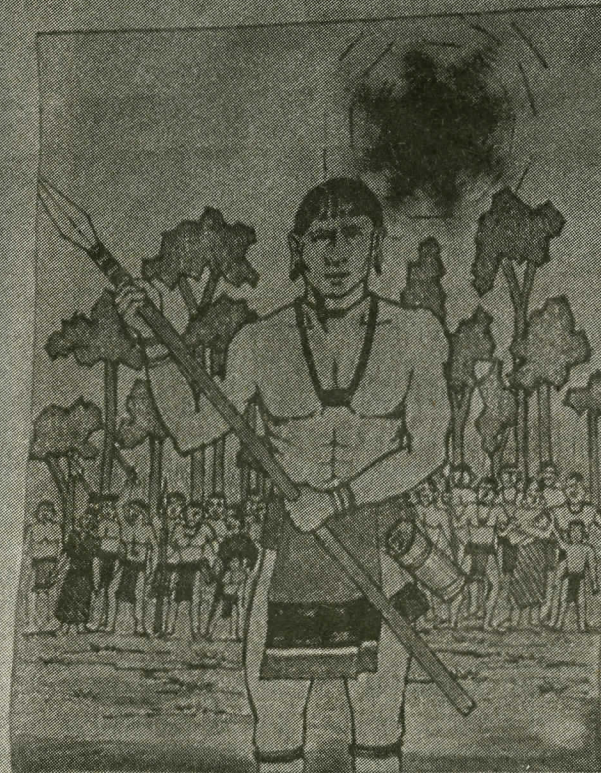


**Squalid  
resettlement  
camps no  
substitute  
for Penan's  
jungle  
homeland.  
Help save  
Sarawak's  
remaining  
rainforest**

**SAVE OUR  
FOREST**





**HALT  
MULTI-NATIONAL  
RAIN FOREST  
DESTRUCTION**

Mutan Tuo of Long Iman - one of hundreds of Penan natives who have been forced from their jungle homeland to live in the squalor of re-settlement camps - proudly displays a poster symbolizing his people's determination and an urgent plea to the world for help.

# Earth's oldest ecosystem endangered

Nowhere on earth is there an older and richer ecosystem than the rainforests of Borneo and nowhere is a forest being destroyed with such ferocious speed as in Sarawak, the Malaysian state of northern Borneo. For the past 180 million years, long before the dinosaurs became extinct, Borneo's forests have been home to the world's greatest wealth of plant and animal life. And yet today, relatively speaking, we know more about the moon, Jupiter and Mars, than this most ancient ecosystem on earth.

A mere ten square hectares plot of rainforest in Borneo contains more tree species than are found in all of Canada and the continental U.S.A. combined. The diversity is so staggering that one square metre of forest litter here can contain up to 200 different species of ants.

Many of the world's important food crops and domestic animals have been developed from wild South

East Asia's rainforest species. Wild stocks will continually need to be sought to improve crop yields and develop new disease-resistant strains of plants and animals. As the world's richest botanical zone, this same forest is the world's future pharmacy.

Today, less than one percent of the world's tropical forest plants have been tested for pharmaceutical properties, yet 25 percent of all our modern drugs come from these sources. 75 percent of all cancer treatment drugs are derived from rainforest plants. Traditional healers in South East Asia use more than 6,500 forest plants for treating diseases ranging from malaria and stomach ulcers to syphilis.

The Penan people of Borneo may be the world's greatest pharmacists. Their ancestors have lived in the Borneo jungles longer than any other people --perhaps 40,000 years

or perhaps even longer. The surviving Penan culture has a wealth of knowledge of medicinal plants unknown to modern science.

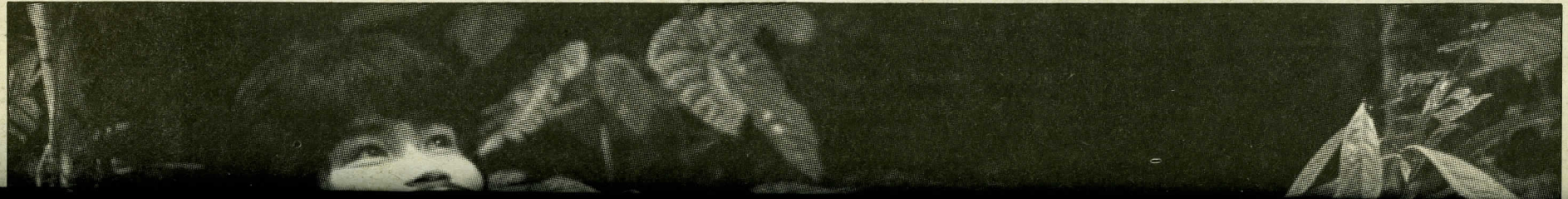
If the current rate of deforestation continues, long before science even classifies these species, many will be extinct. Worldwide, unless there is a drastic change in consciousness coupled with less consumption in the developed countries and more genuine help to overpopulated, over exploited, poverty stricken tropical countries with rainforests, more than a million rainforest species are expected to become extinct during the next decade.

