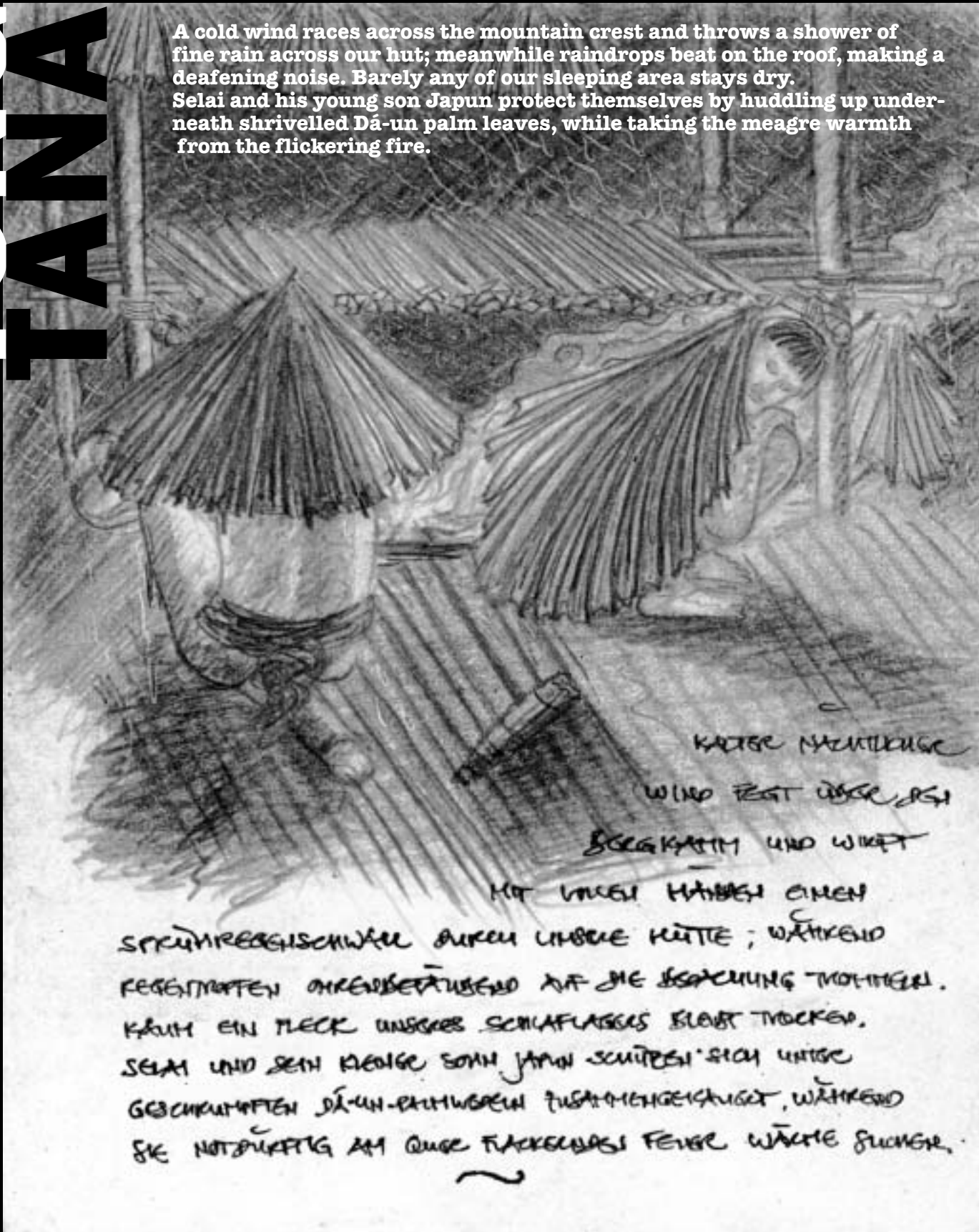


TONG TANA

Bruno-Manser-Fonds

A cold wind races across the mountain crest and throws a shower of fine rain across our hut; meanwhile raindrops beat on the roof, making a deafening noise. Barely any of our sleeping area stays dry. Selai and his young son Japun protect themselves by huddling up underneath shrivelled Dá-un palm leaves, while taking the meagre warmth from the flickering fire.



KALTER NEUZEITLICHE

WIND REIST ÜBER DER

BERGKAMM UND WIRFT

MIT VIELEN HAAREN EINEN

SPRÜHREGENSCHWARM ÜBER UNSERE HÜTTE; WÄHREND
REGENTROPFEN OHRENBEFÄHIGEND AUF DIE BEDECKUNG TRÖFFELN.
KAUM EIN FLECK UNSERES SCHLAFPLATZES BLEIBT TROCKEN.
SELAJ UND SEIN KLEINER SOHN JAPUN SCHÜTZEN SICH UNTER
GESCHNITTENEN DÁ-UN-PALMWERZEN ZUSAMMENGESANGELT, WÄHREND
SIE NOTDÜRFTIG AM QUER FLACKENDEN FEUER WÄRME SUCHEN.



“Mankind is basically bad” is what I often used to hear 20 years ago when I started to think about the world we live in. I was enraged by the inhumanity we are willing to accept, the calculating inhuman ways we are ready to apply, for fear of losing our material happiness.

Today it is said that the human being is a “self-interest optimiser”. All the scandalous social and environmental injustice happening daily has acquired, under the so innocent and harmless sounding label of “globalisation”, the **status of a Law of Nature**. At least, that’s what today’s leading authorities in economic and political sciences maintain. To prove this theory the “population explosion” is always held up in equation to the needs of our consumer society.

Egoism and materialism are not Laws of Nature. As for example an anonymous official of the forest authorities of Sarawak commented to the *Tribune* after he had been caught in a traffic jam caused by a landslide: “If the trees had not been cut down on the hilltop indiscriminately, the catastrophe could have been avoided.” In 1994 report on global soil-threat the Scientific Advisory Council to the Federal Government of Germany stated the following: *“Soil constitutes an essential basis of life of the human being and has, up till now, been neglected. Many local processes accumulate to a global environmental trend against which political measures must urgently be taken.”*

The Advisory Council investigated twelve “illnesses of the soil” caused by mankind and named them after their geographical focus points. They coined the name **“Sarawak Syndrome”** which now globally stands for the destruction/loss of soil through over-use of the forests.

The International Tropical Timber Organisation ITTO came after its two missions to Sarawak 1989 to the same conclusion and urged Sarawak to drastically reduce the annual logging-quota – in vain.

Both institutions support their findings with economical arguments: Natural resources are limited. Once plundered a source of income is lost while as a consequence, immense costs are generated.

The tropical timber industries are aware of these matters and hold the industrialised countries responsible as these countries “are not willing to finance sustainable forest industries in the Tropics.” (Malaysia’s Premier Mahathir, *The Star* 15.3.02).

16 people lost their lives in the mud slide in Sarawak. Countless others lost all they owned. At the same time Sarawak’s timber industry announced that in the years 2000 and 2001 they had exported products valued at 3 billion US\$.

Thus the arguments in the globalisation gospel – from “poverty eradication” to “prosperity for all” – turn out to be the actual root of the problem.

The believers in globalisation do grant the environmentalists an important position as public informants.



The Sarawak syndrome

But when it becomes a matter of meeting the demands of a responsible and conscious society, then the political and economical establishment justifies its inactivity by referring to Laws of Nature “globalisation” and the “WTO” (World Trade Organisation).

