

# Seeds of Change

Newsletter

1st Quarter 2014



InfiniteEARTH  
Beyond Carbon. Beyond Sustainability.



## REDD+ DELIVERS SEEDS OF CHANGE!

Just months after completing issuing its first credits, the Rimba Raya project is in full swing and benefits are flowing to communities, the environment and to orangutans. Already the project has delivered clean water filters and fuel-efficient, smokeless cook stoves to the communities adjacent to the project area. Its latest initiative was planting some 40,000 trees in an area illegally deforested by the palm oil company with whom the company has clashed for 5 long years. Sometime in early 2013, shortly before Rimba Raya finally won its decisive battle to secure the clean title to the project area, the palm oil company “accidentally” crossed over its boundaries and within a week had cleared and cut drainage canals in an 80 hectare area—despite the protests of nearby community members and Rimba Raya staff. Forestry officials subsequently confirmed that the incursion was illegal and security forces were sent to support Rimba Raya’s reforestation effort.

With a grant from the InfiniteEARTH Foundation, 40,000 seedlings were purchased, a greenhouse was built and the communities were paid to replant the area. Two indigenous species of rubber and gum trees were planted in a 50% density configuration known as the “jungle rubber” model. In this model, indigenous cash crop species are planted in larger spacing than a normal plantation, allowing the natural regeneration of mixed native species to compete with the cash crops.

Studies have shown that this benefits the productivity of the cash crops and allows for a more natural diversified reforestation of degraded areas. These same communities will be the custodians of these “seminatural” plantations and will be allowed to benefit 100% from its future harvest.



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InfiniteEARTH is in early conversations with Bridgestone Tire, who are scheduled to visit the project site in March of this year, as a means to make direct market connections for the future rubber harvest. The same will be done for (chewing) gum with companies like Wrigley's to be targeted.



"Rimba Raya was never designed to be a welfare program. We believe that a program of cash payments from carbon sales is the worst thing we can do for these communities. Aside from providing health and education benefits, the most important thing we can do is so finance income diversification opportunities like this as a means of changing the unsustainable relationship these communities have had with the forest historically" said Todd Lemons, CEO of InfiniteEARTH, the project developer. Mr. Lemons went on further to say that, "It would be irresponsible for us to make these communities dependent on cash revenues

from carbon sales, given the uncertainty of the carbon markets. Our goal is to use carbon revenues to finance a paradigm shift whereby the communities begin to thrive, independently, from a sustainable forest-conservation model, rather than an unsustainable extractive model. The changes we make at Rimba Raya today have to be sustainable for generations into the future, even in our absence or the absence of carbon markets."

## **Passing VCS Verification**

Rimba Raya has successfully passed its 2nd VCS Verification Audit by Environmental Services, verifying over 8.5 million tons of Gold level credits under the CCD Standard. During its first verification by SCS Global Services, the SCS audit team confirmed that Indonesia's Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve had generated 2,181,352 Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. No REDD project had ever been issued this quantity of VCUs for a single year reporting period. "The Rimba Raya project has undergone a lengthy and complex review process," said Dr. Robert J. Hurbes, SCS Executive Vice President. "The scale of this project is truly precedent setting, demonstrating a strong market value in preserving forests."

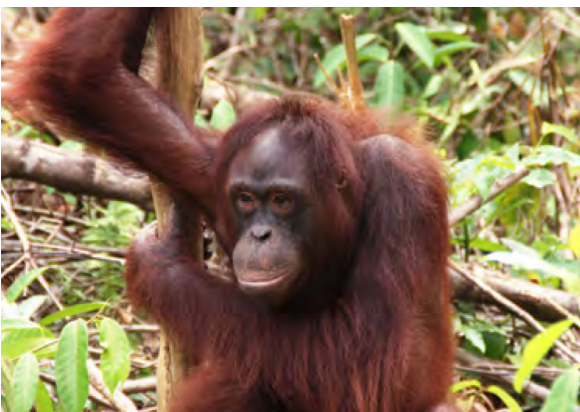
The world's largest verified "Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation" (REDD) carbon offset project has now set a new milestone after successfully undergoing a 2nd round of verification by Environmental Services under the Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance





**The world's largest REDD Project, Rimba Raya, has successfully completed their pilot program to deliver clean water filters and protect the children of Rimba Raya from lethal, waterborne diseases.**

Standard (CCBA). Verified for an unprecedented 8.5 million tons for the verification period of July 2010-June 2013 and earning Gold level certification under the CCB Standard, the project will preserve high conservation value (HCV) and carbon-rich tropical peat swamp forests, one of the most highly endangered ecosystems on the planet.



Originally slated for conversion into palm oil plantations, the project area is now also the world's largest privately funded reserve for the endangered Orangutan. Located in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia on the island of Borneo, and covering an area of more than 64,000 hectares, the project expects to generate an average of nearly four million tons of additional stored carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year.

### **Delivering Clean Water...**

The world's largest REDD Project, Rimba Raya, has successfully completed their pilot program to deliver clean water filters and protect the children of Rimba Raya from lethal, waterborne diseases. According to responses from all 100-test households, the pilot program was a resounding success and is now planned to rollout to the entire population, over 2,500 households, by end of March 2014.

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

This much-needed program was launched within months of winning the battle against the billion-dollar palm oil industry and completing the final project verification. The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Foundation is committed to the funding to provide a low maintenance, ceramic water filters 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 wide spread distribution of colloidal silver enhanced ceramic filters, we are helping the people of Rimba Raya's communities live healthier, happier and longer lives.

"This initiative proves that the carbon markets can deliver social and environment benefits that have substantial impact on local communities", said Todd Lemons, CEO of InfiniteEARTH, the project developer. The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project is the world's largest initiative to protect and preserve lowland

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peat swap forests—one of the most highly endangered ecosystems in the world and is the largest-ever REDD project to see its emission reductions verified under the Verified Carbon Standard by proving that it reduced greenhouse gas emissions by more than four million tons in one year—and may reduce nearly 120 million over the 30 project life.

### **...and Providing Cook Stoves**

Indonesia's Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve has successfully furnished over 100 households with fuel efficient, smokeless, cook stoves.

According to input from all 100 test households, the pilot program was a resounding success and is planned to roll-out to the entire population, over 2,500 households, by end of April, 2014.

"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," says Todd Lemons, CEO of InfiniteEARTH, the project developer.

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, indoor air pollution from the 3-billion plus conventional biomass cooking stoves in use around the world is the 4th largest health risk globally. Over four million people die (one person every 8 seconds) every year from exposure to conventional cook stove smoke—and even more from cancer and chronic lung disease.

"This effort reduces the need for fuel wood harvesting by over 50%, reduces indoor pollution and encourages safer cooking practices; all aimed at promoting a healthier and more sustainable growth model amongst the surrounding communities."

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*-- Todd Lemons,*