



BORNEO

International Climate Initiative Green Economy in the Heart of Borneo Project

The International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of the German Government aims to integrate greenhouse gas reduction, biodiversity conservation, environmentally friendly economic development with improving the welfare of local communities and indigenous people.

BorGE

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Cynthia Chin

As we head beyond the halfway point of this project, the end results begin to take shape. In Sarawak, the state government is developing a land-use master plan and the work on natural capital valuation feeds into this work. Following the natural capital valuation work, we are now following through to the next phase of exploring payment for ecosystem mechanisms based on the findings of the natural capital work. In line with that, we are also embarking on the development of the Green Economy Action Plan. Aside from that, there has been much work in communicating various aspects of our work, especially in the Panda CLICK! coffee table book, a collaborative effort with WWF-Indonesia.

Other key aspects of the project that are running well on the ground include the community gaharu-for-tea plantation that increases forest cover and protects orangutan habitat at Ulu Menyang. The trees are growing well as monthly monitoring continues. The sustainable pepper project with Rumah Dagum and Rumah Peter have also taken flight with the communities being trained on good practices, pepper saplings being distributed and the building of the pepper storage area for Rumah Dagum. Meanwhile in Baleh, survey teams are preparing to go on the ground to do camera trapping as part of the biodiversity conservation work for the project.

With all this work going on collectively, we look forward to reaping the benefits of the hard work with quality data and improved livelihood opportunities, all of which serve to showcase the intended outputs of this very special project.

Jimmy Syahirsyah

The project has entered a phase where our work in Indonesia is focused on integrating all technical materials and results of studies to improve the contents for the spatial plan and mapping. This has to be done before entering the final stages of activities in the form of district regulation on Agropolitan District Strategic Area of Kapuas Hulu Spatial Planning 2020-2040. This move is important in order to improve the quality of community welfare and environmental ecosystem in the Heart of Borneo.

Preparations for Agropolitan District Strategic Area materials prioritise spatial planning and environmental issues to help spur economic growth and development in the area. This includes the Green Economy Action Plan for the area that uses the principle of low carbon development and accompanied by the formulation of the concept of Transboundary Green Economy Management.

WWF-Indonesia also conducted a few activities such as Panda CLICK! programme, familiarisation trip for journalists and sharing session by communities. Communities from both Indonesia and Malaysia also had the opportunity to meet and talk about the changes in their respective areas and exchange knowledge from these activities.



SHARING SESSION FROM INDONESIA TO MALAYSIA



Adri Aliayub, Community Empowerment Coordinator - IKI Project, presenting Good Agricultural Practices to communities in Hulu Gurung Sub-District.



Hari Arti, Project Manager Sustainable Land Use & Green Economy-Heart of Borneo of WWF Germany, meeting oil palm smallholder farmers in Miau Merah Village, Silat Hilir Sub-District to hear firsthand from them on challenges encountered on ground.



Communities in Mentawit Village enthusiastically participated in the Internal Control System (ICS) training as the approach can help escalate their rubber price

WWF-Indonesia continues to promote transboundary management concepts in the Heart of Borneo. They invited governments, local communities, academicians and NGOs from Indonesia and Malaysia to a green economy management plan workshop in Agropolitan District Strategic Area (*Kawasan Strategis Kabupaten* or KSK) of Kapuas Hulu.

Representatives from Kapuas Hulu government, WWF-Indonesia and local communities shared the process and outcomes of their collaborations in the workshop. They focused on the present commodities in each village such as rubber, palm oil plantations and agroforestry.

The collaboration enabled them to conduct training for village facilitators, planning of participatory community activities, conducting a study for socio-economic baseline and community vulnerability toward environmental disturbance.

Besides the collaborative work, WWF also conducted a study on community economic activities. The study emphasised on strengthening the system and institution of the independent quality assurance using the rubber Internal Control System (ICS) in Kelakar, Mentawit and Lubuk Antuk villages.

WWF-Indonesia also explored the potential of rubber market for community plantations, as well as drafting a rubber marketing cooperation between

WWF-Indonesia and PT Kirana Megatara. PT Kirana Megatara is the largest producer of crumb rubber in Indonesia.