In Switzerland 90% of the population would welcome an import moratorium on wood from over-exploited tropical forests (BUWAL 1998), while in the EU 80% of the population hold the tropical timber industry responsible for the destruction of the rain forests (University of Vienna, Austria, 1998).

As long as our politicians find themselves incapable of meeting the needs of the masses due to the aforementioned Laws of Nature, we stay co-responsible for the destruction of the basis of life per se.

But the **powerlessness** against globalisation is the same everywhere – and causes us to feel greater solidarity for the Penan and other minority groups: Let us not allow the helplessness to be, like the injustice, also declared a Law of Nature!

We need to break out of the prison of fearful thought patterns, to call an end to this delusion of economic growth and productivity! We need alternatives to a meaning in life reduced solely to our personal profit! New and long-term social concepts are called for and people who have the courage to think in the scale of entire social concepts, to work for it and support it! The indigenous peoples with their integrating view of life, their sustainable use of nature’s resources and their intuitive abilities can be our models in this process!

As the famous biologist Edward O. Wilson writes in his alarming book *The Future of Life*: *“We need nature and particularly its wilderness strongholds. It is the alien world, that gave rise to our species, and the home to which we can safely return. It offers choices our spirit was designed to enjoy.”*

In this spirit we believe! With your support we will continue fighting for the future of life.

John Künzli



This blockade near Long Pengaran ...



... was dismantled by the army on 8th May.

The situation of the Penan

jk – The biggest, still intact forest region of Sarawak is around the headwaters of the River Baram. The Penan of this region have been semi-nomadic for decades: They do live in permanent houses and grow mountain rice but they still hunt and gather most of their food, medicine and building materials in the forest.

In the late 1980s the Penan managed to put a halt to logging activities with repeated road blockades. This went on until 1993 when the most successful Penan blockade at Long Sebatu was smashed after 8 month in a massive police and military operation, and the village razed to the ground (little Sonny died because of the tear gas).

The logging company **Samling** and the government of Sarawak therefore looked for unconventional means to exploit this last big timber mine of Sarawak: they promised the Penan to respect their needs and to use the forest with “care”. **The German Agency for Technical Assistance (GTZ)** offered their help and together with Samling and the forest authorities developed the FOMISS project (forest management system Sarawak). Together the three project partners tried to get the Penan to agree. Even though FOMISS declared the Penan as equal partners in the project, their “involvement” was limited to a concluding acceptance. But the Penan didn’t let themselves be cheated – Samling and the government had already broken too many promises. That the GTZ made Bruno Manser responsible for the failure of the project, proves that the GTZ also does not regard the Penan as equal and independant partners.

Last year the GTZ left Sarawak again. It left behind a filthy rich and unscrupulous logging company with a forest management plan worth millions financed by German taxes – and refused the concerned Penan and NGOs inspection of records.

Samling is starting to implement the FOMISS forest management plan

In February workers of Samling came to survey the forest in the area of the settlements of Long Sepigen (approx. 30 families, 80 members) and Long Kerong (45/230). Already in 1997 the situation got out of control here when over 70 Penan tried to negotiate with the Samling workers. In a brutal military operation – (quote: “We are going to bombard Long Kerong!”) – 14 persons were injured and 4 Penan arrested (Newsletter, April 1997). The four Penan were acquitted but no criminal charges were ever pursued against the paramilitaries.

In March 2002 **Samling** forced entry into the forest of Long Lai (27/100). The Penan tried repeatedly to initiate talks with the managers of Samling and open up negotiations – hitherto without success.

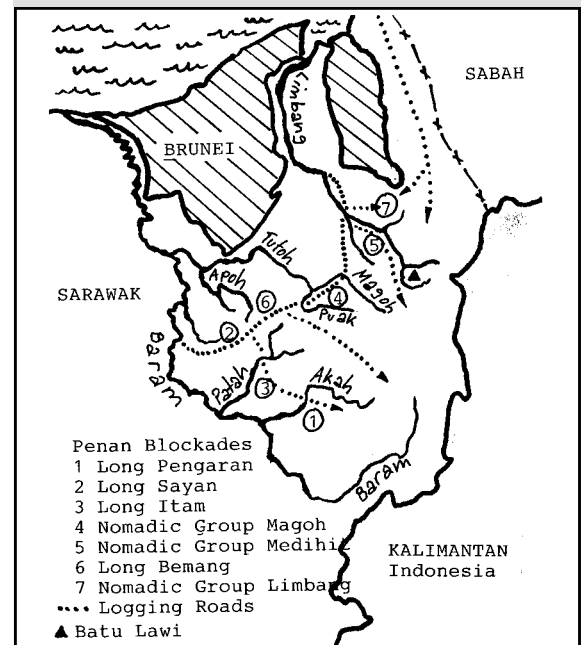
The Penan villages Long Benali (16/85) and Long Pengaran (4/30) are being subjected to the destruction of their environment by **Interhill Co.** Interhill Co. refers to the Kelabit of Long Lelleng who gave them logging permission. A Dayak court has now to solve the dispute between these two peoples. The Blockade set up by the Penan of Long Pengaran Iman on may 2nd was forcefully dismantled by 3 military platoons on may 8th. Interhill speeds up the work within the Penan-territory with 10 bulldozers!

Waves of resistance

There have been at least 6 further blockades since the 27th March in the catchment basin of both the Limbang and the Baram Rivers – there haven’t been that many there in the last 10 years! These blockades were started by the Penan of Long Sayan and Long Belok under the guidance of the experienced activist and chief Ajeng Kiew. For the last 18 months they have been repeatedly blockading the road of the logging company **Interhill Sdn. Bhd.** After the first three days an agreement was worked out but later withdrawn by the Penan because it did not satisfy their demands and the subsequent negotiations were unsuccessful. On 18th April the Penan resumed the blockade. This dispute is still outstanding.

The second blockade was erected on the River Patah – once again on a logging road belonging to **Interhill** and **Rimbunan Hijau Co.** The manager agreed to all the Penan’s demands and asked them to come to Marudi to sign a contract in the presence of the district authorities. But on the 2nd April there was nobody from Interhill in Marudi. The Penan returned home and on the 18th April renewed blockades. Currently 5 Penan settlements participate in them.

Blockades since March 2002



The nomadic Penan resist

Unexpectedly on the 8th April the nomadic Penan who live in the Magoh territory on the River Tutoh put up a blockade. This group of nomads is led by Guman Magut and is fighting against **Woodman Co.** This blockade was given up on 13th April after Woodman Co. had pulled the lorries and heavy machinery out of the nomads' forest. The nomads justifiably fear the company will return, because this repeatedly happened in the past. The Penan demand that Sarawak's government recognize their land rights.

The fourth blockade was erected on the Madihit River, on 10th April, by the nomadic Penan of the Limbang region, where the **Tamex Timber Co.**, a daughter of Samling as well as the **Lee Ling Company**, have been destroying the environment of the Penan of this region for decades. This blockade could be upheld until the end of April without further any incidents, even though the police tried to lift it on April 17th.

On 10th April Along Sega's group also blockaded the road of the company **Lee Ling**, which used to be called **Limbang Trading Co.** and belonged to the former Minister of Environment, James Wong. This blockade could be upheld until May 15th in spite of the police threatening to use tear gas.

The Kayan and the Kenyah also protest

Beginning of April the blockade of the settlement Long Bemang on the River Apoh escalated when the manager of **Rimbunan Hijau Co.'s** timberyard ran amok. The indigenous people, true to the traditions of their forefathers, tied the nutcase up and brought him to their chief in their longhouse. As a result of this 32 Penan and Kayan were arrested. In their defence the indigenous people explain that Rimbunan Hijau has been forcing entry and destroying their forest for decades without permission and that they had to immobilize this violent and insulting manager for his own and everyone else's protection. The court has not as yet started legal proceedings in this case. Those suspected of wrongful deprivation of personal liberty are still under arrest.

