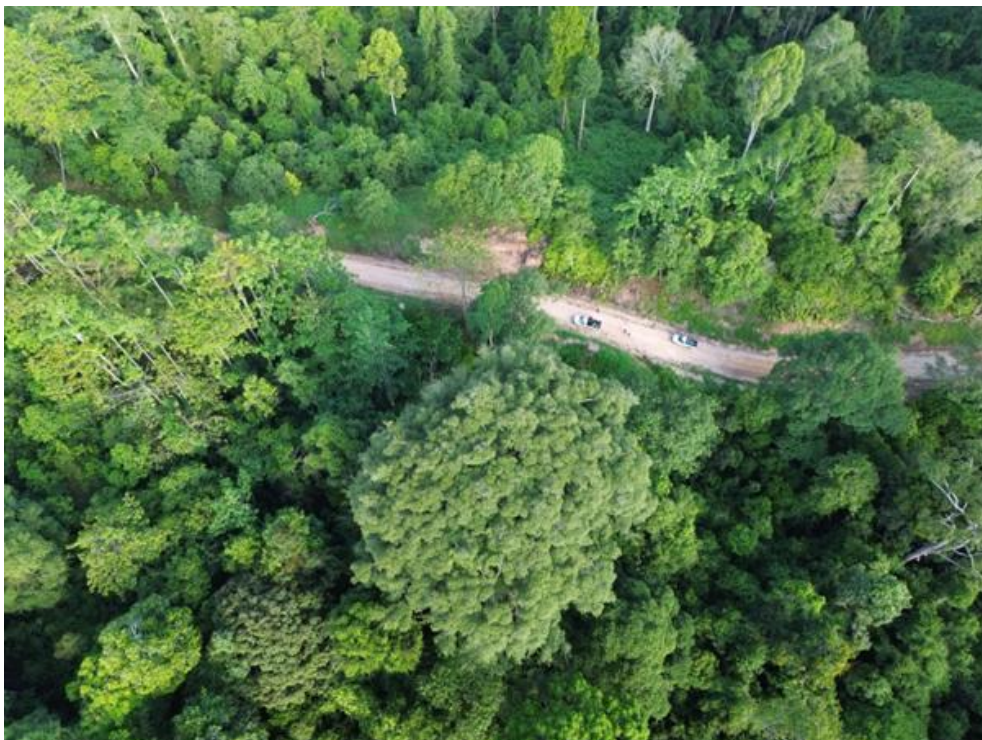




### **Belarun Safaris, Sandakan, Sabah May 22<sup>nd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2025**

Combined with the better known Deramakot, the plantation we visited has been a Commercial Forest Reserve since 1984. Unlike Deramakot, which is managed by Sabah Parks, this Plantation is run under licence by a private timber company.



The Plantation, like the Deramakot Reserve, aims to develop sustainable forest in which selected logging and subsequent replanting of saplings + their maintenance are carried out side by side. If successful, previously 'logged out' forest from before 1984 will be transformed long term into mature and diverse ecosystems. The plantation is divided into sections that are sequentially logged every 20 years, followed by sapling planting and protection, aimed at gradually achieving mature rainforest.



This report describes a 5-night visit in May 2025 organised by 1StopBorneoWildlife that now has an exclusive collaboration with the Plantation to develop wildlife tourism in the forest. Mammal watching consisted of 5 consecutive, 4-5h, night drives and also day-time drives; there was an option of boat trips on a nearby river, although this was at a high-level following rain. As such, this trip was not so intensive or long as some previously recorded trips to Deramakot: see the following 2 reports as examples:

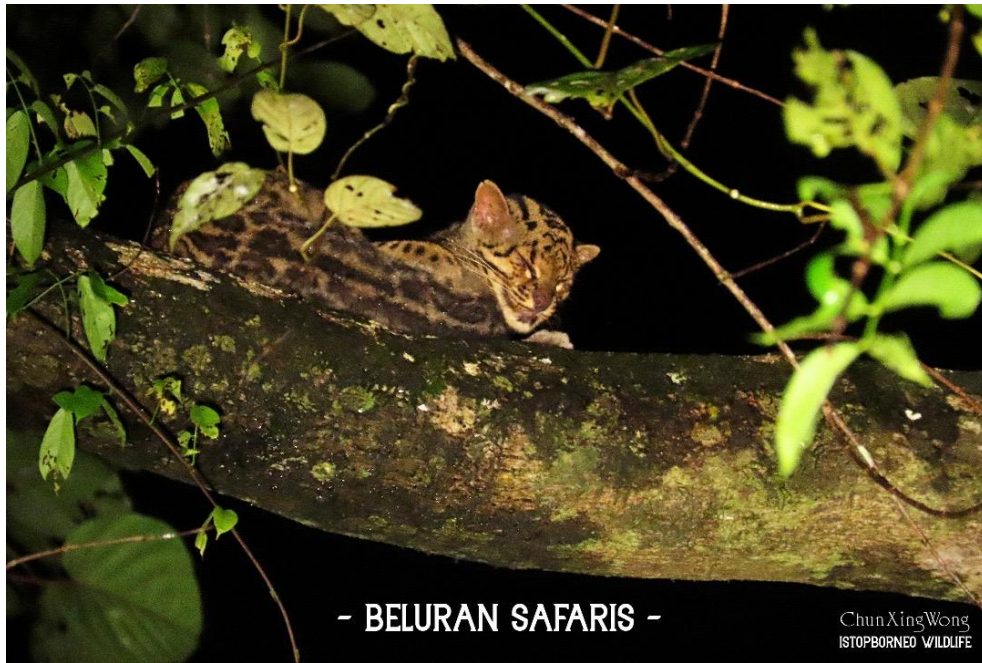
<https://www.mammalwatching.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Borneo-2023-Trip-Report.pdf>

