



HEART OF BORNEO STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION





Strategic Plan of Actions

The Heart of Borneo Initiative

Introduction

The Heart of Borneo (HoB) Initiative is a conservation and sustainable development program aimed at conserving and managing the contiguous tropical forest in the island of Borneo. The HoB covers approximately 200,000 square kilometers of ecologically inter-connected rainforest in the provinces of Kalimantan (Indonesia), the states of Sabah and Sarawak (Malaysia), and Brunei Darussalam. The total approximate area for the HoB is around 30% of the island's land area.

The conservation of these forests is a matter of major local, national, regional, and international concern for the diversity of their unique array of plants and animals. Equally important, they are of critical value to the people and countries of Borneo as prized natural heritage and for the goods and services that they provide. Borneo is one of the most important centres of plant diversity in the world. The complex soil

A conservation
and sustainable
development program
aimed at conserving
and managing the
contiguous tropical
forest in the island of
Borneo

and terrain, together with altitudinal sequence, give rise to a particularly wide range of habitats for plants and animals. Overall, the Borneo flora is estimated to harbour about 15,000 species of vascular plants, that is, about 5-6% of the world total. Of these, 40-50% are endemic to the island.

It is undeniable, however, that the full diversity of tropical forests cannot be maintained if they are fragmented within an otherwise man-made landscape. There is ample scientific evidence to show that forest conservation requires the maintenance of very large blocks of inter-connected forest, without which there are adverse effects on such factors as the local climate, hydrology and species extinction rates. In summary, the region must be effectively managed on the basis of sustainable land use planning and implementation with regard to the balance of ecosystem, socio-cultural, economic and political aspects within respective nations.



The three main species found in Heart of Borneo and the forest in Danum Valley, Sabah, Malaysia

Active trilateral co-operation at the operational level is therefore highly desirable and will enhance and strengthen the existing sub-regional cooperation among Brunei Darussalam, Indonesian, and Malaysia – for example TBCA (Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Area) initiative under the ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization) projects, SOSEK-MALINDO (Sosial Ekonomi Malaysia Indonesia), and BIMP-EAGA (Brunei Darussalam Indonesia Malaysia Philippines-East ASEAN Growth Area). The HoB Initiative can help to provide a framework to strengthen such co-operation and also to address protection in the inland areas between the three Borneo nations. A program of this scale would first require support at the highest political levels (both nationally and regionally), require multiple partners and engagement with the private sector. Therefore, in the future, this program would maximize trans-boundary linkages, promote the expansion of the Protected Area networking, maintain forest connectivity and ensure sustainable land use practices.

Roadmap to the HoB Initiative Tri-National Partnership

Series of meeting were convened in the region that pledged the importance of having a wider management unit to protect this inland areas leading to a collective understandings and intentions to develop sub-regional cooperation to conserve, maintain and manage forest connectivity. The first exploratory workshop between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia was held in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, on the 5-6 April 2005. The HoB Initiative was highlighted in the official record of the 11th ASEAN Summit, December 2005, following the introduction of text by the Malaysian government as the host country. The Summit is the highest decision-making organ of ASEAN and is the meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Government.



Three Countries One Conservation Vision, HoB Declaration, 2007

During the 8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP8) to the Convention on Biological Diversity on 27 March 2006 in Curitiba, Brazil, a side-event, hosted by Indonesia, was held to launch the HoB initiative. The three countries expressed their support to this initiative and agreed to negotiate further before signing the HoB declaration. This initiative was acknowledged by Parties and international organizations attending the side event. The HoB Initiative was also acknowledged at a side-meeting of the BIMP-EAGA Ministerial Meeting in Brunei, November 2006.

The tripartite meeting between Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia was held in Jakarta, Indonesia on 4th December 2006. The Meeting discussed and finalised the draft Declaration on the HoB Initiative. The meeting was hosted by the Ministry of Forestry, Indonesia. An expression of commitment through declaration entitled “Three Countries, One Conservation Vision” was announced in Bali, Indonesia, on 12 February 2007. Implementation frameworks that make this partnership operational were discussed in the 1st tri-lateral meeting hosted by the government of Brunei Darussalam in 19-20 July 2007.

General Objectives

The three countries have committed to build partnership to secure the future of inland areas of the HoB Initiative. The general objective of the initiative is to carry out collaborative programs on conservation and sustainable development through the implementation of effective management and conservation of a network of protected areas, sustainable management of productive forests and implementation of sustainable land-uses.

Programs and Plans of Actions for the HoB Initiative

Transboundary
Management

Protected Areas
Management

Sustainable Natural
Resource Management

Ecotourism
Development

Capacity Building

The HoB Initiative is a voluntary transboundary cooperation of the three countries combining the stakeholders interest, based on local wisdom, acknowledgement of and respect for laws, regulation and policies of the respective countries and taking into account relevant multilateral environmental agreements, as well as existing regional and bilateral agreements/ arrangements. The cooperation is based on sustainable development principle through research and development, sustainable use, protection, education and training, fund raising, as well as other activities that are relevant to trans-boundary management, conservation and development within the areas of the HoB. It is obvious that the implementation of the HoB programs and actions should be based on the conservation spatial plans of the respective countries.

On the above basis, five programs were identified, namely Transboundary Management, Protected Areas Management, Sustainable Natural Resource Management, Ecotourism Development, and Capacity Building. The trilateral meeting will decide on appropriate special technical arrangement as deemed necessary.

