

Berawang Baro

SUMTIPA004



Country: Sumatera
Administrative region: Aceh (Province)
Central co-ordinates: 4.41262 N, 96.65739 E
Area: 36.7km²

Berawang Baro is located in the western part of the Gayo Plateau in the Aceh Province. This area consists of submontane vegetation growing on undulating terrain with an elevation starting from 980 to around 1590 m. The forest grows on the uplifted Meulaboh formation (Muksin et al. 2023) and there are several montane bogs that exist in this area that act as water catchments. The montane bogs are special in having a unique composition of flora, marked by the presence of specialized, endemic, and threatened species. The landscape is a non-strictly protected forest, but practically not a conservation area, managed by the Ministry of Forestry.

Qualifying IPA criteria

A(i)

IPA assessment rationale

Berawang Baro is an important habitat for the globally threatened pitcher plant (*Nepenthes lavicola*), habitat to the entire global population of montane bogs endemic *Coelogyne albomarginata*, and significant populations of northern Gayo endemic *Bulbophyllum wibowoajii* as well as *Nepenthes longiptera*. The forest is highly threatened by ongoing forest conversion mainly from agriculture and related activities. Some highly ornamental species like orchids and pitcher plants are being harvested by illegal poachers and sold to the market, alongside the *Sphagnum* mosses growing on the forest floor.

Botanical significance

Berawang Baro harbours the most important population of the globally threatened *Nepenthes lavicola* (CR), the Berawang Baro endemic and heavily-poached *Coelogyne albomarginata* (Yudistira et al. 2024), the population of the potentially threatened northern Gayo endemic *Nepenthes longiptera* (Victoriano 2021), and a large portion of highly-poached *Bulbophyllum wibowoajii*. The forest stand consists of the Sumatra endemic tree, *Magnolia sumatrae*, a data deficient and potentially threatened species (Mustaqim pers. obs.). This forest is underexplored and there are some possible new species found in this area. Recently, a population of *Corybas geminigibbus* has just been recorded for Sumatra (Mustaqim et al. 2024). The bogs are a unique habitat, marked by an abundance amount of *Sphagnum* mosses, and the presence of carnivorous

Site description

plants – besides *N. lavicola* and *N. longiptera*, there is also a Sumatra endemic *Nepenthes tobaica*.

Habitat and geology

Located mostly in the submontane zone of Sumatra montane ecoregions (Olson et al. 2001), this area is rich in plants. Forests in this area are categorized as submontane to transition to montane forests. Some scattered giant-sized trees of the Vulnerable *Pinus merkusii* also can be found. On poor soils, Ericaceae like *Rhododendron* and *Vaccinium* can easily be found. The unique habitat that exists in this area is montane bogs. The vegetation in this area consists of dwarfed forests but is rich in shrubs and herbs, particularly orchids. Berawang Baro occurs mostly in the Meulaboh rock formation, relatively isolated from the others which occur in the coastal area in the west, probably uplifted during the formation of the Barisan Mountain ranges (Muksin et al. 2023).

Conservation issues

Habitat conversion for agriculture, settlements, and road facilities are the main threats to this habitat. The main commodity of the plantation is known as Gayo coffee. The plantation is in the marginal area of the vast total, nearly 100.000 hectares of coffee plantations in the northern Gayo Plateau (Gayo et al. 2018). Smaller trees in this area are chopped for temporary construction like huts built by the local farmers in their plantations. Plants, especially orchids and pitcher plants, are routinely harvested and sold to the market. Besides that, mosses growing on the forest floor of montane bogs are also harvested and sold as media for ornamental plants.

Site assessor(s)

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Date of first assessment:

2nd Jun 2025

IPA criterion A species

SPECIES	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 1% OF GLOBAL POPULATION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL POPULATION	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	ENTIRE GLOBAL POPULATION	SOCIO-ECONOMICALLY IMPORTANT	ABUNDANCE AT SITE
<i>Coelogyne albomarginata</i> Yulistira, Schuit. & J.Champ.	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	✓	—	Abundant
<i>Bulbophyllum wibowojii</i> Jenny & R.Amsler	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Abundant
<i>Magnolia sumatrae</i> (Dandy) Figlar & Noot.	A(i)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Occasional
<i>Nepenthes lavicola</i> Wistuba & Rischer	A(i)	✓	—	—	—	—	Occasional
<i>Nepenthes longiptera</i> Victoriano	A(iii)	✓	✓	✓	—	—	Scarce
<i>Disepalum platypetalum</i> Merr.	A(iv)	✓	—	—	—	—	Occasional

IPA criterion C qualifying habitats

HABITAT	QUALIFYING SUB-CRITERION	≥ 5% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	≥ 10% OF NATIONAL RESOURCE	1 OF 5 BEST SITES NATIONALLY	AREAL COVERAGE AT SITE
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General site habitats

GENERAL SITE HABITAT	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Forest - Subtropical/Tropical Moist Montane Forest	—	Major
Wetlands (inland) - Bogs, Marshes, Swamps, Fens, Peatlands [generally over 8 ha]	—	Minor

Land use types

LAND USE TYPE	PERCENT COVERAGE	IMPORTANCE
Agriculture (arable)	—	Major
Harvesting of wild resources	—	Minor

Threats

THREAT	SEVERITY	TIMING
Residential & commercial development - Housing & urban areas	Low	Ongoing - stable
Agriculture & aquaculture - Annual & perennial non-timber crops - Small-holder farming	High	Ongoing - increasing
Biological resource use - Gathering terrestrial plants - Intentional use (species being assessed is the target)	Low	Ongoing - stable

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