



RIMBA RAYA

BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

CLIMATE. COMMUNITY. BIODIVERSITY.



Welcome to RIMBA RAYA

Across the world, deforestation is eating away our carbon-rich forests at the alarming rate of one acre per minute. Each year in Indonesia alone, destruction of forests in the interests of pulp & paper and palm oil production lay bare a landmass the size of Belgium. According to the Forest Trends Association, it's estimated that if the current pace of deforestation continues unabated, by the year 2022 there simply won't be any Indonesian forests left.

But on the southern coast of Borneo, in the province of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, one massive ancient forest stands defiant: Rimba Raya, "The Infinite Forest." Once designated for destruction and conversion into a palm oil plantation, Rimba Raya is now dedicated to the protection and preservation of hundreds of at-risk species—most notably, the endangered Bornean Orangutan whose population has declined over 95% in the last century.

"Rimba Raya is one of the most important Orangutan conservation projects in the world. It represents nothing less than the promise of survival for the endangered Orangutan."

-Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas



RIMBA RAYA

Provides, Preserves and Protects

Tropical peat swamp forests like Rimba Raya are known to host some of the world's most biodiverse habitats, with as many as 1,000 plant and animal species per square kilometer. Additionally, they are among the world's largest repositories of carbon, that when slashed, burned and drained for conversion to palm oil, become one of the world's single largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions.

Rimba Raya protects over 640 square kilometers (250 square miles) of tropical peat forest and forms a vital patrolled buffer zone between the ever-encroaching bulldozers of the palm oil industry and the Tanjung Puting National Park, home to one of the last remaining wild populations of orangutans on earth.





RIMBA RAYA

Our Three-fold Mission

At a time of otherwise unprecedented destruction of Indonesian forests, Rimba Raya is the world's largest initiative to protect and preserve lowland peat swamp forests - one of the most highly endangered ecosystems in the world.

Rimba Raya is a living example of an economically viable alternative to deforestation. By selling carbon credits based on the rich carbon stores of our forest, we can protect endangered species, contribute to the local economy by creating jobs, provide access to clean water and health services while fostering principles of sustainable growth amongst our local communities.

To accomplish our mission, we strive for operational exceptionalism across the three industry-standard measures of climate, community and biodiversity.



Rimba Raya developed the industry's first independently verified carbon accounting standard for avoided deforestation (REDD+). We were also the first REDD+ forest-carbon project in the world to receive triple-gold validation under the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance Standard (CCBA) and the first REDD+ project to validate under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS).

REDD+



VCS | VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD



Ensuring the Integrity of Our CLIMATE

Through Avoided Deforestation and Conservation

We don't always consider how our daily consumption of food and fuel could potentially threaten a forest half a world away. Yet every day, ancient forests like Rimba Raya are felled, burned and drained to make room for the production of the palm oil contained in over half of the products in our pantries.

Indonesia is already the world's largest producer of palm oil, and there are plans to now double output over the next few years to 47 million tons—accounting for 80% of the world's consumption.

This production surge will proliferate widespread deforestation and accelerate contamination of the air, soil and surrounding rivers. And worse still, billions of tonnes of carbon will be released—posing a long-term threat to our global climate.

In stark contrast, the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve, with over 64,000 hectares (158,150 acres) of carbon-rich tropical peat forest and an emissions avoidance capacity of over 130 million tonnes, is perhaps the single largest emissions avoidance project in the world.

That's the equivalent of removing one million cars from the world's highways every year for the next 30 years.

37m

acres are deforested every year across the globe.*

“If we lose the battle against tropical deforestation, we lose the battle against climate change.”

-Charles Philip Arthur George,
Prince of Wales





Developing and enhancing our Local COMMUNITY

Through Education, Health & Capacity Building

In order for our conservation efforts to be successful, we must address the vital human equation that drives deforestation – chronic poverty. Communities throughout the developing world, and certainly those adjacent to Rimba Raya, live on the margins and are often forced to prioritize, valuing their short-term economic survival over long-term ecological consequences.