Apart from that, WWF also provided help to oil palm plantations smallholder of Miau Merah village, Silat Hilir sub-district and agroforestry in Sebangkang hamlet, Laja Sandang village, Empanang sub-district.



Group photo with communities from Sebangkang, Empanang Sub-District in a nursery for agroforestry in the area.

LAND USE PLANNING IN AGROPOLITAN DISTRICT STRATEGIC AREA (KSK) OF KAPUAS HULU



Socialisation on Spatial Planning Development of District Strategic Area Agropolitan.

The concept of development in the Agropolitan KSK of Kapuas Hulu is directed toward optimising space utilisation, encouraging efficiency in consuming natural resources, and reducing ecological risk. This concept is expected to be a viable alternative solution for regional development.

According to the *Rencana Tata Ruang Wilayah Nasional* (National Spatial Plan), this region is a mainstay area of Kapuas Hulu for the development of three sectors namely forestry, plantations and agriculture. These three sectors are expanded in the *Rencana Tata Ruang Wilayah Provinsi* (Provincial Spatial Plan) of West Kalimantan with the inclusion of fisheries, tourism, and mining.

WWF-Indonesia invited subdistrict heads, village heads, and community leaders to participate in a Land-use and Sustainable Natural Resource Utilisation Workshop in Kapuas Hulu. The workshop was held to identify missing data needed for spatial planning.

Muhammad Tsafiuddin, Spatial Planning Consultant for WWF-Indonesia, was selected as the key person for this project. He identified four data needed to complete the spatial planning. The data are thematic map, Strategic Study on Living Environment, Spatial Master Plan and draft of Regional Regulation. He added that only the base map has been approved and 10 planning maps have been produced.

Other village area maps within the agropolitan KSK have been completed, with some minor correction needed. He also added that the number of villages has changed from 77 to 80.

Previously, the development of agropolitan KSK was done using the functional concept, but now, it has changed into decentralised territorial concept. Other than that, existing road network maps based on their respected status need to be improved in reference to the function of those roads.

JOURNALISTS OF TWO COUNTRIES LOOKING AT FACTS AT GRASSROOTS LEVEL



A group photo with media representatives from Indonesia and Malaysia with the Head of BAPPEDA (Regional Planning Agency) Kapuas Hulu.

WWF-Indonesia invited three Indonesian journalists and four Malaysian journalists to visit the Agropolitan KSK of Kapuas Hulu on 19-22 June 2019. The visit encompassed Laja Sandang in Empanang subdistrict and Lubuk Antuk, Kelakar, and Mentawit in Hulu Gurung subdistrict. The purpose of the media trip was to proliferate awareness to the public on the sustainable collaborative management of natural resources in the Agropolitan KSK of Kapuas Hulu.

They were graced by the presence of Abang Muhammad Nasir, Head of Bappeda (Regional Planning Board), and Budi Prasetyo, Head of Physical, Infrastructure, and Development Division, Kapuas Hulu. Also present during the visit was Iin Nisah from Bappeda.

The group was greeted with *tepung tawar* (spray of fragrance water), a traditional Malay welcoming ceremony in Kelakar, Hulu Gurung subdistrict. They proceeded to visit the village's rubber storage where the journalists had a chance to see rubber products through the Internal Control System (ICS). Through ICS, the villagers managed to sell their rubber products at a higher price of Rp 9.500 per kilogram, compared to Rp. 6.000 per kilogram through traditional method of collecting rubber.

The journalists continued their journey to Laja Sandang village, Empanang sub-district. Laja Sandang is located at the foot of Piyabung Hill, a place endowed with beautiful natural landscape.



Media representatives visited a storehouse in Kelakar village where clean rubbers are kept. The storehouse belongs to the farmer's group of the village.

© Victor Fidelis Sentosa / WWF-Indonesia



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A group photo with media and communities after discussion and interview session on agroforestry in the longhouse of Sebangkang Sub-Village.

The journalists were briefed about the plans to develop ecotourism programme in the village and the attractions that they can find surrounding the village.

The group then continued their journey to Sebangkang hamlet where a group of Iban Dayak lived in a longhouse. Here, the journalists had a chance to visit their agroforestry farm and ate local durian by their farm shed. Nanga Sebangkang is an important conservation area as the village is located inside a protected area.

