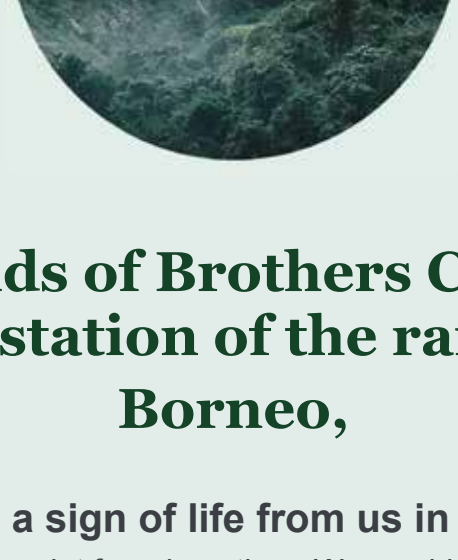




Brothers Cycling in Transition



Dear friends of Brothers Cycling and the reforestation of the rainforest in Borneo,

Finally, a sign of life from us in Borneo

We admit we have been quiet for a long time. We would like to personally apologize for this long silence. However, we are far from idle mode. It can be challenging to balance between operational and administration that spans across multiple scopes. On the positive note, during this long silence we had the opportunity to advance and initiate many things.



Bukit Piton

Thanks for your Support

We wish to inform you that with your contribution, we were able to continue to care for the 15 hectares of forest we planted in Bukit Piton Forest Reserve in 2023. This covers for both maintenance and silviculture efforts. Your donation has definitely make an important contribution to the ecosystem restoration, climate protection and moving closer to our intentions to provide habitat and food source for the wildlife. We thank you once again for your generous financial contribution to the realization of this project.



Syntropic Farming

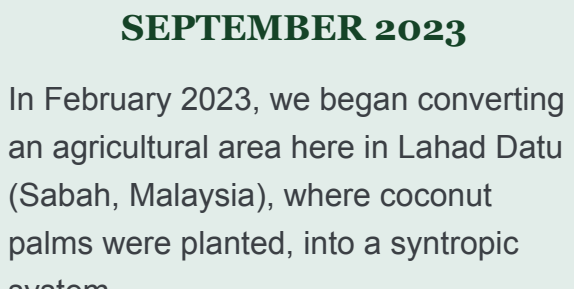
Regenerative Agriculture

In recent years, we have evolved – while we still aim to preserve and regenerate the rainforest, the aspect of sustainable agriculture has increasingly come into focus. The problem is well known: Monocultures like palm oil plantations replace biodiverse and carbon-rich forests.

To respond to this, we are currently developing an agricultural system based on ideas by Ernst Götsch (with his idea of Syntropy, <https://agendagotsch.com/de/>) Since early 2023, we have implemented Syntropy concept by specifically adapting the practice to Southeast Asian and local plants. Ernst Götsch, the inventor of Syntropy, was able to turn fallow land in Brazil into a productive and biodiverse agroforestry system based on syntropic principles within a few years. We aim to achieve the same success here in Borneo.

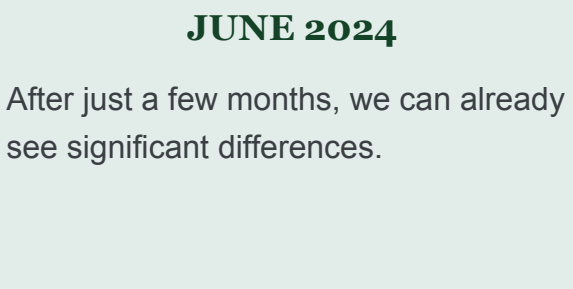
The core differences from conventional agriculture lie mainly in planting more diverse crops (e.g., coffee, cocoa, etc.; the so-called cash crops) with high yields, actively promoting their growth without using fertilizers or pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides. The cash crops are thus planted together with other plants such as trees, shrubs, or legumes, which are meant help achieve a dynamic food forest. A lot of emphasis is placed on stratification and pruning to create ideal growth conditions, such as providing shade or nutrients in the soil. This type of agriculture in combination with trees (agroforestry) thus fulfils two of our goals: more sustainable agriculture and tree planting. Yet, this is not all, as we hope that the yield of the cash crops will generate a surplus. The surplus would be the means used to further advance the financing source of the rainforest reforestation. This in the long run would provide some form of stability to the farmers & generate funds to sustainably support the long term reforestation efforts.

Syntropic Farm in Lahad Datu



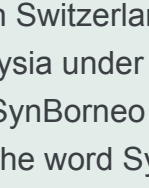
SEPTEMBER 2023

In February 2023, we began converting an agricultural area here in Lahad Datu (Sabah, Malaysia), where coconut palms were, into a syntropic system.



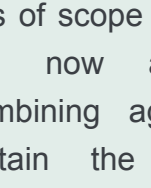
JUNE 2024

After just a few months, we can already see significant differences.



Foundation and NGO

We are in the process of forming two non-profit organizations to be established in Switzerland and an NGO in Malaysia under the name SynBorneo. SynBorneo is in reference to the word Syntropic and Borneo. As paperwork and registration are in progress, the website is now up. However, until the foundations are established, we will continue the fundings under the Brothers Cycling structure. This means donations and membership fees will still be processed through Brothers Cycling. Once everything is in place (which we feel will take a while), the funds will flow into the Swiss SynBorneo Foundation.



Changes and Directions

Brothers Cycling is thus evolving, both in terms of scope (in addition to reforestation, now also moving towards combining agroforestry to further sustain the reforestation funds) and structure. We are reorganizing Brothers' Cycling to SynBorneo, as this project is no longer just about the funds generated by the Brothers through their cycling milage. As you have contributed positively through your donation for reforestation work in Bukit Piton Forest Reserve. Some of you have even visited/revisited Bukit Piton and thus get an idea on the reforestation work we started in 2017. In line with relevance and sustainably contributing towards a greener space, global community efforts are much needed to keep reforestation work and effort ongoing in Sabah through SynBorneo.



Newest additions

Prof. Maurus Schifferli

Prof. Maurus Schifferli is Europe's well-known landscape architect and runs his own office in Bern, Basel, and Jakarta (Indonesia). A newly appointed Professor at University of Karlsruhe from September 2024, Prof Schifferli scientific interests includes urban greening as well as analysis of syntropic agricultural systems and landscape repairs. He will lead the Synborneo foundation in Switzerland as a director.

- Sustainability
- Urban Integration
- Innovative
- Solutions



Newest additions

Dr. Nadine Keller

Dr Nadine Keller is currently a scientist at the National University of Singapore. Over the span of six years, Dr Keller has been researching on tropical ecology as part of her doctorate studies at ETH Zurich and now as research fellow in Sabah. As a forest ecologist, she has in depth knowledge in reforestation, trees, soils, and her keen interest remains strongly at preserving the rainforests of Borneo.

- Ecologist
- Reforestation
- Preservation

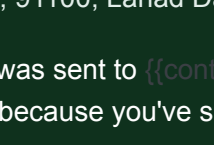
A whole new future ahead

We look forward to the upcoming changes to further secure ongoing reforestation efforts and community contribution in this region. We hope that we continue to receive your support in this green endeavors!

Kind regards
Simon Werren

BE A MEMBER

DONATE



SynBorneo

Taman Happ Heng, 91100, Lahad Datu/Malaysia/Sabah

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