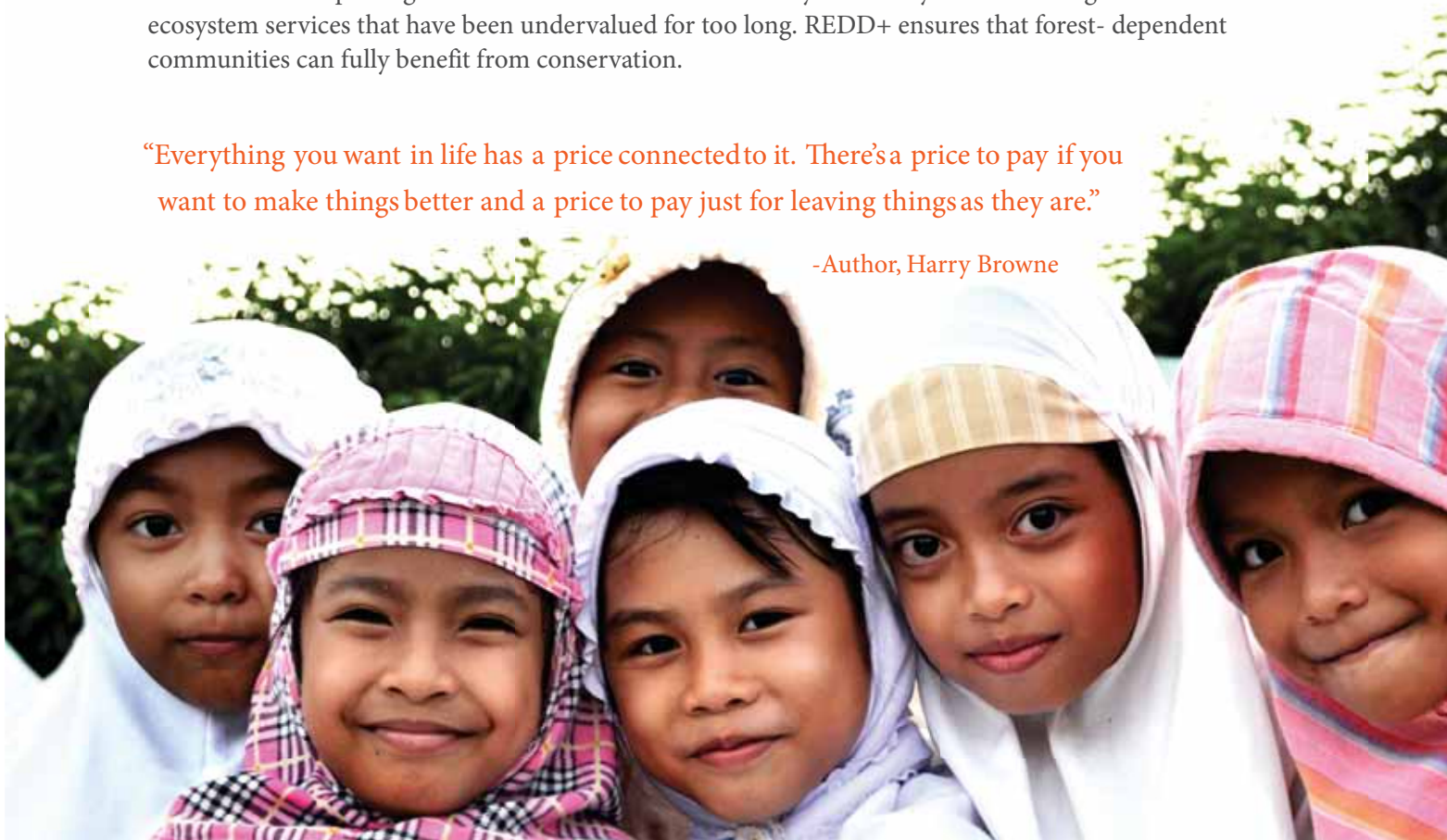
The developing world's right to harness their natural resources cannot be marginalized. If we are really serious about forest conservation, then we must accept the responsibility to provide education and employment—and to offer viable alternative land-uses for this, non-renewable resource.

