

Rimba Raya  
BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

Seeds  
of Change



InfiniteEARTH™  
Beyond Carbon. Beyond Sustainability.

PROJECT UPDATE

MARCH 2021



After a rigorous audit process in January 2020, we had reason to celebrate when Verra announced us as the first REDD+ project in the world to be verified under the Verra SD VISTa standard as contributing to all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A major achievement that has been years in the making.

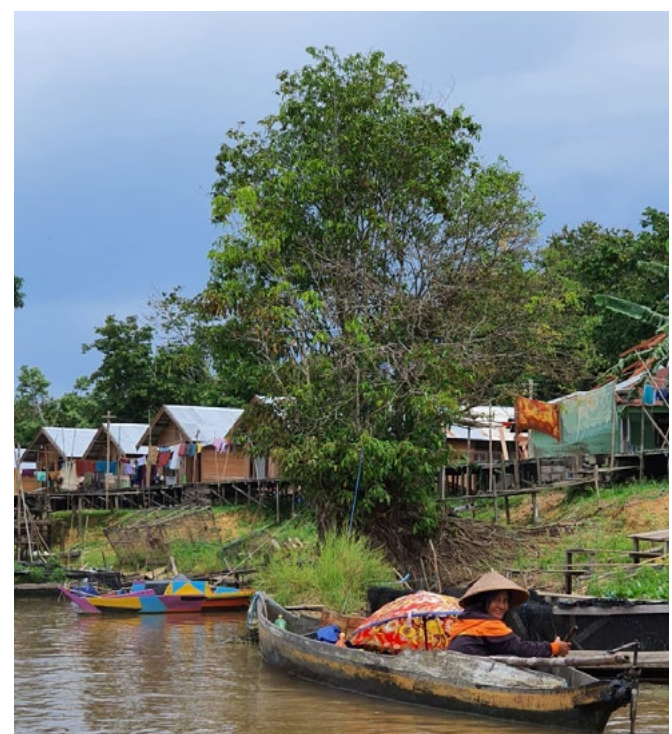
Our community development initiatives focus on health and well-being, education, literacy, clean energy, clean water, small business opportunities and food security. Some of our initiatives have been running for several years and the impact on community members has grown exponentially.

Our partners are an important part of what we do, we depend on good relationships that are based on a foundation of transparency and a common desire to improve living standards in our area of Indonesian Borneo.

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI), world experts in the rehabilitation and release of orangutans-remains our long term conservation partner.

Tanjung Puting National Park management and local government partner with us on several initiatives, the most important of which is forest patrolling, firefighting and prevention, boundary monitoring that help prevent damage to our forests and community capacity building.

Local and regional government, local schools and surrounding community members all work with us to ensure that we know what is needed and how to best implement our initiatives so that we are able to contribute in a meaningful way.



MANY VILLAGES IN THE PROJECT ARE ARE LOCATED ON THE SERUYAN RIVER





Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve is located in Central Kalimantan, one of the largest provinces in Indonesia.

Central Kalimantan has over 2 Million inhabitants with approximately 70% living in rural areas with limited access to services such as sanitation, electricity, passable roads, hospitals and schooling, not to mention internet access or other 'luxuries' that dominate the modern world.

As a REDD+ project, Rimba Raya not only prevents carbon loss in tropical peatlands but responsibly supports indigenous people in our concession by improving their quality of life and assist them in initiating and establishing business opportunities that will ensure that they become financially independent.

## Working towards a better future







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**Rimba Raya Initiatives align to all 17 of the United Nations Development Goals (SDG's) which seek to address the root causes of poverty and provide a universal development model that works for all people.**

**Learn more: [Rimba-Raya.com](http://Rimba-Raya.com)  
[info@infinite-earth.com](mailto:info@infinite-earth.com)  
By Crystal Riedemann**



