



UCC 2009

ORANG UTAN CONSERVATION COLLOQUIUM

*Developing Models for Orang Utan Conservation
Within Fragmented Ecosystems*

1-2 October 2009

Shangri-la Rasa Ria Resort
Kota Kinabalu
Sabah, Malaysia



ORGANISED BY



HUTAN



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ORANG UTAN CONSERVATION COLLOQUIUM

Developing Models for Orang Utan Conservation Within Fragmented Ecosystems

Once widespread throughout the entire South East Asia, orang-utans are now only found in Borneo (*Pongo pygmaeus*) and in Sumatra (*Pongo abelii*). These two species are declining fast and orang-utans **could be the first living great apes to go extinct if the current trend cannot be halted**. Habitat loss (through forest conversion to agriculture) and ecosystem fragmentation are the two driving forces paving the way to orang-utan extinction. **Sabah is fortunate that it is still home today to about 11,000 orang-utans, making the State the major stronghold for the North Bornean subspecies (*Pongo pygmaeus morio*).** However, the majority (62%) of these animals are surviving outside of the network of protected areas and major orang-utan sub-populations are becoming isolated from one another. **This fragmentation process jeopardizes the long-term survival of the species in Sabah.**



Aerial surveys conducted in 2008 by Borneo Conservation Trust in collaboration with the Kinabatangan Orang Utan Conservation Project (KOCP) / the French NGO HUTAN with funding from MPOC, revealed that several hundreds of orang-utan nests were found in mangrove that are physically disconnected from other forests because of plantations and in small islands of forest completely isolated within the extensive oil palm landscape of the State. It is inconceivable that orang-utans will survive in the long-term and will establish resident viable populations in a landscape entirely of oil palm plantations. However, it is highly probable that transient individuals who are dispersing and leaving the forests where they have been born are entering plantations for dispersal. In this case, the oil palm landscape could provide a physical opportunity for disconnected orang-utan populations to be reconnected if the animals were given a more secure opportunity to use this man-made landscape for dispersing.



These results give the opportunity to the Malaysian palm oil industry to become efficiently involved in orang-utan conservation and to spearhead orang-utan conservation efforts in man-made landscapes by recreating a network of natural forests within the extensive oil palm landscape currently found in Sabah.

The major objective of this Colloquium is to present these new results, to discuss them with relevant authorities and stakeholders and to issue workable recommendations to develop new solutions for orang-utan conservation in fragmented man-made landscapes and to enhance the chances of long-term survival of the species.

Objectives:

- To present and to discuss our current knowledge about orang-utan status within the oil palm landscape of eastern Sabah with representatives from governments, private industry, NGOs, scientists and media from Malaysia and from the international community
- To discuss possible models that could be developed for orang-utan conservation in fragmented habitats
- To produce and to endorse an official Resolution that will be tabled before the State Government and will present follow-up actions to minimize the negative impacts of habitat fragmentation as a result of agriculture development.



Registration Form

Please complete the form below. Form may be duplicated for additional registrations

Please Fax/E-mail this Form to **Borneo Conservation Trust**

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REGISTRATION FEE

RM750

PAYMENT METHOD

All fees must be paid to the order of **BORNEO CONSERVATION TRUST**

Cheque/Bank draft No:

Bank-in to

PUBLIC BANK BERHAD

Address: City Parade Branch
Lot 1-0-M48, M49, M50, M51
1 Jalan Centre Point, City Parade
88000 Kota Kinabalu
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Tel: +60 88-251 812
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BORNEO CONSERVATION TRUST
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1. Please fax copy of bank-in slip as proof/verification of payment.
2. Registration confirmation number will be informed once payment is received.
3. Request for refund will not be entertained after 15 September 2009.

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