Part of how we accomplish this at Rimba Raya is to provide alternative income streams through capacity building, investments in micro-finance and programs that provide basic necessities such as access to clean water and affordable healthcare services. To achieve this goal, we have developed a new growth/conservation model that does not put the developing world's need for economic growth at odds with our collective responsibility for environmental sustainability. Additionally, our community development programs are designed to meet all eight of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (UN MDGs), which focus on the rights and welfare of women and children as the primary vehicle for the eradication of chronic poverty. For more information on these goals, please visit: un.org/millenniumgoals.

This critical balance of economic liberty and ecological accountability is the very essence of REDD+. It is an all-encompassing standard that we strive to achieve by concretely understanding the value of ecosystem services that have been undervalued for too long. REDD+ ensures that forest-dependent communities can fully benefit from conservation.

“Everything you want in life has a price connected to it. There's a price to pay if you want to make things better and a price to pay just for leaving things as they are.”

-Author, Harry Browne





Developing and Enhancing Our local Community

CLEAN WATER

Protecting the children of Rimba Raya from lethal Waterborne diseases

Across the world, the death rate of waterborne diseases from poor sanitation claims the lives of over 1.5 million people a year. Even in our technologically advanced world, over 2.5 billion people live without basic sanitation—and nearly half of them are children.

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Foundation is providing funding to provide a low maintenance, ceramic water filter to each and every household in the project area.

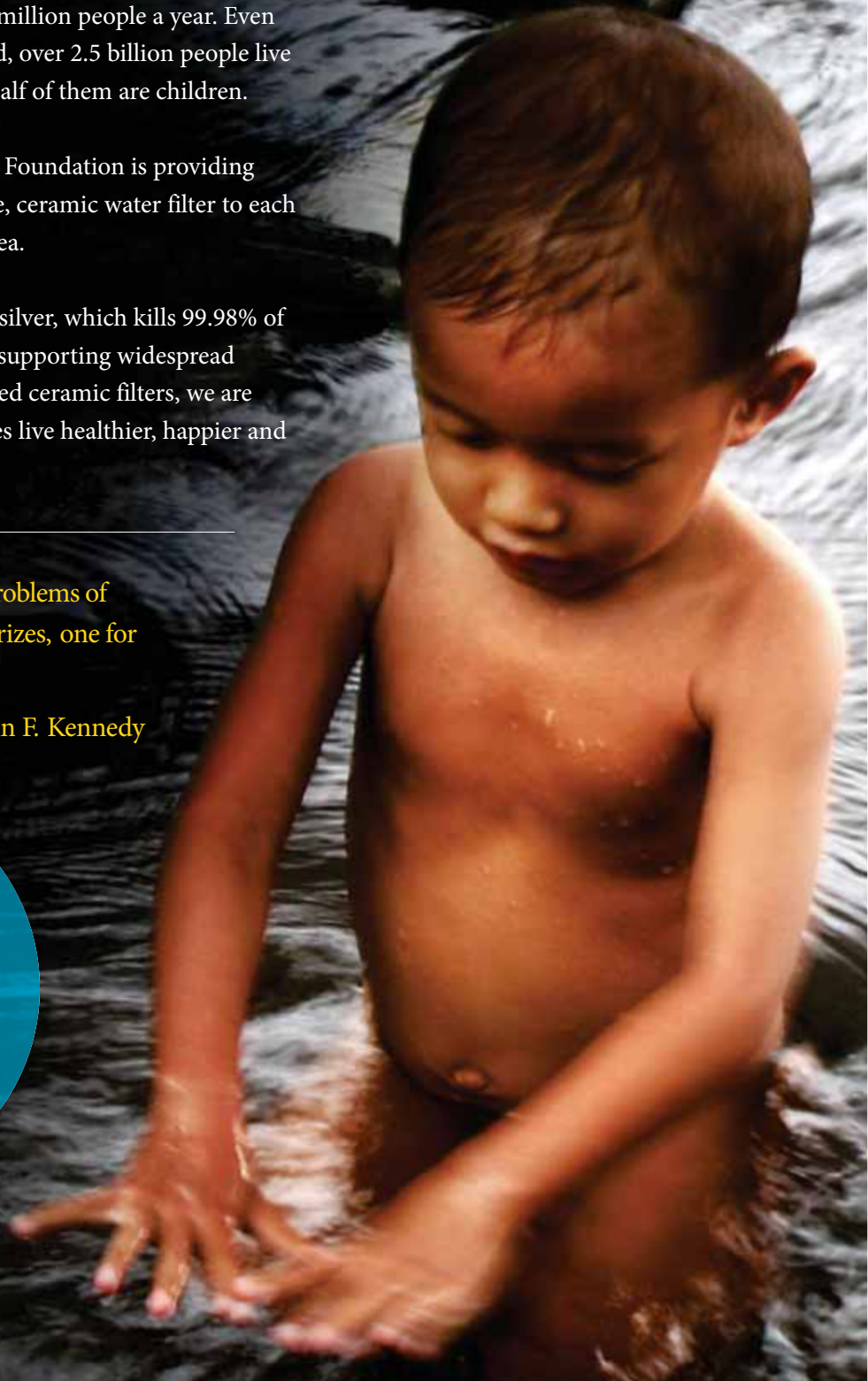
These filters are coated with colloidal silver, which kills 99.98% of pathogens from unsanitary water. By supporting widespread distribution of colloidal silver enhanced ceramic filters, we are helping the people of our communities live healthier, happier and longer lives.

