



Rimba Raya

BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

Rimba Raya, 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 undertakes to **R**educe **E**missions caused by **D**eforestation & **D**egradation but we also have a certain responsibility to help 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. Rimba Raya has 14 villages within the concession and we need to ensure that each village is provided with equal opportunities.

2016 Annual Project Review

In This Issue:

Welcome:	Pg 1
Some examples of how we meet the SDGs:	
Fighting Poverty:	Pg 3
Micro-enterprise	Pg 4
Fighting Hunger	Pg 5
Community Health	Pg 6
Fire Fighting	Pg 8
Affordable, Clean Energy	Pg 9
Literacy & Education	Pg 10



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

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 on Rimba-Raya.com

As these villages are remote and often difficult to reach, updates may not be regular however we are often heartened at the industrious nature of these hard working people who are dedicated to achieving a better life.



Rimba Raya
BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

An InfiniteEARTH™ Project

Rimba Raya was the first validated REDD+ project – ever – under the Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) and helped define the criteria by which all projects are measured.

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)

Rimba Raya

BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

An InfiniteEARTH™ Project





Rimba Raya

Fighting Poverty

Rimba Raya employs more than 70 local community members from Central Kalimantan. We sponsor and provide technical assistance to many community business initiatives where women make up at least 75% of the cooperative membership. We endeavour to empower these women and equip them with resources and 'know how' to make a significant contribution to their household income.

Zu-Per Shrimp Paste continues to be a successful business for the women of Sugain Perlu Village. Fewer than 15% of these villagers have had any formal education beyond elementary level and this initiative gives these women a life skill they would not have otherwise learned. Obtaining the health and safety certification for the production of Zu-Per in April 2015 has expanded market and ensured a consistently high quality product. The business now has IDR 6,000,000 in cash reserves and is stockpiling inventory as it embarks on a new marketing campaign.

Rimba Raya has improved packaging and made an additional investment in the marketing efforts.



Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth...these are one and the same fight.

— Ban Ki-moon, Eighth Secretary-General of the United Nations

Salty Fish from the Muara Dua and Tanjung Rangas villages and **Dried Shrimp** from the Sungai Undang village are new InfiniteEARTH funded community based business initiatives which follow the successful business model developed for Zu-Per.

Due to long shelf lives, these products can be transported from the rural villages to reach a wider market. The product's quality and taste is better than those produced in the cities and the villagers have an advantage due to lower production costs.

Profits gained from selling salted fish (as opposed to fresh) are significant - 191% in immediately adjacent markets and more if the product is sent to Java or densely populated areas where fish quality is relatively low.

Rimba Raya will provide assistance in certification, labelling, and packaging to make these products more marketable.





Micro-enterprise

As a business entity that relies on forest health, we are pleased to have our InfiniteEARTH-funded **Tree Planting initiative**, with the goal of planting 1,000,000 native species over a 5 year time frame. Over 500,000 trees have now been planted. This year saw an investment of \$25,000 for an additional 70,000 trees; 35,000 of which will be planted in November and the remaining 35,000 to be planted in early 2017. Additionally, in collaboration with the Environmental Agency, 7,500 mangrove trees were planted this year.

The purchase of tree saplings is a cash injection into the local villages which supply and deliver the seedlings, providing employment to husband and wife labour teams who do the planting.



The **Recycle Bank initiative** in Telaga Pulang, has succeeded in reducing waste pollution by recycling over 18 tons of garbage since October 2014. Waste, adversely affected the environment, has grown as a commodity which has value if recycled and also provides material used for handicrafts fashioned by the village women's COOP. This initiative has financial as well as environmental benefits.

In August 2016, with funding provided from InfiniteEARTH, the South Kuala Pembuang village opened its own Recycle Bank with higher returns expected, thanks to a denser population.

In the village of Baung, an all women's COOP has started a **Chicken Egg Farm**. The coop was built and will soon have 200 hens, producing organic eggs that will be sold to neighbouring villages. The village men have indicated an interest in contributing and as this micro-enterprise expands; they will be invited to play a role





Rimba Raya

Fighting Hunger

The women's COOP in Palingkau village have initiated a **Community Farm** as a pilot project with the hopes of meeting the fresh food requirements of the village as a means of balancing a high protein diet and -- in line with Sustainable Development Goals -- reduce poverty by selling the excess produce to neighbouring villages.

The seeds are bought from the community nurseries and it is hoped that the raised bed farms will produce high quality produce which in turn will offer an opportunity to sell high quality, organic seeds to local nurseries.



In Ulak Batu village, Rimba Raya has helped plant 7,000 **Pineapple Plants**. These fruits were planted in March 2016 and are grown organically, ensuring the local water supply is in no way compromised. As it is a natural firebreak, we will be planting these pineapples along the perimeter of the Rimba Raya Concession.

Harvesting of the current crop begins in March 2017. Orangutans living within the concession consume massive amounts of fruits and are our most loyal customers!

