



The hand-drawn map on the left shows the extent of the problem that faces the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. The sanctuary (yellow) and forest reserves (green) are fragmented, and as the unprotected land in between them is cut to make way for plantations the protected forests become 'wildlife islands'. WLT is raising funds to secure priority properties that adjoin the separate project areas, ensuring continuous forest along the banks of the Kinabatangan River.

## How You Can Help

In a bid to save a vital area of forest, WLT has launched this appeal, working with local partners in Borneo: LEAP Conservancy. We urgently need to raise funds for the purchase and protection, in the first instance, of a 222 acre (90 ha) corridor to link together two sections of the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, enabling the protection and long-term survival of over 600 Orang-utans. As more funds are raised more forests can be purchased and protected.

But we need to act quickly as this land is destined to be turned into more Oil Palm plantation, permanently dividing the two sections of the Wildlife Sanctuary.

### **Our appeal is very urgent. Will you help?**

You will receive a personalised certificate recording your support - for yourself or the gift recipient. Regular updates are available as newsletters or electronically. Our website gives updates on the progress of this, and all our other conservation projects

**Your generous support can really save Orang-utans and give permanent habitats for their long term survival.**

LEAP Conservancy: [www.leapspiral.org](http://www.leapspiral.org)

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Project Brief: Borneo

## Saving forests and their wildlife in Borneo

Borneo is the third largest island in the world and was once covered with rainforest. Considered to be a global 'hotspot' for biodiversity it has undergone huge devastation over past decades, initially to satisfy demands for timber and wood pulp. Today, the main threat to the forests comes from clearance for plantations, with the new demand for palm oil.

Covering some 287,000 square miles (743,330 km<sup>2</sup>), Borneo includes the countries of Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei. Borneo's tropical forests were once a haven for a huge biodiversity of wildlife, including many species found only in Borneo: of the 221 terrestrial mammals currently recorded over 10% of the species are endemic to the island. It is also certain that species new to science are still waiting to be discovered. But with ever shrinking forests wildlife is rapidly running out of habitat in which to survive.

### Protecting Orang-utans, Pygmy Elephants and a wealth of other endangered species

World Land Trust's Borneo project focuses on the state of Sabah in East Malaysia, where the Lower Kinabatangan Floodplain is a priority stronghold for Orang-utan populations. This region contains 10% of Sabah's population of Bornean Orang-utan and 15% of the world population of Borneo Pygmy Elephant; it also provides vital habitats for Proboscis Monkey, Gibbon, Tarsier, Slow Loris, River Otter and possibly Malayan Sun-bears, to name but a few species found in the forests.

But, as forests disappear at a rapid rate the resulting loss of habitat for these endangered species means that their ranges are becoming fragmented, and wildlife is only safe in pockets of surviving forests. This could, ultimately, lead to their extinction.

WLT is working with local project partners LEAP Conservancy (Malaysia) to purchase and protect corridors of land between protected reserves in order to safeguard larger forested areas for Orang-utans and other threatened wildlife to live and breed safely.



*The Bornean Orang-utan is endangered largely as a result of severe habitat loss throughout its range.*

*A subspecies of the Asian Elephant, the Borneo Pygmy Elephant is critically endangered, with a world population estimated at around 1,000 individuals.*

## The Focus of the project

The Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary is a 65,000 acre (27,000 ha) reserve located in Sabah, East Malaysia. But it is split up into several isolated blocks which means that there are no continuous protected forests to provide safe havens for wildlife to move safely (*see map on back page*). The sanctuary, in the lower catchment area of the Kinabatangan River, consists of 7 distinct ecosystems, ranging from lowland tropical forest to seasonally flooding riparian forest and mangroves. This unique combination of ecosystems provides food all year round, making it prime habitat for wildlife. WLT's local partners, LEAP Conservancy, have identified priority areas within the wildlife sanctuary in need of immediate purchase to link forests together.



*The meandering Kinabatangan River, and its flood plain, contains some of Borneo's highest concentrations of wildlife. Plantations can be seen in the foreground.*



### The Oil Palm Threat: some fact

The threats to wildlife from the onslaught of plantation agriculture are second to none. Extensive areas of forest have already been cleared throughout Sabah and nearly 20% of the state's total area has already been converted to oil palm. Other threats to habitats come from fires, usually resulting from the process of clearing the forest. Once planted oil palm takes several years to crop and during this time there are further threats from the use of pesticides and herbicides, as well as soil erosion.

Palm oil is thought to be present in 1 in 10 supermarket products ranging from chocolate, ice-cream, soap powders, pet foods, crisps, toothpaste and cosmetics. It is often difficult to know if a product does contain palm oil but the chances are, if the ingredients list 'saturated fat' or 'vegetable oil' in the contents, it is most likely palm oil.

### Message from Sir David Attenborough, WLT Patron

*"Every bit of rainforest that is chopped down is less space for the Orang-utans. Their numbers have been reduced very seriously over the past decade and we must do all we can to reverse this devastation. I fully support the World Land Trust in its bid to save the forests that are left, to ensure that species such as the Orang-utan, the Bornean Pygmy Elephant and other critically endangered species are not lost forever."*