



Why Borneo?

www.borneoproject.org

The name Borneo conjures up an image of a place that is remote, wild, and untamed, where hunters make their way through thick jungle with blowpipes and poison darts. A place where there are still mysteries-- where there may be the a cure to cancer, or the next undiscovered species.

That place is real. And it is still there. But that Borneo exists in ever smaller corners of forest that are being demolished by international companies looking to maximize profit at all costs.

Taking action to save the forest and support the rights of indigenous communities in Borneo is important on many levels. It is taking action to support the rights of indigenous peoples. It is taking action to support environmental justice-- the belief that environmental conservation and human rights must go hand in hand, if we are seeking to create a better world. It is saving endangered species, like orangutans, and protecting our climate. Most importantly, taking action save Borneo is taking action to support a world which still contains the mystery of a world we do not fully understand, and which is valuable for far more than the profit it can make.

To be more specific...

- **Borneo has incredible biodiversity:** Among the planet's most biologically diverse ecosystems, these forests are home to thousands of endemic animal, reptile, insect and plant species as well as orangutans, rhinos, hornbills, and so many more.
- **Borneo's forests are under threat:** International palm oil companies are clear cutting the rainforest to grow mono-crop plantations to feed the world's demand for cheap vegetable oil. Pulp and paper companies are ripping out old growth forests to put in fast-growing acacia plantations. And, of course, the tropical timber itself is being shipped around the world for flooring and furniture.
- **Borneo's forests are critical to our climate:** Deforestation is a key cause of global climate change, accounting for 17% of global emissions (IPCC, 2007). In Indonesia, forests are cut and then burned to prepare for palm oil plantations, a process which has made Indonesia the third largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world
- **Communities have sustainably managed Borneo's forests for generations:** Borneo's indigenous Dayak subsistence farmers and hunter-gatherers depended upon and managed these forests for thousands of years. Under their stewardship, the forests were able to maintain the highest species diversity of any terrestrial ecosystem, supplying food, medicines, cash crops and building materials.
- **These same communities are being denied their rights:** Most of the indigenous communities of Borneo do not have legal rights to the land that they rely on for their lives and livelihoods. This means that the government has the ability to lease community lands to loggers or plantation companies. These companies then come and kick people off the land, and use it for their own profit, without sharing any of the benefits with the communities who live there.



The Borneo Project, 2150 Allston St, Suite 460, Berkeley, CA 94607
www.borneoproject.org