“The person who solves the water problems of the world should win two Nobel Prizes, one for Science and one for Peace.”

-President, John F. Kennedy

21sec

how often a water related illness claims a child's life





Developing and Enhancing Our local Community

COOK STOVES

Fostering healthier living through fuel-efficient cook stoves

The bulldozers of industrial agribusiness are not the only threats to our forests and our climate. Fuel wood harvesting for cooking is a major cause of deforestation and degradation throughout the world. What's more, household air pollution from the 3 billion plus conventional biomass cooking stoves in use around the world is the fourth largest health risk globally. Over 4 million people die (one person every 8 seconds) every year from exposure to conventional cook stove smoke—and even more from cancer, chronic lung disease and illegal logging related to fuel wood burning and gathering.

Here at Rimba Raya, as part of our three-fold mission to practice excellence across the full spectrum of climate, community and biodiversity, we have instituted a fuel-efficient cook stove distribution program among local villagers. This effort reduces the need for fuel wood harvesting by 50%, reduces indoor pollution and encourages safer cooking practices; all aimed at promoting a healthier and more sustainable growth model amongst the surrounding communities.

8sec

How often conventional cook stove smoke claims a life.





9x

Indonesia's infant mortality rate compared to the US and Europe.

Maintaining the Balance: HEALTH IN HARMONY

A partnership for affordable healthcare

While we strive to eliminate deforestation of any kind, the stark reality is that basic human needs are often pitted against the integrity of the very natural environment on which those individuals depend. In a medical crisis, villagers may be forced to turn to logging to pay for medical debts. But, when affordable healthcare is available, illegal logging can be reduced or eliminated entirely.

Rimba Raya, through funding from the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Foundation, has developed a partnership with Health in Harmony and Alam Sehat Lestari (ASRI) to provide innovative, conservation-for-healthcare exchange programs that provide affordable and non-cash healthcare to the forest dependent communities in Indonesian Borneo.