Scientists are describing the rapid destruction of tropical forests now taking place on earth as the worst environmental disaster of all times. By the year 2000, at the present rate of cutting, we shall have removed 65 percent of the forests of the humid tropics. After that, it will not be long before they vanish, for once 70 to 80

percent of a tropical forest is destroyed, the remainder can no longer sustain the climate and the whole ecosystem collapses.

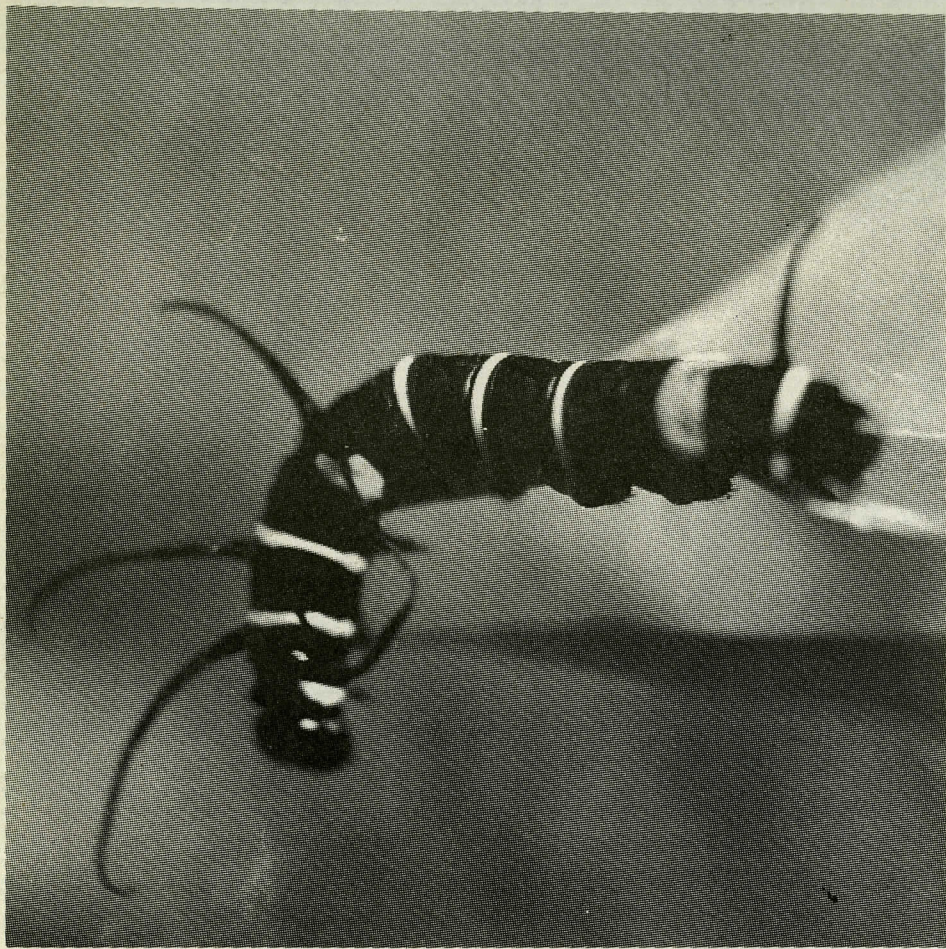
Borneo today represents a microcosm of this global disaster in the making. It is now at the threshold point. An immediate moratorium on logging in Sarawak's primary forests must be imposed to protect the remaining forest ecosystem and the people who live there.

Thailand, following great loss of human life from flooding due to deforestation, has recently outlawed all logging. But Thailand, West Malaysia and the Philippines are already largely deforested. In Borneo, there is still an opportunity to set a different course. Borneo's rainforests and its tribal peoples hold answers to questions we have not yet thought to ask. Their loss will have global consequences more than we can imagine.





