

*Heart
of
Borneo*

My home

My island

My future

Do you live in Brunei, Sabah, Sarawak or Kalimantan?

Then your home is on the island of Borneo!

This little book is about taking care of your island home. It also tells why Borneo is so special, not just for you and all the families that live here, but for the whole world!

Do you live somewhere else?

Then your home is on this planet Earth, and Borneo is still important to you!

Borneo has one of the Earth's large areas of rainforest. What happens to the tropical rainforests of the world affects us all – our weather, our health and our whole future.

Many people round the world have their eyes on Borneo. They knew that the forest was being cut down very quickly, and were very pleased when the governments of Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Indonesia agreed to work together to take care of the trees that remained.

This little book will help you understand why it is important to take care of the Borneo forest, and show you how special it is. You can help too!

Read on...

Teachers: This booklet refers to some of the publications of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and certain pages on its websites. The abbreviations used in the footnotes are:

BLW Borneo's Lost World
BBS Biodiscoveries - Borneo's Botanical Secret
BTI Borneo - Treasure Island at Risk
WEB www.panda.org

Heart of Borneo

Before it is too late

In 2007 the governments of Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia agreed that the rainforest of Borneo needed to be protected. They acted quickly because trees that took hundreds of years to grow could be cut down in a few minutes. They decided to work together because the most important areas of the forest that remained covered parts of all three countries. These areas we call the "Heart of Borneo"

400 square metres every second

How quickly was the Borneo forest disappearing?

In each year between 2000 and 2002 the area of forest cut down was 1,300,000 hectares. This is a very big number, and hard to understand, isn't it?

*It is the same as 400 square metres, about **the size of two school classrooms**, every second. In the time you take to read this single page, an area the size of a large school would have been destroyed.*

