

**Bruno-Manser-Fonds**

Association for the peoples of the rainforest



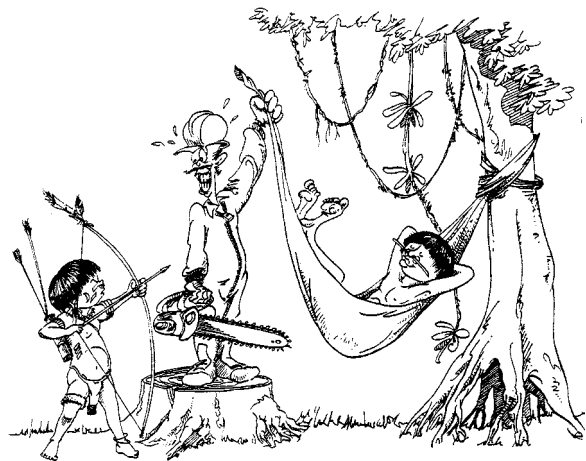
BMF, Heuberg 25, CH-4051 Basel, Switzerland

# The Goals of the Bruno Manser Fund – Association for the Peoples of the Rainforest

The Bruno Manser Fund (BMF) is an environmental and human rights organization with headquarters in Basel, Switzerland. Our activities are mainly devoted to public relations work in the following areas: renunciation of the use of tropical woods, verification of "eco labels" conferred for responsible forestry, furtherance of a mandatory declaration for wood, and advisory capacity for matters relating to indigenous peoples, rainforests, and timber. The BMF has a library and a documentation center which are open to the public. To further cooperation with other European organizations, the BMF is a member of "Forest Movement Europe" (FME). The FME includes about 80 European organizations which are dedicated to "forest protection".

Our financial means are used on the one hand for public relations work and on the other for support of like-minded organizations in Japan and for direct aid to the Penan people in Malaysia. Japan uses enormous quantities of tropical wood which are almost equal to those of the entire European Union. Because the Japanese environmental organizations have a difficult time in their struggle against this squandering of wood, it is extremely important for them to receive both financial and moral support from their Western partner organizations. Contributions for the Penan are primarily used for legal and financial help in cases involving land rights and court proceedings (including bail) resulting from blockades of logging roads, for the investigation of human rights violations, and for food relief and housing construction for seminomadic Penans

At present, the BMF is led by a five-member executive committee consisting of Dr Marco Baettig (Mettembert/JU), Lukas Heierle (Münchenstein/BL), Barbara Jäckli (Zurich), Barbara Nathan-Neher (Zurich) and Bruno Manser (Basel). Roger Graf is in charge of the office which is located on the Heuberg in Basel. Catherine Nicola, Peter Rudin and Roy Richner are responsible for secretarial work. BMF presently has 22 members who are active for the organization in one form or another. BMF has no membership fee. Its activities are financed entirely by contributions, special events and the sale of various articles. The newsletter, which will appear this year in April, August and November, is mailed to some 2600 people and organizations worldwide. It is published in German, French and English.



Caricature from: REED Magazine 1/93

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# Report from Malaysia

## New Logging Quotas Established

Compiled by Roger Graf

Malaysia's Vice President Seri Anwar Ibrahim has requested that the area of permanent forest reserves (forests for timber production) be maintained at its present level. He criticized the fact that 144,406 hectares of forest were destroyed for agricultural and industrial purposes between 1989 and 1990. In addition,

the professed logging quantities established by the government have been exceeded by about twenty percent on the West Malaysian peninsula in the last years. The following annual logging quotas have been officially set for the next five years:

Region	Area	Amount in m <sup>3</sup>
West Malaysia (Malysian peninsula)	46,040 hectares	3,070,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Sabah (East Malaysia)	60,000 hectares	3,500,000 m <sup>3</sup>
Sarawak (East Malaysia)	170,000 hectares	9,500,000 m <sup>3</sup>

It is very doubtful if these quotas will be maintained even in the future. For years, Sarawak has vastly surpassed the maximum amounts established by ITTO (International Timber Trade Organization). The official log-

ging quota in Sarawak for 1992, as an example, amounted to 19 million m<sup>3</sup>. The amount actually cut was in fact much higher.