Sources: press release SAM, 23.4.2002/News of the Penan by Ulu Baram/ The Star/Borneo Post, 18./28.4.2002/www.surforever.com/sam (website Sahabah Alam Malaysia)/www.earthisland.org./borneo/(Borneo Project)

Developed Poverty

As usual, whenever the indigenous people of Sarawak defend themselves against the "improvements" of their living conditions ordered by the government, the establishment does not take the problem seriously but accuses foreigners of using the poverty of the Penan to serve their own

Thus the rumour goes round that a new "white rajah", or even Bruno Manser, is behind the current wave of

resistance. According to the government, the Penan have never had it as good as now.

Senator Balan Seling, self-appointed Penan expert and the one responsible for the "development" of the Penan, announced in the Sarawak Tribune on December 27th, 2001, that the Penan of the Tutoh River had banished Bruno Manser because they had come to realize that only the government could really help them.

In January 2002 we received the following information from the Embassy of Malaysia on the current situation of the Penan:

- The Penan have received more government aid than any other group of the Dayak.
- The Penan are allowed to live and uphold their culture and their traditions.
- The Penan can profit from globalisation and information technology.
- The State Committee for Penan Affairs helps the settled Penan to improve their circumstances by putting schools and clinics at their disposal.
- The state supplies bridges, water, rice mills, building material, etc.
- Four Penan Centres were set up.
- The governmental Penan Affair Fund invested 15 million Ringgit (app. 4 Mio US\$) in the last 15 years to wipe out poverty amongst the Penan and to settle them.
- The Penan today are aware that governmental support has helped improve their living standards immensely...

The department of the Chief Minister of Sarawak points out that only actively cultivated land can be claimed by the indigenous people. The government has allowed the Penan to continue their traditional life-style

Guman Megut and his group blockade the road of the Woodman Company; April 2002.



in remote forest areas but, at the same time, “development activities detrimental to the environment quality” such as logging are also permitted. **The government stresses that it will not protect any forest for the Penan.** Instead, the Penan are to be prepared for a “better” future. There are plans to herd 12,000 Penan together into one single settlement in the middle of an oil palm plantation where they would have to find work as cheap slaves for the global palm oil market.

Source: Chief Minister Department Sarawak, January 2002

The Penan were not always hungry, poor and sick

jk – The Penan tell a totally different story about the governmental development aid. As the government only recognizes land rights for areas under active cultivation PRIOR to 1958 – the Penan were at that time still living a nomadic life as hunters and gatherers – the Penan are now the only indigenous people without any land right titles at all. This is why for the last 20 years they have been forced to defend their very basis of living with such desperate means. All the demands and petitions to recognize and protect their legitimate rights and land claims have been ignored by the government. All promises made by the government to protect the forest for the Penan have been broken. Speakers at the blockades testify that the situation of the Penan has never been worse:

Ajeng Kiew, 50, chairman of the Penan Association of Sarawak and chief of the settlement Long Sayan on the Apoh River: “We asked the government to protect our communal forest. We asked for schools and hospitals. But they sent us logging companies instead. And now plantation companies are following. Where is all the money the government has invested in us? Why does nobody ever come and see that we are suffering?”

Ayan Jelawing, 64, Long Beluk on the Apoh River: Apoh means sago in our language. We were the first humans in this area and the river is named by us. Our boundaries were respected until the logging companies came in the 1980s and said, that we had absolutely no rights!”

Seman Ngang, 60, Long Kevok: “The Penan Centre is nothing really. The clinic has no medicine, doesn’t even have a telephone, no real road either. Where does the government’s money for us go?”

Lolie Mirai, Long Leng on the Layun River: “There was talk about forest reserves for us Penan. Instead logging companies came. We have no experience in agriculture and nobody helps us.”

Johnny Lalang, 37, Long Lunyim on the Pelutan River: “We are treated like we are stupid. They don’t respect us at all. Before the government brings us development it must show us respect. All we want is our forest!”



Penan woman preparing wild sago. Hunger only arrived with the loggers!

Lep Selai, nomad of the Limbang River: “My wife died from drinking the water from the river. My relatives settled at the Baram River. But now they have left the settlement because too many were hungry. We do not eat domestic animals. We eat the wild animals of the forest, that is our tradition.”

Nyagung Malin, nomad of the Puak River: “Life was easy before the logging companies came. Now we are hungry. Sometimes I think I would like to settle but I know nothing about agriculture. If you really want to bring us development then give us our forest! My forefathers had no longhouses but they survived!”

Peng Megut, nomad of the Magoh River: “The government has given all the forests to the logging companies. But the forest is our supermarket. Where else can we find all we need? My brother has settled in Long Menging but things are no better for him. If we settle down then it would be a trade off for our forest!”

Selai Segai, nomad of the Limbang River: “Please tell the chairman of the Penan Committee and Dr. Mahathir that our rivers are being poisoned and many of us are sick. Money is spent quickly but our land will go on nourishing us. This land is not created for the government – nor was it created by the government!”

Source: Friends of the Earth Malaysia SAM, Utusan Konsumer May 2002

Helping the Penan

The government wants to settle the Penan in a big way. Their model is the controversial Bakun Dam Project where by now over 10,000 Dayak had to leave the area. They were dispossessed and settled in the artificial town of Asap. They endlessly complain about the miserable compensations for their losses, bad infrastructure, few possibilities to make an income, etc.

The Penan want to decide independently about their life and their future, as they have always done. They are fighting for recognition of their legitimate land and prescriptive rights and will not give up even though their complaints and their petitions have up to now been unsuccessful. With great personal commitment they will go on resisting peacefully against the destruction of their environment.

The BMF supports the Penan financially during blockades, arrests and court cases. We support a co-ordination centre for the Penan and we assist the information flows smoothly in Sarawak and internationally.

It's best, though, to support self-help. Since the mid 1990s the Penan are documenting their land rights by mapping out their territories ("Community Mapping"). By naming the rivers, hills and places in their own language they can prove their presence in a particular area over a long period of time. The boundaries of their territories as well as graves and places of worship, old hunting shelters, etc are mapped out using also the aid of the modern satellite technology (GPS). Another map shows the economic value the forest has for the Penan: where they hunt, find sago palms, where they have planted fruit trees or where they gather rattan. Also documented are the past and current damages done by the logging companies.

The whole community participates in this survey. Afterwards these boundaries have to be recognized by the neighbouring communities. It takes a lot of time and effort. As this is done by the Penan themselves it strengthens their self-esteem and their communal spirit. While this work is in progress the Penan become aware of their land and use rights. The maps give them something in their hands which proves without words or discussion their very existence and encourages them to independent action and resistance. The maps remain in the possession of the Penan and can be used during negotiations with the logging companies and the authorities. During court cases the maps can prove the legality of their demands and they will also be invaluable to future generations who have not grown up in the forests.

Cartography is the key to success

During the last couple of years the Penan have gathered data with the support of Malaysian and foreign experts. Now this data has to be clarified and any loopholes discussed with and closed by lawyers.

Bruno's rucksack was almost as big as he was. In March 2000 there was no time to draw the bee-hive in this enormous strangler fig.



