

SARAWAK GONE / THE DAM Ep02: The Forest and The Dam

By

Andrew Garton

Post-production script

Licensed under a Creative  
Commons  
Attribution 2.5 Australia  
License

Andrew Garton  
ag@toysatellite.org  
+61 409 948 280  
<http://sarawakgone.cc>  
<http://toysatellite.org>

**OPENING TITLES**

1

WIDE: BOY PADDLING IN STREAM.

TITLE: SARAWAK GONE

MUSIC: Theme music

MONTAGE: TITLES, TRUCKS, HEAVY MACHINERY, CROSSING BRIDGE,  
ENTERING FOREST

SUBTITLE: THE FOREST AND THE DAME

POV: CROSSING BRIDGE

**INTRODUCTION**

2

GRAPHICS: MAP OF MALAYSIA

We move over map of Australasia and hone in on Malaysia.

GARTON

Sarawak is one of two Malaysian states on the island of Borneo, located north-west of Australia. In 2008 I visited Upper Bengoh, west of the capital, Kuching, and the four Bidayuh villages that will be consumed by the Bengoh Dam.

GRAPHICS: MAP FOCUS ON SARAWAK

We see the island of Borneo and zero in on Sarawak.

FADE OUT

**FLORA**

3

FADE IN

MEDIUM: GARTON TO CAMERA

GARTON

Much like any forest, Sarawak's are teeming with exotic flowers, carnivorous plants, and unimaginable varieties of insects and wildlife. But by July 2010 the controversial Bengoh Dam is expected to flood 8 and-a-half square kilometres of land drowning three Bidayuh villages and countless flora and fauna. The Bengoh Dam's Environment

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GARTON (cont'd)  
 Impact Assessment, or EIA, provides what appears to be a comprehensive account of the regions biomass, but neglects to point out whether any are a protected or threatened species. Those that are could impact on these large scale construction projects, but throughout Sarawak's chequered development history, they rarely do.

MONTAGE: CLOSE UP FOREST FLORA

MUSIC: Backing music, guitar  
 Several unique ornamental ferns found in Kampong Semban, **are** a threatened species, however none are recorded in the EIA. Two carnivorous pitcher plant species located between Kampong Sait and Rejoi **are** recorded in the EIA, but are not identified as protected. All pitcher-plants, according to the Sarawak Forestry Department, are entirely protected in Sarawak, meaning they cannot be cut, trimmed, removed or in any way injured, but clearly, in Upper Bengoh, Sarawak's Wild Life Protection Ordinance of 1998, is simply ignored.

FADE OUT

## FAUNA

4

We see fast cut animation of a multitude of species recorded on Sarawak Forestry posters.

GARTON  
 (voiceover)  
 And what of all the animals in the region? With the dam's completion Upper Bengoh will lose two species of Sarawak's national symbol, the amazing Hornbill, including fifty other bird species, fourteen types of mammal, fifty-two species of fish and seven varieties of bats - all of whom **are** recorded in the EIA, but not listed as protected which clearly the rare Hornbill is and so too are all the bats.

(CONTINUED)

We cut from animation back to the forest.

EXT:

GARTON (cont'd)  
(voiceover)  
Other protected animals that will suffer or perish under the waters of the Bengoh Dam include flying squirrel, porcupine and the mmpangolin and civet cats.

GARTON (cont'd)  
(voiceover)  
Monkeys are known to raid village gardens and farms. Some are kept as pets. Yet no primates are recorded in the EIA. According to the Sarawak Forestry Department, all primates are entirely protected in Sarawak.

Other species Bidayuh villagers identified as living in Upper Bengoh, and apparently are protected too, include wild boar, deer, several types snakes and Monitor Lizard. This incredible lizard is known to be part of the Bidayuh's traditional diet. None of these species are recorded in the EIA.

GARTON (cont'd)  
(voiceover)m  
The EIA claims that those animals that aren't scared off by the sound of machinery or are unable to outrun the rising waters of the new dam, will perish. At least the Bidayuh have been offered resettlement, but they'll have been threatened, lied to, seduced by meagre compensation or forced to create a new life in an entirely different habitat losing customary rights to their traditional home lands in the process.

CUT-IN: INTERVIEW WITH SIMO INCLUDES CAPTIONS

SIMO  
We doesn't want to go any else. Because if the Government will move us from that area also to other area is belongs to others. We cannot go there.

(CONTINUED)

SUBTITLE: SIMO ANAK SEKAM, KAMPONG REJOI

GARTON

(voiceover)

The Bidayuh are themselves endangered, but they have none of the protections Sarawak's flora and fauna, whether enforced or not, are said to be given. When the bulldozers come, with their dams, palm oil plantations and resorts, steered by companies transparently woven into the fabric of a government that legislates in their interests, it seems the rights of all who live in Sarawak's forests are extinguished.

CUT TO

**TESTIMONIAL**

5

EXT: INTERVIEW JAMIS ANAK JOHN

CAPTIONS: (ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

EXT: FOREST (SLOW MOTION)

We see Bidayuh porter walking into the forest.

CAPTIONS: (ENGLISH TRANSLATION)

JAMIS ANAK JOHN

(voiceover, cont'd)

We will lose our culture, our rights to forest and land... every thing we lose...

SUBTITLE: JAMIS ANAK JOHN, KAMPUNG PAIN BOJONG

FADE OUT

CLOSING STATEMENT

6

GARTON

(voiceover)

A January 2010 deal between Malaysia and China secured an industrial corridor in Sarawak's dwindling forests for coal mining, aluminium-smelting, steel plants, hydro-electric dams and natural gas development.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

## GARTON (cont'd)

The struggles of the Bidayuh of Upper Bengoh to protect their livelihood, their culture and the forests that support them should be the concerns of all people... We have much to learn from those whose lives are not dictated by a society that sets no limits to what it will consume.

**SOURCES**

7

## SOURCES

Environmental Impact Assessment Proposed Development of Bengoh Dam across Sungai Sarawak Kiri, Kuching Sarawak, March 2007

Protected Wildlife of Sarawak identification poster  
Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation  
Sarawak Forestry Corporation, 2008

Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998  
National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998  
Sarawak Forest Department

## PHOTO SOURCES

Pitcher Plan, Photo by Richard W Sinyem, CC BY-SA 2.5

Great Hornbill, Photo by Kalyanvarma, CC BY-SA 3.0

The Wild Boar, Photo by Makro Freak, CC BY-SA 2.5

Monitor Lizard, Photo by Chris huh, CC BY-SA 2.5

**CREDITS**

8

For further information RENGAH SARAWAK  
[rengah.c2o.org](http://rengah.c2o.org)

Presented by ANDREW GARTON

Series consultant / translations SACCESS (Sarawak Access)

Written, Produced and Directed by ANDREW GARTON

Created with the support of the Bidayuh of Upper Bengoh

Produced with the assistance of Bruno-Manser-Fonds

a micro-doc by **Toy Satellite** [toysatellite.org](http://toysatellite.org)

made with anything

sarawakgone.cc

**LICENSE**

9

Licensed under a Creative Commons  
Attribution 2.5 Australia  
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.5/au/>