

HELP THE PENAN



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710-340 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada V6B 2V3

SAVE THE BORNEO RAINFOREST

We don't like the company to destroy
the forests any more:
they make the water muddy.
we become ill.

we get TB.
we get eye illness.
we get malaria.
we get killed on the roads.



VOICES FOR THE BORNEO RAINFOREST

In October of 1990, realizing that the campaign inside their country to halt the ongoing destruction of their rainforest was failing, two Penan tribesmen, Unga Paren and Mutang Tu'o, and a Kelabit activist, Andy Mutang, slipped out of Sarawak, the Malaysian State on the Island of Borneo, to embark on a last ditch effort to gain world wide support for their cause. It is the first time that any Sarawak native has been able to leave Malaysia to present their plight directly to the world.

The three Dayaks (Borneo natives) joined Thom Henley, a well known British Columbian environmentalist and co-author of the recently released book *PENAN: Voice for the Borneo Rainforest*, and Bruno Manser, the Swiss shepherd featured in the award-winning film *Blowpipes and Bulldozers* who lived with the nomadic Penan for six years until last spring. According to Manser, the human rights of the Sarawak natives continue to be violated with impunity, and the Penan face immediate cultural genocide from the current 24-hour-a-day logging operations which are destroying their rainforest home. Their tour, Voices for the Borneo Rainforest, was organized by activists from Canada, the United States, Australia, Europe and Japan.

For the last two decades the Sarawak government has allowed the logging of the primary forest to escalate and now the end is in sight. If logging continues at the

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The logger is delighted.
He is eating the money from trees like this.
He is delighted to bulldoze a road,
cut the trees, big, big trees,
— get money!
His children, his wife, they are full.
They eat with the money they get from trees.

current rate, in less than half a decade, one of the world's oldest and most complex ecosystems will be destroyed. The loss of this great rainforest will drive thousands of unique species (found nowhere else on earth) to extinction, and will mean the end of a traditional way of life for many of Sarawak's natives, including the Penan, one of the last tribes of true hunter-gatherers left in the world.

After petitioning their government with no success, the Penan and other native tribes in Sarawak, collectively called Dayaks, resorted to blockading timber roads in an effort to stop the destruction of their forest homeland and to preserve their way of life. In the last few years, over one hundred Penan have been imprisoned for trying to protect their native lands through these non-violent actions. Despite their efforts and worldwide media coverage, they have not been able to gain meaningful government recognition of their land rights, perhaps because most of the logging concessions in Sarawak are held by politicians or their close relatives. The state government appears determined to crush native resistance and continue the lucrative logging of the remaining old growth forests until they are gone.

One of the major stumbling blocks to a solution to the conflict over logging is Datuk James Wong, Sarawak's Minister of the Environment and Tourism. He is the holder of one of the largest timber concessions in Sarawak. He believes that "logging is good for the forest", but studies by the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization and the World Wide Fund For Nature suggest that selective logging damages 50% of the residual stands, removes 46% of the natural cover, and seriously damages soils, as over 30% of the ground surface is exposed. There is no evidence that the primary forest, once logged, ever returns to its natural state.

The three native leaders from Sarawak believe that The Voices for the Borneo Rainforest world tour is their last hope, as hundreds of heavy bulldozers encroach further each day into their traditional hunting grounds, frightening away wildlife, destroying food trees, and contaminating rivers through massive erosion and siltation.

They are calling for an immediate moratorium on the



I wanted to talk with the police about land to be saved for us to stay alive. They don't want to talk. They arrest me.

rivers through massive erosion and siltation. state moratorium on the logging of their traditional lands, meaningful recognition of their customary land rights by the Sarawak State government, and that a significant area of primary rainforest is set aside as a United Nations Biosphere Reserve to provide permanent protection for both the forest and their way of life.

They are asking you to help them by seeking bans on tropical hardwood imports into your country and by asking your federal government to suspend development and foreign aid to Malaysia until their government respects native rights and stops logging the last remaining areas of primary rainforest--the homelands which natives and wildlife need for survival.

