

# Lean jak Entimau Story

**Changing Landscape in Biodiversity Conservation** 



**International Tropical Timber Organization** 



Sarawak Government



**Forest Department Sarawak** 







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The Lanjak Entimau Story Changing Landscape in Biodiversity Conservation

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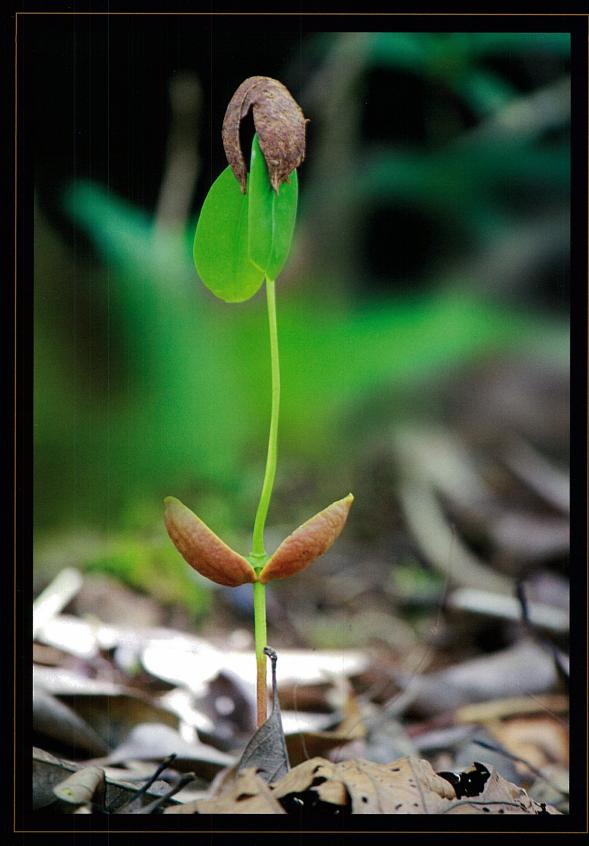
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Changing landscape





The lantern bug, Pyrops intricata is named after its bright intricate colors



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Wild orchid Coelogyne asperata



#### MESSAGE FROM THE RIGHT HONOURABLE CHIEF MINISTER OF SARAWAK PEHIN SRI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD

S.B.S., D.K. (JOHOR), D.K. (PAHANG), D.P., P.S.M, S.P.D.K., S.U.M.W., S.S.D.K., S.S.A.P, D.G.S.M., D.P.P.N., S.S.S.A., S.P.M.T., KT. W.E. (THAILAND), KEPN (INDONESIA), S.P.M.B. (BRUNEI), K.O.U. (KOREA), AO (AUSTRALIA), P.C.D.

congratulate the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) and Forest Department Sarawak for producing this book to commemorate the work of the ITTO-assisted project in the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary.

It was way back in 1989 that I personally invited the International Tropical Timber Council to send an independent ITTO Mission to Sarawak to help us assess our forest resources and where necessary, make recommendations to strengthen their conservation and sustainable management. The Mission emphasized the need for Sarawak to improve its biodiversity conservation efforts. This Lanjak Entimau project and several other ITTO-assisted projects in Sarawak are the results of the Mission's recommendations.

I am very happy that the various projects have contributed to enhance the environmental values and conservation of Sarawak's mega-biodiversity forests apart from their sustainable management. Our conservation initiative includes constituting one million hectares of national parks and wildlife sanctuaries throughout the State as totally protected areas.

I had the pleasure to officiate at the inauguration of the Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation Area of Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary and Betung Kerihun National Park in 1994. This first transboundary biodiversity conservation area in the humid tropics represents another significant milestone in the history of biodiversity conservation in Sarawak. Transboundary management is no simple task and requires continuous concerted efforts. Based on our pioneering efforts and experiences in Sarawak, I hope the ITTO and other organizations will continue to lend assistance in similar initiatives.

Working with the local communities of the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary has taught us that the local communities need not be a hindrance to biodiversity conservation. Indeed, the local people are in a better position to help the government to protect the forest and its resources because they are on the ground. This is one of the most important lessons that we have learnt from Lanjak Entimau.

