



CHRISTMAS DONATION

SINCERE WISHES FOR A PEACEFUL HOLIDAY

DECEMBER 2020
HAkA, Indonesia

Stockholm December 19th 2020

The yearly Christmas Donation has become a tradition at Tundra. Through a small financial contribution to a carefully selected organisation we highlight topics that we consider important. Previous donations have been directed towards organisations operating in our core markets, mainly focusing on social responsibility.

This year, we want to emphasize our commitment to environmental aspects and therefore we have chosen to give our contribution to **HAKA** - a local NGO based in the Aceh Province of Indonesia; their name stands for **Hutan, Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh** (Forest, Nature and Environment of Aceh). **HAKA**'s organizational mission is to protect, restore, and promote the *Leuser Ecosystem* in the Aceh Province, thereby contributing to the long-term nature conservation of the whole region. Their activities involve empowering local civil society as well as engaging in campaigns and advocacy on pressing environmental issues.

This organisation has been selected from the Milkywire platform. Milkywire is an organisation aiming to provide continuous funding to grassroots organisations.

Read more at <http://www.milkywire.com>

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FOREST, NATURE AND ENVIRONMENT OF ACEH <https://www.haka.or.id/>

HAKA is a local NGO based in the Aceh Province of Indonesia; their name stands for Hutan, Alam dan Lingkungan Aceh (Forest, Nature and Environment of Aceh). HAKA's organizational mission is to protect, restore, and promote the *Leuser Ecosystem* in the Aceh Province, which essentially contributes to the long-term nature conservation of the whole region. Their activities involve empowering local civil society as well as engaging in campaigns and advocacy on pressing environmental issues. HAKA's projects aim to strengthen communities by equipping knowledge and skills to conduct on the ground activities, whether directly through collaboration on ground protection work or supporting them to defend their rights to land, water and healthy environment. The organization supports 23 Wildlife Protection Teams managed by Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL) to combat poaching by patrolling deep into the forests, destroying poachers' traps and facilitating law enforcement. All campaigns are driven by an integrated approach of carrying out scientific assessment of the environment and social, political analyses of how to bring people together to act.

THE LEUSER ECOSYSTEM

Globally recognized as one of the richest expanses of tropical rainforest found anywhere in Southeast Asia, the *Leuser Ecosystem* spans across the provinces of Aceh and North Sumatra on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia. Over 35 times the size of Singapore, this majestic and ancient ecosystem covers more than 2.6 million hectares of lowland rainforests, peat swamps, montane and coastal forests, and alpine meadows. The *Leuser Ecosystem* is the last place on Earth where four of the world's most iconic conservation symbols: orangutans, rhinos, elephants and tigers still coexist in the wild. All four of these species are now classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as Critically Endangered [1].