*Moving silently through the understory with their blowpipes and poisoned dart quivers, Penan hunters Dawat and Nyiong carefully scan the rainforest canopy for food. No sound, no movement goes undetected. A Penan hunter can strike a moving target with a poison dart at a range of more than 50 feet.*



More than half of all species on earth live in rainforest canopies. A very few, like the Atlas moth (above) have been classified. Below: The flared buttressed roots of large rainforest trees are a response to shallow soil and strong tropical wind storms.

## Consider your role as a consumer

Thinking about buying a new car or stereo? You might want to think twice about buying anything bearing the name "Mazda" or "Mitsubishi".

According to the Japan Timber Importers Association, C. Itoh & Company, the Sumitomo Company and the Mitsubishi Corporation are among the leading importers of logs from Sarawak.

Join the European community in their boycott of Malaysian timber and refuse to eat at restaurants which use

### Join & Support Conservation Groups Working to Save Tropical Forests

World Wildlife Fund  
60 St. Clair Avenue E.  
Suite 201  
Toronto, On  
M4T 1N5

Endangered Peoples Project  
P.O. Box 1406

Rainforest Action Network  
301 Broadway, Suite A  
San Francisco, CA  
U.S.A. 94133

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# Nomadic way of life will be destroyed if....

The Penan are among the last of the nomadic hunter-gatherers living in the world's tropical rainforests today. Unlike the Amazon tribes-people, the Penan practice no agriculture, raise no domestic animals for food and have no permanent settlements. Their principal food is the rich, pithy starch of the wild sago palm, supplemented by protein - fish and wild game.

Penan social structure reflects their nomadic lifestyle with only a few families living together in elevated jungle huts called "sulaps". Every few weeks, when sago palm supplies run low or game becomes scarce, the Penan move on to a new location, allowing their sulap huts to return to the jungle from whence they came and the sago palm to re-grow on the same sites. For countless generations, the Penan have been practising this peaceful lifestyle totally in harmony with their forest homeland.

As hunters and trackers, the Penan are unsurpassed in skills. They can travel swiftly and silently through

the forest, leaving no mark of their passing by following the limbs of trees and logs elevated above the ground. Penan men and boys can kill hornbill, snake, squirrel and other forest canopy dwellers at great range with a single blast from their powerful lungs and the poisoned darts from their blowpipes.

The Penan blowpipe is a marvel of stone-age technology. Wood for blowpipes is carefully and respectfully cut from living trees so as not to offend the spirit of the tree. When boring the wood, a slight curvature of the shaft is created to allow for the counter weight of a blade lashed to the muzzle end of the blowpipe. Securely lashed with rattan, a thorny jungle vine, the blade allows the blowpipe to double as a spear for hunting wild pig. Poison darts are fashioned from splinters of sago palm and are kept stored in a bamboo quiver. The poison is made from sap of the Ipoh tree and the blowpipe receives a fine finish with Emplas, a jungle leaf similar to sandpaper. Thus, a half dozen primary forest plants are used in the construction of this one



**No forest dwellers on earth have lived in harmony with their environment longer than the Penan of Borneo. Their knowledge of this ecosystem, its foods, medicines and secrets goes beyond current scientific understanding.**

important tool.

