

# Seeds of Change

  
InfiniteEARTH  
Beyond Carbon. Beyond Sustainability.



Newsletter

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2015

## Fire Fighting

Much of the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was spent fighting fires - literally. Fortunately, the Rimba Raya Team was largely prepared having spent some USD \$200,000+ this fiscal year on fire fighting equipment and training of community fire brigades. Ultimately, the best line of defense was prevention, facilitated in large part by community awareness,

We have definitely seen tangible signs that we are achieving our goal of changing the historic dynamic that has existed between the communities and the forest. Communities are beginning to see the investment we've made in their futures and are investing in kind.

*Read this OpEd from Infinite-Earth's Founder, Todd Lemons:*

*["Indonesia is on fire intentionally."](#) Most of the fires are set to clear bio-diverse, carbon rich forests for conversion to oil palm, for use in cookies, candies, cakes, crackers, ice cream, shampoo, soap, lotions and cosmetics....."*

Together, Rimba Raya and Community Field Patrols and Fire Brigades largely kept in check what was otherwise a catastrophic year for fires throughout Indonesia. While fires did blow in from neighboring palm oil plantations, they mainly swept through the forest canopy (which will regrow) and were then contained before becoming peat burns. This is an important distinction since peat fires can then travel underground for kilometers and burn for months afterwards. None of the fires that blew into Rimba Raya reached that level of severity, owing to the mutual efforts and investments made by InfiniteEARTH, Rimba Raya and the communities in the Project Zone.

### In This Issue:

**Fire Fighting:** Pg 1

**Taking Stock & Investing In The Future:**

Health: Pg 2

Nutrition: Pg 2

Well Being & Productivity: Pg 3

**Crowd Force Funding:** Pg 4





## Taking Stock & Investing in the Future

Sometimes, it's a valuable exercise to step back and take stock. In between controlling and mitigating fires, much of the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter was used to take stock of where we've been, where we are now and where we're going. Through our ongoing community engagement process, we've determined what works, what doesn't and most importantly what are the greatest community needs balanced with the highest community support and the highest probability of success with regards to benefits delivery.

Taking lessons from our highly successful "Zu-Per" Shrimp Paste Project, together with communities, we have outlined and budgeted for an exciting array of community development programs that promise to launch us much closer to the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in our original CCBA Project Design Document. Some of the exciting development initiatives planned for 2016 are:

### HEALTH

#### **Construct and Manage a Floating Medical Clinic**

In late 2014, through an engagement with Health in Harmony, a medical health baseline was established for the communities dependent on the Rimba Raya Reserve. Given its remoteness, access to medical care is poor, untimely and costly. InfiniteEARTH will provide funding for Rimba Raya to build, stock and staff a floating medical clinic that will provide immediate access to the forest dependent communities surrounding the reserve.

#### **Vaccinate and Immunize EVERY Child in EVERY Village** against all major Childhood Diseases

Through funding provided from carbon revenues, Rimba Raya will deliver vaccinations and immunizations to every child in every village within the project zone.

### EDUCATION

#### **Create a Scholarship Fund to provide for the education of 3750 community students.**

InfiniteEARTH and Rimba Raya have established a Scholarship fund of USD \$150,000 that will be used to educate 3750 community students and provide for 75,000 writing books for the next 10 years.





## NUTRITION

### **Construct Raised Bed Community Farms for TWO Villages**

Despite the abundance of the surrounding forests, essential vitamin deficiencies are common due to the lack of vegetables in the communities diets as the acidic peat soils in the reserve do not support their cultivation. InfiniteEARTH and Rimba Raya will provide funding for the construction and technical training of large raised bed community vegetable gardens as a test pilot project. Results and lessons will be tabulated at the end of 2016 and then similar farms will be rolled out to all villages in 2017.

### **Construct, Stock and Provide Technical Training for TWO Community Fish Farms**

Traditionally, the primary protein source for villages has been fish. Mining upstream has silted up the Seruyan River, causing natural fish stocks to plummet. The unsustainable practice of fishing inside the flooded forests (the fish nursery) of Rimba Raya, has only deepened the problem. Community Fish Farms, using natives species, will provide a valuable and dependable source of protein and eventually might provide enough supply to restock wild populations.

### **Build, Stock and Provide Technical Training for TWO Community Poultry Egg Farms**

An additional sustainable protein source is poultry and poultry eggs. InfiniteEARTH and Rimba Raya will be funding the construction and technical training for two large community chicken egg farms.



Manure from the poultry farms will be used as organic fertilizer for the raised bed gardens and ultimately to power a low-tech rural biogas digester like the one pictured left.



## Well Being & Productivity

### **Install Solar Systems in EVERY Household in EVERY Village within the Rimba Raya Project Zone.**

All but one village within Rimba Raya is completely off the grid, relying on fuel wood and diesel powered generators for a couple of hours of light each evening. Household and Community Center Solar Systems have already been ordered and will be installed in Q1 2016. Extended light hours during the long equatorial nights will greatly enhance the quality of life of the communities and provide extended study hours for students and work hours for cottage industry enterprises funded by InfiniteEARTH and Rimba Raya. This initiative has been sponsored by a corporate purchase of a large block of our REDD+ credits.

### **Expansion of Community Fire Brigades**

Community Fire Brigades pay compound dividends. They provide capacity building in the communities, employment, community engagement and, of course, prevent environmental degradation. Left unchecked, fires can be catastrophic if they are allowed to take root in peat soils. Community fire patrols and fire fighting brigades are our first line of defense. Fire Fighting in Tropical Peat Swamps, however, is difficult and costly, requiring specialized equipment and training. We have made major investments in fire fighting equipment and training in 2015 and plan on doubling that effort again in 2016. Expansion would include:



- Hiring more community members in the Fire Brigade
- Water Pump Speed Boat
- Moto-Striker Trail Motorcycle equipped for fire fighting
- 4x4 Jeep equipped for firefighting
- Tempered Steel Hand Tools
- Fire Suits & Boots
- Training





## Crowd Force Funding™

Everything we do at Rimba Raya, is funded with your purchases of our REDD+ credits and we feel that your ROI should be clear. To that end, this year we're initiating a "private label project" program that we're calling Crowd Force Funding™.

We're inviting companies to explicitly sponsor the major new initiatives we have planned for 2016 and "private label" them as their own through a purchase commitment of our REDD+ credits - "ACME Insurance Group's Floating Clinic" for example. We will then work with sponsors to design social media and other marketing assets that document the program initiatives they have sponsored.

Crowd Force Funding Campaign	Range of REDD+ VER Volume Commitment	Frequency / Term
Construction of Floating Clinic	≈150,000	Once Off
Annual Administration of Floating Clinic	≈100,000	Annual
Vaccination & Immunization Program	≈50,000	Once Off
Construction of Raised Bed Vegetable Farms per Village	≈10,000	Once Off
Construction of Fish Farm per Village	≈20,000	Once Off
Construction of Poultry Egg Farm per Village	≈30,000	Once Off
Educational/Scholarship Fund (send a Child to School)	≈1,000	Annual per Child
Construction of a Remote Orangutan Release Station within the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve	≈50,000	Once Off
Release of a Wild Born Rehabilitated/Orphan Orangutan back into the Wild within the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve	≈10,000	per Orangutan
Care and Supplemental Feeding of recently released orangutans	≈5,000	Annual per Orangutan
Purchase of Fire Pump Boat, Off-Road Motorcycle equipped for fire fighting & 4x4 Vehicle equipped for fire fighting	≈150,000	Once Off
Sponsorship of one 20 person Fire Brigade Unit (includes employment, equipment & training)	≈30,000	Annual per Unit