

Diverse and Complex Life in the Tropical Rainforest



Proboscis Monkey, found only in Borneo



Sumatran tiger, found only in Sumatra



Long tailed macaque



Fruit bat, a very important species in the forest, as they pollinate flowers and disperse seeds



Sumatran Rhino, found only in Sumatra



Gibbon baby with mother in Borneo



Praying Mantis



Sunbears



a Cicada (Tosena species) in Sumatra

Once orangutans roamed over thousands of miles across the rainforests of Southeast Asia.

Today they survive only on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Now even their habitat on the remaining two islands is threatened.

Their home is in beautiful, lush rainforest, and shared by many other endangered species, like tigers and rhinos. This forest has the greatest number of species of trees, birds and animals per acre of almost any place in the world. It supports on the order of:

- 222 mammals
- 420 birds,
- 166 serpents
- 100 amphibians
- and 394 fresh-water fish

not to mention the invertebrates, by far the most numerous animal species in rainforests.



Many of these life forms are endemic, or unique to the island — proboscis monkeys, hornbills, gibbons, cloud leopards, orangutans...

The treasures of this forest are hard to estimate since they are so precious and numerous. Many different species of plants and animals have yet to be discovered there.

This loss of habitat is the result of economic pressures, man's greed and ignorance and natural disasters. The population of Indonesia has grown from 10 million people at the beginning of the century to over 200 million people now. The needs of so many people with little landmass are pressingly urgent, allowing little time for planning or care about the environment. People and orangutans need the same habitat and in a human versus orangutan conflict, the orangutan does not win.

Photos and information:
www.orangutan.com