After completing their media coverage in Hulu Gurung and Empanang subdistricts the Malaysian journalists traveled back to their country through Badau Border Gate, while the

Indonesian journalists returned to Putussibau, then back to Pontianak.



© Victor Fidelis Sentosa / WWF-Indonesia

A group picture of media from Indonesia and Malaysia at the Badau border post, shortly before they head back to Malaysia.



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Pak Sapadi, the Chief of Rubber Farmer Groups in Kelakar village, was interviewed on the rate of production after implementing Internal Control System (ICS).

SPATIAL PLANNING FOR AGROPOLITAN KSK OF KAPUAS HULU



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Aerial view of Kapuas Hulu Landscape.



© Basrin Rustadi / Panda CLICK / WWF-Indonesia

The Indonesian government showed their support to farmers in Lubuk Antuk village by contributing a new tractor for plowing to the village.



© Zainab / Panda CLICK / WWF-Indonesia

The ponds which irrigate rice paddy field in the village are also used for fish aquaculture.

Agropolitan KSK of Kapuas Hulu is an urban embryo oriented toward the development of agriculture, agricultural support and product processing activities. The size of Agropolitan *KSK* is about 393.324 hectares, covering seven sub-districts, namely Empanang, Semitau, Seberuang, Silat Hilir, Silat Hulu, Hulu Gurung and Pengkadan.

The development in the agropolitan area uses Green Economy Management Concept or Transboundary Conservation Area Concept. These concepts attuned to two things; first, a sustainable land use plan or sustainable land development and second, a green economy action plan. These concepts need participation from various parties such as the government, private businesses, communities, and international organisations.

The Agropolitan *KSK* scheme focuses on a development concept that optimises spatial utilisation, promotes the efficiency of natural resources utilisation and reduces ecological risk.

Good environment quality provides a sustainable flow of goods and services to the economy. It also contributes positively to the social system.

Agropolitan is a development approach from the grassroots level that encourages the role of local actors in the development process, promotes functional interconnectedness as well as a spatial hierarchy in rural areas and agribusiness systems. Agropolitan cannot develop without the government's willingness to provide support and facilitation.

A QUEST FOR ORANGUTAN NEST

WWF-Malaysia field researchers and villagers from Ulu Katibas conducted a series of orangutan recce surveys in the upper reaches of Katibas river. Upon receiving consent from the village chiefs through the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent session held at the longhouse, fieldwork was then conducted at areas where orangutans were historically found or recently sighted by the villagers. The objectives of the orangutan surveys were to 1) find areas with recent orangutan signs, and 2) estimate their population size by using their nests as a proxy.

The first series was conducted between April 2017 to May 2018. During that expedition, the team found a number of old nests in one of Song-Katibas areas. Lukmann Haqem, the team leader of the expedition said, “The evidence of nests is an encouraging sign that orangutans were present in that area in recent times and it allows us to measure the population size in Pasin area.”

After confirming the presence of orangutans in the area, the team returned to Pasin in November 2018 – February 2019. The survey was done to estimate the orangutan population size in Pasin. The team used the Marked Nest Count method to determine the population size.

The second survey proved to be challenging to the team. During the fieldwork, the team faced a lot of challenges due to bad weather and remoteness of the sampling sites. However, the timing was right as wild forest fruits were also in season and this gave the team a higher chance to find new nests (or even the orangutans themselves) in the area.



One of the challenges the team has to endure in search of orangutans.

The nest count surveys were completed against all odds. After almost a year researching orangutans population in Pasin, they found that there are approximately 20 orangutans in the area.

“Right now, the data is telling us that a less viable orangutan population is living off the area, although the reason for this low number is inconclusive at this point. Nevertheless, efforts must be made to secure the area to ensure that this population does not further drop,” he added.



Look up! Orangutans' nests are built high up on tree canopies. Field biologists often have to constantly look up to make sure all nests were counted.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP THROUGH PEPPER



Communities from Rumah Peter received pepper cuttings which will be planted on their farms.

Following the sharing session that was held in August 2018, a pepper project development was chosen to be implemented in the Song-Katibas area. Initially, a total of five longhouses were recommended, based on their feasibility to commence pilot livelihoods projects. It was narrowed down to Rumah Dagum, Nanga Makut and Rumah Peter, Nanga Nging. Both longhouses were chosen due to the availability of workforce to implement the project.

