



WWF

BRIEF

2010

WWF Malaysia - Raymond Alfred

Heart of Borneo Trilateral side event at UNCBD-COP10 October 25, 2010, Nagoya, Japan

The Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative is a trilateral program intrinsically linked to delivering the goals of the UN Convention of Biological Diversity (UN CBD). The program has used the last three Conference of the Parties (COP), in Brazil (2006), in Bonn (2008) and Nagoya (2010) to profile its progress and advance its commitments. This year's Trilateral Side Event was hosted jointly by Dr Ahmed Djoghlaflaf, the Executive Secretary to the UN CBD who opened the event which celebrated the amazing and unique biodiversity of the Heart of Borneo. He applauded the three countries for translating their vision into action through the Heart of Borneo Declaration and highlighted its symbolism as a valuable new mechanism to protect and utilize resources in a sustainable way. He encouraged COP participants to take lessons from Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia.

He then joined with the three Bornean governments to co-launch their latest publication: **Financing the Heart of Borneo - A Partnership Approach to Economic Sustainability**. The report's production was supported by WWF's HoB Initiative and outlines options for capturing government, market and donor sources of finance for conservation and sustainable development activities within the 22 million hectares of trans-boundary tropical rainforest on the island of Borneo - known as the Heart of Borneo (HoB). The report's main recommendation is that countries need to mainstream the value of HoB forests and watersheds in their national and local development plans.

Dr. Djoghlaflaf noted the relevance of the report to the current discussions at COP10 around the economics of ecosystem services and ecosystem based finance, acknowledging the report as a prime example of **how the economic value of forests is being recognized and secured through innovative finance**.

"It is my pleasure to launch the HoB three government sustainable finance report. It is an important publication for the negotiators of this Convention as it shows how the ecosystems of HoB can be part of a sustainable future. It is a call to stop talking and start acting," Dr Djoghlaflaf said.

The new tri-governmental report sets out a pathway to understand the economic value of the HoB's natural capital in terms of the ecosystem services it provides, such as carbon storage, regulating water flow and providing new genetic resources for medicines.

Examples of innovative financing mechanisms under development in each of the three countries highlighted in the report include:

Bio-prospecting in Brunei

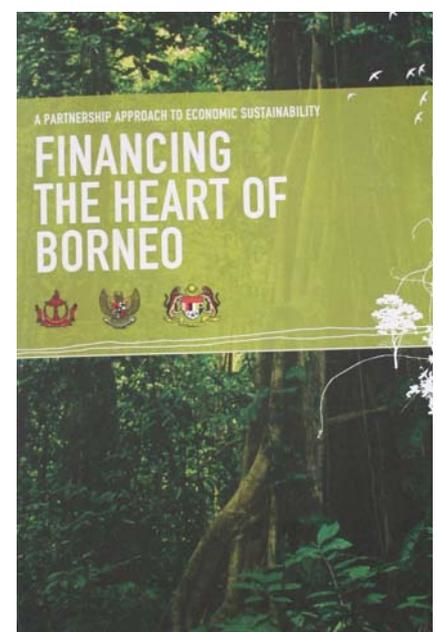
The Brunei government in partnership with the Japanese National Institute of Technology and Evaluation is currently exploring the potential for 'bio-prospecting' of its rich forest and biological genetic resources.

Watershed protection payments in Indonesia

In the conservation district of Kapuas Hulu in Kalimantan, an on-going initiative supported by WWF, CARE and the International Institute for Environment and Development seeks to reward upstream communities for their stewardship of crucial watershed areas which provide a valuable 'service' to users downstream.

Malaysia's Malua BioBank

The Sabah government has licensed conservation rights for 50 years to the Malua BioBank, with a private investor committing up to US\$10 million for the rehabilitation of the Malua forest reserve.



UN and International voices of support

Dr Djoghla's message was that biodiversity could be seen as an economic asset and that it was in the interests of the economy that biodiversity be protected. He emphasized the CBD's unwavering support for the Heart of Borneo Initiative and called upon other representatives at the side event to add their voice to this support.

Dr Djoghla's call for support was quickly answered by a range of international groups including **Jim Leape, WWF International Director General**, who congratulated the three HoB Governments on making the Initiative an on-ground reality. He confirmed the HoB as a priority area for WWF globally, and pledged his organisation's continued support to the three Governments to deliver the vision of the HoB Declaration. In particular, Mr Leape encouraged the establishment of a Partnership Forum, consisting of multi-bi-lateral agencies and interested private sector members to deliver conservation and sustainable development in the HoB.



Asian Development Bank's Director of Regional and Sustainable Development Department, Mr. Nessim Ahmad expressed support for the Heart of Borneo Initiative, not only for biodiversity protection, but also to support sustainable economic development on Borneo. **JICA's Deputy Director, Mr. Mitsugi Hiroto**, also congratulated the three Governments for their commitment to pursuing sustainable finance mechanisms and offered JICA's support for this vitally important cross-border Initiative.

Mr. Chris Knight, manager of the Sustainability and Climate Team of international consulting firm, Pricewaterhousecoopers (PWC), said the private sector was also interested in supporting this important Initiative. PWC has a global team, with offices in Indonesia and Malaysia and he took the opportunity to offer PWC's support to the three HoB Governments in their pursuit of green economic development.

Ms. Clarissa Carida, on behalf of the ASEAN Center of Biodiversity (ACB) also applauded the three governments for their achievements so far, and advised that ACB had been engaged with HoB for a number of years, and continued to be interested in supporting capacity building programs.

Besides the statements of support from various speakers, **Customary Leader and Head of FORMADAT (Alliance of Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo), Mr. Lewi**, emphasized the importance of the HoB in protecting resources, improving livelihoods and building a sustainable future in their highland homelands.

The Heart of Borneo Initiative's current chair, **Haji Saidin Salleh**, concluded the session with a strong sense of pride and congratulated Brunei, Indonesia and Malaysia. He repeated the steadfast commitment of the three countries to the protection of biodiversity within the HoB. Delegates supporting the launch of the report included representatives from many countries, including Japan, China, Korea, UK, Germany and the US; as well as multilateral and bilateral agencies such as ADB, KfW and JICA; international organizations, including UNEP, IUCN, CIFOR and ACB; private sector groups such as PWC, UPM as well as international NGOs; WWF, IUCN, Conservation International, academia and media.



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.

www.panda.org