To finish mapping 8 Penan settlements still this year additional funds are necessary for the education of further Penan, to buy technical apparatus or to be able to call in international experts. At the same time work should commence with the last nomadic Penan who most desperately need such documentation of their existence for their legal demands. The BMF is also looking for financial support from third parties for this very capital-intensive project.

In May 2001 when the High Court of Sarawak had, for the first time in history, ruled that the Iban of Rumah Nor were to be awarded a piece of primary forest and that the government had illegally issued licences the judge upheld the verdict with maps and other documents made independently by the Iban. The parliament then forbid mapping by non-authorized surveyors, but the courts decide independently what proof is admissible. On the 21st April 2002 the High Court of West-Malaysia also ruled for the indigenous people and awarded the Orang Asli (First Humans) a piece of forest and financial compensation for incurred damages (*New Straits Times* 21.4.2002). The Orang Asli had also made their own maps to document their demands. Further precedents from Canada and other countries whose law is based on the British Commonwealth Law, as is the case in Malaysia, prove that "Community-Mapping" really can lead to success.

Bruno Manser

jk – On the 19th December 2001 the Sarawak Tribune wrote that the Police Chief of Marudi district had returned from the Adang region. He had been questioning Along Sega and other Penan on Bruno's disappearance finding out only that the nomads had not seen Bruno since a long time and had no idea where he could be. Datuk Yusoff Jaafar, Chief of the police department of Sarawak, announced that the investigations would continue although there was no proof that Bruno had died or even been murdered.

Two days later it was announced through the press that the authorities of Sarawak would be returning the things they had confiscated when, in 1986, Bruno had just barely managed to avoid getting arrested.

End of April 2002 two boxes containing old salt, rice, a pair of John Lennon spectacles, medicine against malaria, a fishing net among others arrived in Switzerland. Unfortunately the diaries which Bruno had been trying for years to retrieve were not included.

The Malaysian authorities still don't believe that Bruno lost his life in Sarawak. They doubt he ever entered the country and speculate on his still hiding in Kalimantan, the Indonesian part of Borneo.

That would be wonderful but, unfortunately, hardly realistic. The current resistance in Sarawak proves, at least, that Bruno's actions were not in vain. Bruno's spirit lives on in the Penan's fight for survival and helps us to deal with the uncertainty of his fate.

NGOs withdraw from Malaysian Timber Certification Council

Process ignores concerns of forest peoples

A coalition of Malaysian based indigenous, non-governmental and community organisations have voiced strong concerns and objections to the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) over the ongoing voluntary timber certification process.

The MTCC has been involved in drawing up criteria and standards for certifying Malaysian timber has being sustainably produced so as to gain acceptance to European and US markets where consumers are demanding such timber.

In developing the "Malaysian Criteria, Indicators, Activities and Standards of Performance for Forest Management Certification" (MC&I), the MTCC, which is set up with the support of the government, had involved some NGO and community participation.

NGOs and community groups, including indigenous groups who were part of the consultation process have now withdrawn their involvement and wish to announce that they do not endorse the ongoing certification process. Below is an excerpt of their letter.

The MTCC in proceeding with its voluntary certification scheme without adequately addressing the call of the communities and NGOs for a moratorium on further logging in primary forests areas and in areas where indigenous peoples are asserting their native rights to land, demonstrates the total lack of genuine concern of indigenous peoples rights and the basic principles of forest management.

We found the process highly flawed as it does not protect and recognise the rights of indigenous peoples and local forest communities who depend on the forests for their sustenance.

In the circumstances, we cannot support the certification of any timber with the MTCC standard as being "sustainably produced".

We had since 1999 been involved in the certification-process, because we were genuinely interested in achieving sustainable forest management in Malaysia.

However, we have also clearly communicated to the MTCC about a number of fundamental issues throughout the process that needed to be addressed and resolved before any credible and effective certification scheme can be in place.

The issues centred on the rights of indigenous peoples to customary lands and forests and livelihoods of the people who live in and around forests. We questioned the value of participating in a process, that is currently not meeting the requirements of either the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) nor the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) procedures and principles for forest management.



Lorry after lorry, the Penans are losing their living space to the international markets.

Among the serious concerns that we had raised with the MTCC included:

- The encroachment of Forest Management Units, Protected Areas and logging concessions into the community's forest areas takes away or restricts the community's ownership rights, user rights and access to resources. Many of these areas are still being disputed because they involve either part of the whole of lands and forests over which local communities have native customary rights and claims.
- The concept and process of sustainable forest management and certification is difficult for many of the indigenous and local communities to understand, because of the technical terms and lack of full information in local languages. Further, the concept of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) as enforced through legislation and forest management plans is different from communities who see SFM as a means to ensure the continuity of forest resources for food, medicines, other daily needs and inheritance for the future generations.
- Indigenous peoples have particular rights to land and use of forestland, which is different from other forest users'. There must be due recognition and respect for indigenous values, knowledge and practice related to land and forest.
- Involuntary relocation of villages in a Forest Management Unit results in the loss of ownership and user rights. Besides, governments and development agencies often make decisions to move the communities without consulting them first, resulting in further impoverishment of the communities.
- Participation of forest communities must not be limited to just a few appointed leaders of members of the community. The entire village must be informed, consulted and involved in decision-making processes in order to have meaningful participation before they give their informed consent to the planning or implementation of development on their land or forest areas.

We had demanded that the process be participatory, consultative, open, transparent and involve representation of all key stakeholder groups at all levels who have a genuine interest in forest management and conservation in Malaysia.

We understand that the MTCC has been communicating with various bodies dealing with timber certification

Sarawak-Malaysia

such as Keurhout Foundation (Netherlands), Initiative Tropenwald (Germany), Tropical Forest Trust (USA) and the FSC (international). Yet we do not know exactly what is the status of and relationship among different processes, and roles of MTCC therein.

In relation to the forest management performance standards, we had insisted that the indigenous communities' legal and customary tenure or user rights (adat) be recognised.

Land and forest disputes between the communities on the one hand, and the government, logging concessionaires and licensees on the other hand, are serious and continue to exist in the country. Violations of the rights of indigenous peoples continue and the timber certification process does not acknowledge such concerns.

We have come to realise that our participation and involvement in the MTCC certification process have been misconstrued as giving consent and approval to the standards drawn up by the MTCC.

The objections that we have raised several times to the MTCC have continuously been ignored and not resolved. We, therefore had no other choice but to withdraw our involvement from the MTCC process in July 2001.

We deeply regret efforts by the timber industry in this country and the MTCC in proceeding to certify timber from Malaysia as being "sustainably produced" when the concerns of indigenous and local communities have not been taken into account and their rights ignored.

... and the political-industrial complex takes shameless advantage of their powerlessness



The needs and wishes of the Penan are ignored ...

