



Gift to the Earth



Indonesia establishes 1.3 million hectares of Protected Areas and commits to further improve PA management effectiveness

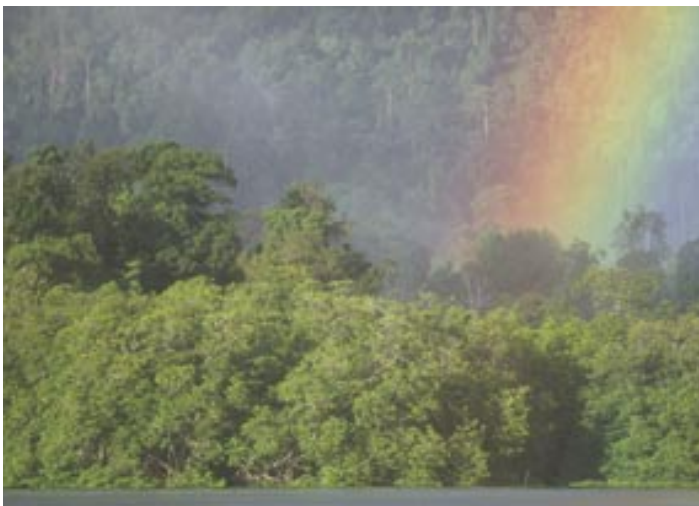
SUMMARY

In 2004, the Government of Indonesia established 9 new National Parks and expanded an existing park, adding 1,330,826 hectares of protected areas (PAs) – one third the size of Switzerland. Spread across Indonesia, the new PAs protect a huge range of biodiversity, especially the endangered Sumatran tiger, rhino and elephant, and orang-utan.

In addition, the Government assessed the management effectiveness of 41 National Parks (NPs), a critical step in Indonesia's endeavours to ensure sound protection of its vast and diverse natural heritage. The Government has committed to further improve PA management effectiveness.

The assessment revealed the top three threats as illegal logging, illegal hunting and fishing, and park encroachment, all often poverty-driven. The Government is addressing these issues by working closely with NGOs and paying attention to livelihood needs. Aware that the success of biodiversity protection depends on public support for conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, the Government issued a Ministerial Decree on Collaborative Management in PAs in October.

These achievements signify major progress in meeting the goals of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), the World Parks Congress, and the Convention on Biological Diversity. They also reflect the Government's strong commitment to conserve Indonesia's natural heritage for the well-being of current and future generations, and set a positive track record for future commitments and actions.



The new PAs safeguard a huge range of biodiversity and several highly endangered species – © WWF-Canon / Edward PARKER



Kenyah Dayak women collecting medicinal plants in Kayan Mentarang National Park – © WWF-Canon/Alain COMPOST

BACKGROUND

Indonesia lies at the heart of Asia-Pacific. With over 300 distinct languages and ethnic groups, it is one of the world's most diverse and most populous countries, with a distinct geology, thousands of islands (over 17,000), and moist tropical climate. One of the world's major biodiversity centres, it is blessed with an enormous wealth of natural habitats and species. Covering only 1.3% of Earth's surface area, it is home to 10% of the world's flowering plant species, 12% of the world's mammal species, 16% of all reptile and amphibian species, 17% of bird species and more than 25% of the world's fish species. There is 81,000 km of coastline — about two-thirds of its territory (5,8 million km²) are marine waters — and 18% of the world's coral reefs.

This rich heritage needs to be conserved, both for nature and people. The Government works closely with stakeholders including local and international NGOs, to maximise the long term security of this wealth of biodiversity. The achievements of 2004 included:

► Establishment of 9 new NPs — Batang Gadis (108,000 ha), Gunung Merapi (6,410 ha), Gunung Merbabu (5,725 ha), Tesso Nilo (38,576 ha), Aketajawe-Lolobata (167,300 ha), Bantimurung-Bulusaraung (43,750 ha), Kepulauan Togean (365,605 ha), Sebangau (568,700 ha), and Gunung Ciremai (15,500 ha). Also, 14,160 ha were added to the Kerinci Seblat NP. This adds 1,330,826 hectares to Indonesia's PA coverage,

► Strengthening PA management — In May, the Government used the WWF-developed tool RAPPAM (Rapid Assessment and Prioritization of Protected Area Management methodology) to assess the management effectiveness of 41 NPs — 35 terrestrial and 6 marine parks — totalling 15 million ha or 66%

of Indonesia's total conservation area. It resulted in a number of key recommendations, which the Government has committed to implement. These include: continued collaboration to address threats in NPs; habitat restoration and wildlife management; strengthen park management policies; and continue following up on assessment results, repeating assessments periodically.