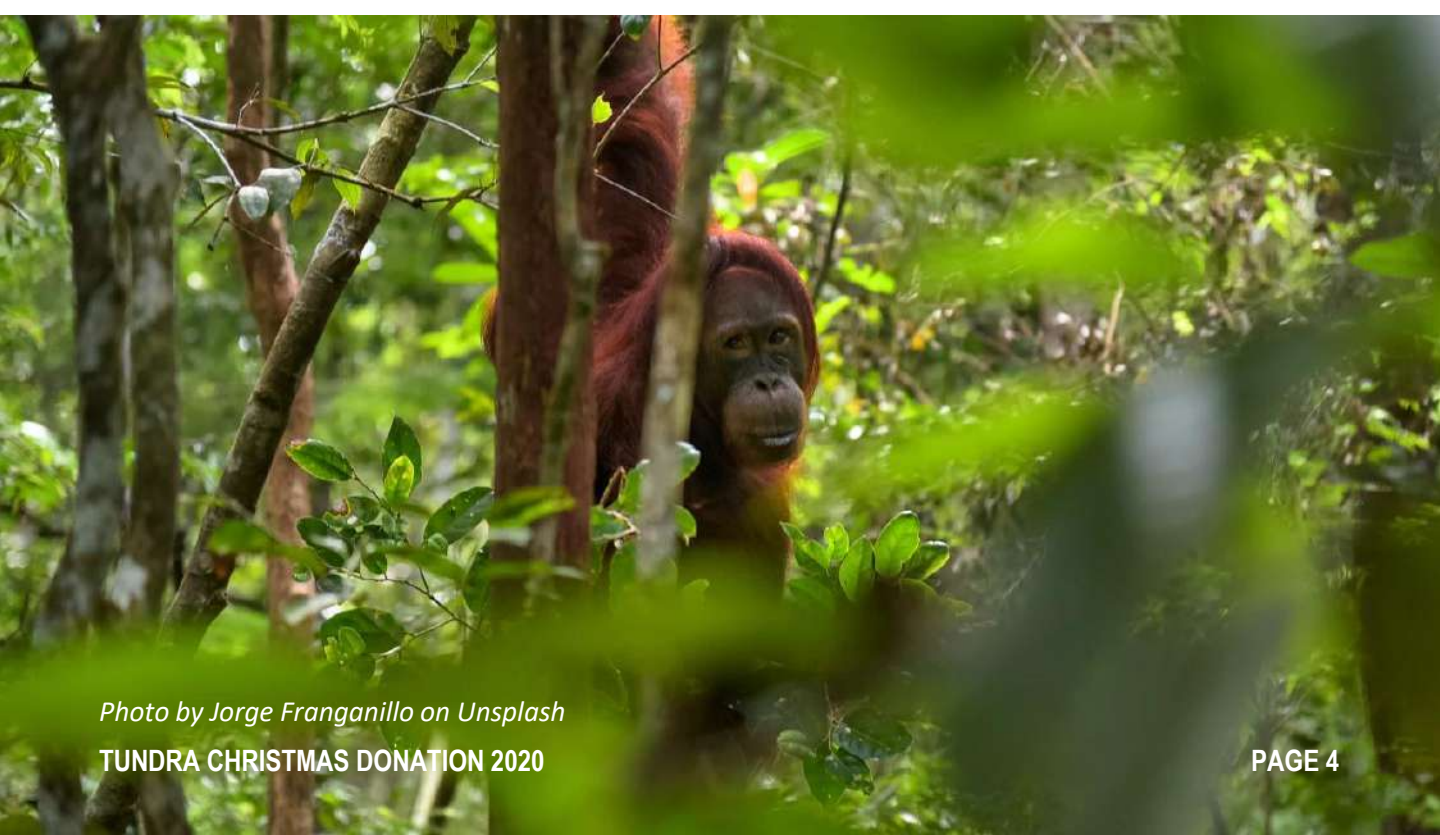


Photo by Sangga Rima Roman Selia on Unsplash

The environmental and economical benefits of the Leuser Ecosystem are inextricably linked. According to Global Forest Watch, the ecosystem is an essential asset for the economic development of Aceh, providing a total economic value of at least 350 million US dollars per year. It acts as a life-support system for over four million people who live within and around the area, providing clean drinking water, agricultural livelihoods and disaster mitigation. The forests soak up the downpours of the rainy season and spread out the release of water downstream more evenly across the months [1].

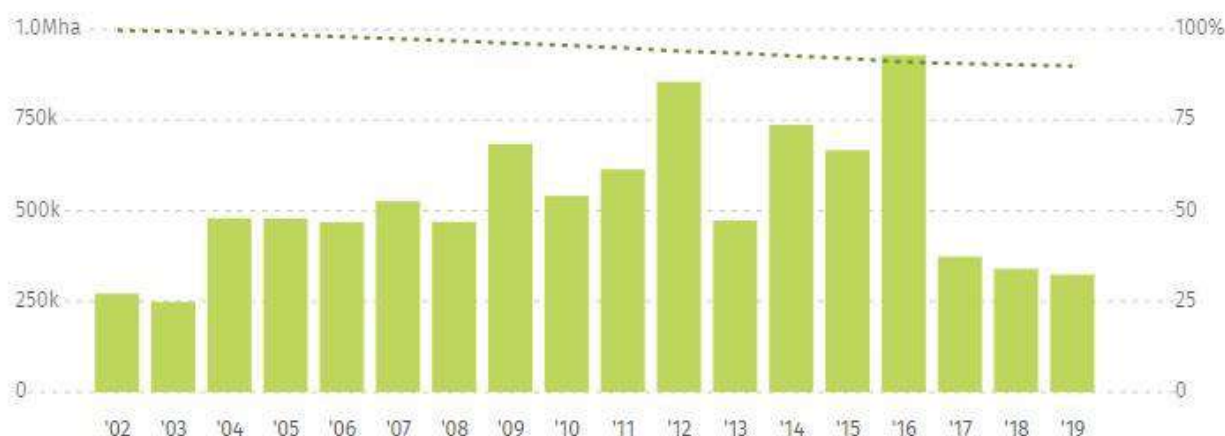
Despite being a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this vital habitat is under imminent threat; illegal logging, wildlife poaching and plant clearing are widespread. The fires from forest destruction have caused major haze pollution from Singapore to Jakarta, resulting in huge economic losses and public health issues [2]. Poaching continues to rise at an alarming rate and evidence of tiger presence has dropped by almost 75% in the last five years [3]. Deforestation leads to wildlife habitat shrinking and with no planned safe forest corridors, wild animals are being forced into increasing contact with humans, which results in increasing human-wildlife conflict [4].

