

## Synopsis:



## GREEN WALL

Photographic essay  
by  
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The scene takes place on the mountain range of Borneo Malaysia between the Indonesian part of the island, Kalimantan in the upper Baram, isolated region of Sarawak. It is 5:30, the day is not up yet but already in the valley resound the blows of bamboo: The tubung

The Penan were Christianized in the 20th century by British missionaries and every day, in turn, the population officiate. This morning in November 2012, two women start the reading, in a silent of a new world which awakes, silence broken only by the murmur and singing.

Balai is one of 18 villages in May 2012 announced the creation of the Penan Peace Park (PPP), after two years of meetings between communities. A zone covering an area of 1628 km<sup>2</sup> that the Penan recognize as customary land, but that the Sarawak government conceded, however, to some logging companies, including the multinational Samling, the most active in the region. Fifty-six percent of PPP is covered by the primary forests, the forty four remaining by secondary forests resulting from deforestation. This is attributed as follow, twenty-seven percent for logging companies, twelve percent for agricultural activity of the Penan and five percent for forest fires.

Approximately one thousand eight hundred Penan, a little more than ten percent of the population in Sarawak, live in the PPP.

The Penan Peace Park is an ambitious project, considering the imbalance of power relations between some isolated villages with no means of communication and logging companies publicly traded assisted by a Government of Sarawak semi-authoritarian with a strong political and economic autonomy.

**So "Green Wall" is the story of two walls facing each other: the forest of Sarawak and industrial plantations. It is also the story of the Penan, a traditionally nomadic people, sedentary gradually since the 50s, people who nevertheless preserved until today an intimate relationship with the forest. Finally, this is the story of an idea and a hope, the Penan Peace Park, a protected area whose fragile borders are lost in the jungle of Borneo. A land claim that lawyers defend with passion before the courts of Malaysia.**