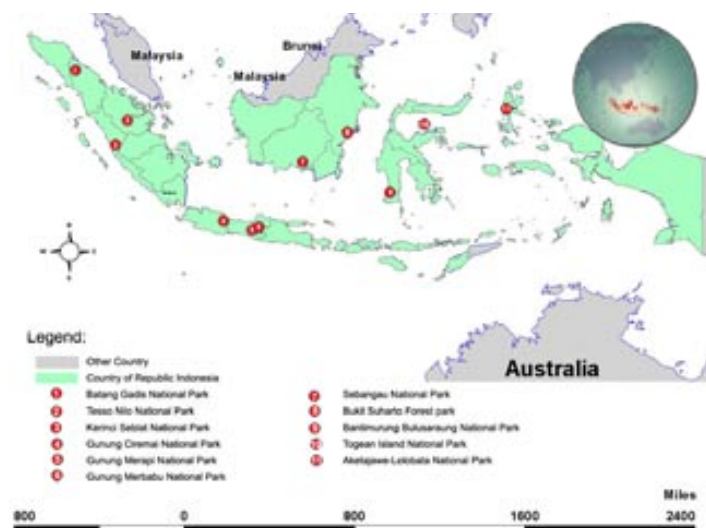
Meanwhile, the emergence of democracy and decentralized governance in Indonesia, and an increasing number of PAs, bring tremendous challenges and opportunities for greater local participation and more effective conservation management. In early 2004, the Ministry of Forestry formed a team of experts, including representatives of government agencies and NGOs, to develop and draft a comprehensive legal framework for collaborative management to ensure all stakeholders participate and benefit from PA management. It resulted in the Ministerial Decree on Collaborative Management in PAs, which provides the legal basis for involving local communities in PA management, thus ensuring that community dependence on natural resources form part of all management strategies. In line with the new decree, many local governments are also looking at managing their natural resources more sustainably. Some have declared their districts as 'conservation districts', and actively involve local communities in natural resource management planning.

Indonesia also contributed significantly to species conservation at the 13th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES in October, where it successfully proposed ramin (*Gonystilus sp*), gaharu (*Aqualaria sp*), cockatoo (*Cacatua sulphurea sp*) and four turtle species, to be put under better trade protection and control. It also supported a similar proposal for the Napoleon wrasse, a high export value reef fish threatened by over-fishing.

THE CONSERVATION BENEFITS

Many of the newly declared NPs are a last refuge for several highly endangered species, such as the Sumatran elephant, tiger and rhino, orang-utan, and contain valuable forests. Of the remaining 350 elephants left in Sumatra's Riau Province, 60 – 80 live in Tesso Nilo. One of Sumatra's remaining lowland forests, Tesso Nilo is one of Earth's richest forests. Sebangau is the largest remaining peat swamp forest in Kalimantan on the island of Borneo, rich in ramin. It houses an orang-utan population estimated at between 2,500 – 4,500. Gunung Ciremai has one of Java's remaining tropical montane forests, and harbours a wealth of traditional medicinal plants as well as the Javan eagle.

Of the new marine NPs, Kepulauan Togean, a group of islands, is rich in both marine and terrestrial biodiversity. It is the habitat of two turtle species, hundreds of fish and coral species, and 90



Soft coral in Wakatobi Marine National Park waters – © Wakatobi Marine National Park

bird species. Protection will enhance efforts of the Togean people, who have implemented self-imposed extraction limits from the reefs, and sustainable fishing practices, with facilitation from Rare and Conservation International.

Without doubt, the establishment of these new PAs is a very important step in conserving Indonesia's wealth of biodiversity. This, coupled with other efforts and the Government's commitment to continue working with all stakeholders to improve conservation effectiveness in the country, can only mean better conservation and socio-economic results for communities living in and around PAs.

RELEVANCE FOR WWF'S TARGETS

The actions recognized in this Gift to the Earth exceed WWF's target of establishing 700,000 ha of new PAs in Indonesia's most outstanding, least represented and/or highly threatened priority forest ecoregions by 2008. They also contribute 100% to WWF's targets of assessing the effectiveness of NP management in Indonesia, and in securing habitat for the most significant viable populations of orang-utans and Sumatran elephants and tigers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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The **GIFT TO THE EARTH** is WWF's recognition of a globally significant conservation achievement, which addresses WWF's conservation priorities by:

- 🌍 Advancing conservation of biodiversity, especially forest, freshwater and marine ecosystems, or enhancing the prospects for survival of threatened species.
- 🌍 Addressing global threats posed by climate change, toxic chemicals and unsustainable use of resources such as timber, freshwater and fisheries.

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