

# Berbak Carbon Initiative

Harnessing carbon to conserve biodiversity

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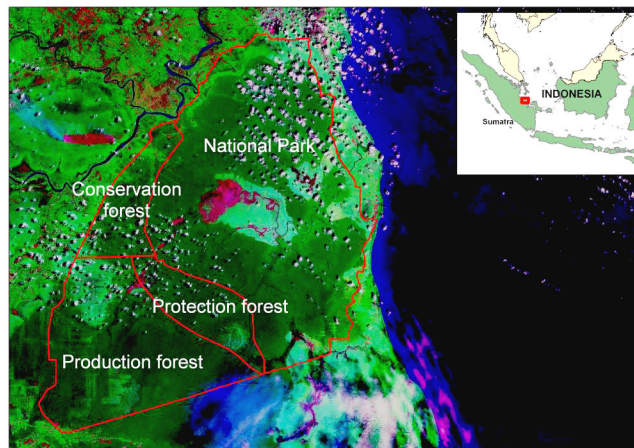


## Conservation for carbon, communities and biodiversity

Deforestation is the primary cause of terrestrial species losses, a threat to the livelihoods of millions of people and the source of approximately a fifth of global greenhouse gas emissions. In the peat swamp forests of Berbak on Sumatra, Indonesia, it is directly threatening forest species - including the critically endangered Sumatran tiger - impacting local communities, and releasing massive volumes of carbon dioxide.

### Deforestation is:

- The primary threat to terrestrial wildlife
- A threat to millions of forest communities
- The second largest source of greenhouse gases



The Berbak Carbon Initiative aims to conserve the Berbak forest ecosystem, and those that depend on it, in perpetuity. We aim to achieve this by assisting forest managers to generate carbon credits - primarily by reducing illegal and legal deforestation - which can then be sold to generate revenue. Due to the huge carbon reserves in Berbak's peat soils, we estimate that sufficient income can be generated to make the forests of Berbak worth more standing than cut down.

## A marriage of wildlife conservation science and climate change action

Launching such a carbon project will be a challenge, but ZSL is ideally placed to succeed. As an official observer to the UN climate negotiations, ZSL has long recognised the intrinsic overlap between climate change and wildlife conservation. Working in Indonesia since 2001, ZSL's Indonesian team is ideally placed to bring together the various forest stakeholders upon whose actions the future of Berbak lie whilst using extensive field experience to collect the baseline field data required to build an 'avoided deforestation' or REDD project. As a charitable project developer we do this at no cost to the forest stakeholders, ensuring they receive the greatest benefit and thereby maximising the incentives to support the forests, their wildlife and their people.



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## Project outputs

The development phase of the Berbak Carbon Project is now underway with support from Berbak National Park and funding from the Darwin Initiative. Between 2009-2012 the project will:

- Establish the carbon baselines for the project area to determine how much carbon is being lost / could be saved
- Establish biodiversity and community baselines to determine how these will benefit through the impacts of reduced carbon emissions
- Strengthen the environmental law enforcement framework required to implement emissions reductions
- Establish the institutional framework for how carbon trading will practically operate in the Berbak area in line with Indonesian and market regulations
- Obtain certification for a final Project Design Document, clearing the way for the Project Implementation phase

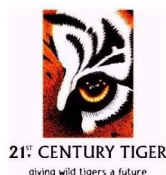
## Project vision

Ultimately the vision for Berbak is for a self-financing ecosystem that brings clear benefits to biodiversity, climate and communities. We intend this to be the first Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project that focuses specifically on conservation forest on Sumatra and thus to be a model for protecting further conservation forests in the future. To achieve this the project is proceeding in two phases:

1. The project development phase, funded by grants and donations, aims to collect all of the baseline scientific data and establish the institutional framework required to build a certified and feasible carbon project by 2012 when it is expected that new markets for carbon credits from avoided deforestation will be active.
2. The project implementation phase will start when deforestation-reduction activities begin and carbon credits are generated and traded. Due to the cost of implementation, this phase will require significant seed investment before an annual return can be generated.



## Project collaborators



## More Information

For more information on this project please contact Dr. Agus Suratno (agus.suratno@zsl.org) or Dr Thomas Maddox (tom.maddox@zsl.org) [www.zsl.org/Indonesia](http://www.zsl.org/Indonesia) | <http://darwin.defra.gov.uk/project/17029>

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