



Helmeted Hornbill © Jamil Bin Mat Isa



Sunda Clouded Leopard © Spencer Wright

Halt Oil Palm Expansion in the Heart of Borneo

In the Heart of Borneo, Indonesia, intact rainforests shelter astounding biodiversity and some of Earth's most charismatic and threatened species, like orangutans, leopards, and langurs. These 54 million acres of lush contiguous forests—an area the size of Utah—have been storing vast quantities of carbon for centuries, protecting the climate.

An estimated one million Indigenous Peoples live in the Heart of Borneo rainforests. But Bornean forests, species, and Indigenous communities face existential threats from unsustainable agriculture, encroachment, extractive industries, and a rapidly expanding population.

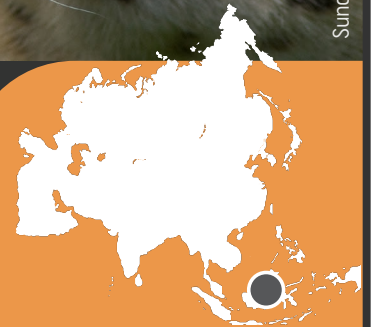
Bornean rainforests have experienced an alarming rate of deforestation in past decades. Over 31% of forests were destroyed between 1973 and 2014 for industrial-scale forest clearing for mining, logging, and oil palm cultivation, with another 798,000 acres of forest lost in 2015 in Kalimantan. These threats continue, and new infrastructure projects, including the proposed Trans-Kalimantan Road, threaten to destroy another 100,000+ acres of high-integrity forest.

Rainforest Trust and our partner, Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara, are embarking on an urgent \$2,179,978 project to protect 600,000 acres of rainforest in East Kalimantan province, home to Indigenous Dayak communities, through government designation as Customary Forests and Village Forests to address growing threats.

SUPPORT COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION THAT PROTECTS RARE SPECIES

At the center of this vast sweep of intact montane rainforests is the vibrant upper Mahakam River ecosystem, with hundreds of species of plants, mammals, and birds. This is an important wildlife corridor for at least five globally threatened species who require large tracts of healthy forest to survive: Critically Endangered Helmeted Hornbill, Critically Endangered Bornean Orangutan, Endangered Bornean Gibbon, Vulnerable Sunda Clouded Leopard, and Vulnerable White-fronted Langur.

The Heart of Borneo conservation initiative of the governments of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Borneo seeks to conserve this biodiversity-rich rainforest straddling their shared borders. Our current project contributes to that goal. Once designated by the Indonesian government, 16 villages will obtain social forestry permits that



