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# Heart of Borneo

New hope for the orang-utans last refuge

2008 Guardians Appeal



The guardians

# Why a vision of hope must become a reality

Charles Darwin described Borneo, the world's third largest island, as "one great wild, untidy, luxuriant hothouse, made by nature for herself." It is one of the world's three greatest treasure-houses, alongside the Amazon and the Congo – the precious jewels which adorn the Earth's equatorial belt.

Millions of years of high heat, humidity and plentiful rainfall have triggered an explosion of life here. Many species have evolved in virtual isolation, and exist nowhere else.

These primeval forests still conceal countless mysteries. On average, a new species is discovered here every week, including plants that may help to treat cancer, AIDS and malaria.

In 2003, WWF and its partners embarked on an epic mission to conserve almost a third of the island, 240,000km<sup>2</sup>, an area about the size of the UK. In February 2007, the three Bornean governments – Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia – sealed their support for this initiative by signing the Heart of Borneo Declaration.

Now we need your support to continue our work and ensure that our long-term objectives are achieved, ending the forest destruction that continues to this day.

I have been privileged to meet the incredible people and animals living in these forests. My greatest hope is that I can pass on my passion for this place to you, and that you can make your contribution to Borneo's future as a WWF Guardian.

Yours sincerely,



Stuart Chapman

*WWF International Co-ordinator  
of the Heart of Borneo Programme*



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# Please help us to save the Heart of Borneo

## Saving the 'man of the forest'

“Every bit of the rainforest that is knocked down is less space for orang-utans. They have been reduced very seriously in the past decade.”

### Sir David Attenborough

The latest studies of orang-utans make grim reading. They estimate the number of orang-utans on Earth has fallen by up to 50% in the last ten years. That in another ten years, the forests of Borneo may no longer be able to sustain them. And ten years after that, the orang-utan could be extinct in the wild.

Orang-utans are the largest tree dwelling animal in the world. When the trees around them are cut down or burnt for agriculture and commercial forestry, they lose their shelter and their food. Like other great apes, they have a slow reproductive cycle: females mature after 10–15 years and usually give birth to a single infant every seven to eight years.

Then the poachers come. About 1,000 orang-utans are killed for meat and body parts each year. Mothers are killed and their offspring sold as pets or status symbols.

Most populations of orang-utans are now so small and dispersed, they cannot recover from these attacks.

**The long-term survival of some populations of orang-utan now relies on the creation and management of protected forests.** If these are not put in place and defended, there will be nothing to stop the forests becoming too fragmented to support them. There will be nothing to stop the orang-utan from being forced from the forests of Borneo.

## At risk: a vital haven for wildlife, a beacon of hope for mankind

Ironically, in the same period that Borneo's population of orang-utans has been so devastated, more than 360 distinct species of plants and animals have been newly identified on the island.

Scientists have also found a shrub with promising anti-cancer properties, a previously unknown anti-malarial agent found in tree bark, and a unique chemical produced by the Bornean Bintangor tree, which appears to be effective against HIV.

In addition, these forests are home to three million people, and provide drinking water, food and shelter to a wider population of

16 million. And the Heart of Borneo will play a crucial role in humanity's epic efforts to tackle climate change. These forests have an enormous capacity to remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere. But a huge amount of CO<sub>2</sub> will be released if the forests continue to be cut down and burned.



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# Why we really need your support today

## The threats are real and imminent

In 2001 the World Bank predicted that all of the forest on Sumatra, Borneo's island neighbour, would be destroyed outside protected areas by 2005. **Today, this prediction has all but come true.**

The same report predicted the same forces will destroy the lowland forests of Borneo by 2010 and fragment forests by 2020. The chainsaws and the bulldozers have come in force, and all over the island palm oil plantations and roads are replacing ancient trackless forest. **But there is still hope.**

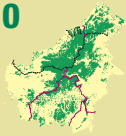
### Dwindling forests

**1985**



The ancient forests, largely intact.

**2010**



Forests reduced to a patchwork of isolated remnants.

**2020**



A vast clearance: effective eviction for orang-utans and other forest-dwellers.

## We must halt the deforestation before it is too late

In the time it takes you to read this sentence, 60 trees will have been cut down in Borneo. 300 million have already gone.