Both longhouses were located within Song district, about two hours away from Sibu via boat express ride. Due to their remoteness and poor road infrastructure, they can only be reached by boat. The area

is located in the vicinity of logging operations and oil palm plantations.

Although both longhouses were chosen to implement best management practices for pepper production, different plans were made for each longhouse. For Rumah Dagum, WWF-Malaysia provided them with materials to build a new pepper storage area. This is an important first stage for the community especially after the whole longhouse was razed to the ground in a fire incident. Apart from losing their house and belongings, the tragic incident which has occurred in September 2018 also wiped out approximately eight tonnes of dried pepper, stored in the longhouse.

Besides that, WWF-Malaysia will help Rumah Dagum to establish a better market link for their pepper production. Rumah Dagum is known as the most prominent pepper farming community in the Song-Katibas area. They have about 8,000 pepper vines planted in their farms. New ways for marketing their pepper produce would also be explored to increase the communities source of income.

On the other hand, WWF-Malaysia is supporting 15 households from Rumah Peter to establish new pepper farms, as most of the local communities have never planted pepper or did not have proper training on how to plant pepper.

WWF-Malaysia is helping them to reach out to experts in the pepper industry to conduct pepper cutting training. The training focused on training the villagers on soil preparation for seeding, fertilisation and pruning of pepper trees as well as the best method of producing young pepper cuttings.

This project will help improve their livelihood and provide them with additional income, without having to clear the forest. It is part of WWF-Malaysia project strategies to provide capacity-development, specifically to support local communities and indigenous groups. This includes the formation of community representations to participate in decision-making on community stewardship as well as in the co-management of natural resources within their area.



WWF-Malaysia collaborated with relevant agencies to increase the community's skill and knowledge in pepper planting.



Rumah Dagum communities working hand-in-hand to build their pepper storage.



Peter Jabat and Ina Amba propagating their pepper plants for their new pilot plot.



SHOWCASING COMMUNITIES LIFE THROUGH CAMERA LENS

Atmosphere at the Panda CLICK! photo exhibition and workshop in Hulu Gurung, West Kalimantan.



© Victor Fidelis Sentosa / WWF-Indonesia

SHOWCASING COMMUNITIES LIFE THROUGH CAMERA LENS



Panda CLICK! participants posed for a group photo. Even though the programme has ended, the photography skills that they have acquired can be utilised to help bring about positive changes to their villages in the future.

After months of taking pictures, sorting and writing, Panda CLICK! participants finally launched a coffee table book entitled *Warna-Warni Borneo: Panda CLICK! Bersama Masyarakat Kapuas Hulu, Kalimantan dan Kapit, Sarawak* (Colours of Borneo: Panda CLICK! With Communities from Kapuas Hulu, Kalimantan and Kapit, Sarawak) with the support from WWF-Indonesia and WWF-Malaysia.

The 196-page book showcased pictures taken by the participants of their daily life living close to nature. The public would be able to experience how the photographers, who are mostly farmers, boatmen, fishermen and housewives view their present world through the pictures that they took.

The Panda CLICK! programme which ran for about one year, saw 31 participants from Kapuas Hulu and 19 participants from Sarawak took about 140,000 pictures. Out of that, 300 photos are featured

in the book. The pictures range between various themes such as environment, traditional knowledge, daily activities, cultures as well as infrastructure in their surrounding areas. The participants were also trained to talk in public based on the pictures they took.

The first book launch was held in Hulu Gurung, in conjunction with the sub-district fifth annual fair, Bumi Kasturi Fair. The book was officiated by A.M. Nasir, Head of Kapuas Hulu District (*Bupati*) and witnessed by several important figures of various provincial government agencies and the head of *Bappeda* (Indonesia Regional Body for Planning and Development). A representative from WWF-Indonesia, Jimmy Syahirsyah presented a copy of the book to the Bupati, accompanied by representatives from WWF-Germany and WWF-Malaysia.

A photo exhibition was also conducted to highlight the pictures. The photo exhibition

became the highlight as it was strategically placed in the middle of the fair. The captivating show of pictures attracted a lot of visitors to the photo exhibition.