**Source: Sarawak Tribune, February 14, 1996**

**The Petronas twin towers in Kuala Lumpur are the world's highest building.  
Photo: Reuters**



## Finnish Birch for Malaysian Megalomania

Skyscrapers which will be the world's highest are now under construction in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur. The 451.9-meter twin towers are 6.4 meters higher than the Sears Tower in Chicago built in 1979. Finnish birch has been used as formwork for the concrete. The wood is meant to

withstand innumerable pourings of concrete, with the same boards being used on the highest floor as were used on the ground floor. The reason for Petronas, the Malaysian petroleum conglomerate which is the owner, not using domestic wood is unknown.

**Source: Deutsches Holzzentralblatt, February 20, 1996**

# Report from Sarawak

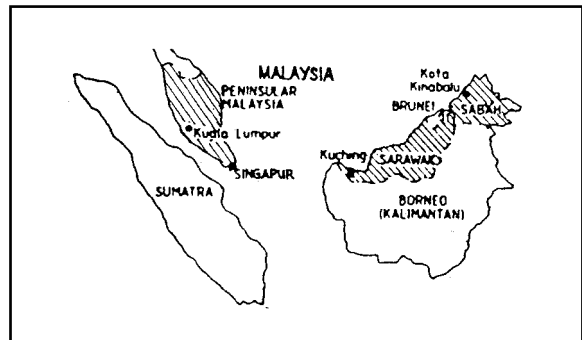
## Cellulose from the Rainforest

A 300,000-hectare forest area (approximating the size of Luxembourg) along the Tatau River in the Bintulu district of Sarawak has been marked for conversion into a tree plantation for the paper industry. Asia Pulp and Paper Sdn. Bhd., the cellulose producer, wants to initially use the remaining trees in an already depleted forest area so that it can replant the area with nonindigenous acacia and eucalyptus trees. For the time being, it is planning on an annual capacity of 500,000 tons of cellulose. Of this, 20%–30% are targeted for Malaysia, and the remainder will be exported to Korea, China, Japan, Thailand and Taiwan. Malaysians consume 80 kg of paper per capita per year, a figure which will increase to 150 kg in the next five years (the figure for Germany, by comparison, is 190 kg). A second paper mill will make use of the trees in a 69,000-hectare flood area of the projected Bakun Dam. This will be undertaken as a joint venture between the Malaysian Ekran (the builder of the Bakun Dam) and an Indonesian company as yet unnamed. Some 1000 trucks will be used to transport the logs to the cellulose factory. Another 30,000–40,000 hectares will be "reforested" for the ongoing needs of the factory.

**Source: Borneo Post/Sarawak Tribune, February 9, 1996**

been degraded to the status of "shifting cultivation", have already been approved. The clearing of the land and the planting of oil palms will begin in the coming months. According to an announcement from the Minister, 10,000 poor people of the Iban group will profit from about 1000 longhouse settlements. The Iban can become partners and, after 60 years, land rights for the plantations will revert to the indigenous.