1. Persatuan Orang Asli Semenanjung Malaysia (POASM), Semenanjung Malaysia
2. Sinui Pai Nanek Sngik (SPNS), Perak
3. Komuniti Orang Asli Daerah Slim River, Perak
4. Center for Orang Asli Concerns (COAC), Selangor
5. Partners of Community Organisations (PACOS Trust), Sabah
6. KERUAN Association, Sarawak
7. Borneo Resources Institute (BRIMAS), Sarawak, <http://brimas.www1.50megs.com/>
8. SILOP, Sarawak
9. Indigenous Peoples' Development Centre (IPDC), Sarawak
10. Institute for Development and Alternative Living (IDEAL), Sarawak
11. SACCESS, Sarawak
12. Sahabah Alam Malaysia (SAM), Malaysia, <http://surforever.com/sam/intro.html>
13. SOS Selangor (Save our Sungai Selangor), Selangor
14. Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM), Selangor, <http://www.suaram.org/home.htm>

Source: Press-release by the NGOs, February 2002





The authors beneath one of the mightiest trees (with buttresses and thick lianas) in the Department of Madre de Dios, Peru (2002)

Impressions from Peru

We were in Puerto Maldonado, the capital of the Peruvian Department Madre de Dios, in the lowlands of the Amazon. A colleague who knows the territory well assured us that no clearing was being done in this area. The rivers Tambopata and Madre de Dios meet in the area of this very industrious harbour. Mills work on the rice gathered from the small Chacras, cultivated fields, which lie along the river and are, therefore, easily accessible. Banana and manioc boats come into the harbour to feed a continuously growing town. Ten years ago Puerto Maldonado had a population of approximately 10,000 inhabitants. Today it has increased to 40,000. This boom has nothing to do with industrial investment but with gold, timber and tourism from which the Peruvians hope to achieve quick financial profit. So people from the Andes are being attracted to this town in the rainforest. To many the forest is a foreign place and its value is mainly of a financial nature.

For two weeks a local man took us into the forest up the Río Las Piedras. It took us one and a half days to pass the many Chacras belonging to the people of the town and small farmers. They remind us of the tiny garden plots rented out in Swiss towns.

Soon it would be Christmas, so most of the lumberjacks were returning to town. They pass down the river on their rafts of mahogany planks, which are tied together. These are groups of 4 to 6 people plus the owner of the boat. Only mahogany and cedar trees are being felled at the moment because they are the most

valuable. This is actually illegal but just about nobody seems to care. The wood is offloaded in the harbour under the supervision of all the custodians of the law and is sent on its long journey to the industrial nations. As "only" selective felling is being done we mercifully do not see big cleared areas. We are happy to be able to enjoy the, to our knowledge, still intact rain forest and to learn as much as we can about the trees and the bushes from our friend. We rarely, though, manage to find one kind again.

The different specimens grow far from each other and the incredible diversity only allows space for a few specimens of the same kind in one place. During our two weeks and approximately 350 km up the river we do not see any of the valuable cedar or mahogany trees. Selective felling of specific trees results in the rapid disappearance of these species, which are also necessary habitats for many animals and plants. Because the financially lucrative mahogany and cedar are still to be found, at the moment, other kinds of the great trees are left in peace. Once these two disappear or the other kinds promise greater financial value, they will also be searched for and ruthlessly cut down. So, one day there will also be no more ceibos, ojés, etc. Things will get worse for the diversity of these tropical forests once the infrastructure no longer consists of a motor for a boat and a saw, but of roads, tractors and the big chainsaws! In the ever-growing town they are just waiting for the necessary funds to realise such crazy ideas.

Markus Oberli, Michael Studer

Postscript

jrd – The Peruvian government wants to give logging companies (amongst others also some from Malaysia) admittance to the Amazon region to achieve more profit from the forest. The exploitive methods of these companies will damage the environment and the Indian communities even more than the above mentioned small groups of lumberjacks have done!

Still primeval forest on the upper course of the Tambopata River (Dep. Madre de Dios, Peru; July 1993)



The palm oil boom and the destruction of the rain forests

jrd – We all consume palm oil because various products contain it: instant soups and sauces, margarine, biscuits, cakes and sometimes chocolate, usually hidden behind definitions such as “vegetable oil”. Palm oil is also used in detergents (surfactants), cosmetics (i.e. in lipsticks) and candles. It is therefore not surprising that Swiss imports have increased enormously in the last years (see graph on page 11).

Cultivation

The finger-leaved, 15 to 30 m high oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis*) originated in tropical Africa but is now cultivated in all the tropical lowlands. After four years enormous fruit bunches consisting of hundreds of fruit start to grow. Crude palm oil is pressed out of the fruit pulp and is mainly used in food products. The kernel in the drupe supplies palm-kernel fat which is mainly used in baking fats and lubricants. The palm-kernel meal, left-over from the pressing process, is mainly exported to the EU where it is used as fodder. In world-wide consumption palm oil is second to soy-bean oil. Oil palms are cultivated in enormous monocultures which necessitate the use of large amounts of pesticides and artificial fertilizers. The pesticides pollute the drinking water, directly impair the health of the badly paid workers and endanger the biodiversity of the environment.

Compared to other plants the oil palm has very high yields per hectare, but to achieve even higher yields the palms shall be genetically modified. Endangering the ecosystem and any other ethical questions are obviously of no interest.

The boom in production

In the last 10 years world-wide palm oil production has doubled to an annual total of approx. 22 million tons. This occupies an area of 100,000 km². The demand for palm oil is steadily increasing because in many countries palm oil cultivation has only few environmental and social restrictions. Thus it is cheap to produce and is superseding other fats and oils on the market. Furthermore, in Europe there is little demand

for animal fats. The increase in population in Asia also supports sales. The big consumers are therefore the Asian countries (predominantly China and India) as well as Europe and the USA.

Half of the world production comes from Malaysia. In West-Malaysia most of the forests have been destroyed, so now one can drive for days through oil palm monocultures. Malaysian companies are expanding into foreign countries, for ex. to Guyana (in South America) and Guinea (West Africa).

Indonesia produces roughly one third of the world-wide production of palm oil (in 2000 nearly 7 million tons) and plans to catch up with Malaysia. Today the area of the oil palm plantations covers 30,000 km² of Indonesia. In 1985 only 6,000 km² (mostly on Sumatra) were cultivated! Other significant countries are Nigeria, Thailand and Colombia.

The consequences

The destruction of the rain-forests and the expansion of the palm oil plantations are directly connected: primeval forests are first “selectively” exploited. Then, when there are no more trees of value to the timber industry to be found, the remaining trees are burnt and a plantation is established (mostly by another firm of the same company). The plantation soon produces palm oil fruit, but in due course exhausts the soil. These areas are then deserted and a new piece of lowland rain-forest is “converted”...

The terrible forest fires of 1997/98 in Indonesia were mainly caused by plantation companies who use fires as the cheapest methods to clear land. Competing to take Malaysia’s no. 1 position in palm oil production Indonesia is applying methods of even worse environmental and social standards and is sacrificing its last lowland forests, along with all its uncountable creatures.

This senseless competition results in overproduction and falling prices. Very few investors and governments draw the right conclusions, not even out of similar past experiences when everyone placed their money on short-term lucrative products such as rubber (caoutchouc), coffee, etc. until over-production and new developments ruined the market!

Oilpalms are growing as if in ranks and files (Sarawak 2000)



Migros has got it!

Acting on the suggestion of the BMF and in cooperation with the WWF, Migros, the biggest retail trader and palm oil buyer (3,000 tons a year) in Switzerland is now introducing measures to acquire a supply of sustainably produced palm oil. Migros has now found a plantation which comes up to its standards: the GOPDC in Ghana supplies 1,000 tons, nearly one third of Migros' annual demand. Their whole range of fats and margarines are already produced with this palm oil. They are looking for further suppliers so that, in mid-term, their whole consumption can be supplied by responsibly managed businesses.

Migros' criteria include many conditions, the most important ones of which are listed here:

- Not acceptable as suppliers are plantations for which forest areas were cleared after 1994 because it is of foremost importance to prevent more plantations being established.
- Acceptable is an ecological cultivation with, at least, a regulated and reasonable application of chemicals. However, organic production is preferred.
- That the laws are respected is demanded, which is by no means to be taken for granted in many countries with wide-spread corruption. Apart from this, minimal social standards must be implemented (according to the International Labour Organisation ILO).
- The owners of the plantations have to prove that they are entitled to use the land and that the attested or traditional rights of the indigenous people are not impaired. The BMF especially approves of this criterion because large oil palm plantations make it impossible for the local communities to follow their traditional ways of land use. Instead they thereby dispossessed "have the opportunity" to put themselves up for hire on the land that was taken away from them ...
- Further criteria concern sustainable oil mills and a waste disposal strategy.
- Of special importance to Migros is a transparent chain of trade and, of course, an independent control of the plantations.