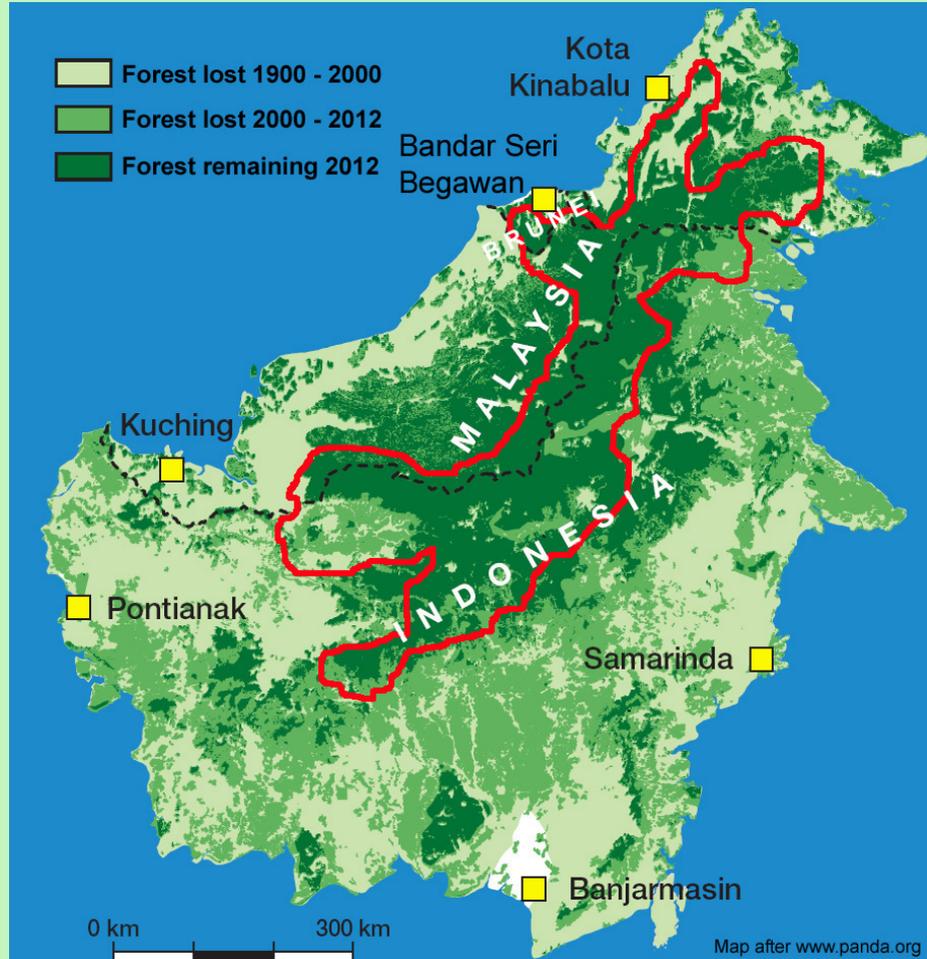
Plants and Animals

*We know that we need passports and visas to go from country to country, but the animals do not! The Heart of Borneo agreement means that the **15,000 types of plants and 210 mammal species** of the rainforest can spread freely over a large protected area which will be carefully watched over.*

400 square metres every second

Some scientists working for the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) drew a map to show how Borneo was changing. In 1900, most of the island was covered in trees. The lightest green area shows where the forest had been cut down by the year 2000. The middle green area shows what the scientists thought would happen by the year 2012 if the cutting did not slow down

The line in red shows the *Heart of Borneo*.



Work it out!

A football field is 100 x 50 metres. How many football fields would have been cleared of trees in five minutes in 2002? Ans p5

How special is Borneo?

Borneo's rainforest is full of wonderful plant and animal life not seen anywhere else

Different Species Found	Germany	Netherlands	UK	BORNEO
Plants	2683	1221	1623	15000
Birds	247	192	229	620
Mammals	76	55	50	221

Everyone is beginning to realise how special the unspoiled rainforest is.

Even now, more and more new things are being discovered! Between 1994 and 2004, scientists found 361 new types of animals and plants¹. In 2006 alone, another 52 were found including 30 fishes, two tree frogs, 16 types of ginger, three trees and one large-leaved plant². The **number of different types of living things on Borneo is the highest in the world**: for example, in Lambir Hills, Sarawak, researchers counted 1175 different species of trees in one 52 hectare area³.

Many special animals live on Borneo: the **orang-utan, Sumatran rhinoceros, clouded leopard, Borneo pygmy elephant, proboscis monkey, flying lemur, gibbon, tarsier and slow loris**. These animals are so special that they need protecting from thieves. A special agreement called CITES helps to stop them being bought and sold, but they need better protection because the thieves are very clever.

Scientists are also finding new medicines in the forest. More and more they find **plants with special medical properties** - to cure life-threatening diseases⁴.

Heart of Borneo forests are also important because they are the source of most of the **island's major rivers** and provide fresh water for all of us that live on the island⁵.

CITES = Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora

1 BLW p4 2 BLW p7 3 WEB 4 BBS p14 5 WEB



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Now or Never

The plants and animals are being destroyed faster and faster

*Although lots of new plants and animals are discovered, others are nearly **gone forever**. It is mostly the large mammals and some trees that are in danger. But even some insects too.*

The danger comes in two ways: loss of forest trees and illegal selling of animals. Unfortunately, in Borneo, these two things happen at the same time. Roads are made to allow trees to be transported out and these permit easy and fast access to poachers, especially to areas which would be very hard to reach otherwise.*

They take elephants, rhinos, orang-utans, sun-bears and clouded leopards - so that not many are left. Some of the animals are cut up to sell as body parts or skins; others are sold into miserable lives as pets.

Trees are cut down for their valuable wood and to make way for plantations. Both of these activities divide the remaining forest into small patches - too small for the large mammals to find food and mates. And every new forest edge is a new place for the drying heat of the sun, creating soil conditions where deep forest trees cannot live.

The scientists studying these changes predicted that by 2012 there would be no lowland forest left - and of course no place for the wild animals. This must be stopped quickly!*

Vocabulary Help

poachers - people who capture wild animals illegally
predicted - told of future events

Answer from p3: an area the size of 24 football fields in just five minutes!