# NATURE & PEOPLE

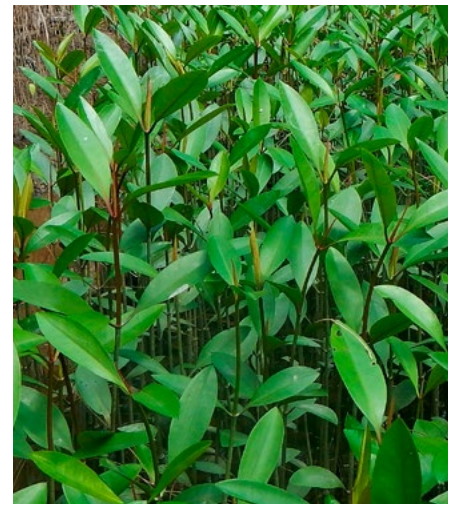
A PARTNERSHIP IN MANGROVE PLANTING







A CHILD HELPS HER FATHER PLACE THE YOUNG PLANTS IN THE NURSERY



THE PLANTS GROW AND BECOME STRONGER SO THEY ARE READY TO BE PLANTED

**Infinite-Earth** and Rimba Raya partnered with other stakeholders in and around the concession area to procure, grow, plant and monitor 55,000 new mangrove saplings in December 2020 and January 2021.

In collaboration with local communities, Tanjung Puting National Park and Seruyan District, Rimba Raya has planted 55,000 mangrove trees in 2 villages of Sungai Undang and Sungai Bakau, in Seruyan District, Central Kalimantan.

The importance of mangroves cannot be overstated.

They provide several important benefits; they store carbon, reduce flooding and land erosion caused by waves and storms and are a perfect habitat for fish to develop their nurseries, additionally they act as pollution filters, stopping debris and other pollutants from reaching the beaches.

Peat swamp and mangrove forests sequester more carbon than any other type of forest.

Mangrove seedlings are planted in the eroded areas just outside of the project zone. We are focused on revitalizing these areas, with a goal of improving water quality and ocean biodiversity while reducing damage to the shoreline.

It has been said that the level of abrasion in the coastal area of Borneo is concerning. By planting mangroves, it is expected to reduce the rate of abrasion in the area and it is hoped that it will significantly improve ocean biodiversity in a region where community members rely on fishing as a main source of income.

**“Mangroves sequester carbon at a rate two to four times greater than mature tropical forests”.**



" This initiative is a real example, it's a people centred approach of what mangrove restoration should be. Since the inception to the execution, a team bringing together private sector, government institutions, natural protected areas, local villages- including young people.

This is a real example of how we should replicate this model across the landscape. When we're doing this activity, we're not just restoring the mangrove ecosystem but we're also restoring the relationship between mangroves and the local villages- the relationship between humans and nature

Marco Bustamante  
InfiniteEARTH Asia  
Managing Director







33,000 seedlings were planted in the nursery by the group over 3 days- 31 October to 02 November.

From the 1-11 December planting took place at the planting area where a total of 25,350 seedlings were planted. The remaining seedlings in the nursery are kept to replace those that don't thrive.

This was a community effort and approximately 60 people participated. In January 2021, an additional 30,000 mangrove seedlings were planted in the designated area-bringing the total planted in the last few months, to 55,350.

If they grow successfully, their impact on the environment in our region of Borneo will be substantial.

We have established a strong partnership with the planting group with whom we have been working since August 2019







" Rimba Raya Mangrove Project is delivering 3 benefits to the local people

Short term economic benefits through jobs in growing, planting and raising the trees

Education to better understand their environment with their environment

Long term environmental benefits through the protection of their coastline and restoration of fish breeding grounds

Ultimately preserving the mangrove ecosystem means preserving the source of community life"

Sylviantha Andhella -  
Executive Director Rimba Raya Conservation





This program helps us to generate income, especially for people of Sungai Bakau who mainly work as fisherman and farmers."

Hidayatullah, Head of Youth Community,  
Sungai Bakau village



Seedlings are delicate and it's necessary to create an environment that is suitable. In order to better protect them, use is made of baskets- "Bronjong" which are made of split bamboo and are hand woven by the women in Sungai Undang Village.

The size of the bamboo basket is 30 cm in diameter and 60-75cm high, biodegradable rope is used to bind the baskets securely providing a safe environment and helping young trees to withstand strong currents and harsh ocean conditions.

The seedlings become firmly bound inside the basket and are therefore not easily uprooted.

This helps to ensure that the plants have the best chance of survival.