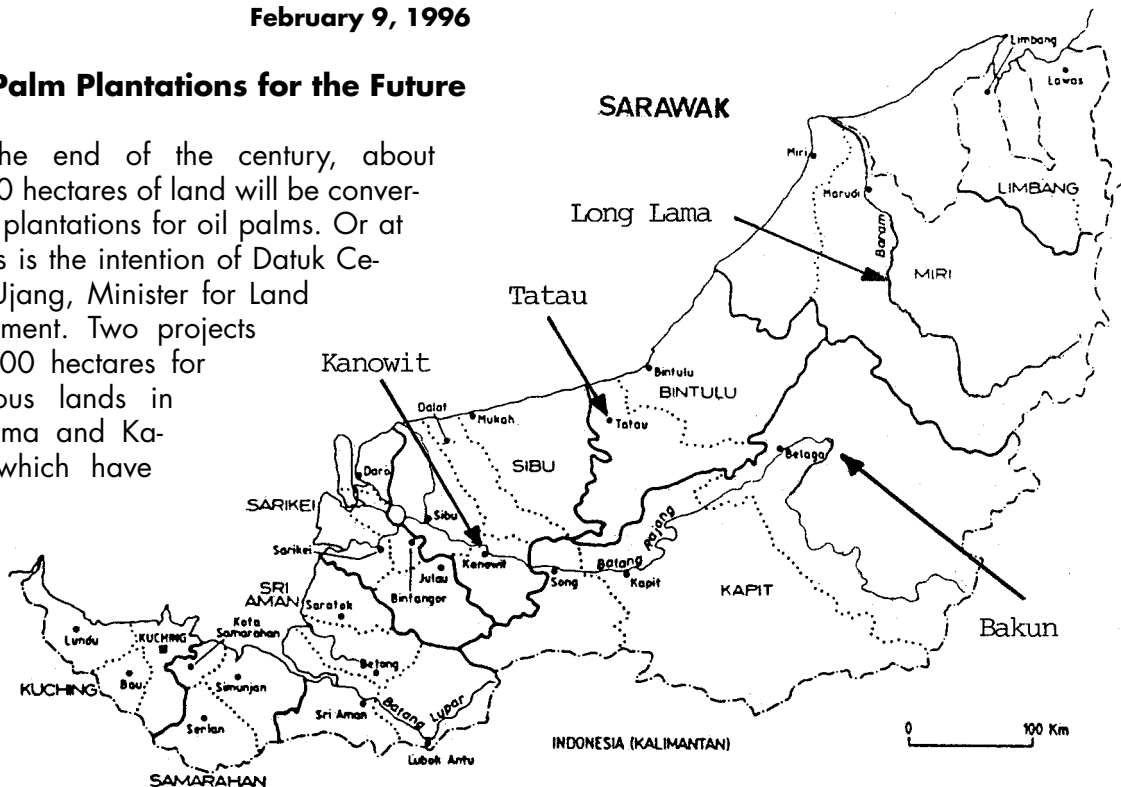
**Source: New Straits Times, February 7, 1996**



**Map of Sarawak**

## Oil Palm Plantations for the Future

By the end of the century, about 250,000 hectares of land will be converted into plantations for oil palms. Or at least this is the intention of Datuk Celestine Ujang, Minister for Land Development. Two projects of 20,000 hectares for indigenous lands in Long Lama and Kanowit, which have



# FSC Label

## Reservations of BMF

By Roger Graf

On February 21, 1996, a designating label for wood was introduced by the "Forest Stewardship Council" (FSC) in London. FSC International has accredited the following organizations and companies as certifiers: Rainforest Alliance (USA), Scientific Certification Systems (USA), Soil Association (England), and SGS Forestry (England) which belongs to the international Swiss conglomerate Société Général de Surveillance SA (SGS). With the approval of FSC, the above four have in turn certified forest areas in Costa Rica (3900 hectares), Mexico (100,000 hectares), Papua New Guinea (12,500 hectares), five forests in the USA and two small forests in England.

FSC International is a nongovernment organization (NGO), with about 100 members and headquarters in Oaxaca. Ecological and social interests are represented by 75% of the votes, business interests by 25%. Members from countries with large logging quantities, however, are absent almost entirely. There is no representation for environmental and human rights organizations in Gabon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Congo, Zaire, India, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Philippines, Salomon Islands, Thailand and CIS (including Russia). Malaysia through WWF and Indonesia through LATIN are represented with one organization each. The voting predominance of Great Britain, the Netherlands, USA, and the Latin American countries is obvious.

The Bruno Manser Fund and a group of other rainforest organizations in Germany and Austria have criticized the FSC label in its present form for several reasons. It lacks transparency (examination reports are only available as résumés, there is no plan for labeling wood products according to type of wood and country of origin), criteria are unsatisfactory (social tolerability is not guaranteed, use of pesticides and fertilizers is permitted, lumbering is still allowed in primary and primeval forests), certifiers are economically dependent on the lumber companies giving the orders. At the time of the printing of this newsletter (end of March 1996), there were still no plantations which had been certified. There is a real danger that an "eco label" will soon be found on rubber trees from Malaysian plantations even through production uses child labor and works with poisonous chemicals. In two forests which have been certified by Soil Association England, pesticides are in use. This would simply be forbidden in Switzerland. The FSC label leads to a dilemma in which varying criteria are used – or not use – in different countries, and a direct comparison is difficult.

