

Newsletter

number 1, April 2010

The Borneo Initiative supports sustainable forest management and better living conditions in Indonesia. With the swift certification of millions of hectares of tropical forests, The Borneo Initiative aims to combat deforestation and illegal logging and bring together supply and demand for certified timber.

This Newsletter is intended to keep donors, collaborating partners and other interested parties regularly informed about The Borneo Initiative developments.

Goed Geld Gala

On 4 February 2010 the Postcode Lottery divided 256 million euros among its charitable causes. During the Goed Geld Gala, organised within this framework, the Postcode Lottery announced that €2,300,000 was to be given to The Borneo Initiative. The Borneo Initiative was one of the lucky ones among a number of highly worthy initiatives to receive a sizeable sum. With this financial support we can make a dynamic start with certification and achieve a breakthrough in the conservation of the tropical forest timber chain. Earlier this year Stichting Adessium, Koninklijke BAM and Bouwfonds Ontwikkeling pledged their financial support and the Dutch Minister for Foreign Development doubled the deposits of donors via the Institute for Sustainable Trade (IDH).



Members of the board Dammy Evertse and Jesse Kuijper accept the cheque.

Appointment of Wim Ellenbroek

Wim Ellenbroek was appointed Programme Director of The Borneo Initiative as of 1 March 2010. He will manage the organisation in the Netherlands and Indonesia.

Wim Ellenbroek has been involved in The Borneo Initiative since its inception. He graduated as a development economist in Wageningen. He has worked for various organisations abroad, notably on projects focusing on the development of the local population in buffer zones in wildlife areas. For the past seven years Wim Ellenbroek has worked as project coordinator for het World Wide Fund for Nature with, initially, a worldwide portfolio of projects directed at protecting specific, protected species and subsequently specifically targeting Indonesia and Malaysia. Furthermore, in recent years Wim Ellenbroek has contributed to a great extent to the development of strategy, monitoring, evaluation and reporting for the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Housing corporations' support initiative

In order to achieve its ambitions, at the beginning of 2010 The Borneo Initiative started canvassing for contributions via the Corporatiefonds. In this way corporations can support the objectives and the vision of The Borneo Initiative. If forty-five corporations each contribute €1,000 to €5,000 per annum, over a period of five years, The Borneo Initiative can create a fund of well over €500,000. With this sum approximately 340,000 hectares can be certified. Every contribution to the fund contributes to a concrete and substantial expansion of the area of certified forest – and this is accordingly of great influence on the environment, mankind and the climate.

The year of biodiversity

2010 is the year of biodiversity. Biodiversity is the variety of animal and plant species that make Borneo so valuable. In addition, the forests provide clean water, fertile soil and a stable climate. This year the United Nations is centring its attention on biodiversity. World-wide governments are focusing on conserving biodiversity and exploiting sustainability. The year of biodiversity gives added meaning to the start that The Borneo Initiative made in 2010 by supporting the certification of the first five concession holders.

Sustainable forest management 'the leading concept'

Jesse Kuijper and Dammy Evertse, members of the board of The Borneo Initiative, visited Borneo in January of this year. During this visit five concessionholders from Kalimantan in Indonesia signed an agreement with The Borneo Initiative. This was in connection with their participation in the certification process. We asked Jesse Kuijper about his visit.



Representatives of PT Roda Mas and boardmembers Jesse Kuijper and Dammy Evertse at the signing ceremony of the support programme agreement.

What was the response to your visit?

"Sustainable forest management is "the leading concept" of more and more concession holders who are also stimulated in this pursuit by the Indonesian authorities, public opinion and international interested parties. This enthusiasm, which has really started to increase in the past two years, was noticeable during my visit to Indonesia. For a long time we truly had to convince people, whereas now we enter a dialogue on the basis of a mutual conviction that certification (FSC and LEI) is the future."

What results are now visible?

"It is too early to talk about concrete results at the present moment because the certification of forest management only began in 2010, but the first group of concession holders are expected to switch over this year and subsequently market the timber. A new page has been turned for the forests of Borneo. And that is, in itself, a splendid result for the year of biodiversity."

What are contacts with the concession holders like?

"There is patently great interest in Indonesia and Europe, we are clearly filling a void. The Borneo Initiative is turning out to be the right link in the chain whereby we now see that the certification process is accelerating and demand for certified timber in Indonesia and Europe is increasing. The Indonesian government is also watching attentively. The government has itself a target of certifying five million hectares of forest acreage in 2015. The Borneo Initiative offers an extremely relevant contribution."

When will you be returning to Borneo?

"My following visit is planned in April 2010, when we will consult with the second group of concession holders and ask the first group to report on the state of affairs. We want to reach a critical threshold in 2014 – half of all operational concessions. In addition, FSC certification will then no longer be an exception but, on the contrary, a standard since buyers will demand a responsible and sustainable product."