A Way to Stay

In the time of our fathers, the tropical rainforests stood immense, inviolable, a mantle of green stretching across entire continents. That era is no more. Today in many parts of the tropics the clouds are made of smoke, the scents are of grease and lube oil, and the sounds one hears are of machinery, the buzz of chainsaws, and the cacophony of enormous reptilian earth movers hissing and moaning with exertion....

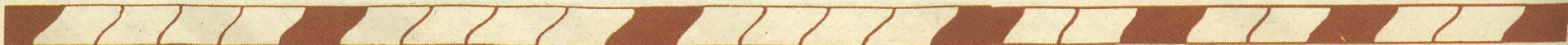
One species goes extinct every thirty minutes, and the rate is accelerating. Unless there is a dramatic global reduction in deforestation, more than a million species may become extinct within the next thirty years....

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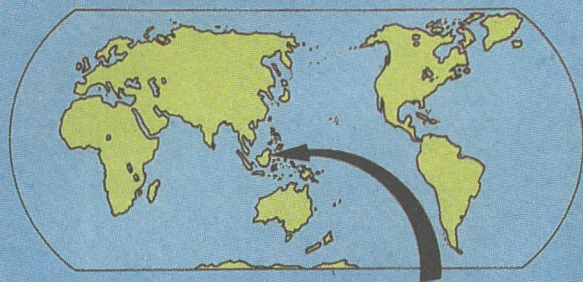
JUSTICE FOR THE PENAN



SAVE THE NATIVE PEOPLE



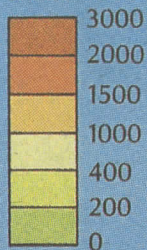
Call for Action



BORNEO

Showing the Malaysian State of Sarawak

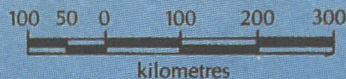
ELEVATION
IN METRES



proposed
U.N.
Biosphere
Reserve



SCALE



As the roads pierce the wild heart of the forests, the indigenous cultures suffer the most, the very people who have over the course of thousands of years developed an intimate knowledge of the land; men and women who, lacking the technology to transform the forest, chose instead long ago to understand it. Now, with dozens of tribal groups facing assimilation or destruction, we stand to lose in a single generation the accumulated wisdom of millennia....

In Sarawak, the wisdom of an entire people is waiting to be heard. Numbering some 7,600, of whom perhaps a thousand remain deep in the forest following their ancient way of life, the Penan are one of the few truly nomadic rainforest societies of the earth.

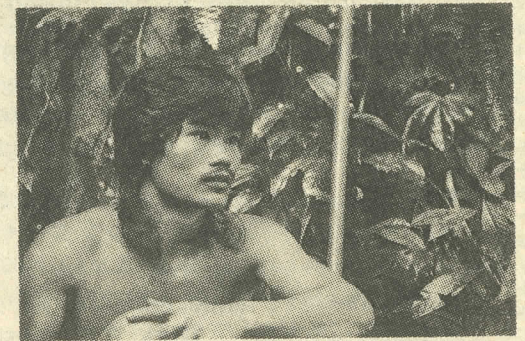
excerpts from the essay *A Way to Stay* by Wade Davis in *PENAN - Voice for the Borneo Rainforest*



So friend, help us preserve this land as it is.
Help us so that they will divide,
share the land with us,
— not take it all away.

Ah, we would be grateful, thankful.
We would be happy if some land
is saved for us Penan.

After Dawat had
finished speaking
there was silence.
Only the forest
sounds of distant
birds and cicades
remained.



Dear friends and supporters, it is with sorrow and a heavy heart that we sent messages of appeal to you. The last virgin forest which is home for us Penan and other tribes of Sarawak is going to the slaughter house. Logging companies have more than double the rate of timber extraction in the last 4 months. If this ~~continue~~ is to continue we have no more hope. Our hearts are in great turmoil and we want the people in the world to know that we are sending a SOS ~~to~~ help us stop these evil.

The forest is our home and friend for ~~the~~ ~~the~~ thousands of years, but now we have no rights to it. They are destroying it without heart and feelings for our lives. What we want is our survival, a place to continue our ~~to~~ culture and traditions, and to see that our grandchildren have a future.

