

Book reviews

sites of long-term studies of primate socio-ecology' that looks as though it was thrown together in a hurry and does not even include major sites that are mentioned elsewhere in the book. Strum gives a useful review of the Kenyan approach to primate conservation, but spoils it by emphasizing that the pragmatism she describes is unique and should be followed by other countries. I can immediately think of similar approaches in Cameroon, Indonesia and Malaysia, just to name three examples, as a basis for the more fruitful process of mutual learning. In these and quite a few other cases intelligent refereeing could have drawn the authors' attention to minor errors, relevant literature, and so on.

Nevertheless, there is a fair amount of wheat among the chaff. Zoo breeders will find useful the practical guidance in papers by Stevenson (on callitrichids) and Izard and Simons (on bush-babies), and the more ecological papers contain some first-rate work. Terborgh contributes to three intellectually stimulating papers on South American primates, and Harrison must be especially commended for applying elegant scientific methodology to a question about the diet of folivorous African monkeys. All in all, *Primate Ecology and Conservation* is probably a necessary purchase for any institutional primate library, with the sections on 'Primate-Human Conflict', 'Conservation: Trends and Practice' and 'Primate Conservation in the Broader Realm' being of most immediate relevance to conservationists.

Michael Kavanagh, *World Wildlife Fund-Malaysia*.

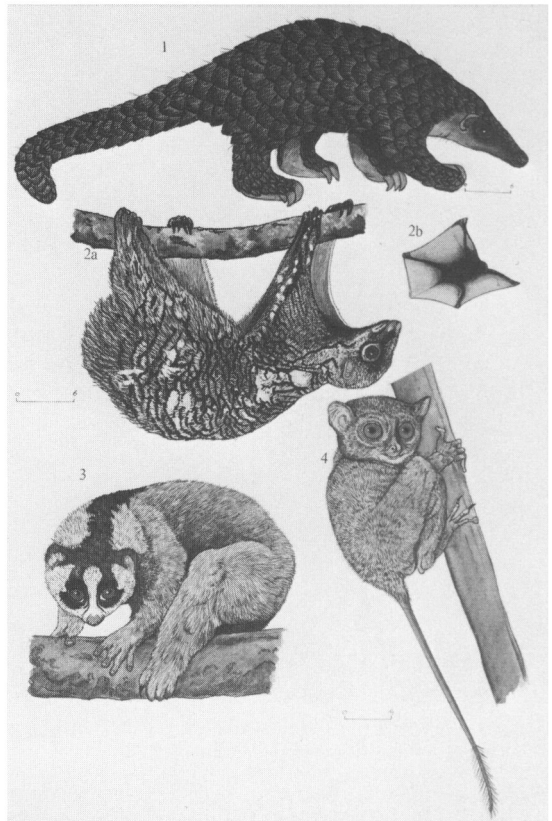
Tropical Rain Forest in South-East Asia—A Pictorial Journey

Ken Rubeli

Tropical Press, 29 Jalan Riong, 59100 Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 1986, US \$32.00

'It can't be very often that a reviewer gets a chance to write, 'Hurry! Hurry! Buy now, while stocks last!', but this is certainly applicable to Ken Rubeli's beautiful book. Rubeli, an Australian, has been enlivening Malaysia's conservation community for over a decade now, and *Tropical Rain Forest in South-East Asia* is a distillation of what he has learned during that time. Unfortunately, only 2000 copies were printed and they are selling like hot cakes in Malaysia.

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A colour plate from *A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo* showing: 1. pangolin *Manis javanica*; 2. colugo or flying lemur *Cynocephalus variegatus*; 3. slow loris *Nycticebus coucang*; and 4. western tarsier *Tarsius bancanus*.

Rubeli clearly loves the forest, and he wants to share the object of his affections with the world. In words and pictures he explains not just the individual wonders, but the fascinating complexity of how the ecosystem fits together. He gives a superb introduction to the subject at a level that will appeal to experts as much as novices. The book comes not a day too soon: as Rubeli points out, South-East Asia's rainforest is already a 'half-eaten cake', and conservation priorities must be acted upon now to save what is left. Generating a widely held, positive appreciation of the forest in Malaysia and Indonesia must be one of those priorities, and to this Rubeli has undoubtedly made an important contribution.

Michael Kavanagh, *World Wildlife Fund—Malaysia*.

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