600,000
ACRES

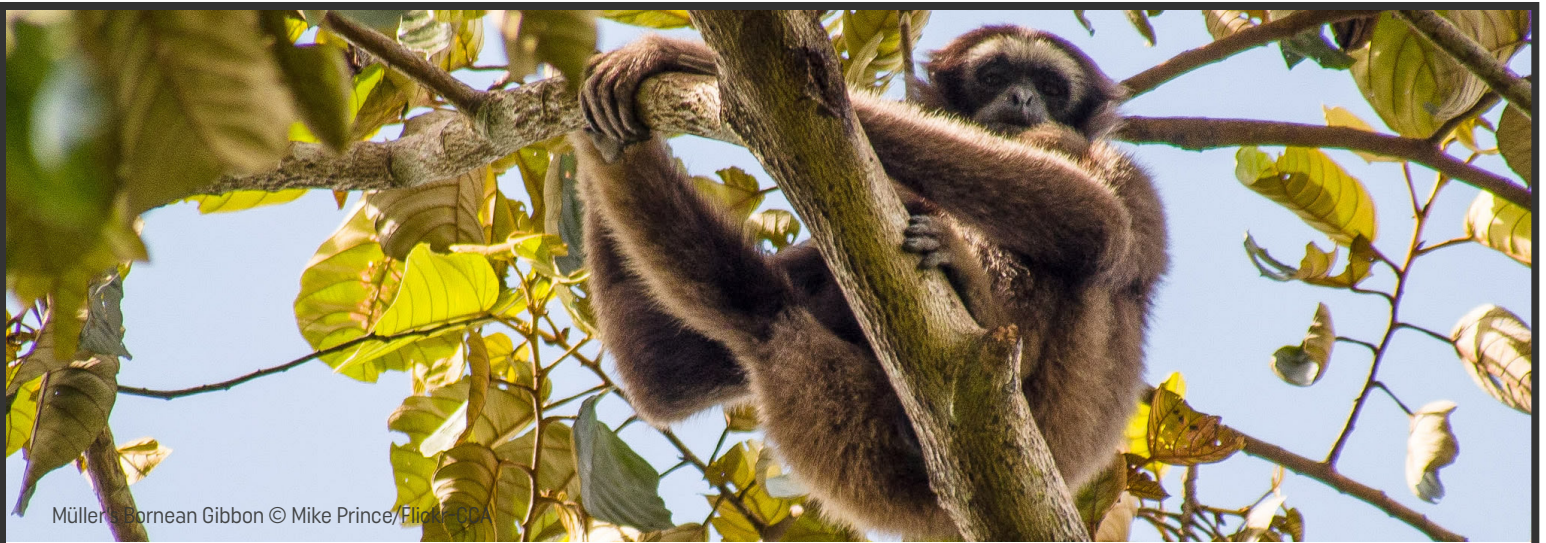
\$2,179,978
PROJECT COST

\$3.63
COST PER ACRE

253,590,725 mT
CO₂ EQUIVALENTS
STORED

KEY SPECIES:

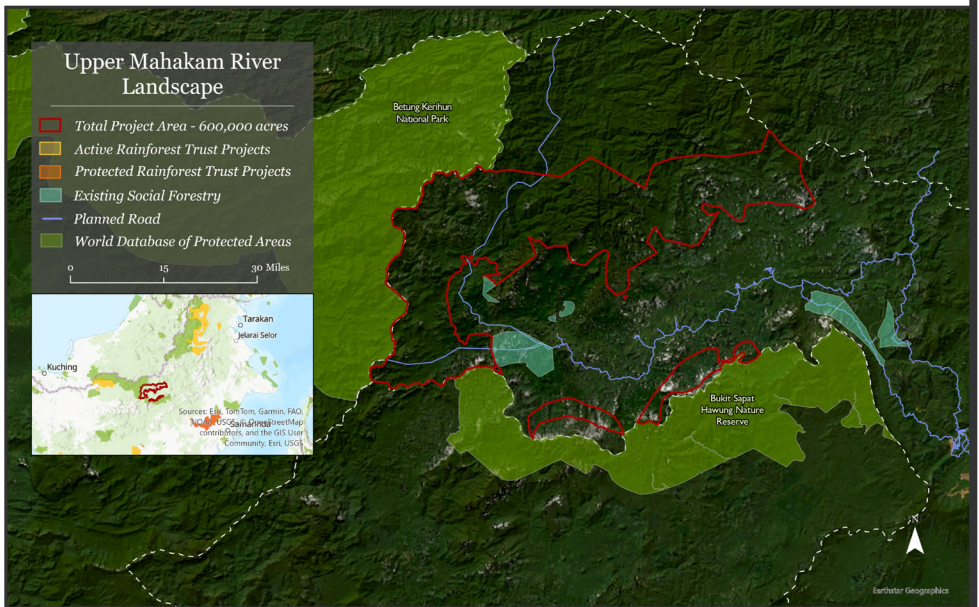
Helmeted Hornbill (CR),
Bornean Gibbon (EN),
Sunda Clouded Leopard (VU),
White-fronted Langur (VU)



Müller's Bornean Gibbon © Mike Prince/Flickr/CC

guarantee their right to pursue sustainable, forest-based livelihoods while protecting critical rainforest habitat and species from destructive outside interests.

Rainforest Trust has been working with partners to connect protected/conserved Bornean rainforests since 2008. This project adjoins the nearly 2-million-acre Betung Kerihun National Park in West Kalimantan and the 590,582-acre Bukit Sapat Hawung Nature Reserve in Central Kalimantan. The customary/village forest designation is proving to be an important tool in conservation success in Borneo and elsewhere in Indonesia.



SAFEGUARD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' SACRED FORESTS

Dayak Indigenous groups have managed the forests and waters of the Upper Mahakam River basin for centuries through customary practices deeply rooted in their cultural and spiritual beliefs. Indigenous and local communities will be central to determining the best ways to protect their territories and managing and sustaining the area in the face of commercial interests. These efforts include forest biodiversity monitoring and patrolling, and local livelihood development programs involving women and youth groups.

Deforestation in East Kalimantan province, Borneo © Luka Szeman Photo



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