



THE MINISTRY OF FORESTRY - INDONESIA

In collaboration with

WWF INDONESIA



COMMITMENT TO SAVE INDONESIA'S HERITAGE

FOR PEOPLE AND
SPECIES IN DANGER





NEW PROTECTED AREAS IN INDONESIA

FOR ELEPHANTS, TIGERS, ORANG-UTANS AND PEOPLE:
THE KEY TO INDONESIA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

Indonesian forest management needs to closely link the conservation of biodiversity with sustainable livelihood development. The link between them is real and needs careful management. A clear example is found in the ecosystems of Sebangau Central Kalimantan and Tesso Nilo Riau Sumatra. Both are critically important areas that the Ministry of Forestry, the Provincial Governments and stakeholders are committed to protect with the support of WWF. The outcome will be enhanced protection of habitats and species including, endangered elephants, tigers and orangutan. The protection efforts will include addressing the aspirations and well-being of human communities, big and small.



"The Ministry of Forestry is planning to establish 12 new protected areas in Indonesia, amounting to about 1 million hectares in the year 2004, which include Tesso Nilo and Sebangau. This is part of our commitment to fulfilling our obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity."

**Ir. Koes Saparjadi,
Director General of
PHKA, Ministry of
Forestry, Indonesia**

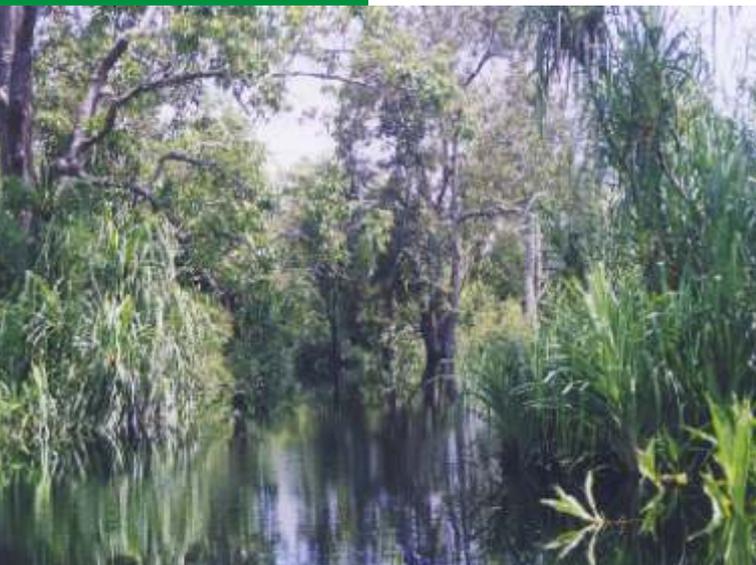
Indonesia is one of the world's most diverse countries for species of animals and plants and a fitting focus for the Convention on Biological Diversity. If we wish to conserve this biodiversity, we must conserve entire ecosystems, both for their species richness and for the people who depend on them. Indonesia is an archipelago of more than 17,500 islands extending some 5,000 kilometers along the Equator. This vast geographical spread has made Indonesia a country with the largest expanse of lowland tropical rainforests in Asia. These are among the most species-rich forests on our planet - home to elephants, rhinos, tigers, orang-utans, and thousands of other species that share these habitats, together with more than different 500 indigenous peoples. Indonesia's forests cover two-thirds of the country's land area. The Government of Indonesia has, therefore, established various forms of protected areas throughout the country.

Forest protected areas amount to approximately 20 million hectares or about 17 per cent of Indonesia's total forested areas of 120 million hectares. These protected areas comprise national parks (66 per cent), wildlife sanctuaries (15 per cent), strict nature reserves (12 per cent), forest recreation parks (5 per cent), and game reserves and grand forest parks (2 per cent).

Some of the protected areas have gained international recognition such as the designation of Ujung Kulon, Komodo, and Lorentz as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and Siberut, Gunung Gede Pangrango and Leuser as UN Man and Biosphere Reserves.