<https://www.mammalwatching.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/BORNEO.pdf>





*Borneo Elephant May 2025*



*Marble Cat May 2025*



*Malayan Flying Fox May 2025*

Despite unseasonably heavy rainfall for this part of Sabah (resulting in 3/5 very wet night drives), the mammal count was promising. We had some good sightings on the night drives, the highlights being 3 Bornean Elephants and a single Marbled Cat (see above), high and dry in the canopy, disdainfully watching bedraggled mammal watchers below. There were also good views of Thomas's Flying Squirrel, Greater Mousedeer, Moonrat (below )and female



and male Sunda Stink Badger. The Civets often seen were the Malay and Masked Palm species.



*Moonrat May 2025*



*Stink Badger May 2025*



*Asian Palm Civet May 2025*

We had 12 separate sightings of Slow Loris:

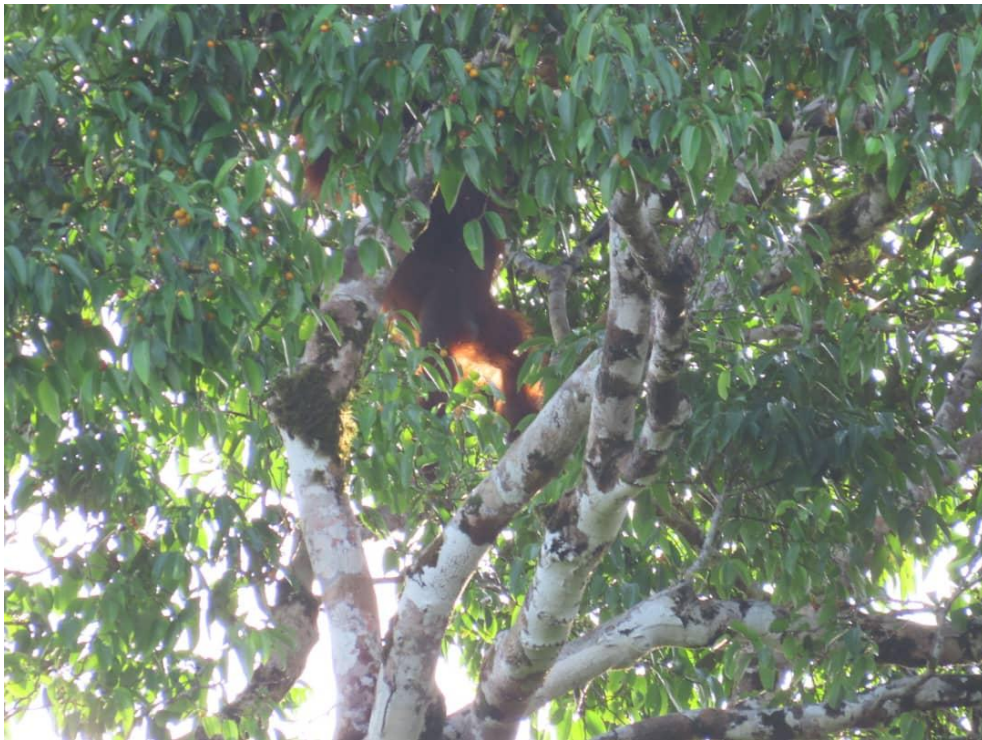


*Slow Loris May 2025*





*Orang Utan May 2025*



*Orang Utan May 2025*

But no orang utan: that is, until the final full day when a fig tree behind our accommodation began fruiting and attracted this young male, together with a pair of Rhinoceros Hornbills.



*Wrinkled Hornbill May 2025*



*Storm's Stork May 2025*

This was an enjoyable trip and promises a good future for this Plantation-1StopBorneoWildlife collaboration.

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All images were taken by Chun Xing Wong or Shavez Cheema of 1StopBorneoWildlife