Developed by Dr. Kinari Webb and Dr. Hotlin Ompusunggu, the program has won international recognition and accolades for creating a new integrated approach to addressing human and environmental health.



HEALTH IN HARMONY
SAVING FORESTS • SAVING LIVES



Developing and Enhancing Our local Community

ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT

The economic needs of forest-dependent communities lie at the heart of everything we do at Rimba Raya. We recognize that this is one of the most complex and sensitive underlying causes of forest degradation today. The environmental and human condition are inextricably linked. Consequently, we are committed to addressing our communities' economic needs while promoting conservation.

Rimba Raya has developed numerous alternative employment programs aimed at reducing or eliminating illegal logging or palm oil production, including:

- Community Based Forest Patrol & Survey Teams
- Community Based Fire Brigades
- Guard Post and Fire Tower Construction
- Guides
- Boat Pilots

Creating New Opportunities COMMUNITY FARMS

After decades of an unsustainable dependency on the nearby forests, some communities surrounding the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve have suffered considerably as a result of forest degradation. Many of the communities have experienced a steep decline in their standard of living as these forests can no longer sustain them. Fish harvests have plummeted; high value timber species and other forest products derivatives have been exhausted.

As part of our integrated approach to conservation and community development, we have undertaken a reforestation effort that combines planting native cash crops such as “Jelutung” (jungle rubber), fruit trees and Gembor—a tree with bark that yields a valuable essential oil—with natural forest regeneration. This unique model ensures biodiverse regeneration of previously degraded areas of forest. It also addresses the food security concerns of local communities and provides a higher density of natural food sources for the beloved population of endangered wild and repatriated orangutans that call Rimba Raya home.





Preserving Our BIODIVERSITY

Through Preservation of Endangered Species

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve is home to over 300 species of birds, 122 species of mammals, and 180 species of trees and plants. While preserving this forest that shelters all of these species, we maintain a special commitment to the protection of the endangered Bornean Orangutan.

One of only three remaining species of great apes, these docile, rare and marvelously expressive creatures once inhabited the tropical forests of southern China, throughout Thailand, the Malaysian peninsula and the Indonesian archipelago. Today, they are found only in a few isolated and fragmented forests on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra – two areas that hold the dubious honor of regularly hosting the highest deforestation rates in the world.

Rimba Raya works in close partnership with the Orangutan Foundation International, and their Orangutan Care Center, to develop and administer programs committed to the long-term protection of Borneo's vanishing Orangutan. We are also committed to the conservation of the Tanjung Puting National Park, home to the world renowned Camp Leakey Research Center.

50%

Percentage decline in the wild orangutan population in less than 20 years.*

*Orangutan Foundation International



“The price of anything is the amount of life you exchange for it.”

-Naturalist and Philosopher Henry David Thoreau





Protector in Residence DR. BIRUTÉ GALDIKAS

The world's foremost authority on the endangered orangutan

At the heart of our work with Borneo's Orangutans, Rimba Raya enjoys an enduring partnership with renowned primatologist and conservationist, Dr. Biruté Galdikas. In 1971, at the age of 25, Biruté Mary Galdikas was chosen as one of the three female protégés of world famous anthropologist, Dr. Louis Leakey. Her mission was to go to Borneo in order to research the "last arboreal great ape left on Earth", the endangered orangutan. Biruté Galdikas, along with Dian Fossey and Jane Goodall would form the famed trio known as "Leakey's Angels".

From the abandoned forester's hut where she first landed, she has built the world famous Camp Leakey Research Center—and later co-founded the Orangutan Foundation International Rehabilitation Center (OFI), home to over 300 injured or orphaned Orangutans.

Rimba Raya, is honored to help support Dr. Galdikas' lifelong quest to preserve and protect the vanishing forests that provide a natural habitat for endangered orangutans in Borneo.



Rimba Raya

BIODIVERSITY RESERVE



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