The water we use is so polluted with silt, the fruit trees they are taken as logs and the animals, they run away. There is ~~so~~ much hunger, diseases, and other social problems which we have never experience before. "We are like fishes in a drying out stream waiting for death at the same time hoping for rain."

It is sad to see that our people are harbouring so much bitterness and anger toward the destroyer of our land, but are powerless to do anything. Any resistance from us are met with harassment and arrest.

We take courage to come out to you for help not knowing what repercussion we will receive when we get home. Though there are only three of us we represent ^{all} the voices of the silent sufferers of the jungle.

If you have families and children, just imagine what you will do if suddenly the bulldozers come into your wheat fields, fruit orchards, and sun over your feet.

The rate of deforestation in Malaysia is the highest in the world. In 1983, Malaysia accounted for 58% of the total global export of tropical logs, with over 90% of the wood going to Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea. By 1985, three acres of forest were being cut every minute of every day. With primary forests in peninsular Malaysia becoming rapidly depleted, the industry increasingly has turned to Sarawak.



Government officials

ponds. When you protest you realize that you are made only a visitor in your own land by some laws you never realised.

You are our only hope for support and we extend our love and greetings to you.

Thank you.

- 1. UNGA PARAN
- 2. MUTANG TUO
- 3. MUTANG URUD

directly responsible for decision-making regarding forestry practices and the creation of a Sarawak Biosphere Reserve

Prime Minister of Malaysia
YAB Dato' Seri
Dr. Mahathir Bin Muhammad
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Jalan Dato' Onn
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Chief Minister of Sarawak,
and Minister of Resource
Planning (Forestry)
YAB Tan Sri Datuk Patinggi
Abd. Taib Mahmud
Chief Minister's Office
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Rahman Putra.
Petra Jaya, 93503 Kuching
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Wilderness Committee's WILD
(Wilderness Is the Last Dream) Campaign,
710-340 West Cordova Street, Vancouver,
British Columbia, Canada V6B 2V3, with
the fervent hope that it will help the natives
of Sarawak succeed in their efforts to
protect their tropical rainforest home.

All photos excerpted from book titled
*PENAN - Voice for the Borneo
Rainforest* by Wade Davis and Thom
Henley, ISBN 1-895123-07-0, published by
WILD in September, 1990. The quotes
accompanying photos are excerpted from
the verbal testimony, also contained in the
PENAN book, of Dawat Lupung, a young
Penan, about what is happening to his
rainforest homeland.

This paper was designed by Sue Fox and
Paul George, edited by Paul George and
Adriane Carr, and produced with the
assistance of the WILD staff and
volunteers. It is dedicated to the three
courageous Sarawak natives who, during
the fall of 1990, embarked on a world tour
to reach out to all who believe in social
justice and environmental protection for
help in achieving their dream - the
preservation of their rainforest homeland.

HELP SAVE THE BORNEO RAINFOREST

Please use my \$ _____ donation to help save Sarawak's rainforest for its own sake and for the Penan and other Dayaks (native groups) who depend on it to survive. Official tax receipt issued.

Please send me a copy of your beautiful and informative 160 page soft cover book titled *PENAN - Voice for the Borneo Rainforest* by Dr. Wade Davis, ethnobotanist and Thom Henley, environmentalist. Enclosed is \$29.95 (regular retail price \$34.95) to cover all costs.

I understand that from the sale of each book three dollars goes to help establish a United Nations Biosphere Reserve to protect the rainforest ecosystem and the unique culture of the nomadic Penan who live there.

I would like to order _____ Penan dream bracelet(s). I understand that each bracelet is handmade by a Penan craftsman out of rattan, a native palm, with the hope that the wearer will think about, and help protect, the threatened Sarawak rainforest. Enclosed is \$ _____. Bracelets are \$6 each (includes taxes, shipping and handling). Please specify S, M or L wrist size.

Name _____ Address _____

Postal Code _____

Please make out cheque, money order, or enclose VISA/ MasterCard information to WILD - Sarawak Campaign (Canada) or World Wilderness Committee - Sarawak campaign (US) and send to WILD, 710-340 West Cordova, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6B 2V3. Thank you very much for concern and help.