In a conversation on February 19, 1996, Tim Synnott of FSC International told the Bruno Manser Fund that the FSC label is not an "eco label" but rather an indication of good forest management only. Unfortunately, from the present point of view, one can only express agreement.



**Teak plantation in Costa Rica.  
Photo: Olivia Heussler**

# Japan

## Enormous Consumption of Wood

By Kazuko Matsue and Roger Graf

With an annual consumption of 107 million m<sup>3</sup>, Japan is one of the world's most important importers of wood. In comparison, Germany imports 60 million m<sup>3</sup>, Switzerland 7 million m<sup>3</sup>. In 1993, the Japanese paper industry imported about 32.4 million m<sup>3</sup> of wood shavings and cellulose. Paper consumption for Japan reached an annual 225 kg per person (Germany 190 kg). Following paper, housing construction is the second largest consumer of wood. 697,496 housing units were built of wood and 788,188 of other materials in 1993. With a consumption of 15–20 m<sup>3</sup> per unit, this corresponds to an annual need of 13–15 million m<sup>3</sup> for the entire country. 9 million m<sup>3</sup> of plywood are used annually for concrete formwork. Boards are thrown away after initial use because storage costs are too expensive. The Sarawak Campaign Committee (SCC), our partner organization in Tokyo, has already scored a success in the case of formwork boards. Important cities such as Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya have taken specific steps to reduce the use of tropical woods for formwork for concrete in public buildings by 35%–70%. The throw-away mentality is well documented by the example of chop sticks (*waribashi* in Japanese). For the most part, however, these are not made from tropical wood and account for less than 1% of Japanese wood consumption.

## The Japanese Forest Industry in a Dilemma

The local Japanese forest industry has considerable financial, social and ecological problems. The state-owned forestry agency is burdened with a US\$ 24-billion debt, and the government is trying to master the problem with a drastic reduction in jobs from 72,000 to 20,000. About 67% of Japan's surface is covered with forests but use is impeded by the country's mountainous landscape. 41% of the forested areas are coniferous plantations dating from the 1950s. The quality of Japanese wood is therefore inferior.

## Tropical Wood Consumption Stabilizes at High Level

In 1994 and 1995, Japanese tropical wood imports were characterized by a growing increase in the import of plywood in comparison to logs. Plywood from Malaysia (Sarawak and Sabah), especially, reported an enormous gain, with the import of logs from most regions decreasing. Sabah and Indonesia have prohibited the export of logs. It is difficult to evaluate how the change from logs to plywood has affected the overall use of tropical woods. If one calculates the consumption of tropical wood in cubic meters, it amounts to a decline of about 1.2% for 1995 against 1994. By converting the amount of processed tropical wood (sawn timber, plywood) into log equivalents, the result is a slight 0.8% increase in consumption.



**Formwork boards in Japan are made from tropical wood and are usually discarded after their initial use.**

### Imports of tropical logs to Japan (1992–1995)

Region	1992 in m <sup>3</sup>	1993 in m <sup>3</sup>	1994 in m <sup>3</sup>	1995 in m <sup>3</sup>	% change from 1994–1995
Papua New Guinea	1,161,000	1,754,000	1,932,000	1,586,000	– 17.9%
Solomon Islands	309,000	346,000	338,000	381,000	+ 12.8%
Africa	—	—	—	531,000	—
Other	46,000	30,000	5,000	—	—

Source: Nippon Mokuzai Shimbun (Timber Daily News), March 1, 1996

### Imports of all plywood (tropical and temperate zones) to Japan (1994–95)

Country of origin	1994 in m <sup>3</sup>	1995 in m <sup>3</sup>	% change from 1994–1995
Indonesia	3,228,000	3,018,000	– 6.5%
Canada	183,000	250,000	+ 36.7%
Aotearoa (New Zealand)	31,000	35,000	+ 14.1%

Source: Nippon Mokuzai Shimbun (Timber Daily News), March 1, 1996

### Imports of all tropical woods (logs, cut timber and plywood) to Japan (1992–1995)

Type of wood	1992	1993	1994	1995	% change from
Logs	9,969,000	7,438,000	6,802,000	6,455,000	– 5.1%
Sawn timber	1,197,000	1,358,000	1,297,000	1,252,000	– 3.4%
Plywood	2,770,000	3,774,000	3,736,000	3,988,000	+ 6.7%

RE = equivalent in logs is a measure of the “underbark” log volume which would have been necessary to obtain one unit of volume of the processed product.

