

# **Lore Lindu National Park, Indonesia**



**Bruce McKelvie**

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Written and compiled by Bruce McKelvie

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## Contents

### Sulawesi Map

### Biogeography of Sulawesi and Lore Lindu

### The Establishment of Lore Lindu National Park

- Conflicts of Interest
- A Major Threat to the Lindu Area

### Climate

### Flora

- Lowland Tropical Rain Forest
- Montane Rain Forest
- Elfin Woodland
- Plants, the Forest and Human usage:
- Damar
- Rattans
- Sugar Palms
- Medicinal Plants



### Fauna

- Anoa
- Babirusa
- Bats
- Birds
- Sulawesi Palm Civet
- Small Sulawesi Cuscus
- Bear Cuscus
- Macaque
- Snakes
- Tarsier



### Human Habitation

- Megaliths
- Visiting Lore Lindu

### About the Author

# Sulawesi



**See the following brief excerpts:**

The Lore Lindu National Park is on the island of Sulawesi. Formerly known as Celebes, Sulawesi is at the centre of the Indonesian archipelago just east of the island of Borneo...

The Lore Lindu National Park has many unique features, tall timber rainforests, high mountains, wild rivers, hot springs, unique wildlife and a rich variety of cultures...

**Biogeography of Sulawesi and Lore Lindu**

Sulawesi is the world's eleventh largest island, with an area of 174,600 km<sup>2</sup>. The island is surrounded by Borneo to the west, the Philippines to the north, Maluku to the east and Flores and Timor to the south. The island has a distinctive shape, dominated by four large peninsulas.

Sulawesi has played an important part in developing our understanding of ecological processes. The naturalist Sir Alfred Russel Wallace, considered the father of biogeography, travelled the Indonesian archipelago in the nineteenth century. He spent much of his time in Sulawesi observing the variety of plants and animals there. He worked at the same time as, but independently of Charles Darwin, to develop the theory of evolution....

...Very unusual and little known is the existence of marsupials, generally only found in Australia...

...Lore Lindu is widely considered to be one of the biologically richest places on Earth and in 1993 the Lore Lindu National Park was officially declared.

...It is globally recognized as a centre for plant diversity and as an endemic mammal and bird area by such groups as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Birdlife International, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

### **Elfin Woodland**

Above 2,000 metres and into the cloud line it is cool and the humidity is virtually 100%. Mosses carpet the forest floor and lichens hang from every twig and branch. Shrubs, colourful herbs and grasses also cover the ground. The tree canopy is more uniform and the trees are more squat and gnarled with smaller, thicker leaves. High rainfall leaches the soil of nutrients and restricts plant growth, which encourages plants like the Pitcher plant to grow, which gains nutrition from trapping insects.



Elfin Woodland



Pitcher plant

## Fauna

**Anoa** (*Anoa quarlesi*). A close relative of the Water Buffalo it has brown or black hair and conical horns and stands only 75 centimetres at the shoulder. It is unique in that of the five species of wild cattle in Southeast Asia, this is the only one whose major habitat is undisturbed forest....

...The Anoa is considered endangered and has been hunted almost to the point of extinction. Lore Lindu National Park is now one of its' last refuges.



Anoa

The Maleo uses external heat sources to incubate its' eggs. It commonly nests on sandy beaches heated by the sun, hot springs or volcanic vents...



Maleo



Bear Cuscus





Tonkean Macaque

...Tarsiers have very large eyes, ears that are mobile and long feet. Their feet have extremely elongated tarsus bones, which is how their name comes about. It is the world's smallest primate, but is not considered a monkey.



Tarsier

I have been travelling to Sulawesi and the Lore Lindu area for over nine years and my wife originates from the Lore Lindu area. Together we own land there bordering National Park rain forest. There we are growing trees, running ducks, chickens, fish and buffalo. It is a beautiful place, restful and restorative with very friendly, very fascinating and remarkably talented neighbours.

