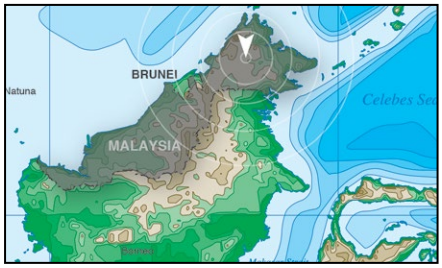
Borneo Rainforest Rehabilitation Project

Restoring precious rainforests in Borneo

The Borneo Rainforest Rehabilitation Project is working to protect and restore a large area of degraded rainforest in the Malaysian state of Sabah, on the island of Borneo. So far the project has protected 25,000 hectares and rehabilitated nearly half of the area, locking in carbon and providing habitat for endangered animals, plants and birds.



The island of Borneo is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots, with an abundance of unique and endangered plants and animals. Yet the rainforests of Borneo are threatened by rapid rates of deforestation due to logging and palm oil plantations. This project has been working for the past 20 years to restore the degraded rainforest and allow wildlife to return.

The rainforests of Sabah contain over 150 species of trees with commercially valuable timber. As a result, the forests have been heavily logged and many of the trees are now endangered. Logging of native forests has traditionally accounted for 50–70% of Sabah's state revenue. Typical logging practices are highly unsustainable, resulting in rapid growth of vines and climbers which block the growth of young trees and preventing natural regeneration of the forest.

The project area itself had been logged since 1981 and this would have continued in the absence of intervention. Now however, the project not only prevents further logging and degradation, but is also working to rehabilitate the area and help the natural forest to regenerate. To overcome the many challenges involved, a research-led approach was adopted including the establishment of a nursery with the capacity to produce 1 million seedlings per year. Research findings from the nursery and wider forest management activities are immediately and effectively incorporated into the project's ongoing development. This approach has been a key factor in the success of the project.

Deforestation is one of the most significant global contributors to climate change, due to the release of carbon that was previously locked up the biosphere. Borneo's rainforests have particularly high carbon stocks due to their size, density and soils. By preventing further logging and degradation, and helping native trees and vegetation to regenerate, this project avoids approximately 140,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions per year.

climate® friendly

Benefits Beyond Carbon Reduction

In addition to its climate change benefits, the project protects and enhances the habitat for a host of Borneo's rare and unique species, including primates, carnivores, birds, reptiles and plants. There are 11 protected areas in Sabah but the degradation of the surrounding forests means that populations of endangered species are often isolated in these areas, which threatens their long term survival. The project borders the Danum Valley Conservation Area, an important pocket of undisturbed tropical rainforest, and **enlarges the habitat for several endangered species** which are now able to migrate between the two areas. Wildlife is encouraged to return to the project area as 10% of the trees planted are indigenous fruit trees, which provide a valuable food source.

Endangered **Bornean orangutans, gibbons** and **pygmy elephants** live only on the island and are frequently spotted in the project area.

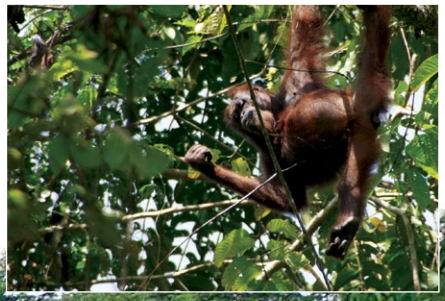
Project snapshot

Name	Borneo Rainforest Rehabilitation Project
Location	Sabah, Malaysia
Type	Improved Forest Management
Emissions prevented	140,000 tonnes of CO_2e per year
Standard	Verified Carbon Standard

The project also provides one of the only areas of habitat for the **critically endangered Sumatran rhino**, which once existed throughout Asia. Other endangered and vulnerable species include the Malayan sun bear, clouded leopard, bearded pig and mouse deer.

The project supports local people and employees over **50 full time local staff**. As part of the research-led approach, all project staff are given **intensive training** on best practices in forest management. The project provides opportunities to gain skills such as tree identification, seedling propagation, GPS technology and carbon monitoring.

Training of local people ensures that forest management knowledge is transferred to neighbouring areas and **biodiversity knowledge is kept for future generations**. Large-scale restoration of this kind also creates **ecotourism opportunities**, providing an **alternative source of income** that will help to ensure the forests are protected in the future.



"This pioneering, research-led project provides a crucially important model of what can be achieved in forest restoration."

– **Dr Glen Reynolds**, The Royal Society SEARRP

For more information

Call Climate Friendly today on **+61 2 9356 3600** or visit **www.climatefriendly.com** to find out how you can offset your carbon footprint and contribute to sustainable development in Malaysia and other countries.

climate® friendly