The primary threat to this unique ecosystem is illegal palm oil expansion. As the global demand for palm oil rises, growers seek to expand the planting area for this valuable crop. However, since unoccupied land is becoming more scarce, plantation owners are intruding on the nation's exceptionally biodiverse and protected areas [2]. In November 2011, a coalition of civil society organisations got together and launched a campaign against PT Kallista Alam, a palm oil company that conducted land clearing under an illegally-issued permit. The matter escalated and was taken to court as the company utilized forest fires to clear land and made way for expansion of their plantations. In January 2014, PT Kallista Alam was fined almost \$30 million dollars for their illegal environmental damage; such a historic ruling has rippled through the local palm oil producers, sending a clear message to anyone wanting to destroy the Leuser Ecosystem [4].



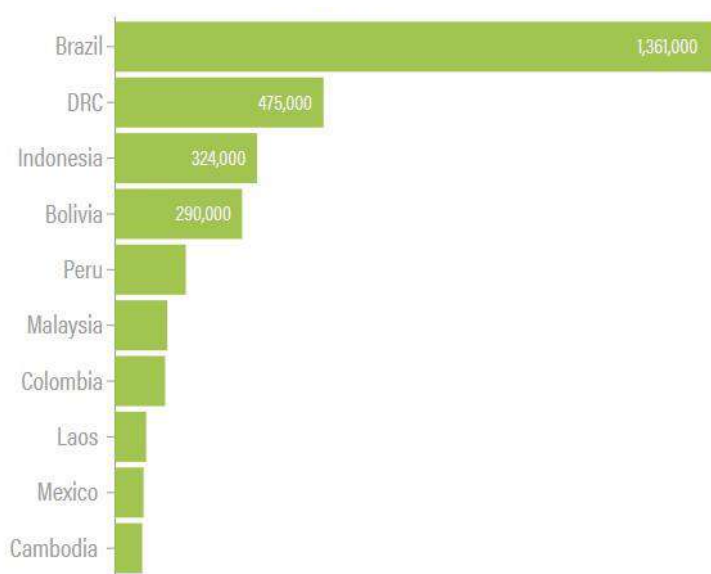
DEFORESTATION IN INDONESIA

The rate of deforestation in Indonesia is among the highest in the world. In 2001, Indonesia had 93.8 million ha of primary forest, extending over 50% of its land. Between 2002 and 2019, the nation lost 9.48 million ha of humid primary forest, making up 36% of its total tree cover loss in the same time period. Total area of humid primary forest in Indonesia decreased by 10% in this time period. Between 2001 and 2019, Indonesia has lost 26.8 million ha of tree cover, equivalent to a 17% decrease in tree cover since 2000, and 10.9Gt of CO₂ emissions [5]. Although the rate of forest loss has been declining in recent years, it is still the third-highest in the world. Last year, Indonesia lost 324,000 ha of primary forest (equivalent to 187Mt of CO₂ emissions), just behind Brazil (1.36 million ha) and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (475,000 ha) [6].



Primary forest loss in Indonesia, period 2002-2019. **Source:** Global Forest Watch

TOP TROPICAL COUNTRIES THAT LOST THE MOST PRIMARY FOREST IN 2019 (IN HECTARES)



In Indonesia, the peak fire season typically begins in early August and lasts around 14 weeks. There were 2,232 VIIRS (Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite) fire alerts reported between 16th of December, 2019 and 7th of December, 2020 considering high confidence alerts only. In the Aceh region specifically, from 2002 to 2019, 267,000 ha of humid primary forest was lost, making up 40% of its total tree cover loss during the same time period. In 2019 alone, Aceh lost 10,200 ha of primary forest, equivalent to 5.69Mt of CO₂ emissions [5].

The rate of primary forest loss dropped significantly in 2017 and 2018; this recent decline may be due in part to less favorable fire conditions during these years, strengthening of government restrictions and influence from corporate commitments. In Indonesia, forest clearance for oil palm plantations is the largest driver of deforestation. Companies that produce and/or source palm oil from Indonesia increasingly recognize that deforestation is a risk to their securing investment and financing. As the Indonesian regulations do not sufficiently address palm-driven deforestation risks, many companies took a step further via a strong reliance on the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) certification to address commitment compliance, risk mitigation, and supply chain mapping. Banks and investors are also under pressure to develop and implement policies to address commodity-driven deforestation. Further action is needed from both the Indonesian government and the private sector to continue the fight against deforestation [7].

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