Plants and Animals in Danger

Some plants and animals may disappear in the wild within our lifetime. These are some species from Borneo that are on the danger list.

Rajah's Pitcher Plant
Rothschild's Slipper Orchid
Sander's Slipper Orchid
Price's Rafflesia
Banteng or Tembadau
Bornean Marbled Bay Cat
Otter-civet
Bornean Tree Shrew

Asian Elephant
Borneo Rhinoceros
Spiny Terrapin
Proboscis Monkey
Orang-utan
Asian Arowana (Golden Dragon Fish)
Storm's Stork
Spotted Greenshank



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What can you do?

Now we know there is a problem, we must all try to help. Animals and plants are stolen and sold. If we do not buy these special treasures the stealing will stop.

You can learn what is in danger and protected.

You can share your knowledge with friends and family.

Don't let it happen in our lifetime!

Get pictures of endangered species from:

www.iucnredlist.org

Get information about illegal sales from:

www.traffic.org



What happens when parts of the forest are cleared?

When the forest trees are cut down and the land is made clean and smooth, nothing can grow. The food for the trees in the forest comes only from the leaves and branches that fall to the floor. Living things need food. Forest trees need the forest floor.

Most forest animals like to hide and lead private lives. What happens when the leafy cover and shady home is cut down? How can they travel from place to place to find their food? The animals need to move around to new parts of the forest safely.



The picture gives a lesson. The mix of so many plants and trees offers many thousands of different foods for the thousands of creatures living here. Mammals, birds, plants, insects, amphibians, reptiles, all need each other, living together in a way we are only beginning to understand. They help protect each other, help make seeds and spread them, break down wastes for re-use and give many other services, as well as being food for one another!

The People of the Forest



Groups of families also live in the forest. Their lives too are disturbed when farming, forestry or business build roads, cut down trees and change the forest home they have enjoyed for hundreds of years.

Those of us who live in cities may not want to share their lives and may even be frightened to live where they do. But now we know we must protect our world, the more we need these families to share what they know.

These are the guides for the scientists and, in the future, for the tourists. They know important things about using plants for medicine and understand the ways that animals behave.

Time for Research

Do you know anything about the Kayan, the Kenyah, the Kelabit, the Iban, the Bidayuh, the Barito, the Dusun, the Kadazan, the Murut, the Penan?

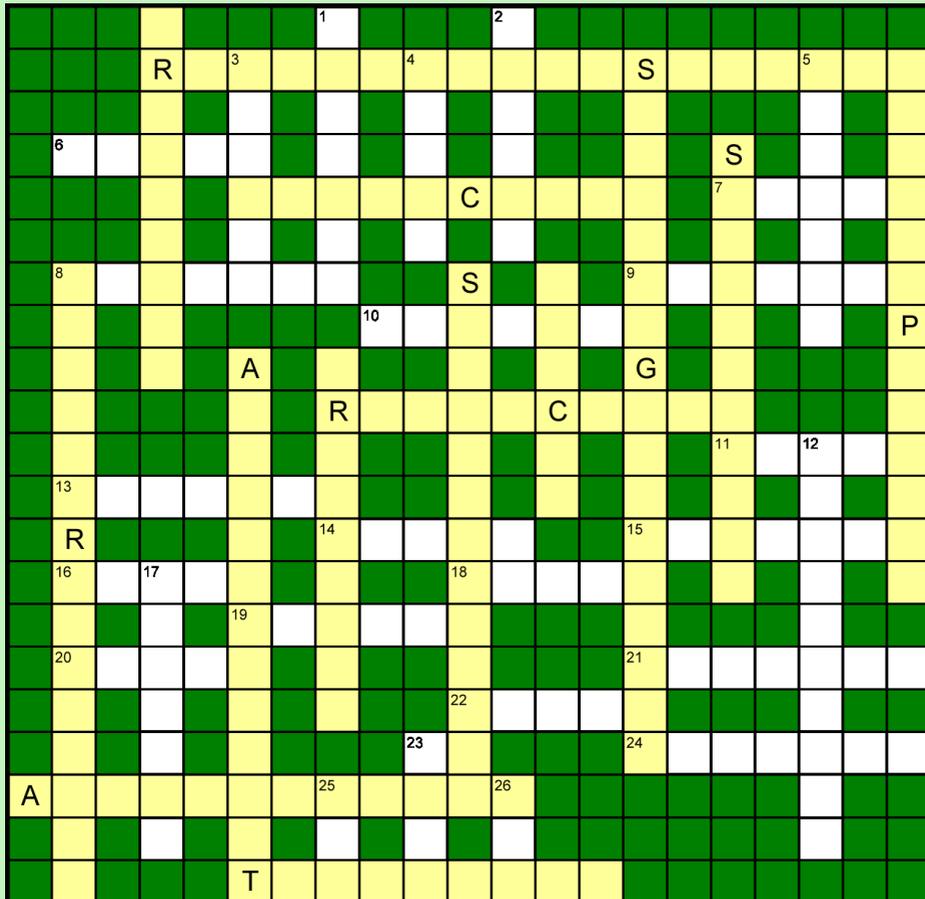
If you live on Borneo, you may recognise that **tourism** is a good way to earn money by sharing the traditional ways of life, and to earn money by showing people the precious untouched forest!