The Government, in cooperation with NGOs and other institutions, is developing a framework and collaborative management scheme for integrating conservation and development activities in managing protected areas. The Government of Indonesia has also made concerted efforts to improve the management effectiveness of the country's protected areas. Major challenges to effective management, such as illegal logging, forest conversion and forest fires are taken up through various fora such as local NGO consortiums, FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance & Trade) multilateral forum to combat illegal logging; and bilateral agreements.

"Conserving Tesso Nilo and Sebangau forests is key in protecting species like the elephant, tiger and orangutan. The pledges made today therefore will have global significance when they become reality. Government, conservation organizations, industry, local communities, and funding organizations need to collaborate to fully realise these pledges and also ensure these protected areas are effectively managed for future generations."
**Claude Martin,
Director General, WWF International**



TESSO NILO

SECURING A HAVEN FOR THE SUMATRAN ELEPHANT AND TIGER



Tesso Nilo is one of the largest remaining blocks of dry lowland rainforest in Sumatra. The latest survey found that only about 350 Sumatran elephants (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*) are left in Riau Province, due to Sumatra's rapidly disappearing forests. WWF research also found Tesso Nilo to have the highest vascular plant diversity ever recorded by science, with 218 different species of plants identified in a 200 square meter area. The Tesso Nilo forest is crucial habitat for central Sumatra's rapidly disappearing elephant and tiger populations and many other endangered species.

Tesso Nilo is currently zoned for selective logging. However, illegal forest conversion and logging operations are threatening the survival of this unique forest and its unique biodiversity. Since 1984, over 300,000 hectares of the Tesso Nilo forest have been converted to industrial plantations. Less than 180,000 hectares remain today.

Since 2000, WWF, together with Ministry of Forestry, has been working with:

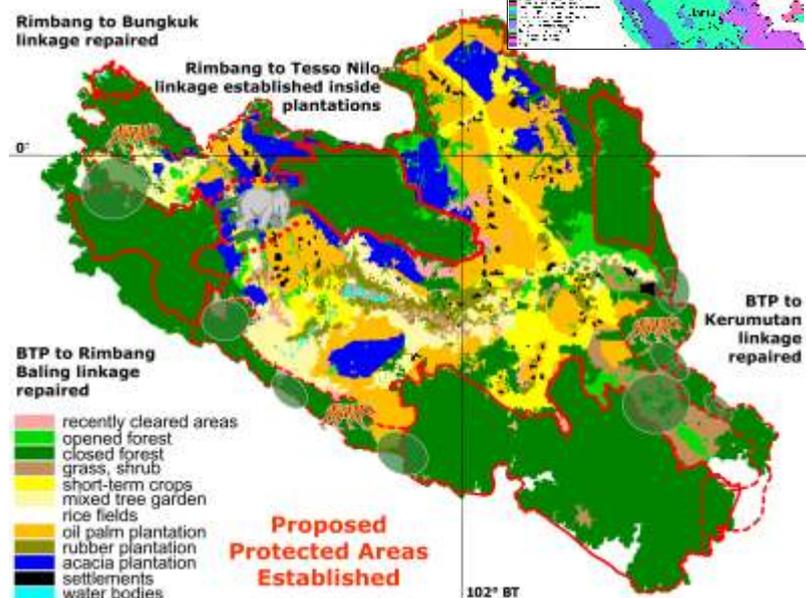
- local, provincial and national governments to protect Tesso Nilo because of its outstanding biodiversity and its crucial role as elephant and tiger habitat.
- local industries being encourage to return some of the logging concessions covering Tesso Nilo to the government and to establish a fully integrated law enforcement plan for the proposed protected area.
- 22 communities of the Tesso Nilo buffer zone to establish ecologically sustainable and economically successful community development programmes.

STEPS ALONG THE WAY
Based on recommendations from the Governor of Riau, the Provincial Parliament and other stakeholders, the Ministry of Forestry is firmly committed to establishing Tesso Nilo as a protected area. The first phase will be the protection of an area of approximately 33,000 hectares previously owned by Inhutani IV - a state owned company under a Ministry of Forestry logging concession. Negotiations are under way to get two other logging concessions covering about 90,000 hectares of Tesso Nilo to return the leases to the Government, for possible inclusion in the second phase of the Tesso Nilo protected area. Conservation value assessments will help determine which parts of these concessions should be conserved.

