

CLIMATE AND LANDSCAPE CHANGE IN BORNEO'S RAINFOREST



UK STUDENT EXPEDITIONS PROGRAMME (Ages 16-19)

WHO ARE EARTHWATCH?

Earthwatch engages people worldwide in scientific field research and education to promote the understanding and action necessary for a sustainable environment.

WHERE?

Borneo is the third largest island in the world! It is host to 15,000 flowering plant species, 220 mammal species, 420 bird species, 250 reptile species, 150 amphibian species and 400 species of fish. The island is shared between Indonesia, Brunei and Malaysia. You will stay in the Sabah region on the Malaysian part of the island in both the Danum Valley Conservation Area, where the Royal Society South East Asia Rainforest Research Programme (SEARRP) is based, and the Malua Forest Reserve (base camp).



WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

In the 1960's, industrial logging began in Borneo and since then more than half of the primary rainforest has been logged or cleared to make room for oil palm plantations with logging rates doubling between 1980 and 1990. The forest is highly degraded and fragmented in many areas due to unsustainable logging practices. This is having devastating impacts on the rainforest and its carefully balanced ecosystem.

HOW WILL I HELP?

You will work with Glen Reynolds, the director and senior scientist at SEARRP, and some of his team, helping them to collect data for their research projects, as part of this exciting Earthwatch Project. This data is compiled and used to advise and set guidelines or laws for logging and palm oil companies to improve sustainability. In addition, the money you pay will be used to fund the scientific research.

WHAT WORK WOULD I ACTUALLY BE DOING?

As an Earthwatch volunteer you will be assisting 2 Post Doctorate students in collecting data for their research. This could involve: planting seedlings, measuring out transects, making and hanging nets, measuring trees and Environmental Quality Surveys. You will also observe a lot of wildlife and compile a species list of your sightings during your stay. This may include anything from Monitor Lizards to Red Leaf Monkeys and, if you're lucky, Orang-utans!

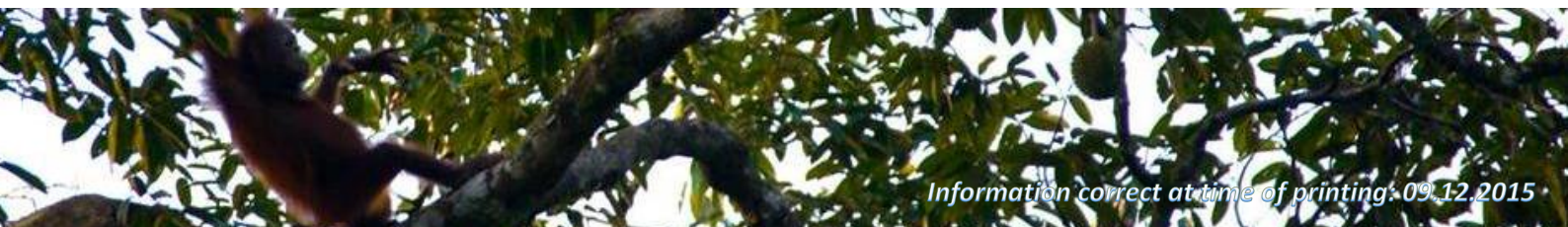
"The trip has definitely inspired me about the rainforest, with a complete new vision of it and its biodiversity. It is extremely rewarding to think that our work will help in a small way with the research that is being carried out with this new programme building on Benny's previous research."



"I can honestly say that the Borneo expedition was one of the best experiences of my life! I thought the atmosphere at Malua camp - both within the Earthwatch team and living amongst the Malays there - was the best thing about the trip. I found the talks from Glen and Benny particularly insightful and they helped to put our work into context, giving us a real sense of accomplishment every day."



"My journey to Borneo has opened my eyes to the wider world, I've experienced life without the comfort of technology at my fingertips and enjoyed the tranquillity and meeting what I hope will be lifelong friends."





ALL WORK NO PLAY?

Not at all! Once the day's work is completed you will have free time. This can be taking walks along the roads near the camp, swimming in the river, socialising or playing badminton, volleyball or football with the Malaysian guides. Some evenings there will be organised activities such as lectures from local scientists, watching documentaries, night walks and night drives (great opportunities for wildlife sightings). You will even get to spend one day at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge – a 5* hotel in the middle of primary rainforest.

WHAT WILL I GET OUT OF IT?

This trip is a fantastic life experience. You will gain a deep understanding of the rainforest and the threats it faces by working alongside scientists as well as making lifelong friends. It is valuable work experience and references will be available upon request. For those applying to university it could give you something different to write about on your personal statement or discuss in interviews.

WILL I SURVIVE?!

All teams will be accompanied by experienced facilitators throughout the trip and guides when in the field. A thorough safety briefing will be given before you go into the jungle. The work is of a physical nature and sometimes walking up to the site can be quite a trek and the terrain can be very slippery so you will need to be reasonably fit. However, as long as you follow instructions you will always be safe. There will be staff trained in first aid in the field with you at all times.

GOT ANY QUESTIONS?

COST: £2250 (approx.) + FLIGHTS

DATES: Team 1: 16th – 30th July 2015

Team 2: 29th July – 12th August 2015

FIND OUT MORE AT: <http://eu.earthwatch.org/>

OR E-MAIL THE STUDENT EXPEDITIONS TEAM AT: ukstudentexped@earthwatch.org.uk

OR CALL: 01865 318 857

MEET THE STAFF

DR GLEN REYNOLDS

Glen has been the senior Scientist and program director of SEARRP since 2000 and is now the director. His main research interests are in forest rehabilitation and its impacts on ecosystem functioning. (Glen will be present on all teams, but not necessarily for its duration.)

KOGLIA VANI ANNAMMALA

Vani did her M.S. on hydrocarbon contamination in the tropical coast waters of Sabah and has recently completed her PhD, supported by Earthwatch, which focussed on erosion rates and sediment fingerprinting along the Segama River.

YEONG KOK LOONG (BENNY)

Benny did his M.S. on Forestry at the University of Malaysia Sabah, has completed his PhD and is working on his post doc. His PhD, which was supported by Earthwatch, looked at the impacts of logging on dipterocarp regeneration. His post doc is focussing on seed generation and germination.

PHILLIP ULOK

Phillip is the senior research assistant and manager of the Sabah Biodiversity Experiment. He has worked with SEARRP since 2001. He speaks fluent English and along with his team of experienced Malaysian guides will help to manage the team in the field.

