

3. Saya bagi pihak Persatuan Pencinta Alam sekali lagi mengucapkan ribuan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga kepada Kerajaan dan kepada Y.A.B. Datuk sendiri atas keputusan Kerajaan itu dan Persatuan Pencinta Alam akan terus memberi sokongan dalam usaha Kerajaan dalam memelihara khazanah alam semula jadi Negara.

Sekian. Terima kasih.

“BERKHIDMAT UNTUK NEGARA”

Saya tang menurut perintah.

DR. SALLEH MOHD. NOR
Yang DiPertua,
Persatuan Pencinta Alam.

SABAH

How much forest is there in Sabah?

The sale of native hardwoods (valued at M\$1.2 billion, 1979) has accounted for up to 80% of the State's revenue. Timber extraction is the cause of the most extensive change in habitat, with only 27% of Sabah remaining as primary “high” forest in 1980, compared with 61% in 1971.

A Faunal Survey of Sabah. IUCN/WWF Project No 1692 (1980) compiled by Glyn Davies & J. Payne.

The Sumatran Rhino at Silabukan, Sabah

For practically the whole Silabukan rhino range the Sabah Foundation has a logging concession. At present several logging teams are operating. Evidently this causes serious disturbance for the rhinos. In addition, some time ago a rhino was shot by loggers. The objectives in the interest of rhino conservation are:

- * to stop illegal hunting of rhinos
- * to save as large an area as possible from being logged
- * to choose patterns of logging to which the rhinos are able to adapt.

Evidently these objectives necessitate negotiations with the Sabah Foundation and supervision of the logger activities by guards.

Report of the Asian Rhino Specialist group, Species Survival Commission, October 1982 by Prof. R. Schenkel.

CONSERVATION IN THE REGION

Look East – there goes our timber!

Dwindling supplies of tropical hardwoods have spawned two Japanese initiatives to keep alive the trade in tropical timbers and the forests on which it depends. A leading expert on tropical forestry told the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Liverpool that Japan has “a very clear strategy to exhaust the Southeast Asian forests” before turning to its own sizeable reserves of timber.

One of the Japanese initiatives is a plan to form an international organisation to regulate the trade in tropical timbers. The other, on the part of the pulp manufacturers in Japan, is to establish plantations of fast-growing trees in countries whose forests face severe depletion.

Japan imports more wood than any other country in the world. In 1980, it bought about 55 per cent of all the roundwood, sawn wood and plywood traded in the world. It also takes 54 per cent of all exports of tropical hardwoods, 86 per cent of which come from South and Southeast Asia (primarily Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines). Japan has taken the lion's share of their exports as well as a large proportion of the output of other producers such as Thailand and Papua New Guinea.

In the past 20 years, half of Malaysia's rain forests have been logged. The Department of Forestry forecasts that remaining forests will be exhausted by 1990.

Virtually all Indonesia's accessible lowland forests, including some areas designated as “protected forests” have been let as timber concessions. Intensive logging, chiefly by Japanese companies, has begun only recently in Papua New Guinea, but pressures on these forests will grow as other sources disappear.

“Japan has a very clear strategy” Professor Hans Steinlin, a West German forestry expert, told the meeting. It is “to protect its forests for as long as possible although it means over-exploitation of Southeast Asia and the Pacific Region.”

New Scientist, 16 September 1982