I would like to thank ITTO and the donor countries of Japan, Switzerland and the United States of America for their many years of support to the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary project.

PEHIN SRI HAJI ABDUL TAIB MAHMUD (Chief Minister of Sarawak)

#### MESSAGE FROM MR. EMMANUEL ZE MEKA

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION YOKOHAMA, JAPAN



t gives me great pleasure to write this message to commemorate the publication of the documentary book on the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary project that ITTO and donor countries have helped to support for the past 18 years. In conjunction with the International Year of Forests 2011 and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ITTO, I am delighted with this publication to renew our commitment to conserving biological diversity in tropical forests which has contributed to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and livelihood improvement of local communities.

The maintenance of biological diversity is one of the seven criteria of sustainable management of natural tropical forests that ITTO has been actively promoting among its member countries in the humid tropics. The Organization also recognizes the needs of the forest-dependent local communities in the protection and management of forests. This is an essential aspect of sustainable forest management.

The Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary project combines research on biodiversity and community participation in conservation management, and serves as a model of ITTO's efforts to enhance the benefits of protected areas to local communities. I am happy to note that by actively engaging in community-based development activities using mostly local resources, the local Iban people have gradually learnt to reduce their dependence on the forest. This is indeed a significant achievement.

It was also in Lanjak Entimau and the adjacent Betung Kerihun National Park in West Kalimantan, Indonesia that ITTO launched the first transboundary biodiversity conservation area among its tropical member countries in 1994. The ITTO transboundary network of conservation areas has since grown to ten million hectares.

This important project will be coming to an end soon, but I am confident that the Sarawak Government will be able to continue with the project work. The achievement of this project is exemplary and can provide valuable lessons in other tropical countries confronted with similar issues and problems.

I thank the Malaysian Government and State Government of Sarawak for their support and contributions towards meeting ITTO's 2000 Objective of Sustainable Forest Management. Forest Department Sarawak has to be congratulated for its excellent work as the Executing Agency of the project. I also would like to commend the ITTO project team in Kuching, the consultants, and staff of the Forest Department and Sarawak Forestry Corporation who have contributed to the successful completion of the project. I also take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the donor countries, namely the governments of Japan, Switzerland and USA, for providing full cooperation and financial support for the implementation of the Lanjak Entimau Wildlife Sanctuary project.

**EMMANUEL ZE MEKA** 



#### FOREWORD BY HAJI ALI YUSOP

#### ACTING DIRECTOR OF FORESTS FOREST DEPARTMENT SARAWAK

mplemented in four phases over a period of 18 years, Lanjak Entimau is the best-known ITTO project in Sarawak and perhaps the world in the field of biodiversity conservation in the humid tropics. It is also ITTO's pioneering effort in the promotion and implementation of transboundary conservation areas among ITTO's producer member countries. Together with the ITTO, we can be proud of such an achievement which is making a significant contribution to the conservation of tropical forest resources and its wealth of biodiversity.

Shifting cultivation, hunting, fishing and collection of non-wood forest products for food, medicine, and other needs are important in the lives of local communities. Without population pressures on these resources, such traditional practices are sustainable. However, with land development, increasing demand for such resources and unsustainable harvesting, conservation efforts and enforcement work are most challenging. It is a global problem in developing tropical countries.

Our new approach to strengthen protected area management is to mobilize the support and assistance of the surrounding local communities. The sustained and tireless efforts by the staff of the Lanjak Entimau project in the implementation of community development activities and creation of awareness has turned the tide. Members of the local communities are becoming the protectors of the Sanctuary. This is no small achievement.

At the end of this year, the ITTO-assisted project will come to an end. But a solid foundation has been laid for the continued protection of Lanjak Entimau. Early this year, Forest Department created the new Community Service Initiative Unit to plan and coordinate the implementation of socio-economic projects and activities in collaboration with local communities and timber industry throughout Sarawak. This will help to forge understanding, cooperation and bring mutual benefits among the stakeholders. The Unit will also continue the work of the ITTO in Lanjak Entimau.

I pay tribute to the project staff, led by Dr. Paul Chai and assisted by Zarina Shebli, for their dedication, perseverance and hard work which have immensely contributed to the successful conclusion of the project.

HAJI ALI YUSOP