Besides that, WWF-Indonesia conducted a workshop to discuss the underlying stories behind the pictures that they took. Zainab, one of the Panda CLICK! participant from Indonesia believed that the programme helped her village significantly.

The same thing was revealed by Faturrahman, a participant from Lubuk Antuk village. He expressed that he learned a lot from the programme. At the beginning of the programme, he viewed photos merely as documentation tools or mementos. Now he is aware that photos can be used as a way to deliver ideas. "Panda CLICK! programme may be over, but the knowledge still remains, and I will use it for the benefit of the village," he revealed when delivering his presentation at the workshop.



The public were ecstatic for the Panda CLICK! photo exhibition. The exhibition was the first to be held in Hulu Gurung sub-district.

The Panda CLICK! book launch continued in Malaysia where it was held at SMA Creative Heritage Innovative Culture (CHIC), Kuching, Sarawak. The intimate event was attended by various government agencies, local communities and media.

Notable guests who came to the event include Bukit Mabong District Officer, Douglas Pungga, Hulu Gurung, West Kalimantan District Officer Baharrudin, WWF-Germany Sustainable Landuse and Green Economy Officer Hari Arti Khalsa, WWF-Malaysia trustees, Robert Basiuk and Rewi Bugo, WWF-Malaysia Conservation Director, Dr Henry Chan.

Speaking at the event, Mr Douglas said besides featuring the beautiful culture of the people, the book portrays the diverse flora and fauna in the Heart of Borneo (HoB). He also urged the participants to continue taking photographs in their respective

villages although the Panda CLICK! programme has ended.

Henry Chan, Conservation Director, WWF Malaysia said, "Through these pictures and stories, stakeholders can anticipate and understand the impacts of development on the communities. These can be seen through changes to the flora and fauna in their area, as well as their cultural practices. This photo documentation can also be used as a tool to lobby the government and its departments to increase their annual budget in conservation especially in areas concerning development surrounding Indonesia and Malaysia borders, especially in the Heart of Borneo."

He further reiterated that through sustainable development, we can ensure that our nature and natural resources can be conserved and restored for the people and wildlife's well-being.

Similarly in Malaysia, a workshop was conducted to discourse about photos taken by the participants. Anchah Saleh, a representative of Rumah Dagum realised that through Panda CLICK! Programme, they are able to communicate issues that they faced in the village to relevant parties.

Another participant, Peter Jabat said, "Panda CLICK! has opened my eyes on the importance of keeping records."

Pictures taken by the participants were exhibited for a day in SMA CHIC and were then extended to Sarawak State Library for a month, from 19 December 2019 - 19 January 2020. The public gave positive feedback to the exhibition and was enlightened by the fascinating photos.

The book is currently available in Bahasa Indonesia and Bahasa Malaysia and the English version will be made available by the end of the year 2020.

Right: Official launch of Warna-Warni Borneo: Panda CLICK! Bersama Masyarakat Kapuas Hulu, Kalimantan dan Kapit, Sarawak. From left: Anchal Salleh (representative from Rumah Dagum), Peter Jabat (representative from Rumah Peter), Burhanuddin (Head of Nanga Tepuai sub-district), Douglas Pungga (Bukit Mabong District Officer), Henry Chan (WWF-Malaysia Conservation Director), Hari Arti (WWF-Germany Sustainable Landuse and Green Economy Officer) and Rewi Bugo (WWF-Malaysia trustee).



Panda CLICK! participants checking out their photos.



An elated participant, Anthony Untam from Rumah Peter, showing one of his best photos.



Cetta Sandom proudly presented Iban communities' handcraft work, the *pua kumbu*.



Invited guests taking the first look of Panda CLICK! book (Henry Chan, WWF-Malaysia Conservation Director), Douglas Pungga (Bukit Mabong District Officer), Rewi Hamid Bugo (WWF-Malaysia trustee).



Photo exhibition at Sarawak State Library.



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Panda CLICK! participants took a commemorative picture with everyone who came to the launching.



© Ezen Chan / WWF-Malaysia

Book. From left: Dr Henry Chan (WWF-Malaysia), Hari Arti Khalsa (WWF-Germany District Officer), and Baharudin (Hulu Gurung District Officer).



© Ezen Chan / WWF-Malaysia

Baharuddin (second left) commented that the process of segregating paddy from its stalks in Sarawak is similar to the ones in West Kalimantan.

