few centuries has been remarkable. However, there is a growing concern that if we run the natural capital asset base down too far then we risk undermining our ability to maintain existing and develop new physical and financial capital. Despite these uncertainties, we know that in order to grow the HoB economy and support the changing consumption patterns and the increase in the population, we need to use natural capital much more efficiently; and to decouple economic growth from biodiversity and ecosystem degradation and depletion. Maintaining these forests as a life support system for climate, food and water security is currently not economically competitive due to non existing market for their carbon, water and provision of other services.

#### The Future We Want

Poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption and production, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives of and essential requirements for sustainable development. A key area on this is that we recognize people's opportunities to influence their lives and future, participate in decision making and voice their concerns are fundamental for sustainable development. Heart of Borneo and the implementation of the strategic plan of action have been carried out for the last 5 years. It is time to review the work and see if we are on the right track and how do we move from here.

### Tentative Programme and Breakout Sessions



#### Sabah Heart of Borneo

In Sabah, about 18% or 4 million hectares of the state's forest landscapes were designated under the HoB Initiative. The main objective, in a nutshell, is to protect and conserve a healthy and contiguous network of protected areas through the re-establishment of forest corridors for the connectivity and the promotion of sustainable land use practices within these landscapes. These are in support of the priorities recommended in the Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) that emphasized the maintenance of forest connectivity through strengthening of the protected area network, as

well as the establishment of sustainably managed forested corridors connecting these areas, and the opportunity for enhanced trans-boundary cooperation.

The journey ahead to achieve the ultimate objective of the HoB initiative is still far from being reached. The current efforts are however mainly focused on the protection of fragmented protected forest reserves. For such efforts to bring about sustainable outcomes in maintaining healthy ecological corridors, they must be complemented with similar efforts outside the protected areas system. One such example is the adoption of sustainable forest management, including the implementation of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and certification within the forestry sector. In addition to this, the SPA has also identified actions in other priority areas such as; the agriculture and plantation sector, community development, infrastructure development projects, and the tourism sector. The impact of their outcomes towards the HoB initiative and vice-versa however remains to be ascertained and gauged.

Day One (6 <sup>th</sup> November 2012)		
am	Registration of Participants	
	Opening Ceremony by Guest of Honour	
	Keynote Address	
pm	Plenary Session 1 – Presentation by Key Speakers	
	Group consultation (breakout session)*	
	Welcoming Dinner	
Day Two (7 <sup>th</sup> November 2012)		
am	Group consultation (breakout session)*	High Level Consultation Meeting** (closed session)
	Plenary Session 2 – To receive groups' recommendations	
pm	Conference Resolutions and Closing Ceremony	

\*The breakout session will be held concurrently to discuss the following 5 sub-themes i.e. Forestry and Biodiversity, Agriculture and Plantation, Tourism, Infrastructure, and Community Development. It will include specific presentation(s) relevant to the sub-themes and the use of Open Space Technology (OST) approach for active participation and contribution of ideas from the participants.

\*\*A High Level Consultation Meeting with leaders relevant to HoB Initiative will also be held in conjunction with the Conference (by invitation only).

