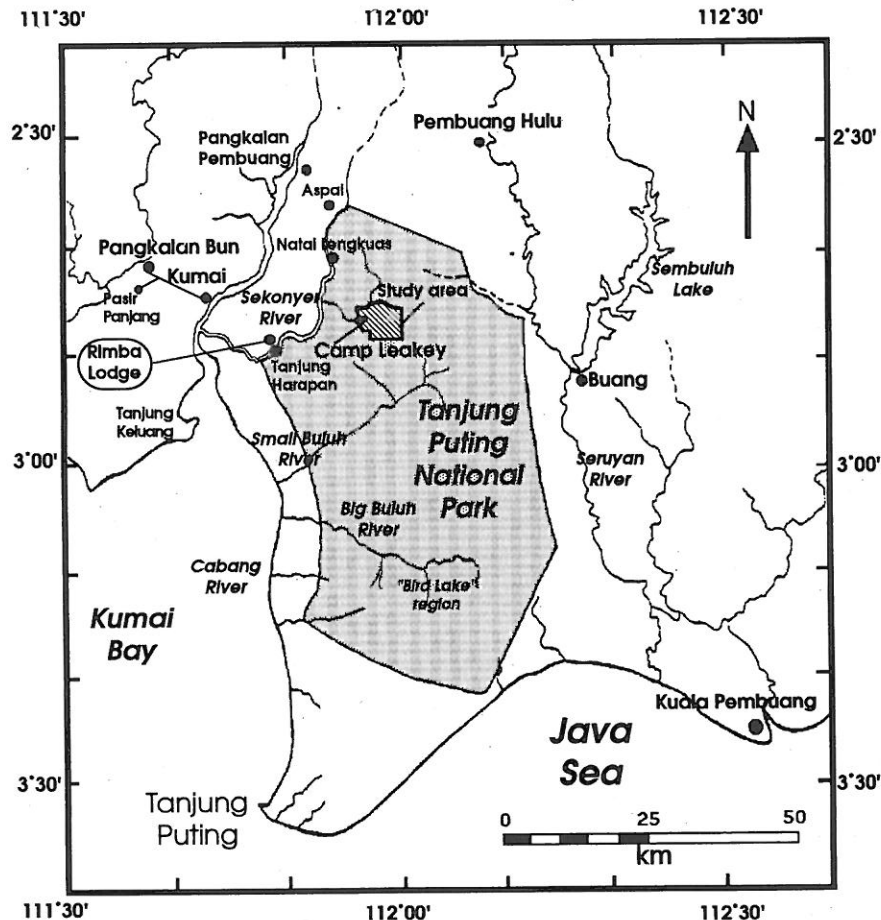




Map 1. - Portion of Southeast Asia showing general location of Tanjung Puting National Park

**How to use this guidebook:**

This guidebook is organized in two main parts separated by color plates. Read the first part for background information, facts and stories told by Dayak people. Turn to the second part for information about how to visit the region.



Map 2. - General overview of Tanjung Puting National Park and surrounding areas.

## A Guidebook to

# TANJUNG PUTING National Park

Kalimantan Tengah (Central Borneo), Indonesia

Dr. Biruté M.F. Galdikas  
Dr. Gary L. Shapiro



## Foreword



MINISTER OF TOURISM,  
POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
OF REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

WELCOME TO CENTRAL KALIMANTAN AND TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK. THIS SPECIAL PART OF INDONESIA IS OF GREAT FASCINATION TO ALL WHO VISIT. THE CULTURES, THE VAST WATERWAYS, THE FLORA AND FAUNA ARE ALL INTERESTING AND WORTHWHILE.

NO WHERE ON EARTH WILL ONE DISCOVER SUCH A LOVELY AND UNIQUE PLACE. BY VISITING TANJUNG PUTING NATIONAL PARK, YOU WILL BE CAPTIVATED BY NATURE'S TEEMING BIODIVERSITY AND ENRICHED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE PEOPLES OF THE REGION.

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS GUIDEBOOK, APPRECIATE THIS PART OF INDONESIA AND RETURN TO VISIT US AGAIN SOON.



JAKARTA, 7 JULY 1994  
MINISTER OF TOURISM, POSTS  
AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

JOOP AVE

## A Guidebook to Tanjung Puting National Park

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Biruté Galdikas has been conducting a long term  
orangutan research program in Tanjung Puting  
National Park since 1971 and was instrumental in  
upgrading the status of the area to a National Park.