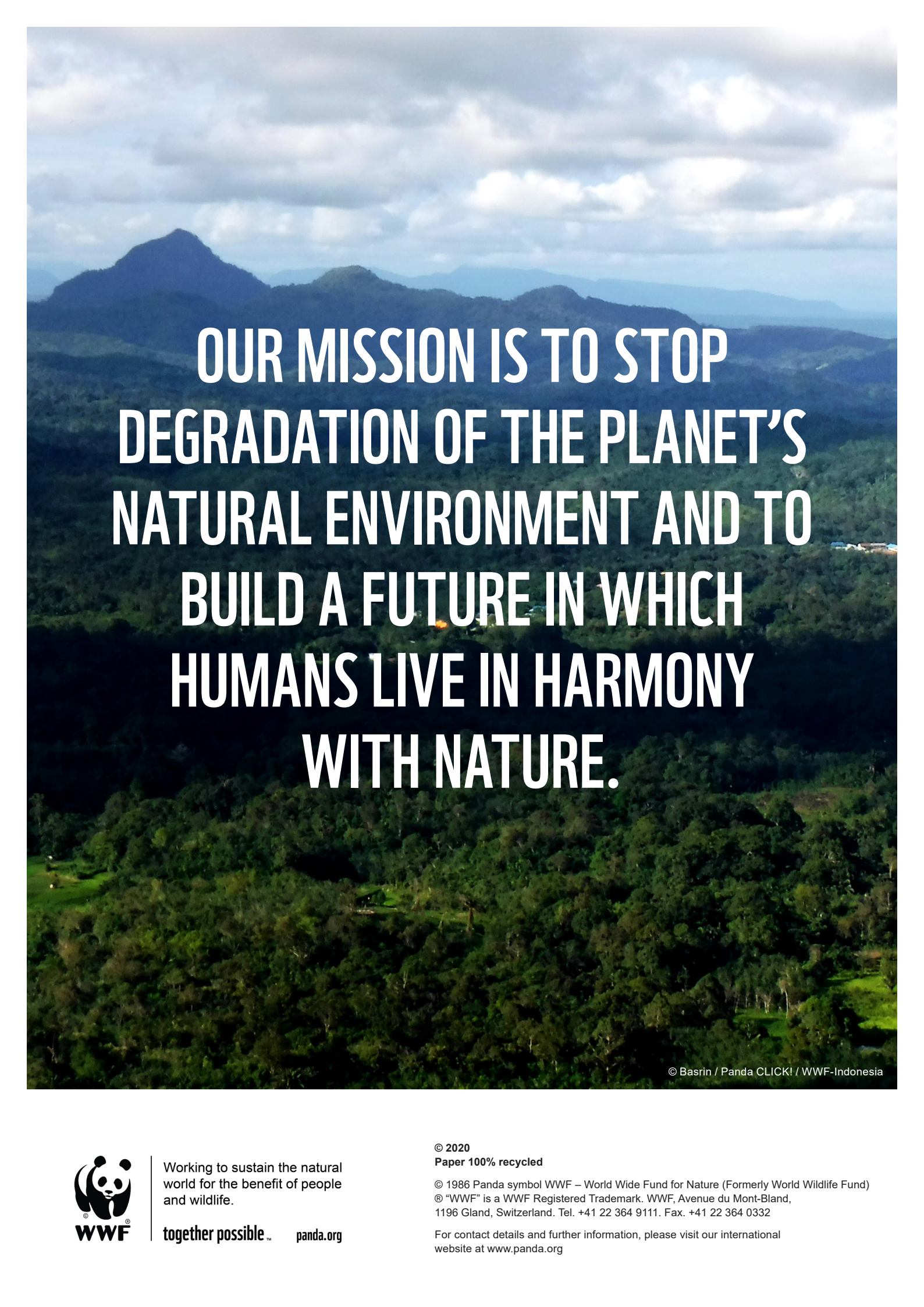


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Some photos from Panda CLICK! book were put on display in a photo exhibition.



**OUR MISSION IS TO STOP
DEGRADATION OF THE PLANET'S
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND TO
BUILD A FUTURE IN WHICH
HUMANS LIVE IN HARMONY
WITH NATURE.**

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