Mangroves have tremendous benefits for the sustainability of marine life, and can withstand the rate of coastal abrasion"

Head of Sungai Bakau Village  
Yuyun Erawati, Tuesday







# FLOATING CLINIC

Our Floating Clinic fills an urgent need to reach people who otherwise have limited access to healthcare and professional services.

Funding from our partners has enabled us to move forward with this vision of providing critical healthcare in remote areas.

The services provided by health professionals, supported by the Rimba Raya team, benefit the frail, elderly, pregnant and, of course, the children in our community, all of whom have limited resources and are unable travel to distant hospitals or afford services.

Particularly in these times, community members are also less exposed to the virus because they receive care locally rather than traveling to larger towns.

Working with our partner, Natural Capital Partners, we have engaged Kaiser Permanente, one of the largest healthcare providers in the U.S., to fund the clinic and increase outreach.

It is invaluable and inspiring to connect with partners who share a common purpose half a world away.







HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA ARE VERY LIMITED

THE FLOATING CLINIC IS ESSENTIAL IN BRINGING  
THESE SERVICES TO THE PROJECT AREA

PELAYANAN KLINIK TERAPUNG  
RIMBA RAYA CONSERVATION





# COVID-19

Naturally, with a pandemic raging across the globe, health services are more vital than ever.

In 2020, we conducted 3 health outreach trips on the floating clinic to all villages in the project zone.

There have been additional visits by the Rimba Raya Community Development team to address questions relating to the pandemic.

Fortunately COVID-19 has had little impact in our region.

At this critical time, we have committed our resources to programs that educate the community to help them gain a better understanding of COVID-19, how it spreads and how we can protect ourselves and others. This is an important first step in establishing effective procedures and protocols.

People should understand the virus in order for them to follow the guidelines that are put in place to protect them.

They also give us an opportunity to provide masks, information, medication, and instruction on why some cultural behaviors should change so that we can better control the spread of all diseases in this area.





" THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF  
PEATLANDS IS VITAL IN THE TRANSITION  
TOWARDS A LOW-CARBON AND CIRCULAR  
ECONOMY.

-IUCN







Our ongoing mission is to prevent degradation and deforestation within the project area.

Where possible we form partnerships with other stakeholders so that we can work together in our common goals.

Because our concession acts as a natural buffer zone to the adjacent Tanjung Puting National Park, it is essential that we maintain a strong working relationship with their management team and local government in our joint efforts in protecting this diverse wetland terrain.

Since the inception of the project in 2008, our main focus has been on the effective monitoring of the forest area from the threat of fires and illegal activities.

In 2020, as part of the fire response system, we've constructed two fire towers, both having an effective height of 12 meters.

The construction involved the active participation of village members and RRBR field staff.



It is anticipated that these towers will significantly strengthen the Climate Unit and will support a rapid response in fire prevention and pre-suppression actions by the fire brigades.



# Rimba Raya Sustainable Peatland Farming Field School in Seruyan

By Frita Junita  
Communication Officer  
Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve



In November 2020, Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve conducted training sessions aimed at strengthening the capacity of Farmer Groups (KT). The goal was to help them to improve their skills in cultivation and agriculture through our Peatland Farming Field School (Peat-FFS). The activity was attended by 2 groups of farmers, Harapan Jaya from Jahitan village and Hijau Bakung Permai from Baung Village.

This activity is a continuation of a Peat-FFS training program held in September 2020 which was conducted by Rimba Raya in collaboration with the National Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG).

Aside from focusing on improving farming skills, participants were encouraged to learn how to prepare their land for agricultural development without the use of traditional 'slash and burn' methods.

During our most recent training sessions, we encouraged farmers to build on their traditional ecological knowledge with a focus on non-destructive land use and the development of areas according to soil suitability. The efficient production of nutritious food while ensuring forest preservation, was strongly encouraged.

The farmers were taught how to make organic fertilizers and pesticides by using organic waste from their immediate environment.





"Crop and forest burning actually eliminates beneficial micro-organisms and nutrients, even as it releases unwanted carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Land preparation without burning and the use of organic fertilizers for agricultural practices will reduce carbon emissions and support the balance of microorganisms. This is in alignment with our project objective to reduce carbon emissions"

Febrasius Masal,  
General Manager of  
Rimba Raya Conservation.

