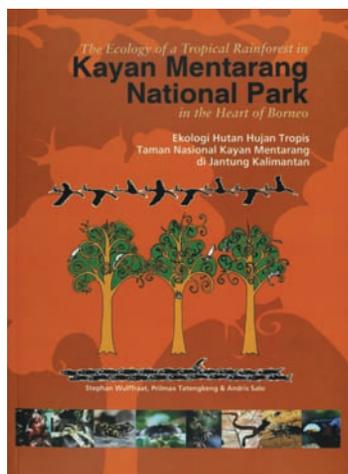


BOOK REVIEW



The Ecology of a Tropical Rainforest in Kayan Mentarang National Park in the Heart of Borneo. Ekologi Hutan Hujan Tropis Taman Nasional Kayan Mentarang di Jantung Kalimantan. By Wulffraat, S., P. Tatengkeng & A. Salo, 2006. WWF – Indonesia, xxii+250 pages. ISBN: 979-99919-2-7.

This is an A4-sized bilingual (English/Bahasa Indonesia) volume covering the ecological aspects of one of the largest protected areas in Borneo. It is the Kayan Mentarang National Park (KMNP), with 1,360,500 hectares, situated in the province of East Kalimantan, along the borders of Malinau District and the Malaysian State of Sarawak.

This book consists of 19 Chapters and is richly illustrated: Introduction; The research area; Landscape of the upper Enggeng; Land use history; Climate; Phenology; Growth, recruitment and mortality; Regeneration; Forest productivity; Leaf litter decomposition; Reforestation; Specific plant groups; Mammals; Birds; Amphibians and reptiles; Fishes and crustaceans; Notes on insects; References; and Appendix.

It covers a detailed history of the origins of the site for KMNP. The main field station is located near Long Alango village at Lalut Birai. There are chapters devoted to the physical environment and forest ecology. Some interesting excerpts are included and interspersed within the volume, e.g. ancient sarcophaguses built by the native people, Bornean Red Carnivore. Several interesting groups of plants are discussed, e.g. Zingiberaceae, Rafflesiaceae, *Amorphallus*, bamboos, palms and orchids. The mammals and birds sections are covered in greater detail, with almost every major group or species illustrated. The other faunal groups are covered in less detail.

The appendices consisted of checklists of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fishes and crustaceans. The taxonomy used is not the latest, but nonetheless illustrates the rich biodiversity that abounds in KMNP.

This publication definitely provides interested naturalists and scientists an interesting read into the biodiversity of Borneo.

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