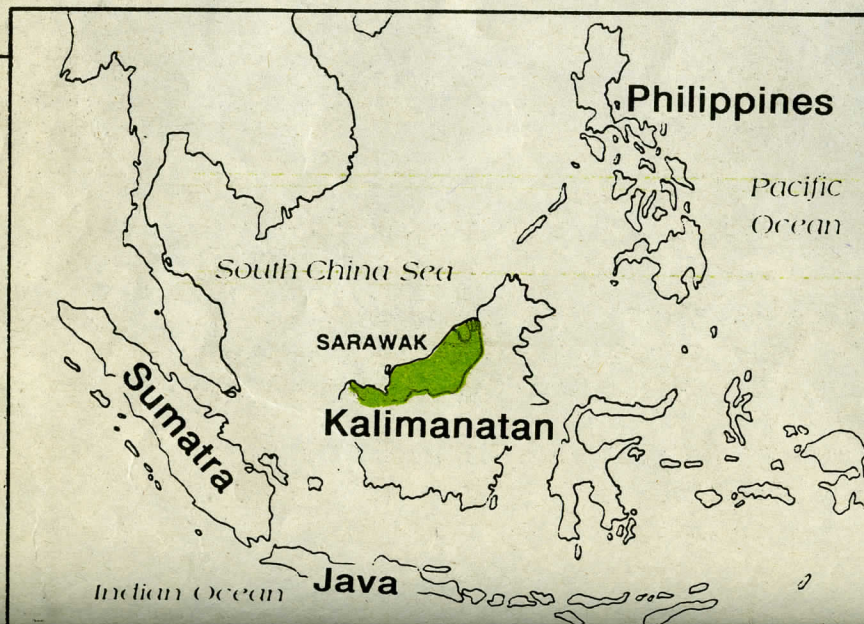
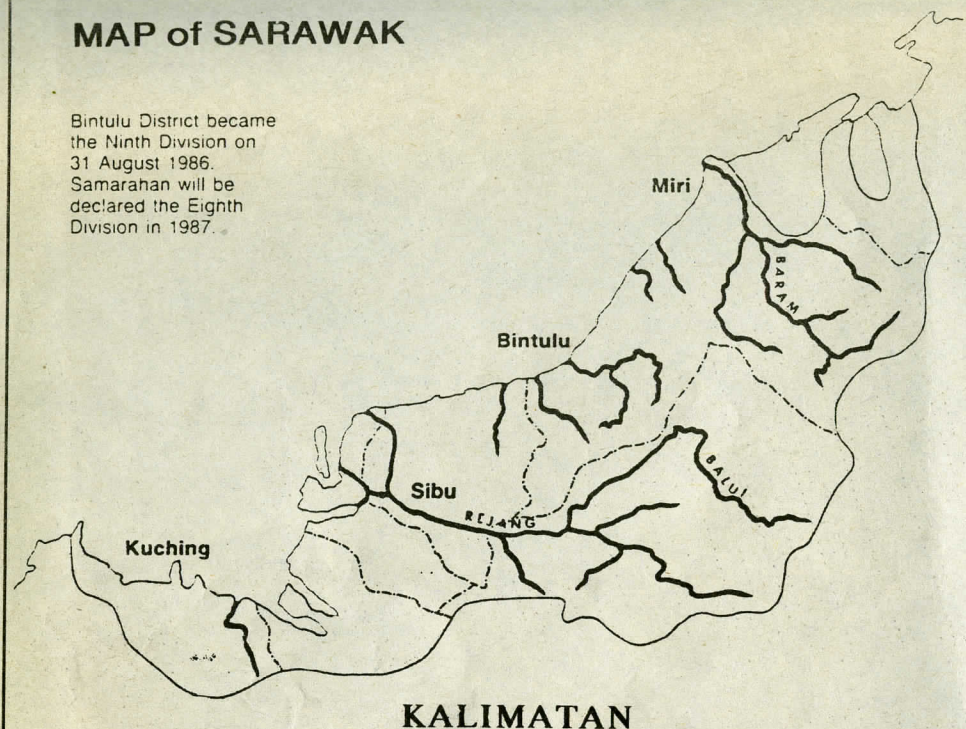
Unlike the former headhunting tribes of Borneo, the Penan have always been a shy and gentle people, preferring the peace and sanctuary of the forest and shunning conflict. Thousands of years of quiet forest

life have engendered sterling human qualities. The few outsiders who have come into contact with the Penan have described the experience as "most pure and magical"; "profound".

cont. on page 6

## MAP of SARAWAK

Bintulu District became the Ninth Division on 31 August 1986. Samarahan will be declared the Eighth Division in 1987.



## FACTS ABOUT SARAWAK

Sarawak, located in the north-west part of Borneo, is geographically the largest state in Malaysia with a land area of 124,449 square kilometres. In terms of its concentration of natural resources, Sarawak is also the richest state with forests, abundant petroleum and natural gas.

Sarawak joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 when Malaysia achieved independence after more than a century of British Colonial rule. Although defence and financial affairs such as income tax and petroleum resources are under the jurisdiction of the Federal government, the Sarawak state government holds overwhelming powers in matters related to land tenure and forest resources.

The indigenous tribal people of Sarawak make up the majority population (44%), but the state is ruled politically and financially by the Chinese (28%). The Iban people are the largest of Sarawak's tribal groups with over 400,000, while the Penan are among the smallest with between 5,000 - 6,000. The total population in Sarawak in 1980 was 1,233,103.

