

Linking up Peatland Restoration with Community Empowerment and Orangutan Conservation in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia

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Introduction

Borneo Orangutan Survival (BOS) is the biggest primate conservation NGO, whose mission is to contribute to the conservation of the Bornean Orangutan and its habitat through the involvement of local communities. This poster presents the joint efforts of BOS Foundation in cooperation with BOS Germany in the Mawas Area, Central Kalimantan, Indonesia. Work focuses on peatland restoration and community empowerment activities for orangutan and forest conservation.

Background and Problem Statement

- From 1973 to 2010 more than 30% of Borneo's rainforests were destroyed. → Bornean orangutan populations declined by more than 50% over the past 60 years.
- In 2019, more than 1.6 million hectares of land in Indonesia were burned (42% of it were peatlands). → Peatland and forest fires are the largest contributors to Indonesia's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- Poverty in peatlands 2-4 times higher than in the rest of Indonesia (9.66% in 2017).
- Unsustainable land use practices: slash-burn techniques, expansion of agriculture, mining, illegal logging
- Population in Central Kalimantan: Indigenous Dayak (37.9%), Banjarese (24.2%), Javanese (18.06%).

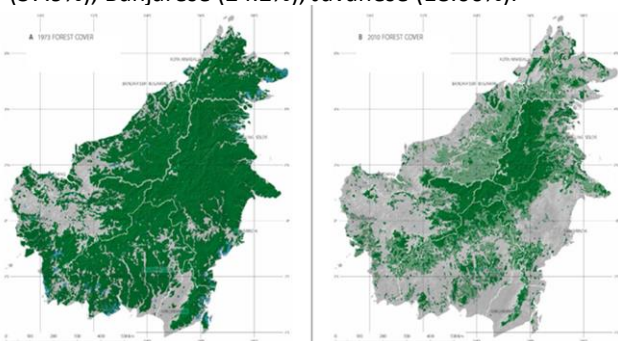


Figure 1. Forest cover in Borneo in 1973 and 2010

Project Area

- Ex-Mega Rice Project.
- Size: 309,000 ha of peat lands.
- Largest wild orangutan populations (2.550 OU).
- Regular peat and forest fires.
- 29,000 families in 53 villages
- Livelihoods: Agriculture (75% of the population):
 - Small-scale farmers, subsistence swidden agriculture.
 - Fishing, small-scale trade, work in palm oil companies or mining.

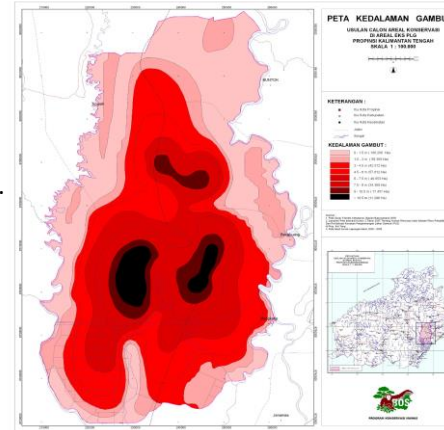


Figure 2. Peat map of Mawas, Indonesia

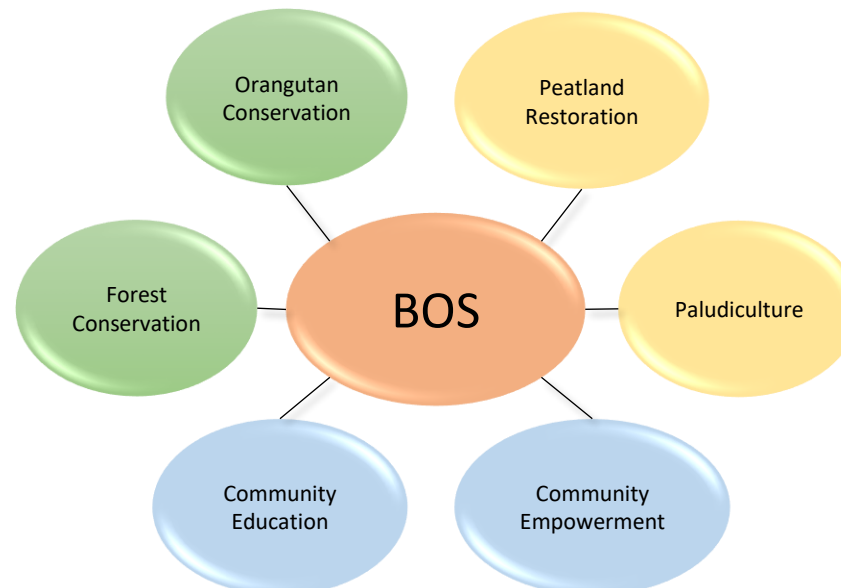


Figure 3. BOS Activities in Mawas, Indonesia

Results



Outlook

- **Forest conservation and peatland rehabilitation:** Continue canal blocking and reforestation with native trees and orangutan food trees.
- **Sustainable income generation:** Explore more potentials for paludiculture on community land (e.g. sago palm, rattan and *purun* grass cultivation, traditional fishponds (*Beje*)).
- **Community education:** Increase skills of local communities, with emphasis on the sustainable management of natural resources, including fire prevention.