TESSO NILO HONEY

Local community livelihoods are the key to conservation success. The effective management of Tesso Nilo as a protected area will provide benefits for local people as well as wildlife. WWF has been working with the Department of Forestry and other key stakeholders in creating local community awareness of the real value to their lives of saving Tesso Nilo. The pristine forest now has new potential as a source of income - the wild honey business. WWF sponsored training and gave equipment to promote a well-run business marketing organic honey produced from the Tesso Nilo forest. WWF is committed to supporting other promising community-based economic developments and seeking partnership with the corporate sector to ensure funding and continuity.

Tesso Nilo's stakeholders are committed to creating a professionally co-managed protected area that will allow this outstanding forest to survive into the future. WWF and its conservation partners are also working to ensure a sustainable financial future for Tesso Nilo through the establishment of an independently managed Trust Fund that will support its management.



"Tesso Nilo landscape is more than just home for elephants and tigers, as it has been found to contain the world's richest vascular plant biodiversity. Protecting Tesso Nilo will significantly alleviate human - wildlife conflicts as well as proving that conservation can go hand-in-hand with economic development."

**H.M. Rusli Zainal, SE,
Governor of Riau, Sumatra, Indonesia**

SEBANGAU

A PLEDGE OF HOPE FOR INDONESIA'S ORANG-UTAN

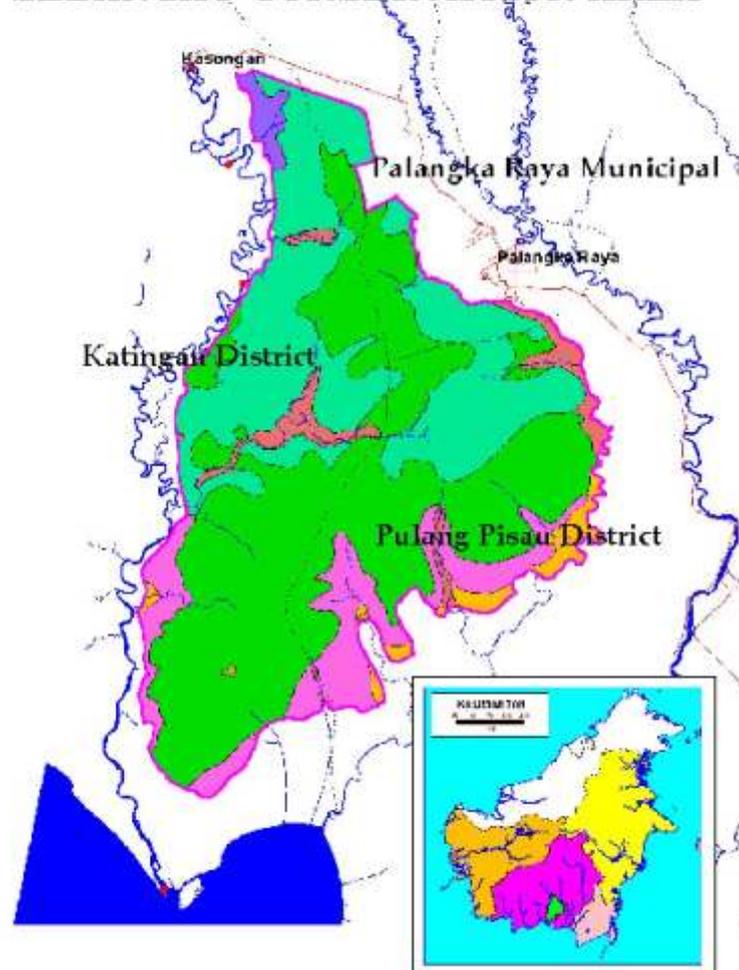
The Sebangau forest ecosystem in Borneo is located in Katingan district, Pulang Pisau district and Palangka Raya Municipality, in Central Kalimantan Province. Home to many of Borneo's internationally acknowledged and endangered wildlife species, Sebangau is the largest remaining lowland forest refuge for a significant population (2,500-4,500 individuals) of the endangered Bornean orang-utan. Sebangau is a peat swamp forest and a large carbon sink. This important forest will be lost entirely if this area is deforested, drained and converted to other land uses.