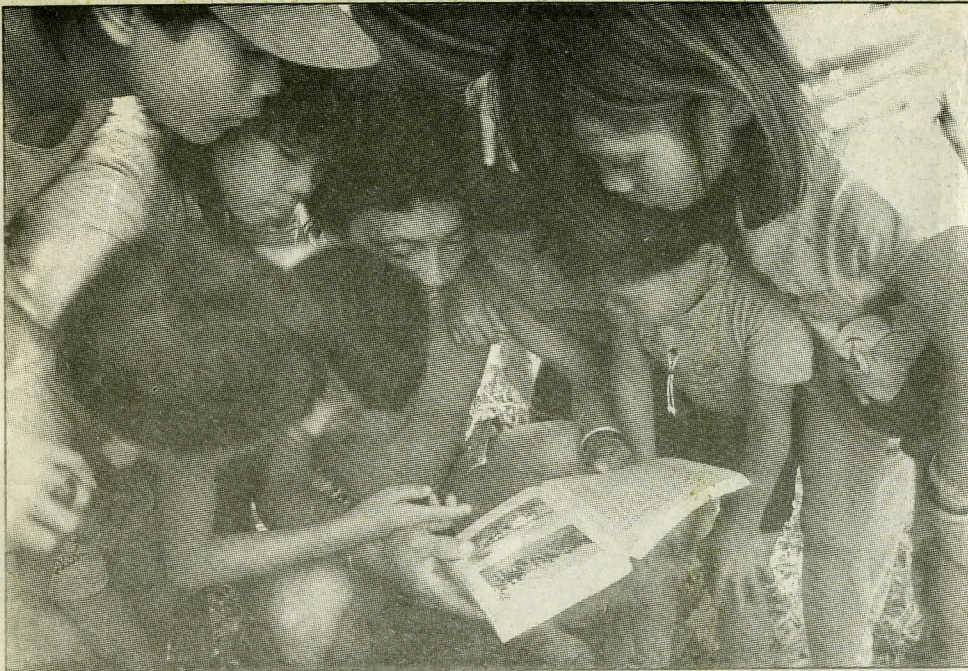
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Today, the Penan face among the worst human rights violations of any people. In the span of a single lifetime, everything they have ever known is being ripped apart: their ancient forest homeland, their source of foods, medicines, building materials, the burials of their ancestors and the temples of their gods. Their once crystalline waterways, rich in fish and wildlife, have become muddy sewers clogged with logging debris; unhealthy to drink or bathe in.

Ruthless logging companies backed by corrupt politicians are pushing the Penan off their customary lands in contravention of their established rights and forcing them to live in shanty-town relocation camps. Here, living together in large numbers for the first time, the Penan face communicable diseases

abandoned hope. In March, 1987, the Penan, along with thousands of indigenous people in Sarawak, formed human barricades across logging roads in a desperate bid to stop the destruction of their lands by timber companies. For more than half a year, these non-violent blockades drastically slowed down logging. The police and army were moved in to dismantle the blockades in October. By the time new blockades were in place in 1988, new laws had been passed making it a criminal offense and many natives were arrested. The Penan testify to serious human rights violations while in jail. Blockades have resumed in 1989 but the Sarawak government has imposed a news blackout, and the logging has accelerated to 24 hours per day.

The demand of the natives to stop logging is by no means extreme. A



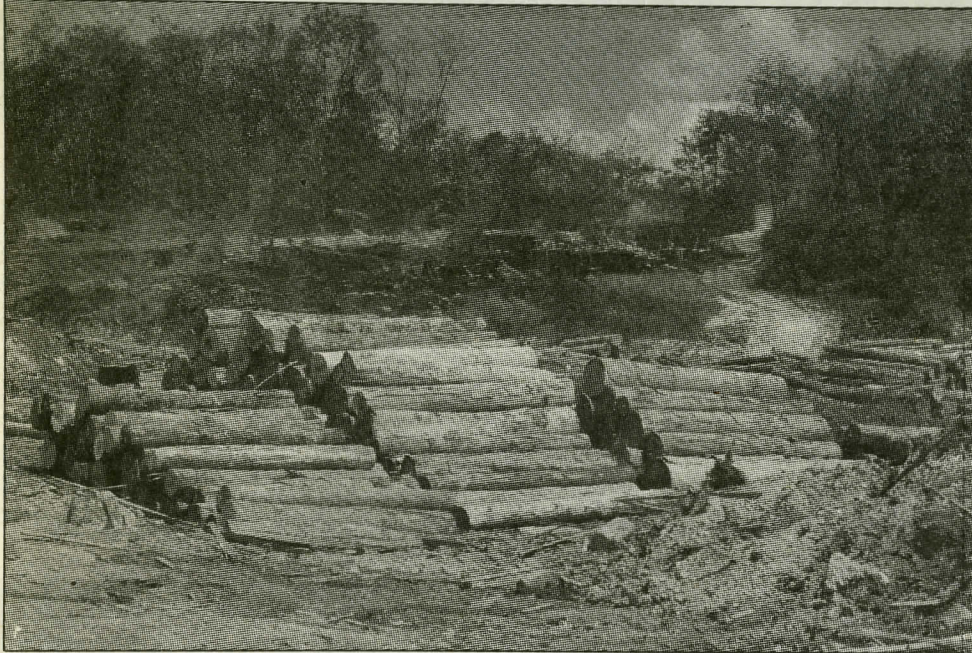
for which they have no cures. Hunger and severe malnutrition now plague the Penan. With no easy access to forested lands and no knowledge or interest in agriculture, the once proud and self-reliant Penan are being reduced to a life of humiliation and poverty as the last of their homeland falls to the chainsaws.