This guidebook was prepared under a Federal  
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about Tanjung Puting National Park to visitors in  
order to enhance appreciation for this unique and  
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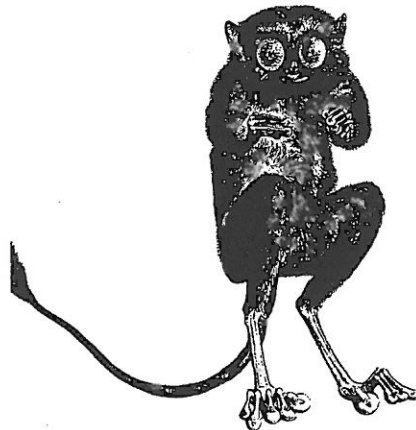
The Orangutan Foundation International is a  
non-profit, tax-exempt organization with a mission  
of increasing research and conservation efforts  
concerning orangutans and their rain forest habitat  
as well as educating the public and others regarding  
orangutan and their endangered status. For more  
information call 800-ORANG-UTAN.

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ally southwards, but south of the Sekonyer Kanan River there are no specific ridges or hills. River levees have been built up by the rivers constantly overflowing their banks during the wet season, with the coarser particles being deposited first as sandy banks and levees. The finer particles are deposited further downstream, and a faint depression is formed between rivers. Alluvial deposits of this type are frequently associated with gold-bearing strata.

Scattered "natai" or dry land hills occur in the central and southern part of the park. These "natai" are isolated by very large lakes, many of which are almost devoid of vegetation. These lakes are particularly noticeable during the wetter part of the year. The coasts are generally sandy. The peninsula ("tanjung") itself is aggregating sand every year and gradually moving south and west.



## Fauna

Borneo, Sumatra, Malaya, and Java share a similar fauna. These areas are generally considered as forming one zoogeographic unit, the Malaysian subregion. This subregion is characterized by one of the richest faunas in the whole world. For instance, Borneo has approximately 200 species of mammals and 600 species of birds. However, Bornean mammals and birds are more specialized than anywhere else in the subregion. Borneo has five endemic genera, 39 endemic species of mammals and 29 endemic bird species. Among primates endemism is particularly high. Five species out of 13 nonhuman primate species present in Borneo are limited to the island.

In Borneo, as in most of the Malaysian subregion, the vast majority of species are confined to the lowland tropical rain forest. The explanation for the relative faunal uniformity throughout the Malaysian subregion lies in the recent geological history of the area. The Sunda shelf, a shallow sea generally less than 100 meters deep which separates the three major islands of Borneo, Sumatra and Java from each other and from the Asia mainland, has been periodically dry. The recent dryness occurred 10,000 to 20,000 years ago during the Pleistocene. This facilitated movement of birds, fish and mammals over the entire region. In fact, the freshwater fish of western Borneo and southeast Sumatra are more

closely related than the freshwater species of east and west Borneo. This suggests that rivers of southeast Sumatra and west Borneo were once tributaries of a large river which flowed in what is now the South China Sea. The case for freshwater fish has some interesting correlates among the mammals. For instance, while the southwest corners of Borneo and south Sumatra share the same gibbon species (*Hylobates agilis* or the agile gibbon), an endemic gibbon species (*H. muelleri*) occupies the northern and eastern portions of Borneo. Likewise, two endemic Bornean langurs (*Presbytis frontata* and *P. hosei*) are only found in north and east Borneo while the Bornean subspecies of *P. melalophus* ranges only on the island's western portion.

Thus, no one protected area can singly represent the full diversity and richness of Borneo's fauna. With its extensive swamp and tropical heath forests, shallow seasonal lake rookeries, and large bird, mammal, reptile, and fish populations, Tanjung Puting is representative of the faunal and floral complex exclusive to the southwest corner of Borneo.

As such, Tanjung Puting serves as a vital counterpart of other protected areas in northern and eastern Borneo. Tanjung Puting game reserve was established primarily for the protection of the orangutan, proboscis monkey and the Sumatran rhinoceros during the 1930's by the Dutch colonial government and the Sultan of Kotawaringin. Unfortunately, during the 1940's the Sumatran rhinoceros was hunted to extinction for

its horn.

The last known rhinoceros in Kalimantan Tengah was killed in 1949 by a Dayak hunter armed with a homemade shotgun. The Sumatran rhinoceros is the smallest of the rhinoceros genus. The Dayak hunter thought he had killed a large bearded pig as he only saw from behind the rhinoceros fleeing into the undergrowth. When the hunter actually came upon the fallen prey, only then did he discover that he had mistakenly killed a rhinoceros.

## Vegetation

The vegetation of Tanjung Puting, including its forests, presents a complex mosaic of habitats. The forests of Tanjung Puting are different from the well-known lowland, mixed dipterocarp forests for which Borneo is famous. The great naturalist Alfred Russell Wallace (co-founder of the theory of evolution by natural selection) described the canopies of the tropical rain forests of northern Borneo as "cathedral" forests. Those cathedral forests do not exist in Tanjung Puting. Nonetheless, there are many species of dipterocarps in the Park. However, nowhere in Tanjung Puting do the dipterocarps exhibit the giant size and density which they do on the north and east coasts of Borneo. Part of Tanjung Puting is permanently waterlogged, while another part has been cultivated by traditional slash-and-burn horticulturalists. In total, a number of