"I am thankful that Rimba Raya included our farmer group in this initiative. We have learned how to make organic fertilizer and our understanding of horticultural farming techniques has grown. We are eager to develop our farms using these strategies with the hope that we will be more successful so that we can set an example to other community farmers."

Ardiansyah Ardian  
Head of Hijau Bakung Permai Farmer  
Group of Baung Village.

The farmers were empowered to manage their own farmers organization. This included the election of a chairman, secretary and treasurer by the group members.

These positions were then ratified by the local village government.

During the training sessions, farmer groups were asked to develop relationships with other farmers and community stakeholders to encourage cooperation and networking between other groups around the project area. This allows them to share information, experiences and valuable lessons learned which are beneficial to all farmers.







Water purifying system in the  
Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve





# WATER

In remote areas of Indonesian Borneo, access to clean water continues to be severely limited.

To address this problem, originally each household in the project zone was supplied with low-tech individual water filters with silver enhanced filters, which provided every family in the concession area access to clean water for the first time in their history.

This initiative- funded through the sale of carbon credits, is now owned and managed by a Women's CoOp group, the members of which earn an income selling water at a cost plus basis, which provides sustainable maintenance of the systems. A central focus in obtaining financial security where income is limited is to generate jobs, especially for women.

Clean, accessible water is critical to human health and a healthy environment. A survey was conducted in which it was highlighted that residents were relieved to have an increased availability of potable water in the project area.

It was also found that due to the availability of water filters in each home and the water purifying systems introduced, waterborne diseases had decreased significantly over the last year and the general well-being of community members has improved due to the availability of a basic commodity that had been limited in the past.





# SERUYAN RIVER CLEAN-UP ACTIVITY



Unsafe water, lack of sanitation facilities and poor hygiene are the leading causes of mortality and morbidity in developing countries

The Rimba Raya Seruyan River clean-up activity is a vital step in building community awareness and a desire to protect our fragile planet



**SEPTEMBER 2020**

**1023 PEOPLE**



Participated in the Seruyan River Clean-up Initiative at the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve.

60% Kids aged 5-18

**GARBAGE COLLECTED**

**13812 KG**



**EQUIVALENT OF**



194,915 tin cans

1,490,400 plastic bottles



Waste that 5,244 people produce per day in the USA!



180 oil barrels

Children of all ages participated in the drawing, poster and article writing competitions from 12 villages and 2 hamlets around the project area



There are many benefits to be derived from clean rivers. These benefits are dependent on good river and water health.

People's livelihoods often depend on rivers which supply food, provide support in agricultural efforts and help contribute to the income of community members.

Clean rivers also reduce waterborne diseases in a community where people use the rivers on a daily basis for fishing, bathing and social activities.

Rivers provide habitat to a wide range of animal and plant species. Some of these species are already critically endangered due to the rapid deterioration of water quality.

Over the last two years, several river cleaning activities have been conducted.





The River Clean-up Program held in September 2020, removed more than 8,000 kg of waste from the Seruyan River which runs vertically down the centre of the project area.

One of the most important aspects of this initiative is that it helps us to continually build awareness by implementing activities that are engaging and fun while highlighting the challenges associated with waste disposal in the river.

With the support of Natural Capital Partners and their partners, we have been able to expand on this initiative over the years, making a significant contribution in our ongoing efforts to protect a fragile ecosystem and ensure greater community involvement.



# SERUYAN RIVER CLEAN-UP ACTIVITY

Success of any initiative implemented is dependent on the involvement of community stakeholders.

A series of activities were conducted over a 2 month period. These included a drawing competition for elementary children, a poster competition for junior high school kids, article writing competition for high school children, and village clean-ups involving the whole community.



“The cleanliness of the river from waste in Seruyan Regency is certainly one of the most important things that must be considered, because cleanliness is what can guarantee the quality of life for the Seruyan community.

- Haris Setyawan  
(Winner Article Competition)



'Coffee morning'-  
sharing experiences  
& lessons with  
community youth



By 2050, it is estimated the volume of plastic will be greater than that of fish in the sea.



**PARTNERSHIPS MAKE ACTIVITIES  
LIKE THIS POSSIBLE**





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