

## **Protecting the Tropical Forest and its Biodiversity - the case of Borneo and the Orangutan**

**Working in partnerships towards a sustainable future**

*Proceedings of the International seminar  
hosted by Save the Orangutan Foundation and University of Copenhagen –  
Festauditoriet, Bülowsvej 17, 1870 Frederiksberg, 6th June 2018.*

### **Program**

- 10.00 – 10.05**      **Welcome**  
Ida Theilade, Senior Scientist, Global Development, Faculty of  
Science, University of Copenhagen
- 10.05 – 10.15**      **Opening speech**  
Mr. Widhiastono, Minister Counsellor / Political Affairs of the  
Embassy, on behalf of the Ambassador of Indonesia
- 10.15 - 11.00**      **Opportunities and Challenges for Saving the Bornean Orangutan  
and its Habitat - a Practical Case Saving the Bornean Tropical  
Forest and its Biodiversity**  
Dr. Jamartin Sihite, CEO, Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation
- **Coffee Break** -
- 11.10 – 11.30**      **Indigenous People and Forest Protection as Key to Orangutan  
Conservation - The Mawas Best Practice Case**  
Marie Sigvardt, Head of Programs, Save the Orangutan Foundation
- 11.30 – 11.45**      **Creating Awareness and Recognition of the Value of the Tropical  
Forest to Human Livelihood and Well-being**  
Hanne Gürtler, Director, Save the Orangutan Foundation  
Dr. Jamartin Sihite, CEO, Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation  
Ida Theilade, Senior Scientist, Global Development, Copenhagen  
University
- 11.45 – 12.00**      **The Way Forward**  
Discussion  
*What are the pathways to prevent the alarming loss of tropical forest  
and its biodiversity?*
- Networking & light lunch**



Senior researcher Ida Theilade, University of Copenhagen gave a short background of the seminar and welcomed the delegation from the Indonesian Embassy Mr. Widhiastono (Minister Counsellor/Political Affairs of the Indonesian Embassy); Mr. Indra Noer (Second Secretary/Education and Cultural Affairs of the Indonesian Embassy); and Mr. Ismail N. Pulungan (Analyst/Education and Cultural Affairs of the Indonesian Embassy).

Mr. Widhiastono, Minister Counsellor delivered the opening speech in which he described the rich natural heritage of Indonesia and the policies and frameworks in place to protect forests and Biodiversity in Indonesia. He welcomed a stronger focus on SDG 15 and international collaboration to achieve this goal.

Dr. Jamartin Sihite, Director of the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation presented the work of the foundation to save the critically endangered orangutan and the many challenges of forest conservation. He emphasized that the orangutan is an umbrella species and play an important role in forest protection through seed dispersal. They should be protected, not only because we share 97% DNA, but because protecting this species, means protecting the forest and all its biodiversity. He called for new and innovative solutions to protect the orangutan, involving government, NGOs and Private sector. Dr Jamartin stressed that there is still hope to save the orangutans and the forests but that partnerships, research and international support is needed.

Marie Sigvardt, Head of Programs, Save the Orangutan Foundation explained that the Bornean orangutan is now critically endangered and face an extremely high risk of becoming extinct in our lifespan, according to IUCN. Protecting the remaining habitats of the wild populations is urgent, if we want to see wild orangutans in the future. Marie provided practical examples from the work with habitat protection for one of the world's largest orangutan populations. She stressed the need for involving the local indigenous people in livelihood and forest protection programs, if lasting and sustainable changes are to be made.

Hanne Gürtler, Director of Save the Orangutan Foundation emphasized the need to create awareness and recognition of the value of the tropical forest to human livelihood and well-being, nationally and internationally, to prevent earth's sixth mass extinction of species event, which scientists warn is under way. Borneo is one of the biodiversity hot spots threatened by human development activities, and should be in focus of both national and international initiatives. Hanne Gürtler presented the Indonesian exhibition I am the Forest - a jungle bridge flora & fauna exhibition from 2016, revealing Kalimantan's magnificent wildlife, which will be showcased in Denmark in late summer to promote forest and wildlife protection.

The presentations were followed by an open discussion on the challenges at hand and possible ways forward.



It was noted that:

This year there is a special focus on **Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: LIFE ON LAND** and a number of high level meetings will take place over the next months. SDG 15 is to Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

At the same time, **The Convention on Biological Diversity** prepares to shape a new deal for nature after 2020, when the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and its Aichi Biodiversity Targets will come to an end. The Parties to the CBD has launched a process towards designing a global biodiversity framework in the forthcoming COP 14 meeting in Egypt this November. Such a framework will eventually be adopted at COP 15 in China, in 2020.

It was furthermore noted that the Danish Assistance to Environment, -and Biodiversity in particular, had decreased significantly in the past 10 years. From being a lead country within the CBD, Denmark had focused more and more on climate and energy while biodiversity had almost disappeared from the Danish National and International Agenda.

The message from the Indonesian representatives at both Policy level and practitioners was clear: “new partnerships and international collaboration are needed in order to meet the SDG 15 on forests and biodiversity”. With reference to the new bilateral agreement between Denmark and Indonesia, it was recommended to build on this agreement, which also includes the environment.

It was decided to arrange a follow up meeting to further discuss the urgent need to increase the focus of the Danish Government and Danish stakeholders on implementation of SDG 15, nationally and internationally.

*Copenhagen 8 June 2018*

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