"The failure of the "million hectares peat land for paddy field initiative" gave us a tough lesson: we should opt for sustainable development strategies that put the environmental issues up front in importance. Saving Sebangau is important for both the local community livelihoods and orang-utan conservation; the two are linked."

Drs. H. Asmawi Agani,

Governor of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

SEBANGAU CONSERVATION AREA



CHALLENGES AHEAD

Major threats to Sebangau's orang-utan population are habitat changes due to forest fires, agricultural and plantation conversion, and large-scale logging. Poaching and hunting are additional problems, especially in areas where the animals have traditionally been hunted and where there is easy transportation (for instance along logging roads) to the illegal pet trade. Local Dayak communities have consistently acknowledged the ecological and spiritual values of the large coastal and inland swamp forest belt of this Central Kalimantan Province. They are now insisting upon effective conservation and sustainable use of the remaining forest areas. Sebangau is therefore proposed as a protected area for species and local people. Other challenges relate to ensuring sustainable livelihoods for the local people. Together with local stakeholders, WWF is committed to further develop community-based economic initiatives and forging partnerships with local corporate sector. Together with the Head of the District Governments, WWF Indonesia is currently helping to facilitate the development of a rattan industry in the Katingan district, and aloe vera plantations in Pulang Pisau district.



STEPS ALONG THE WAY

Currently, the Sebangau peat swamp forest has been designated as a protected area in the final draft of the Spatial Plan of the districts (Katingan and Pulang Pisau), and municipality of Palangka Raya. The Governor and Provincial Parliament of Central Kalimantan have recommended that the Ministry of Forestry designate Sebangau as a protected area. This is supported by the many stakeholders of Sebangau. The Ministry of Forestry intends to finalize the gazette process of Sebangau in 2004.

PARTNERING WITH NEIGHBOURS - TRANSBOUNDARY CONSERVATION

BACKGROUND

Indonesia shares a border with Malaysia on the island of Borneo. Indonesia's two largest national parks that straddle the border with Malaysia are Betung Kerihun and Kayan Mentarang. WWF Indonesia has been working in Betung Kerihun since 1995 and in Kayan Mentarang since 1990. Together with the Ministry of Forestry, Provincial government agencies and other local stakeholders, WWF Indonesia helps facilitate the development of the parks Management Plan, and a Collaborative Management scheme to fully involve local communities, and community-based economic initiatives.



BETUNG KERIHUN

The 800,000 hectare Betung Kerihun National Park was first established as a Nature Reserve in 1982. It is the catchment area of one of the largest and longest rivers in Borneo. The park is mostly mountainous and contains a broad range of vegetation types including lowland, hill and lower montane, and upper montane tropical rainforests. The park forms five upper watersheds of West Kalimantan's major rivers and is key to maintaining water supply and navigation to the community downstream. Vegetation types and composition vary within each habitat depending on the topographical feature. The lowland, hill and sub-montane forests are dominated by Dipterocarp species. More than 1,200 plant species have so far been documented, including 418 genera and 110 families. Of these, 75 species are endemic to Borneo and 14 species are newly listed, including 13 species of palm. A number of studies have indicated that the park has a viable population of orang-utans.

Together with the neighbouring Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and Batang Ai National Park of Malaysia, Betung Kerihun National Park is being proposed by the Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia as a World Heritage Site. World Heritage status will help foster transboundary cooperation to ensure effective management of this mountain ecosystem.

KAYAN MENTARANG

The Kayan Mentarang National Park is situated in the interior of East Kalimantan, Indonesia. The park borders the Malaysian states of Sarawak to the west and Sabah to the north. With a total area of 1.38 million hectares, it is the largest protected area in Borneo and one of the largest in Southeast Asia. A strict nature reserve since 1980, the area was declared as a National Park by the Minister of Forestry in October 1996. About half of the park consists of species-rich dipterocarp lowland and hill forest while mountain forest ranges up to Kayan Mentarang's highest mountain at 2,000 meters. The area is considered to be one of the world's 10 biodiversity hotspots, containing a disproportionately high level of species diversity in a relatively small area. Kayan Mentarang National Park has also been identified as one of WWF's Global 200 - biologically outstanding ecoregions that most represent the world's biodiversity.