In order to effectively implement of the HoB programs and actions, each country needs to put in place its proper financial mechanism related to financial resources mobilization, including government funding, fund rising from potential identified sources such as donors, Payment for Environmental Services (PES) and carbon trade.



Some of biological richness in Borneo, there's still a lot more to be discovered and known about Borneo

PROGRAM 1

Transboundary Management

The three countries aware of the different land use activities along the border. Therefore it is important for the three participating countries to enhance transboundary collaboration through the HoB Initiative for a better management of the forest and other land uses. Agricultural pressures, proposals for road building, the timber industry, the economic development at the border areas and fulfilment of subsistence needs of local people are also amongst the complex issues that threaten the forests and their wildlife in the area covered by the HoB Initiative of the three countries.



Muller-Schwanner region in Kalimantan, Indonesia

Program Objective:

To address issues of management of natural resources and socio-economic welfare of local people on the border areas.

Proposed actions:

No	Actions
1	Develop and review master plan and to consider the HoB Initiative to be inline with country's constitution and legislation.
2	Provide policy recommendation on conservation efforts and sustainable development in HoB area.
3	Establish a mechanism for coherent and effective information-sharing.
4	Undertake collective and/or joint research and studies, especially on the areas of biodiversity and socio-economic including social and demographic assessment.
5	Undertake joint spatial planning of the HoB area.

PROGRAM 2

Protected Areas Management

The role of protected areas becomes increasingly important to withstand the high pressure on the Borneo rainforest. Thus, effective management of protected areas is vital to conserve the biological richness in the protected areas not only in HoB area but in areas that has been declared as such.



Lumut Mountain, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

Program Objective:

To enhance and promote effective management of protected areas within the HoB area, with the emphasis at those situated on the common border, in order to conserve and maintain forest biodiversity and the ecological linkages.

Proposed actions:

No	Actions
1	Identify, assess and establish trans-boundary conservation zones in order to strengthen the management of these protected areas based on their cultural and natural heritage values, water catchments capacity and biodiversity richness.
2	Develop and enhance standard operating procedures and systems for monitoring and evaluation of the trans boundary conservation area management, and undertake joint monitoring and evaluation activities if necessary.
3	Develop and enhance systems and implementation for transboundary protected areas collaborative management program, to include local community and other stakeholders.
4	Develop and enhance approaches for improving land and vegetation management on areas cultivated by local communities, within or adjacent protected areas.
5	Establish a master list of protected areas within the HoB with information on the management objectives, special feature and the relevant agencies and personnel involve as well as the respective country categories.
6	Promote institutional linkages among the protected area within the HoB.

PROGRAM 3

Sustainable Natural Resources Management

There are a number of forestry concessions which covers a portion of the total area of the HoB Initiative. The HoB area [covers] the source of 14 of Borneo's 20 major rivers. The complex soil and terrain, together with altitudinal sequence, give rise to a particularly wide range of habitats for plants and animals. It is therefore in the interests of all the three participating countries to have extensive forests in adjacent areas in order to ensure the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, management of watersheds, conservation and benefit sharing of biodiversity richness, carbon stocks, and other environmental services. The HoB Initiative vision supports the maintenance of such forests and other sustainable land use that already in place, either unexploited or managed under sustainable harvesting practices.



14 of the 20 Borneo's major rivers are found on the Heart of Borneo

Program Objective:

To manage the natural resources outside the protected areas network through the development and implementation of sustainable land uses.

Proposed actions:

No	Actions
1	Enhance and strengthen existing mechanism and guidelines to ensure the implementation of best practices natural resources management, sustainable use principle and ecosystem approach in all natural resources uses, including forestry, plantation and mining, within the HoB area.
2	Develop scheme for rehabilitation and restoration programs on the degraded forest areas in the HoB.
3	Promote HoB areas as potential Reduction of Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project sites.

PROGRAM 4

Ecotourism Development

Development of ecotourism is expected to be the main focus for socio-economic development within the HoB areas. Relating to this, the development of the ecotourism in the HoB area has to be developed in accordance with the respective countries tourism plan.



Research station in Lalut Birai, ecotourism is one of Heart of Borneo main programs

Program Objective:

To recognize and protect the value of special natural and cultural places or sites within the HoB area.

Proposed actions:

No	Actions
1	Identify, develop and promote transborder ecotourism programs.
2	Develop networking on ecotourism management in relation to the management of protected area system.
3	Promote community based ecotourism activities in the HoB area.



The nature, the people and the culture of Borneo



Program 5

Capacity Building

Borneo Island is home to about 16 million people and big percentages of the populace are heavily dependent on agricultural products and forest produce for their livelihood. Recognizing the importance of managing the forest resources in a sustainable manner, it is very important to increase the capacity building activities of relevant stakeholders – management, technical and operation level, in order to ensure the success of this HoB initiative.



Program Objective:

To ensure the effective implementation of HoB initiative at all levels, both public & private sectors and at the local community.

Proposed actions:

No	Actions
1	Implement [national] capacity building on biodiversity conservation, freshwater management, land use planning, geographic information systems, protected area management, outdoor recreation, ecotourism management and law enforcement on combating illicit international trafficking in forest products including timber, wildlife, and other forest biological resources.
2	Establish linkages amongst research and development R & D institution and encourage collaboration including attachments of researchers working on conservation and sustainable development areas in the HoB.
3	Promote public awareness program on the prevention of further loss on forest biodiversity including timber and wildlife products.
4	Promote education and awareness on HoB programs.



Research and education awareness (Danum Valley)