We of the BMF maintain that sunflower seed oil or native butter are preferable, already just because of shorter transportation routes. But if it has to be palm oil then buy a Migros product or well declared and certified organic products.

By **buying conscientiously** you can help convince other food producers and traders to pay the necessary attention to the palm oil issue. Please make use of this possibility!

Using investments to pressurize

In the last years big and middle range banks have given much credit to capital intensive plantations without



Oilpalm fruit for domestic use (Congo, 1995).

paying attention to their ecologically damaging methods.

The fast expansion of the plantations in Indonesia could only be made possible through enormous foreign investments. This is why Dutch and Indonesian NGOs used them to lobby.

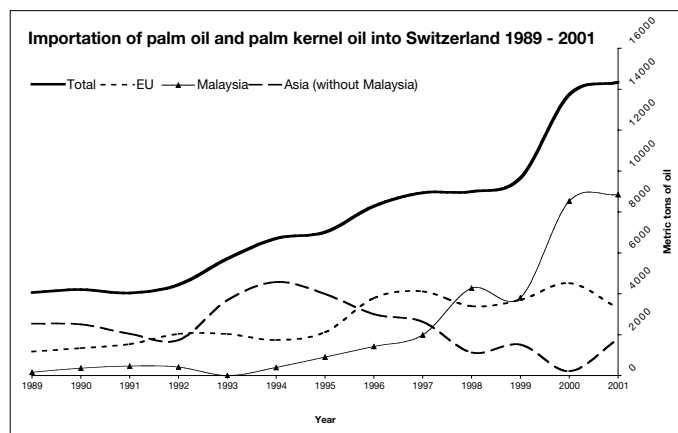
They created pressure through public opinion with successful results. The four biggest banks of the Netherlands (ABN-Amro, Fortis, ING, Rabobank) decided to only invest in oil palm plantations who could prove they fulfil the following four conditions:

- Not have been or be clearing tropical rain forest for the plantation(s)
- Not be involved in burning forestland
- Act according to Indonesia's law and relevant international conventions
- Respect the rights and wishes of the local communities.

The ABN AMRO and the Rabobank have also issued additional guidelines which exclude investments in companies who clear primeval forest or are involved in illegal felling of trees.

When will other Western European banks and also international financial institutions, such as the IMF, also become as reasonable?

For further information: *Robin Wood Magazin Nr. 70 (März 2001); WRM Bulletin 47 (www.wrm.org.uy/); www.miosphere.ch/; www.focusonfinance.org/Dutch-banks2.htm; Schweizerische Aussenhandelsstatistiken.*





As long as there are no roads into their forest, the Pygmies in the Congo-Basin lived well.

CEO of the International Tropical Timber Organisation ITTO in Switzerland

jk – On the 2nd of May 2002 activists of the BMF and from the Society for threatened peoples (GfbV) dressed up as wild animals of the rain forest waited for the many representatives of the authorities and of NGOs invited to a round table talks by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, seco. This year Switzerland presides over the International Tropical Timber Council. Jürgen Blaser, forest specialist of the development-aid agency Inter-Cooperation, has the presidency as seco's representative. This was the reason for the ITTO CEO Dr. Sobral to visit Switzerland. Also present at the round table was the Federal Authority for Environment, Forest and Agriculture, BUWAL, which is definitely the more suitable authority to deal in matters concerning protection of the rain forests than the seco. In Bern we once again heard seco's well worn tune: Only trade can save the rain forests. As seco still incorrectly claims that mandatory decla-

ration of wood is forbidden by international law, the fact that we have for 10 years and are still trying to rectify them must seem like wilful spite on our part.

According to Dr. Sobral trade in tropical timber does not have anything to do with the destruction of the rain forests. What can the ITTO achieve at all? Dr. Sobral definitely still does not have a clue until when the ITTO's goal 2000 will be achieved. At the press conference he pessimistically stated that, only after the primeval forests have disappeared and only plantations exist, will sustainable timber be traded exclusively...

The "rain forest animals" were also present at the subsequent press conference. At noon we received the parliamentary representatives invited by seco to the talks and distributed our demands (see following letter to Dr. Sobral and the ITTO).

Should the ITTO prove unwilling to reforms then we will stick to our demands that Switzerland renounce membership to the ITTO and hand in our petition, which already has 6,000 signatures, to the Federal Council!

Our action in Bern on 2nd May 2002



Improvement of ITTO – Letter of BMF to the Executive Director of the ITTO

Basel and Bern, May 2, 2002

Sir Manoel Sobral Filho,

... First of all I would like to thank you for your share in the, unfortunately still unknown, destiny of Bruno Manser – we all miss him a lot.

With this writing we would like to share our point of view with you and the ITTO. Without going into detail of your letter, we take your request for help to improve the ITTO's efforts serious, and we hope, the several practical and very effective actions we urge the ITTO to take, are taken serious by the ITTO as well.

ITTO is a network organisation of governments focused on, among others, the ecologically and socially sound management of tropical forests. With the objective to reform unsustainable forest management practises, ITTO relies on the goodwill of the involved governments, which are requested to adapt and to apply new laws. From the year 2000 on, it was said, all internationally traded tropical timber should come from sustainably producing sources.

We both know that this goal has never been achieved: practically seen, since the 80's nothing has changed, ITTO-members still export mostly non-sustainably produced tropical timber. ITTO members, committed to sustainable forest management and therefore also the ITTO's as representing their interests, are responsible for 95% of internationally traded tropical timber. There are well-known reasons for this failure: although the ITTO has taken action to achieve the '2000 goal', it did not succeed to influence the national laws and private management towards sustainable development, or to stop the continuing unsustainable forest management by means of a moratorium, until introduction of better practises. As a result of this failure, we can assume that the intention of the involved governments and businesses to introduce changes is NON-existing, in contrast with the assertion of the ITTO. Nowadays, where short-term economy rules over politics, this result is not that astonishing, especially not knowing how close politics and economics are related in these tropical wood producing countries.

The only measurable success of ITTO are the protected areas, which have been excluded from 'production' forests. However, the development of protected areas is not one of the core objectives of a trade, political, intergovernmental network, and ITTO is not to be involved in their further management and will hand over this task to NGOs like the WWF. Outside these protected areas tropical forests continue to be destroyed, which makes us conclude that ITTO has failed and is unnecessary in its existence.

Certification: As you know, first one laughs with the truth, then it is fought and afterwards this same truth is generally considered as an achievement. This also happens with certification: first the NGO's are laughed at, than opposed and nowadays industries try to launch their own (weakened forms of) certificates into the market. [...]

This development shows clearly that the tropical timber industry will only change under economical pressure. Thanks to the international information and boycott-campaigns, we have a lot of responsible consumers within the industrialised countries, and a growing demand for socially, ecologically and sustainably produced (tropical) wood. Logging companies in the tropics and related governments, who had no interest in social and ecological justice before, now at least show an economic interest in these markets. This is an evidence for the fact, that the tropical timber industry can only be influenced by trade-related measures.

