

Captions:

GREEN WALL

Photographic essay by

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Photo 01 - *"We, the Penan Selungo of Sarawak, are indigenous peoples who have been most affected by the forced destruction and transformation of our land. Our ancestors were nomadic hunter-gatherers and we have only recently started to settle down and learn farming. Even if our lifestyle has changed a lot over the last decades, we remain faithful to our tradition and we still want to live in harmony with our forest. We have tried many times to protect our land rights, but our blowpipes and our culture are non-aggressive compared to the bulldozers of the companies. The destruction of our forest takes place in front of our eyes."* Penan Peace Park Project.



Photo 02 - Transport of logs by Samling on the road to Upper Baram, Malaysia dominated exports in 2010 according to the International Tropical Timber Organization.



Photo 03 - *« Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions ».*

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 31, 2007



Photo 04 - *« We claim our Native Customary Rights (NCR) in this area, as our ancestors have been living there for centuries and following our tradition. At the same time, the logging companies assert that the whole area forms part of the governmental "forest reserves from permanent forest estates" and can therefore be used by the concession-holders »*
Penan Peace Park project



Photo 05 - Nothing differentiates the house of the chief, that of another member of the community. Ali Pet was named for his great experience, he will have to resolve potential conflicts and represent the village to the government.



Photo 06 - The Penan have little formal education, access to care is very inadequate and families living in poverty. The spirit of sharing resources and non-redeemable compensate the deficiencies of a fragile economy.

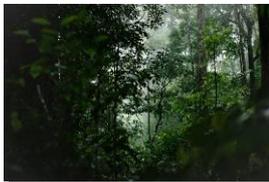


Photo 07 - They call this forest Tana Lalun Penan and consider it to be theirs. The Sarawak government denying them this right has already been granted to the logging company Samling.



Photo 08 - Living mainly on hunting, fishing and gathering, the destruction of their forest deprive them of their traditional means of livelihood.



Photo 09 - From time to time a tree is felled and left on site in the forest. It will thoroughly divided over months to provide planks and beams for the construction of houses.



Photo 10 - *"Sadly as logging and plantation have encroached on our land, our streams and rivers have become muddy and polluted. They are muddy because of the erosion of our soils and polluted because of the fertilizer and other poisonous substances such as oil, which contaminate it. This muddy and polluted water is making us sick when we drink it, the fish are rapidly depleting and we cannot bathe or wash our clothes in it anymore."* Penan Peace Park ProjectPhoto



Photo 11 - Sapong Unai belongs to the generation born in the jungle and progressively sedentary during the second half of the 20th century.



Photo 12 - *"The State Government is planning to open up a few millions acres of oil palm plantation in Sarawak. They said that it is good for the economy of the state as oil palm is referred to as the golden crop. I have problem with this development as it encourages the exploitation of the land, which includes the NCR lands claimed by the natives of Sarawak with impunity. This is the main reason why we have about 200 cases now ended up in Courts all over the State. Economically its alluring and attractive, but at the expense of the poor natives and their NCR lands."* Baru Bian Lawyer indigenous populations and main opposition figure – December 2012.



Photo 13 - First hours of the day. While the morning rises, the wind blows gently. We pray together.



Photo 14 - "I take these cases purely on the bases of the natives' claims of NCR and their evidences furnished to us. If on the balance of probability there is a case as seen from the provisions of the law, I will take up the cases for the natives. Furnishing the evidences at the trial proper is the greatest challenge for us. We have to gather evidences prior to 1.1.1958. These evidences are for example graveyards or burial grounds (pendam), longhouse site (tembawai), fruit trees, historical landmarks, belian posts, rubber coupons issued by the British Government for rubber subsidy etc. We then prepare a map of the area and mark all these in the map to be shown to the Court. We hope the Court appreciate and agree to our claims. That's the best we could do in the circumstance."

Baru Bian Lawyer indigenous populations and main opposition figure – December 2012.



Photo 15 - In the sweltering heat of the forest, before the fall rains, Andres Oudaou looking for wood to build a shelter for the night.



Photo 16 - earth and heaven.

During the wet season, torrential rains in a huge uproar, mingle



Photo 17 -

Parry Tunggang perfectly knows the streams in the vicinity of Long Kerong. End of the day he runs quietly, throwing his net in the clear waters.



Photo 18 -

Long lines wind through the forest to the village of Balai, to provide clean water to the inhabitants of the neighboring torrents. Realized a few years ago by the government, the Penan are repairing themselves now multiple damage to the network with a shoestring. Here bamboo..



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Photo 20 -

“About 350 million of the world’s poorest people, including 60 million indigenous people, use forests intensively for their subsistence and survival. These populations include the most disadvantaged and vulnerable, and often the politically weakest parts of society; forests are their main means of meeting contingencies and mitigating risks from unforeseen events. These populations are extremely talented, creative and innovative in their use of forests and their products and ecosystem services.” State of the World’s Forests 2012 - FAO