

His Majesty The King
Buckingham Palace
London SW1A 1AA
United Kingdom

Communities of the Baram rainforest,
Sarawak, Malaysia

Baram, Borneo rainforest, January 2023

Re: Please stop the chop of our rainforest

Sir,

We might live far away, but we learnt about the crowning of Your Majesty with great pleasure as we know that Your Majesty deeply cares about the rainforest and its communities.

We are writing from the Baram area, our home in the rainforest of Borneo. The reason for us to send this letter to the other side of the world is very serious: our communities are suffering from the destruction of the rainforest. We learnt that some of this timber reaches your home, the UK.

We depend on the forest for hunting, fishing and gathering. The logging drives out the animals, there is no more space or food for the game. This makes hunting difficult. Logging activities pollute our rivers and streams, which we also use for drinking water. The logging also erodes the land and the rivers. We directly suffer from the consequences: the rivers rise after heavy rain and flood our villages like never before.

All of our communities have suffered from timber extraction by timber company Samling over the last decades. The company just logged again earlier this year on the territory of the Penan community of Long Ajeng. They encroached into the area of the Batu Siman mountain, a place of great spiritual and historic importance of our communities. These intact forests we have protected with blockades for decades. Samling also entered the Bekia area of the Long Moh community and the communal forest of the Jamok community without our agreement. We had hoped that these forests would finally be protected when we decided to collaborate with the Malaysian government on a conservation project called Upper Baram Forest Area UBFA. Nevertheless, Samling, recently entered these areas for timber extraction. How can we ever stop them?

The logging companies tell us that the areas are either certified now or will be certified soon. They tell the UK that their timber is sustainable. Do not believe them. They have not asked us for permission to log on our territories. They continue the same practices as before. They just want to take the timber and get the money, but they do not really inform and include us.

We were honored to hear Your Majesty is interested in our forests and our plight after watching the film Paradise War. We have also heard that His Majesty cares deeply about climate change and the environment, this fills us with hope that our humble plea might be heard. We may live on the opposite sides of the globe but our reverence for the natural world is aligned and we feel a kinship with His Majesty.

Your Majesty, we hope that you can help us. We urge you to use your power to stop the destruction of our home and our forest. We know we ask a lot, but we do not know where to turn to as the company does not listen to our concerns.

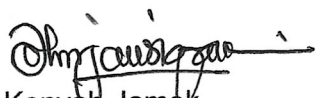
We would like to invite you to visit our area and experience the richness of our forest and the impacts of the forest loss yourself, Your Majesty. After seeing the destruction of our forests with your own eyes, we cannot imagine that Your Majesty will still allow this timber to enter Your Majesty's country.


We send you good wishes and peace from our home in the rainforest to yours.


Jian kenin / Terima kasih. Thank you.


Yours sincerely,
 KK JAWA NYIPA
440404-13-5729
Ketua Kampung
Long Ajeng, Selaan Baram

Penan Selaan


Kenyah Jamok
John Jau Sigau
Jamok Advisor


Penan Selungo
BIAH BELARE
 BIAH BELARE
MUR/402/2010
KELOMPOK KETUA KAJANG LAMAL BARAM


Kenyah Lg Moh, Lepo' Tau
William @ Tinggan, Jalong Talan
AJK Tanah Adat, AJK Tanah Adat.