

# More Than Carbon – Hutan partnership | Reconnecting forests for wildlife recovery

## SUMMARY

In Sabah, Malaysian Borneo, forest fragmentation is one of the most serious threats to wildlife in the Lower Kinabatangan landscape, making habitat restoration and ecological connectivity an urgent priority. Synchronicity Earth's More Than Carbon partnership with Hutan responds by supporting reforestation that benefits biodiversity, community resilience and longer-term ecosystem recovery.

## OVERVIEW

Hutan is a locally based conservation organisation working in Sabah, Malaysia.

Its restoration work focuses on rebuilding forest connectivity along the Kinabatangan River, including through the Genting Wildlife Corridor, a restored wildlife passage designed to reconnect two fragments of protected habitat.

In 2025, this work continued despite severe flooding that damaged Hutan's long-standing field station and tree nursery. Synchronicity Earth was the first donor to support Hutan's emergency appeal, helping the organisation secure funding for a new flood-resilient campus and stabilise operations.

## OUTCOME

The partnership is delivering practical restoration outcomes while strengthening local capacity and resilience.

Reforestation teams, village home nurseries and ecological monitoring are helping restore a more connected landscape for wildlife, while also creating steady income opportunities for local women and building stronger evidence on forest recovery, carbon storage and habitat use over time.

## IMPACT

More Than Carbon has:

- Supported Hutan's all-female reforestation team to plant 254,085 trees across 13 reforestation sites in the Kinabatangan landscape since 2008.
- Supported the planting of 71,443 native trees in the Genting Wildlife Corridor between 2019 and the end of 2025.



- Enabled Hutan to relocate its nursery to a flood-safe site after severe flooding, with more than 10,000 saplings in the nursery by the end of 2025.
- Supported a 2025 reforestation team made up of 25 women from the local community, alongside two drivers, with a further 10 women taking part in a paid internship programme.
- Supported wildlife monitoring in the Genting Wildlife Corridor, where camera traps recorded frequent use by orangutans and elephants and detected bearded pigs for the first time since the 2020 African Swine Fever outbreak.

### Sustainable development goals:



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