To encourage people to come to Borneo, you could **research** and **learn** about all aspects of the island which foreign visitors find special and interesting. **Build yourself a future!**

You can find information about these peoples in BTI pages 27-33. Maybe your teacher can arrange letters between students from town and students from the interior of the island.

Endangered Species Crossword

Words using white areas have clues below. All the words for the yellow areas are animals in danger from the list on page six. There are some letters provided for these to help you!



ACROSS

- 6 River of Rome
- 7 Prefix for four
- 8 To keep hands in
- 9 Makes angry
- 10 Clap
- 11 Subject
- 13 Support life
- 14 Colour of forest
- 15 Care for
- 16 Crisp fruit

Another crossword and the solution at <http://heartofborneo.cfbt.org>

DOWN

- 1 Large farms
- 2 Peaceful
- 3 King's seat
- 4 Pump in a body
- 5 Money for mail
- 12 Stealing
- 17 Flat land
- 23 Animal feet
- 25 Singular number
- 26 What we breathe

My Home, My Island, My Future

The economies of Indonesian and Malaysian Borneo rely on trees. Palm oil and wood are very valuable products to sell and bring money to the people. The Heart of Borneo initiative protects important areas of forest without stopping this valuable work.

Oil palm gives more oil than other plants. It is predicted to become the leading oil in the world in ten years' time. Oil palms make 23% of world food oil and 51% of sales to other countries, with Malaysia and Indonesia producing 84% of that in 2002.¹

Timber plantations on Borneo are expected to do three things:
 grow hardwood for building and woodworking;
 grow fuel wood for energy and charcoal;
 grow quick-growing trees for pulp, paper and rayon

Sadly the timber plantations are not yet a major business, because it is easier to make money cutting down the forest trees that have taken hundreds of years to grow, than to plant new trees and wait for them to be ready.²

The **Heart of Borneo** initiative gathers the precious untouched parts of the island into one joined-up piece of land - to keep it safe for the future. This does not mean the area will not be valuable to the peoples of Borneo.

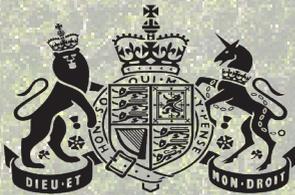
No, there will be National Parks to be managed for tourists. People with local knowledge will have jobs as guides and teachers. And the medicines and other scientific discoveries that come from the rainforests will bring money for the whole country.

On Borneo, like the best of home-owners, three neighbours will work together to care for the land on their borders for the sake of the rainforest and all its natural riches. The treasure of this island is a gift to the World.

What can I do?

Treat the planet Earth as your home - as you treat your own home. After all, it is not merely OUR home, but the future home of our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren.....

1 BTI p44 2 BTI p 46



British High Commission
Bandar Seri Begawan



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