Satellite studies show that more than half of the protected lowland forests in Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo, were cut down between 1985 and 2001.

If very large blocks of inter-connected forest are not maintained, hundreds of species could become extinct, some lost even before science can discover them. Large mammals such as orang-utans, rhino and elephants are particularly vulnerable.

## We need your help to safeguard what is left

*“All of us who value life on this planet should support the efforts of these countries to conserve the Heart of Borneo. It is truly a world heritage and the world should respond to its needs.”*

**Sir David Attenborough**

WWF is calling on the Guardians to help us raise the £250,000 needed to begin a new era of conservation in the Heart of Borneo.

## How your donation will be used

The following actions require immediate support, and will benefit from Guardian contributions as soon as they are received:

- re-connecting the key orang-utan areas of Danau Sentarum and Betung Kerihun national parks in the Heart of Borneo
- detailed mapping of the forests of Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo and for the very first time negotiating for the creation of protected forests
- improving conservation management in three existing protected areas

## Please give us your support today

**Please return the enclosed pledge form today. You will be helping to safeguard the Heart of Borneo from the moment your donation is received.**



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# With your help, the Heart of Borneo has a chance

## Long term objectives

**To tackle the many threats facing these amazing forests and their inhabitants, WWF is committed to:**

**Working with The Nature Conservancy and The Wildlife Conservation Society to protect 1.5 million hectares of Borneo's most important wildlife sanctuaries. This includes new rainforest reserves connected by forest 'corridors', so that wildlife and people can pass freely between them.**

**Providing the people of Borneo with real alternatives to illegal poaching and logging. This way they can make the money they need without having to destroy the natural riches of their home.**

**Protecting the remaining natural habitat of Borneo's orang-utans, rhinos and elephants. WWF field teams monitor, study and protect**

**endangered wildlife. Our specialist scientists and negotiators talk to governments and big business, to convince them to tighten conservation laws and ensure they are enforced.**

**Monitoring timber and paper supplies through the Forest & Trade Network. This means that companies in this global market, along with their customers, can avoid contributing to forest destruction and illegal logging.**

**Helping to safeguard precious supplies of fresh water. We do this by promoting and supporting sustainable management of wetlands, watersheds, lakes and river basins.**

**Donations from people like you make all of this possible**

## Key Facts

- Borneo is home to 55,000 orang-utans, nine primate species, over 350 types of bird, 150 reptiles and amphibians, and 15,000 plant species.
- Only half of Borneo's forest cover remains – lowland forests could be destroyed by 2010.
- The Heart of Borneo harbours up to 6% of the world's total biodiversity and is the source of 14 of the island's major rivers – vital to the animals and three million people.
- Plants that may help treat or cure cancer, AIDS and malaria have been found here.
- The full diversity of these forests cannot be maintained if they are reduced to a patchwork, and thousands, or even millions, of species could become extinct.

## We must act quickly – but we can only do this with your help

- £1,000** could replant and restore two hectares of rainforest and help rebuild one of the last refuges of the orang-utan.
- £1,700** could buy two motorbikes, so that WWF supported wardens can tackle illegal logging and wildlife poaching on the ground.
- £2,000** could buy two new boats with outboard engines – vital for the transport of orang-utan research officers and rangers into the Heart of Borneo.
- £5,000** could pay for ten hectares of forest corridor to be restored with additional tree planting – vital to preserve the orang-utans' range and its ability to breed successfully.
- £10,000** could pay the cost of one field officer for a year, helping the Malaysian government to develop their own conservation programmes.
- £15,000** could purchase a 4x4 truck, needed to maintain a conservation presence in this tough terrain.

**For the Heart of Borneo, it really is now or never**




**Donate £2,000** and receive this wonderful mounted print by renowned wildlife photographer Roger Hooper.

*“WWF needs dedicated supporters like you to help them save Borneo from the devastation of encroaching palm oil plantations and illegal logging. Otherwise, species such as orang-utans don't stand a chance. The Guardians must give this incredible place a voice and make sure it is heard by those who most need to listen.”*

**Roger Hooper**

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**for a living planet®**

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable, natural resources is sustainable
- reducing pollution and wasteful consumption

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