

# Indonesia

## Gunung Leuser



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**Declaration date:** 1981

**Surface area:** 1,094,692 hectares

**Administrative division:** Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and North Sumatra Provinces

### Human activities:

More than four million people live within or adjacent to the Gunung Leuser National Park, with many different ethnic groups represented. Most of them are farmers and depend very much on the protection of this park for their subsistence. Paddy fields, mixed gardens, and small-scale and medium estates of rubber and oil-palm receive a consistent water supply from this park.

### Protection classifications:

Gunung Leuser was declared a national park by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1980, and designated under the decree of the Ministry of Forestry No. 276/Kpts-VI/1997, covering a total area of 1,094,692 hectares. In July 2004 together with Kerinci Seblat and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Parks the three parks were inscribed as a World Heritage cluster titled the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (TRHS).

### Contact information:

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### Ecological characteristics:

Gunung Leuser NP is proven as a rich yet vulnerable natural laboratory. MacKinnon and MacKinnon (1986) stated that Gunung Leuser has the highest score for its conservation contribution to Indo-Malaya conservation area. Leuser is a habitat for most fauna, ranging from mam-



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mals, birds, reptiles, amphibians to fish and invertebrates. It is a region which has the longest list of birds in the world, up to 380 species with 350 of them found in this Park. Gunung Leuser is also home to 36 of 50 Sundaland endemic bird species. Almost 65% of 129 species of mammals in Sumatra is recorded in this area. Gunung Leuser ecosystem is a habitat for key fauna such as Sumatra elephant (*Elephas maximus sumatranus*), tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), rhinoceros (*Dicerorhinus sumatrensis*) and orang-utan (*Pongo abelii*). The Park is also habitat to owa (*Hylobates lar*) and kedih (*Presbytis thomasi*). There are also more than 4,000 plant species found in the Park, including 3 of 15 parasite Rafflesia. Thus, it is a habitat of many medical plants (Brimacombe and Elliot, 1996). As a natural laboratory, Gunung Leuser is important for conservation, education, scientific research for local and foreign researchers and ecotourism. Orangutan Research Station in Ketambe, Southeast Aceh District, is one of the oldest research stations, opened by Dr. Herman D. Rijksen, and is still an interesting location for researchers.

