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BARIO, SARAWAK

Bario has a population of around 1,200 people, the majority of whom are Kelabit.

Located at 1,110m above sea level on the Kelabit Highlands, it is adjacent to Pulong Tau National Park and is the main water source for the Baram River.

Key economic activities are paddy planting and tourism. It is renowned for its exquisite Adan Rice well-known as 'Bario Rice', Bario pineapples as well as natural spring salt. There are heath forests that contain many wild orchids and pitcher plants.

Bario shares its boundary with Central Krayan, South Krayan and Ba' Kelalan.



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ABOUT FORMADAT

FORMADAT (Forum Masyarakat Adat Dataran Tinggi Borneo) stands for the Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo. It is a trans-boundary, grassroots initiative that aims to increase awareness and understanding of the communities of the Highlands, maintain cultural traditions, build local capacity, and encourage sustainable development in the Heart of Borneo without risking the degradation of the quality of the social and natural environment. The purpose of FORMADAT is to encourage sustainable development by means of community-based ecotourism, organic farming and agro-forestry, communication and information technology, and the preservation of cultural and natural heritage of the Highlands to benefit present and future generations. FORMADAT comprises the sub-districts of Krayan and Krayan Selatan in Indonesia; and Bario, Ba' Kelalan, Long Semadoh and Long Pa' Sia' in Malaysia.

VISION

The homeland of the Lundayeh/ Lun Bawang, Kelabit and Sa'ban peoples in the Highlands of the Heart of Borneo is developed in fair and sustainable ways for the well-being of the local peoples and future generations.

MISSION

- Maintain and strengthen cultural traditions, language, customs and family bonds shared by all the Lundayeh/ Lun Bawang, Kelabit and Sa'ban people in their common ancestral land of the Highlands of Borneo.
- Encourage the development of sustainable economic alternatives such as organic agriculture and community-based ecotourism, and establish fair trading networks in the Highlands.
- Encourage conservation and sustainable development for the Highlands, and ensure involvement and participation of the local Indigenous Peoples in all aspects.
- Preserve water sources, river banks and community forests, protect cultural and historical sites, and the collective intellectual property rights of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands.

CHALLENGES



Cross border illegal trade



Insufficient enforcement



Logging



Poaching of wildlife



Lack of funds



Lack of marketing links for products



Loss of traditional knowledge

ACTIVITIES 2015 - 2017



Build and repair required infrastructures to support its ecotourism programme



Complete mapping and zoning of cultural areas



Build a community museum



Develop a local tree planting programme



Launch the Heart of Borneo Highlands Eco Challenge

OBJECTIVES & BUDGET 2015-2017

Taking steps to ensure a sustainable future, FORMADAT Bario focuses on implementing the objectives below and are seeking donation to enable their efforts for 2015-2017.

Objectives	Estimated Cost
Upgrade and build shelters along existing ecotourism trail by 2017.	RM 340,000
Establish and identify conservation, ecotourism and cultural sites which will be managed by locals by 2017.	RM 1,390,000
Increase understanding and participation in FORMADAT activities By 2016.	RM 562,000

FOREX 1 USD = 3.56 MYR (April 2015, www.xe.com)

FORMADAT & OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

In the efforts of FORMADAT to ensure the Highlands of Borneo are managed sustainably, key activities by FORMADAT focus on sustainable farming, watershed conservation, and sustainable forest management to prevent threats that lead to biodiversity loss as the forests are valuable assets for ecotourism, daily used as food source, material for construction, and raw materials for handicrafts and so on.

FORMADAT has collaborated and shared knowledge with various organisations, including government departments, tour agencies and other NGOs. FORMADAT welcomes collaboration and networking with other organisations that share a similar vision and mission. WWF-Malaysia and WWF-Indonesia are FORMADAT partners under their environmental conservation initiative and has been since the very beginning.



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“We, the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands in the Heart of Borneo who share a common heritage and a common land as the Lundayeh, Kelabit, Lun Bawang, and Sa’ban people, come together in the Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo (FORMADAT) to : increase awareness and understanding about the highland communities, build local capacity, and encourage sustainable development in the Heart of Borneo”

(FORMADAT DECLARATION)



To learn more, please contact

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