



Inter IKEA Group
PRESS RELEASE

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IKEA to share unique learnings from the restoration of rainforests and its ecosystems in Borneo

Over a period of 20 years, IKEA has together with partners restored around 18 500 hectares of rainforest in Borneo, Malaysia. The area has now been given the highest protection status in Malaysia, and with increasing awareness of the need to end global biodiversity loss, IKEA and partners invite research organisations from all over the world to take part of the learnings from the Sow a seed project.

"IKEA is committed to improving biodiversity and protecting ecosystems throughout the value chain. One important component is the restoration and protection of degraded landscapes. The Sow a Seed project in Borneo, started by IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad 20 years ago, is not connected to the IKEA value chain but provides important insights into how this can be done." says Ulf Johansson, Head of Global Wood Supply and Forestry, Inter IKEA Group.

The rainforest in Borneo had been destroyed by fires and irresponsible logging, causing the loss of many indigenous tree species. After assisting the natural forest regeneration and replanting three million seedlings of around 80 indigenous species of large trees and nurturing them to maturity, other species have followed to recreate a valuable forest ecosystem which in many ways is close to the original. And most importantly – wildlife has started to return to the area, including pygmy elephants, orangutans, clouded leopards, and hornbills, as well as other rare species spotted using camera traps.

IKEA has funded and actively supported the Sow a Seed project together with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and Sabah Foundation, a Malaysian government organization. Aside from funding, IKEA has been provided expertise, training and been part of a multi-stakeholder governance model for the project.

"Against the backdrop of climate change and accelerating biodiversity loss, the Sow a Seed project brings important learnings in terms of carbon storage, ecosystem integrity, water quality, and much more. Data from over 20 years exists. The most important conclusion is that it is very much possible to regenerate rainforests and restore biodiversity. Given the fact that there are many millions of hectares of degraded rainforests in Borneo alone, that knowledge is invaluable," says Ulrik Ilstedt, Associate Professor at SLU.

One of the major components of the project has been the research activities. Researchers are actively involved in the project to support the development and to gain and share knowledge. IKEA is currently funding a post doctoral position which will determine the amount of carbon stored and measurable biodiversity gains, with results coming in the next two years. IKEA strongly encourages further research in the area:



“The site is unique in the sense that it provides the opportunity to study a 20-year-old restored rainforest with data assembled through the restoration period. There is infrastructure and strong local competence to assist research in the area. Apart from the restored forest itself, the learnings of how our world’s forests can be restored is what we see as our main contribution through this project” says Annie Sandgren, Project Leader at IKEA.

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About IKEA

IKEA offers well-designed, functional, and affordable, high-quality home furnishing, produced with care for people and the environment. There are several companies with different owners, working under the IKEA Brand, all sharing the same vision: to create a better everyday life for the many people. IKEA was founded in Sweden in 1943.

About Inter IKEA Group

Inter IKEA Group includes Inter IKEA Systems B.V., IKEA of Sweden AB, IKEA Supply AG and IKEA Industry AB related businesses. Inter IKEA Holding B.V. is the holding company for the Inter IKEA Group.

About Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU)

SLU conducts education, research and environmental monitoring and assessment in collaboration with society at large. Through a focus on the interaction between humans, animals and ecosystems and the responsible use of natural resources, SLU contribute to sustainable societal development and good living conditions on our planet.

About Sabah Foundation

The objectives of Sabah Foundation, operationally referred to as Yayasan Sabah Group, are to provide education and educational facilities for all Malaysians in Sabah, creating opportunities for a more equitable distribution of economic wealth among the people in Sabah, and providing aid to charitable institutions and victims of natural disasters. In the Southeast Asian region, the Group has established itself as a pioneer in good forest management, meeting the needs of the day while keeping the forest under its custody in perpetuity.