It is a tribute to the human spirit that these people have not

lot of the logging is taking place on their customary lands which are protected by Sarawak state law. A new forest law however, makes it illegal to blockade on any logging-concession area, and it is under this law that charges are currently being laid against the Penan and other tribal groups. As the logging intensifies, those Penan who take a stand for survival face imprisonment, those who don't face genocide.



"We are not opposed to all development," the Penan chiefs have told the Sarawak government, "but we want development based on our own needs." Top left: A Penan headman shows children a book for the first time. Bottom Left: Penan kids on temporary sleeping platform. Above: Penan show their determination at a logging road blockade site.



## World's fastest forest destruction

Every day, more than forty square kilometres of Sarawak's ancient forests are destroyed by logging in what is the fastest rate of deforestation anywhere.

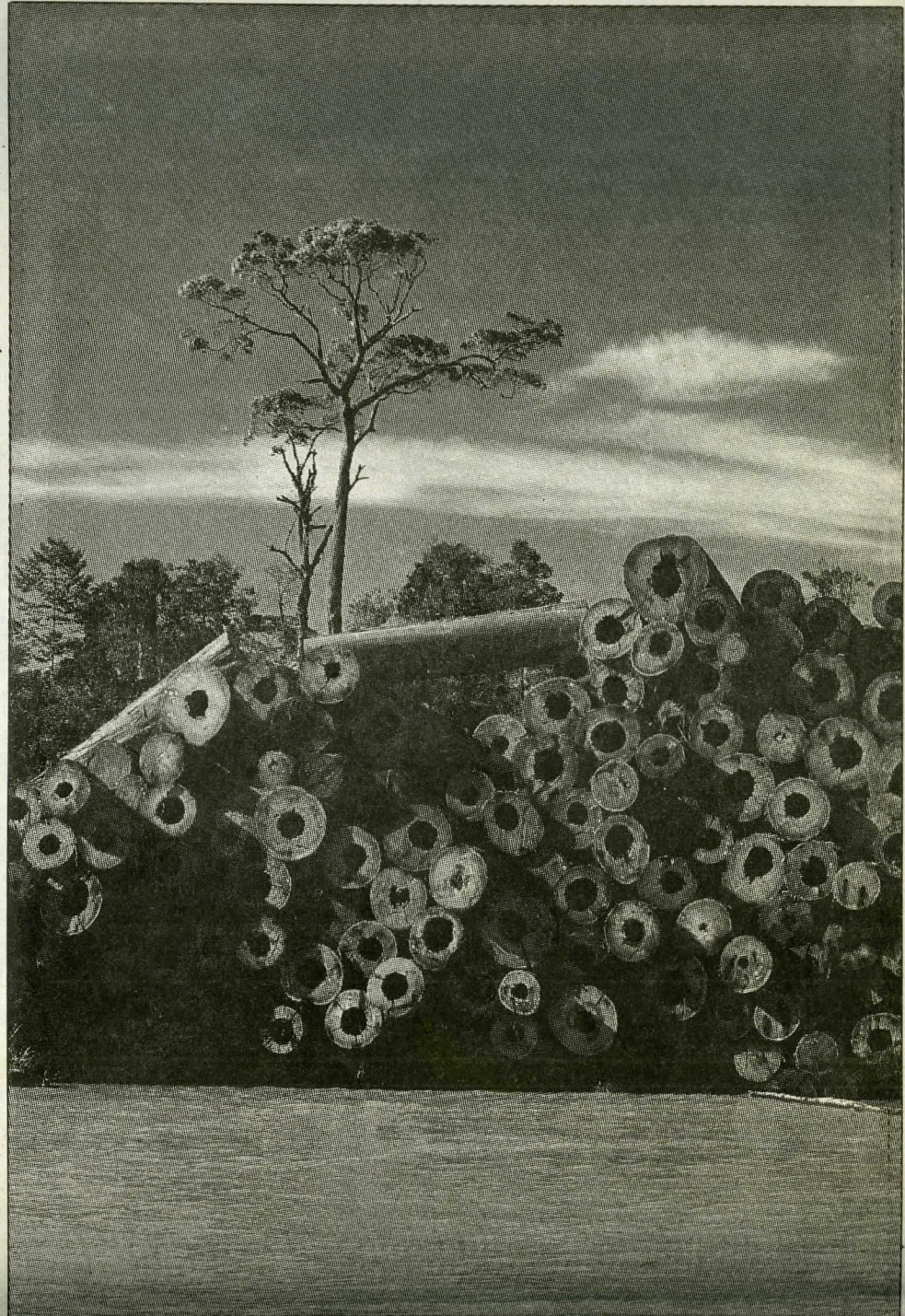
If the current rate of deforestation is allowed to continue, all of Sarawak's world heritage rainforests will be gone within three to five years.

