



**Highlights**

**Total Area:**  
2,500,000 ha

**Habitat Types**  
Lowland evergreen rainforest, montane rainforest, tropical pine forest

**Wildlife Present**  
*Birds: 580 species, including 21 endemics; Sumatran Ground Cuckoo, Sumatran Cochoa and numerous hornbill species*  
*Mammals: 200 species, including tiger, Sumatran Rhino, Sumatran Orangutan, and Sumatran Rabbit*  
*Flowering plants: 10,000 species, including 17 endemic genera*

**WCS Involvement**  
- Since 1997  
Starting with ecological research activities  
- Since 2004  
with a major expansion in the scope of activities to include regional planning

Cambodia

China

DPR Korea

India

**Indonesia**

Kazakstan

Lao PDR

Malaysia

Mongolia

Myanmar

Pakistan

Papua New Guinea

Russia

South Pacific

Thailand

**TROPICAL RAINFOREST HERITAGE  
OF SUMATRA**

The Indonesia island of Sumatra contains some of the country's last great forest wilderness. The core of this is contained within the UNESCO world heritage site known as The Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra. This spans the Barisan Range of mountains that form the spine of Sumatra and includes three major national parks: Bukit Barisan Selatan, Kerinci-Seblat and Gunung Leuser. WCS Indonesia Program has worked for many years in Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park. Our activities there have gone from small-scale research to a broad landscape-scale program addressing conservation needs through collaborative management and improved development planning, supported by research, capacity building, law enforcement, education and awareness. As the program develops the lessons-learned are being taken to Kerinci-Seblat and Gunung Leuser National Parks with the vision of achieving a common management strategy for the entire heritage site, backed by a network of information and resource sharing.

**Human Aspect**

Sumatra has a large and growing human population. Hundreds of villages and towns surround, and even lie within, the remaining forests and national parks. This presents a challenge to protect natural habitats and wildlife while respecting the rights and livelihoods of local people. We are trying to ensure this is done by working closely with local and regional governments; now democratically elected throughout Indonesia. Through legal requirements to undertake proper consultations with local people as part of development and spatial planning we are resolving land disputes and ensuring people's voices around the parks are heard.

**Threats**

The greatest threat to the wildlife and wild lands of the UNESCO world heritage site is forest clearance, typically through small-scale agricultural encroachments, often for coffee growing. Illegal logging and illegal unsustainable hunting also take their toll. The cumulative effect of many small-scale actions is massive and tackling such a diffuse threats presents us with a great challenge.





## WCS Activities

WCS Indonesia Program has a major project centered around the UNESCO Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra site, concentrating initially on the southernmost park, Bukit Barisan Selatan. Here we have a project known locally as 'CANOPI' that is:

- ❖ **Working closely with local district governments surrounding the park.** *With the devolution of power in Indonesia, district governments hold much of the responsibility for natural resource management. We are working to assist those governments to develop spatial and development plans that incorporate conservation objectives, through a process of information collecting and stakeholder consultation.*
- ❖ **Working with the park management authorities to improve park management and planning.** *This includes infrastructure development, improving law enforcement and promoting greater collaboration with district governments surrounding the park.*
- ❖ **Training and capacity building.** *We have a comprehensive training program underway providing the skills needed to make effective land and resource management decisions. Further, project is implemented wherever possible through local NGO partners. This is ensuring sustain ability through the transfer of knowledge.*
- ❖ **Research.** *The planning and development process we are supporting is information-hungry. To address this we are guiding a research program that ranges from ecological and socio-economic studies to remote sensing analysis of deforestation.*
- ❖ **Awareness and Education.** *To promote the message of conservation and wise management we have developed a program of awareness and education, targeted at groups ranging from schools to politicians and implemented with local NGO partners, communities and the government on the farmer's decisions to clear more forest.*

## Important Next Steps

Building on the work described above, WCS will carry out the following activities:

- ❖ *To take lessons we are learning about collaborative management in Bukit Barisan Selatan and put them to use in Kerinci Seblat and Gunung Lesuer National Parks.*
- ❖ *Through the development of a joint management board for the three parks try and integrate development and management plans for the whole UNESCO site.*
- ❖ *To develop networks for sharing information and resources between the national parks that forms the UNESCO World Heritage site.*

*WCS is addressing the conservation needs of the area through collaborative management and improved development planning; supported by research, capacity building, law enforcement, education and awareness*

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### Mission

The Wildlife Conservation Society's International Conservation Program saves wildlife and wild lands by understanding and resolving critical problems that threaten key species and large, wild ecosystems around the world.

### WCS Strategies

- Site-based conservation
- Research
- Training & capacity-building
- New model development
- Informing policy
- Linking zoo-based and field-based conservation

### Support this project!

Contributions to WCS projects in Indonesia can be sent to the WCS Asia Program Director in NY (address above) or online at [www.wcs.org](http://www.wcs.org)