# Activities

Exhibit on the Penan, April 4 – June 2, 1996  
"Voix de la forêt pluviale" (Voices from the Rainforest)

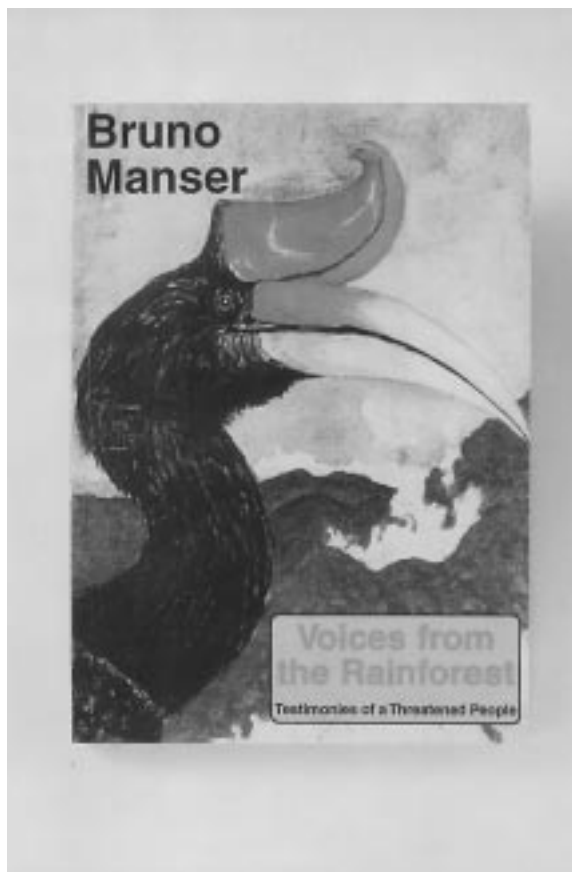
In the LSPN Center (Swiss Nature Conservation Center), Château Champ Pittet, 1400 Cheseaux-Noréaz VD tel. 024 23 13 41

The Conservation Center is located in a protected area on the south shore of the Lake of Neuchâtel. The closest railway station is Yverdon, then take bus No. 1, get off at "Prés du Châtaigner".

Opening times:  
April daily except Monday 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.

May/June

Tuesday-Friday	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Saturday	1:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Sunday	10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.
Monday	closed



# Articles for Sale

Bruno Manser's book, *Voices from the Rainforest*, has recently been published by the Institute for Social Analysis (INSAN) in Malaysia. The book has 294 pages, drawings by Bruno Manser with portraits of the Penan and life in the rainforest, reports on the situation of the Penan nomads and the destruction of the rainforest in Malaysian Sarawak.

Price Sfr 20.-/MR 35.-/US\$ 18.-/  
DM 22.-/FF 80,- plus shipping costs.

Available from Bruno Manser Fund, Heuberg 25, 4051 Basel, Switzerland (fax 0041 61 261 94 73), or from INSAN, 11 Jalan 11/4E, 46200 Petaling Jaya, Malaysia (fax 0060 3 756 18 79).

## New: rattan sacks

Rattan sacks (30 x 30 cm), handwoven by Penan nomads and imported exclusively by the Bruno Manser Fund. These rattan sacks are well suited as wall hangings or can be used in many other ways. Proceeds from the sale go in their entirety to the Penan in the Baram area of Sarawak.

Price: Sfr 30.-/DM 34.-/FF 120,-/  
US\$ 26,- plus shipping costs.  
Available from the Bruno Manser Fund.

## T-shirts

Two types of T-shirts with the "Green Cotton" label are available in S, M, L and XL. They are made of pesticide-free hand-picked cotton. The T-shirts can be ordered in olive green (with the drawing of a rhinoceros bird) and in black (with the drawing of a Penan man). Drawings are by Bruno Manser.

Price: Sfr 30.-/DM 32.-/FF 120,-/  
US\$ 25,- plus shipping costs.  
Available from the Bruno Manser Fund.