Between 60 and 70 percent of the forest cover has already been lost and all remaining forest lands, outside of a few small parks, have

high on both banks for miles along major rivers. Most of these logs will rot where they lie.

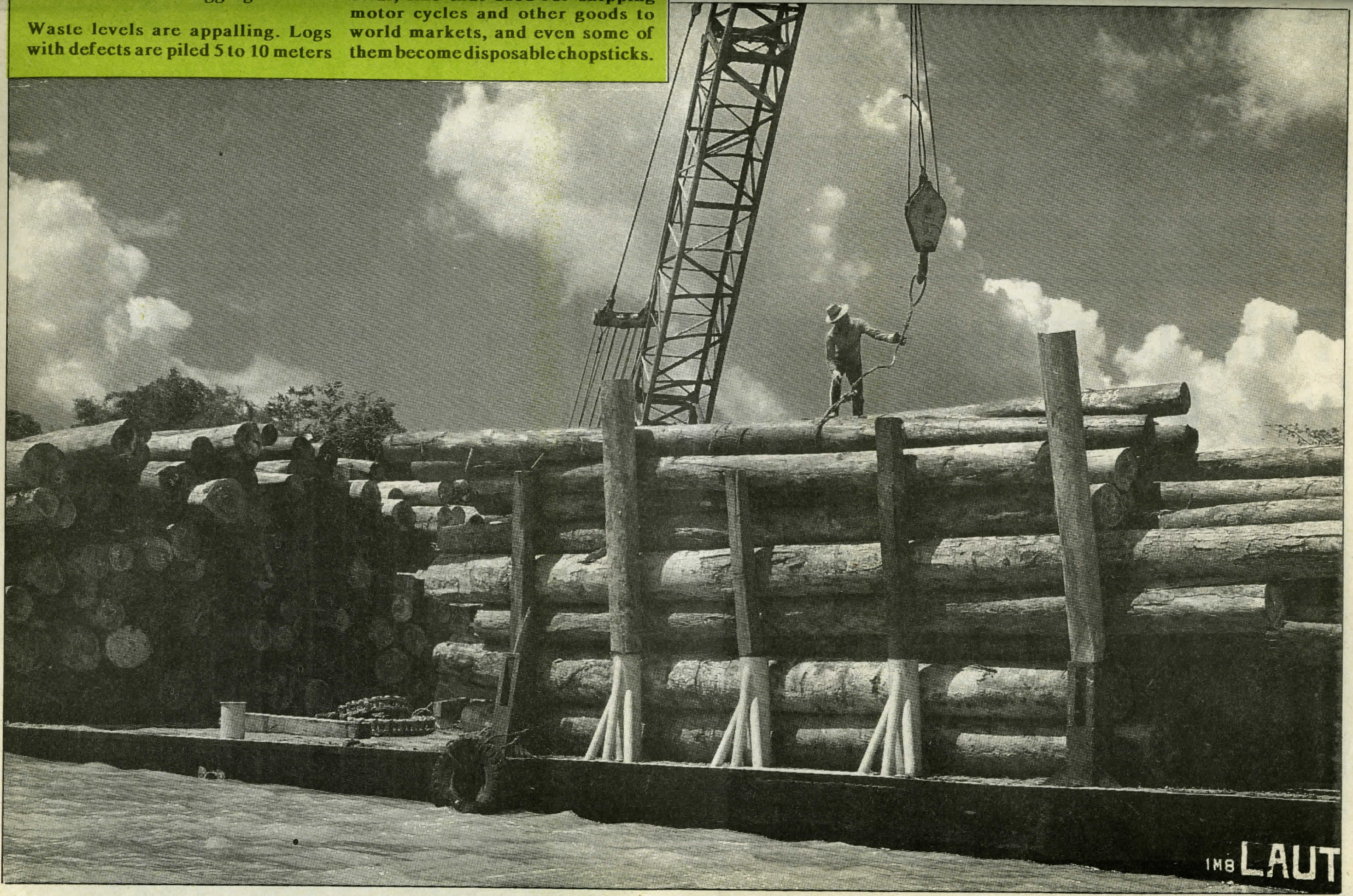
Heavily loaded barges ply a steady traffic of raw logs down river where they are transferred to Japanese and other freighters waiting in the South China Sea.