Sarawak has until today not fulfilled any of the ITTO's recommendations of 1990:

- annual log production in Sarawak according to ITTO: 9.2 Mio. m³ (from State Land AND from Permanent Forest Estate PFE): Sarawak though applied the ITTO-recommendation to PFE only, kept and keeps on logging between 13 and 19 Mio. m³ annually! Not to mention that the necessary liberation thinning never took place and therefore the ITTO-annual cut would be even lower at 6.3 Mio. m³.
- ITTO stated that logging areas over 60% slope will cause irreparable damage to the environment – and even the Sarawak forestry regulations prohibit it: But until today, Sarawaks logging industry keeps on logging areas over 60% slope.
- ITTO recommended Sarawak to stop logging in areas claimed by natives until the disputes are settled. Sarawak never followed this recommendation.
- ITTO recommended Sarawak to establish Biosphere-reserves for the Penan. All Sarawak did was announcing the establishment of two such BSR for Penan (one in the Ulu Limbang, another in the Ulu Baram) – and kept on logging inside these "reserves" until today! Until today, the Penan do not have any legal rights over their ancestral territories as guaranteed in the Malaysian Constitution!

All these facts do make it necessary to re-evaluate Sarawaks logging industry and to adapt the figures of sustainable annual log production to the findings of the new mission.

Honoured Sir Manoel Sobral Filho, you and I know that the last untouched part of the tropical forest will have disappeared in no times notice, for ever, including most of its, still unexplored, biological diversity and global climate functions. **These forests do not have the time to wait for the ITTO.**

Our demands on the ITTO have to be seen in this context. We expect from ITTO to pass the following actions and recommendations:

Logging-moratorium

1. Immediate stop of industrial logging of old-growth forests, until protected areas and production areas are decided upon internationally
2. Immediate stop of industrial logging in areas used by local populations.

Maximum transparency within the timber trade

3. Present ITTO member countries are obligated to give a formal declaration about the production forms and origin of timber and wood-products.

Furthermore the ITTO should recommend and allow its member countries to take trade-reducing actions e.g. import moratoria for timber and its derivatives from:

4. old-growth forests
5. countries where illegal logging is still common
6. countries where human rights and customary law of the indigenous people are not respected by the logging industry.

Important actions to be promoted by ITTO are:

7. restoration of degraded forest areas
8. sustainable management of secondary forests
9. increased, sustainable use of non-timber forest products.

Although we haven't got the financial and personnel resources to attend the next ITTO-session in Bali, we will carefully follow up the outcome of this session.

If no clear resolutions in this direction are made by the next ITTO session in Bali, we will hold onto the resignation of Switzerland and demand the disintegration of the ITTO. If the ITTO is not able to get active according to its mission, it loses all credibility and cannot be an independent, useful instrument for the improvement of forest management in the tropics, but instead it will be the lobby-organisation and accomplice of the biggest destroyers of the worlds last remaining rainforests.

Do you really want the tropical forest to have disappeared in a couple of decades?

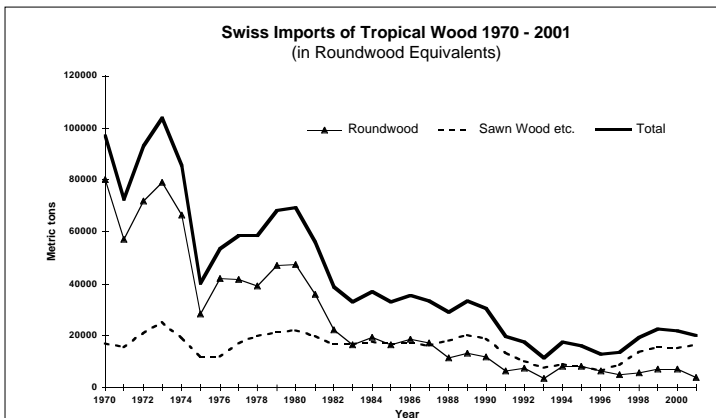
Yours sincerely, John Künzli

Swiss tropical wood imports

db – In the year 2001 the tropical wood imports dropped by 1,779 tons to 20,285 tons. This decrease is due to the round wood import. Imports of sawn wood, plywood and the different products derived thereof (these items figure in the diagram under “sawn wood”) have increased continuously.

Are Swiss consumers suddenly showing some good sense? After all, the sales of tropical timber had been steadily on the increase during the years 1998 to 2000. The answer can most likely be found in the Swiss wood market: In the beginning of 2001 there was still lots of subsidized “Lothar”-storm timber on the market and by the end of the year the international economy was experiencing a depression. Even Sarawak exported one fifth less than in the year 2000. Unfortunately one can assume that a better economic situation will result in an increase of imports of tropical wood. Additionally, it seems that tropical wood has once again become socially acceptable in interior designing, which could be a direct result of the chaos surrounding the labels.

Sources: Swiss Foreign Trade Statistics 2001; Sarawak Tribune 21th April 2002.



Round table at Brunegg Doors AG

jk – On the 12th March representatives of the Swiss door industry, the African tropical timber industry, the Federal Administration (Authorities) and environmental associations were invited by Brunegg AG to a discussion.

Brunegg AG has no economical or technical arguments for its tropical timber consumption: Price of material – abachi (ayus) is 9% cheaper than spruce – has hardly any influence on the product price and, thanks to new techniques, indigenous timber fulfils current market expectations. Probably Brunegg AG is upholding traditional supplier connections and methods of production.

While Brunegg AG does not want to forgo african the timbers abachi and sipo (1,200 cubic meters per year, 7% of its annual wood consumption), the German supplier CIB feels in a way socially committed to the use of the 12,000 square km forest area in the Republic of



The Congo is being converted into furniture – by Europeans for Europeans.

Congo Brazzaville. The latter was supported by the seco who also wishes to fight against poverty and “for the integration of the tropical countries into the 1st World”.

Due to two investigations the WWF as well as the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN concluded that CIB does not manage the forest in the Congo sustainably. Therefore the WWF and GREENPEACE demand that Brunegg AG convert to FSC standards of tropical wood and that CIB implement FSC standards, which, according to CIB, is impossible in Africa. This is why **the BMF demands Brunegg to renounce use of tropical timber** and to use wood from Switzerland and neighbouring countries.

Naturally, everyone at this round table was very concerned about sustaining the bio-diversity. The fact that the talks were held in the first place is a good sign. Inappropriately the CIB, who has been operating very profitably in the Congo since the 1960s, lets the German development aid finance the forest management plan with 690,000 Euro, although the Congolese forestry law demands the logging Company to do this plan!

Rhine Ferries of Basel forgo tropical wood!

jk – The four popular ferries across the Rhine – Basel’s flying bridges – are very busy. Many inhabitants and tourists use this traditional means of crossing from Greater- to Lesser-Basel. Bruno also loved to use this conventional way of crossing the stream. In March the non-profit Ferry Association of Basel announced they would be re-building the St. Alban ferry “Wilde Maa” (d.o.B.: Wild Man), which has been plying the Rhine since 1894. The plan is to construct a modern, panorama-style ferry with windows all round – and a floor made of tropical teak wood.

The BMF asked the Ferry Association to please forgo use of tropical wood. Mind you, we were a bit late and work had already started on the hull. We were therefore incredibly pleased to hear, on 3rd May, from the association “Fähri” that they would forgo use of tropical wood. After having earnestly studied the problems concerning tropical wood the board decided, unanimously, to forgo use of tropical wood for environmental reasons and, in its place, to use Swiss wood.

The BMF would like to congratulate the non-profit association “Fähri” to this very responsible decision!

