

# Retaining the jewels in the crown: Kalimantan peat forest remnants



## Key details

### Location

Indonesia

### Duration

Start Jun 2022

End May 2025

### Budget

AUD 250,000

### Commissioned organisation

The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation

### Partners

SMART-MIT; The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation; The University of Melbourne

### Project Leader

Laura Graham, The Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation

### ACIAR Research Program Manager

Dr Nora Devoe

### Program

Forestry

### Project code

FST/2021/145

## Overview

This project will assess immediate threats to intact peat swamp forest which remains in the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) Mawas study area and identify ways to counteract those threats and maintain these key reference ecosystems in Indonesia.

The outputs of this study will allow the development of a targeted conservation action plan for this area, as well as providing a model and methodology for assessment of peat swamp forest in other areas and raise awareness of the understudied threats facing these forests.

Tropical peatlands are a critical global ecosystem; their environmental services provide important carbon storage. Indonesia hosts the greatest global extent of tropical peatlands, yet, less than 7% of its natural-state peat swamp forest (PSF) is still classified as intact (Miettinen et al. 2016; Page et al. 2011). Without focused management, these remnants will be lost. Remaining intact PSF is essential to tropical peatland restoration because it is the reference ecosystem that informs restoration targets, gauges success, and provides source biota for surrounding area restoration (Gann et al., 2019).



## Project activities

- Assessing and exploring the options and sustainability for the uses and values of the intact versus degraded PSF for the local communities.
- Enhancing the protection and sustainability of intact Kalimantan peat swamp forest where it is under immediate threat, leading to direct positive impacts on climate change.
- Prioritising gender balance and minority representation when engaging with the communities directly.



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