A Japanese timber cartel headed by Mitsubishi Corporation imports into Japan 80 percent of Sarawak's logs. There these logs are converted into plywood for concrete construction forms, boards for packaging mat-



been licensed for logging.  
Waste levels are appalling. Logs  
with defects are piled 5 to 10 meters

erial, like that used for shipping  
motor cycles and other goods to  
world markets, and even some of  
them become disposable chopsticks.



Millions of logs lie to rot along Sarawak's Baram river while high grade wood goes to Japan for disposable chopsticks, plywood, concrete forms and shipping crates.

**PLEASE HELP NOW!**

Nowhere in the world is a time frame for successfully resolving an environmental and human rights issue more urgent. Within a few short years, at the current rate of logging, Sarawak's ancient forest will be gone.

The World Rainforest Movement predicts that unless a moratorium is imposed on Sarawak logging within the next 12 to 18 months, the Penan people and their culture will perish. The survival of the Penan symbolizes the survival of all humanity. Their loss is our loss; their future portends our own.



In the span of our lifetime the world's oldest and richest ecosystem is being ripped apart - a 180 million year old forest is being destroyed in one human generation.

**Write a letter to convince these people to work towards saving the Penan**

Shimroku Morohashi, President & Director: Mitsubishi Corporation  
6-3 Marunouchi 2-chome,  
Chiyoda-ku

Yab Datuk Patinzzi Haji Abdul Taib Mahmad  
Chief Minister of Sarawak and Minister of Resource Planning

Prime Minister Brian Mulroney  
House of Commons,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0H3

**Support the Penan emergency relief fund**

**The Penan people are facing serious food shortages as their**

(Could act as a responsible global corporate citizen and stop the Japan Timber Importer Association from liquidation the last of Sarawak's forests.)

Petra Jaya, Kuching Sarawak, Malaysia

(Could impose an immediate moratorium on logging Sarawak's last primary forests.)

Malaysian imports and restrict foreign aid.)

President George Bush  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
U.S.A. 20500

(Could influence Congress to rename Malaysia as a preferred trade partner with the U.S.)

Medication is urgently needed for infectious diseases in the resettlement camps and hand-powered water filters are critical to make the logging induced polluted rivers drinkable.

Thom Henley, of Victoria, British Columbia, provided the photos and text for this paper. A few months ago he visited Sarawak, where he documented by video and colour slides the unfolding ecological disaster and injustices to the Penan and other indigenous people caused by rapid deforestation. Since his return he has travelled to Ottawa, Ontario, and Washington, D.C., to try to get action to help save the Borneo rainforest and the Penan people. He helped establish the Penan Emergency Relief Fund. He is doing as much as he can to try to save this rainforest and its tribespeople. Please help him succeed!

# This is your opportunity to help save the Penan and their rainforest

Yes I want to help save the rainforest homeland of the Penan.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Please let me assist. I know that you will put to good use my \$ \_\_\_\_\_ tax deductible donation (charitable society federal reg. no. 0587113-21-28). Please send me an official tax receipt for income tax purposes.

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation to go towards the Penan emergency relief fund.

I would like my donation to go towards research and publication of more information about threatened tropical rainforests.

POSTAL CODE \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to: Western Canada Wilderness Committee, 20 Water Street, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6B 1A4.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH - EVERY BIT HELPS!!!!!!

I would like to join WCWC's WILD project, to map and save earth's remaining wilderness. Enclosed is \$25 to cover the costs of sending me the WILD publications leading up to the WILD conference in Hawaii in June of 1990.

I would like to order your full colour Sarawak 27" X 39" poster of the tree featured on page three. Enclosed is \$10 (B.C. residents add 6% sales tax.)

I am not yet a member of Western Canada Wilderness Committee, which I know is one of Canada's most effective groups and I want to join. Here is my \$25 dollar membership fee.