Honouring Bruno

jk – Events in honour of Bruno were held amongst the Penan of Sarawak, in the Appenzell, in Basel, Bern, Geneva and also in Paris and London. On the 24th January the Natural History Museum in Paris showed the film “Blowpipes against Bulldozers”. The many visitors took advantage of the possibility to get first hand information on the desolate situation of the Penan from our guest from Sarawak: Penan Balang Nalan from the Upper Reaches of the River Baram.

Balang Nalan, who is on his first trip to Europe, and Mutang Urud, who since fleeing Sarawak in 1992, lives in exile in Canada, travelled on to London where, on 31st January, a chestnut tree was planted in Hyde Park. This planting was held under the patronage of Prince Charles (quote) **“dedicated to Bruno Manser, who disappeared in May 2001 in Ulu Limbang, Sarawak, while campaigning for a Penan Homeland”**. Close friends of Bruno and his long-term comrades-in-arms attended this ceremony. The chestnut-tree does Bruno justice: It can reach a height of 30 m, a circumference of up to 9 m and, in warm summers, produces very nourishing nuts!



Hyde Park, London,
January 31, 2002:
Friends and companions hang bracelets at the top of the chestnut-tree.

Exhibition in Olten and presentation of certificates

jrd – The preview to the exhibition “Life in an Endangered Paradise – The Diaries of Bruno Manser” was held on the evening of 11th January 2002 in the “Naturmuseum” of Olten. The curator, Peter Flückiger, explained to the many visitors why the rain-forests are endangered and must be protected. He then introduced Telo Abing and Balang Nalan, two representatives of the Penan. They had built the most spectacular exhibit, a traditional hut of the nomadic Penan (the wood, though, came from the canton of Solothurn, Switzerland!).

Five people came to receive a certificate of acknowledgment to their community for recently having decided to renounce use of wood from overexploitation (amongst them most recently Rothenfluh BL).

In the meantime this exhibition has been dismantled. “It was a great success.”, says Peter Flückiger, “4700 people from near and far attended, amongst them many school classes.” And the reaction of the media was very satisfactory.

Bruno-Manser-Exhibition in Berne: “Life in an Endangered Paradise – The Diaries of Bruno Manser”

Bruno Manser, from Basel, lived for six years in the tropical rain-forests of Sarawak with the Penan in Borneo, an indigenous people of hunters and gatherers of the rain-forests. During his stay there Bruno Manser wrote a diary and made many drawings of the life and the diversity of species of the tropical rain-forest. The Basel Natural History Museum and the Bruno-Manser-Fonds have put together an exhibition titled: “Life in Endangered Paradise – The Diaries of Bruno Manser” showing texts and sketches by Manser. This impressive exhibition will now also take place in the Kornhausforum Berne from the 24th August until 14th September 2002. At the opening of the exhibition, on 24th August, the BMF plans to hold a small Bruno Manser party on the Kornhausplatz.

Original pictures from and reproductions of Bruno Manser’s diary, thrilling texts and fascinating drawings, are the central focus of this exhibition. They show Bruno Manser’s deep attachment to the indigenous Penan of the rain forest. The visitor also gets to know Bruno Manser’s fascinating personality better through his notes and sketches. Some objects of everyday use common to the Penan are also on exhibition.

The environment of the Penan necessary to their identity as a people is being endangered by ruthless timber exploitation. Most of the Penan have therefore become settled. Very few still live a nomadic life in the rain forests of Sarawak as hunters and gatherers. The exhibition in the Kornhausforum Berne also focuses on our co-responsibility in the merciless timber exploitation in the tropics. The exhibition presents simple methods of how to recognize tropical woods and shows what alternatives there are.

Appeal for volunteers for the exhibition and the BMF sales stand

ch – The Bruno-Manser-Fonds is looking for volunteers for the exhibition in the Kornhaus-Forum Berne on specific days or half-days. The exhibition is open from 24th August until 14th September 2002. Opening times are Tuesdays to Fridays from 10 am to 7 pm (Thursdays till 8 pm) and on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm. We are allowed to keep the exhibition open also on (rainy) Sundays under supervision. So it would be fantastic if as many people as possible would volunteer to help out and supervise this three week exhibition in Bern. Many thanks in advance!

Our Community Campaign continues

jrd – Three further communities, Meierskappel LU, Kappel SO, and Hägendorf SO have decided not to use wood from overexploitation. So, in Switzerland now 305 communities of different sizes and 6 cantons renounce use of wood from overexploitation for their public buildings and thereby contribute to the protection of the last rain-forests.

The BMF Community Campaign is infiltrating the neighbouring countries: Illkirch-Graffenstaden, a town in the Alsace, has recently decided to renounce the use of tropical wood and made this exemplary decision public at a showing of an interesting film on the endangered Orang Utans.

Exemplary

jrd – In January the biology student Ervan Rutishauser and friends organised a charity event for the BMF in Neuchâtel. The still relevant film "Blowpipes Against Bulldozers" was shown and the director of the Papiliorama presented a forest-reserve project in Belize. Afterwards the Penan Balang Nalan, Dr. Caspar Bijleveld from the Papiliorama-Nocturama in Marin, and a representative of the BMF were available to answer any questions of the very well attended event. Thanks to this successful occasion the BMF received CHF 1330.– to continue its work.

In April the group of candidates for confirmation in Stein-Hemishofen organised a fund raising dinner in honour of the BMF. On the menu they offered: an apéro, salad, spaghetti and a dessert buffet. The group themselves and the guests liked the food. The BMF would like to thank all the participants, especially the parish priest Frieder Tramer, very much for the resulting donation of CHF 1069.10.

New tri-lingual BMF internet presentation

ch – It was quite a job but we've made it, at last! From mid-June the most important pages of the BMF are available in German, English and French in a clearer lay-out. The many old internet pages can still be called up from the web archive. The key-word search, which Michel Bovey kindly programmed for us, is very practical for any enquiries. Pay us a visit and have a look in under: <http://www.bmf.ch>

Again available: small rattan sacks made by the Penan

jrd – A new delivery of small rattan sacks has arrived. These small sacks are the product of difficult and time consuming handwork of the women and men of the Penan. The sacks therefore come in various sizes and patterns. Average sizes and prices can be found in the order form included in this issue.



Also available are small, square Penan bags (see photo) with zip. They are roughly 20 x 21 cm and CHF 14.– /piece (+ postage).

Still available are traditional rattan bangles produced by the Penan. By the way, they are also worn by men ... We give a quantity discount!

Copies of Tom Henley's "A seed of hope" are available for EUR 11.– each (+ postage). This brilliant story about a Western teenager's growing and his journey to the last nomadic forest-dwellers on Borneo is a blend of fiction and facts by an author acquainted with the plight of the Penan.

Participate in the Bruno-Manser-Fonds in the region of Basel!

(Appeal by Silvia Kaspar, BMF activist from Basel)

Would you like to be active ...

... for the environment ?

... against the exploitation and abuse of tropical wood?

... for the protection of the rainforests ?

... for the rights of the indigenous peoples ?

Participate in the BMF! Here in Basel we would like to build up a group of activists in our work. Our first project will be to energize the BMF's Community Campaign "renounce wood out of overexploitation".

In autumn we plan to put up a stand in Liestal. We intend to convince this community to join the BMF Community List. Any ideas for further activities are very welcome!

Interested? Or would you like more information?

Give us a call at the BMF, no commitment involved!

We'd love to hear from you.

Silvia Kaspar

We are also looking for more BMF activists in Western Switzerland. Up till now we have two persons in the Romandie (Neuchâtel and Evian FR).

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