"Concerted transboundary conservation initiatives have become more crucial than ever. WWF Indonesia and other partners are embarking on a large-scale conservation initiative in the 'Heart of Borneo'. We need the international community's support to ensure that the rich and unique biodiversity of this area is conserved for the local people's sustainable livelihoods and to ensure environmental benefits for the global community."

**Mubariq Ahmad,
Executive Director, WWF Indonesia**

CHALLENGES AND COMMITMENT

Addressing environmental and social challenges at the border areas requires strong cooperation from both local communities and the National and Provincial Governments of Indonesia and Malaysia. Effective participation of local communities in the management of the protected areas and the creation of sustainable livelihoods are essential. The Indonesian Government, along with WWF and other organizations, is committed to continuing and significantly strengthening the existing cooperation with Malaysia to stop the large amount of wood that is illegally smuggled from Indonesia to Malaysia over the land borders in Borneo.



ENSURING THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF INDONESIA'S PROTECTED AREAS

There are many challenges stopping effective management of protected areas in Indonesia. The sheer size of the areas, lack of financial and human resources, and the increasing threats related to illegal logging and forest conversion such as forest fires, are ongoing challenges.



Why Do We Need To Assess Protected Areas

The Government of Indonesia, along with WWF, The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International and other NGOs, is committed to assessing the management effectiveness of the country's protected areas both at the system (national) and site level. In the first instance, the assessment will be focused on the 41 national parks in Indonesia. A plan will be developed to follow-up on the findings of the assessment, and a wider partnership established to ensure implementation of the plan.

The Methodology

The methodology to be used, known as the Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management (RAPPAM), offers policy makers a tool to rapidly assess the overall management effectiveness of protected areas within a particular country or region. It has the following main aims:

- Identify management strengths and weaknesses of protected area systems.
- Analyse pressures and threats across an entire protected area system.
- Identify areas of high ecological and social importance.
- Prioritise policy interventions.
- Identify appropriate follow-up steps.

The methodology draws on the evaluation framework developed by the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and is designed for broad-level comparisons among many protected areas. It can answer a number of important questions - What are the threats facing a number of protected areas and how serious are they? How do protected areas compare with one another in terms of infrastructure and management capacity? What actions are urgently needed in each protected areas? What is the overall level of integrity and degradation of each protected area? What are the most strategic interventions to improve the entire system? - and many more.

"Ensuring management effectiveness in our protected areas poses a huge challenge for Indonesia. We are committed to meeting this difficult challenge, working with all of our partners, because the cost of losing Indonesia's protected areas would be unimaginably immense to our environment, people and culture."

Adi Susmianto,
Director for Area Conservation,
Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia

What Next?

Once the system-wide assessment of National Parks is finalized, this will be followed by a further assessment at the site-level, using the Site Conservation Planning methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy. An action plan will be developed to help implement the improvement measures identified through the assessment process both at site and system levels. International support will be sought to help ensure effective implementation of the plans.

For further information, please contact:



Directorate General of Forest Protection and Natural Conservation
Directorate of Area Conservation, Ministry of Forestry, Republic of Indonesia
Mangala Wanabhakti Building, Block VII, 7th floor
Jl. Jend. Gatot Subroto, Jakarta Pusat, Indonesia
T/F: +62-21-5720229 - E: adi@ditjen_phka.go.id - www.ditjen_phka.go.id



Yayasan WWF Indonesia
Kantor Taman A9, Unit A-1
Jl. Mega Kuningan Lot 8-9/A9
Jakarta 12950, Indonesia
T: +62-21-5761070 - F: +62-21-5761080
E: WWF-ID@wwf.or.id - www.wwf.or.id

Cover photos:
People with rattan; © WWF Indonesia
Sumatran Elephant; © WWF-Canon / Paul FORSTER
Sumatran Tiger; © WWF-Canon / Fredy MERCAY
Borneo Orang Utan; © WWF Indonesia

Inside pages:
All photos: © WWF Indonesia

Design by: WWF Indonesia / Dewi Satriani