Indonesia is the third largest producer of rice in the world and the swamps of Central Kalimantan are an ideal location for this 'thirsty' crop. An **Organic Rice** farm was initiated this year on 100Ha of land as a technical study. If results are positive, we will look into expanding the production and this could be a means of providing a significant boon to the local economy.

This initiative has allowed community members to work collaboratively while being educated on the intricacies of growing a specialised crop





Community Health

Poor sanitation and consumption of unsafe water can have enormous and often fatal consequences. Clean water is a basic necessity and in 2014 we introduced water filtration systems to every household.

In March 2016 we kicked off a general maintenance program of the **Clean Water** systems and repaired approximately 1700 filtration systems, many of which required the replacement of broken valves.

In Ulak Batu, we drilled four fresh water wells and purchased a water filtration system to provide the village with clean water for bathing and sanitation.

In Muara Dua, we rehabilitated and now maintain a filtration water system for the village. This system is not for drinking but provides clean water for bathing and washing clothes and dishes.

||

He who has health, has hope; and he who has hope, has everything.

- Thomas Carlyle

Many of the villages are remote and do not have access to health services.

Over the past year we have continued to develop our **Floating Clinic Initiative**. The boat is currently being built and is due for completion in 2017, it will be operational by the spring.

This will provide an opportunity to ensure every child is vaccinated, pregnant women receive prenatal care and the elderly are regularly monitored.



All our initiatives are funded by InfiniteEARTH's sale of **carbon credits** and local community members are embracing the positive aspects of being part of a **REDD+** project.

Learn more about **REDD+** and our Community Initiatives at Rimba-Raya.com

“

*We do not inherit the
Earth from our
ancestors; we borrow it
from our children*

-- Native American Proverb



Rimba Raya

Fire Fighting



Rimba Raya continues to promote the **'Fire Prevention Campaign'** which educates people on how to behave in the presence of extreme dry conditions, stressing the need to avoid the lighting of fires during that time.

The campaign stresses the dangers of the toxic pollution and how villagers can best protect themselves and their community. Additional lessons demonstrate the importance of standard operating procedures during emergencies and how best to respond to limit the impact of smoke and haze on the health of community members .

The community is highly aware of the benefits they gain from the sale of carbon credits and are dedicated to protecting the forest that funds these valuable initiatives, empowering both individuals and the community as a whole.

Our dedicated team of firefighters, 33 in total, are trained to prevent, control and kill peat fires, a high percent of which are a result of the 'slash & burn' technique used as a low-cost method of land clearing. In 2016, We are relieved to report that we experienced no fires in our carbon accounting area and only a small fire at the northern edge of the concession, where our pineapple farm and fire brigade served their purpose of protecting the rainforest.

Peat fires have international, devastating consequences with the sinister orange toxic haze causing widespread air pollution and illness, not only to people, but to the nature and wildlife across the South East Asia Region.

A core team, composed of the best two firefighters from each village, travel to remote villages to provide firefighter refresher training courses to staff and village members and to ensure the equipment is maintained and ready to deploy for any emergency that may arise.

The local village people often join the firefighters in a communal effort to control and stop fires in the area. This continues to be a difficult task when unscrupulous business entities and desperate or uneducated land owners use fire to clear land resulting in massive destruction and devastation.





Affordable, Clean Energy

In mid-2015 a program was designed to give each household a **Solar Powered Lamp** for use in activities suffering due to inadequate lighting or electricity. Tasks such as cooking, family dinners, prayers and general household activities were limited during evening hours.

Since February 2016, we have provided more than 5,800 people with solar powered lamps, distributed throughout the 14 villages.

With the introduction of the lamps, people are more productive and children can get homework done without having to go to community centres, once the only buildings to have some form of lighting.

In Muara Dua village, the generator given has been used to light a 700m stretch of public road that remain lit until 2am, if the sky was clear during the day.

Additionally, each village has been provided with a 60watt solar system and 1Kw solar system for their community centres, allowing villagers to gather and socialise and meetings to occur at any time of the day.

The local government is so happy with the 1Kw solar system -- noting the measurable generator fuel savings as solar power costs \$13.74 while diesel costs \$16.63 a month -- that they have decided to use their own funds to purchase additional systems to improve the quality of life for people in their constituency.

“

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

-- Martin Luther King, Jr.



InfiniteEARTH is currently negotiating a deal with the New Zealand Embassy and PowerTech, a New Zealand Solar Power company, to provide solar power to the whole of Ulak Batu village.

This is an exciting opportunity and the support provided by these entities is a testament to the positive impact Rimba Raya has in our concession area.



Literacy and Education

We endeavour to work with local governments to ensure a quality education and fair disbursement of the Scholarship funds to each village. There are 36 schools with 6,238 students in the Rimba Raya concession. In August 2016, all students received school supplies in the form of books and stationary, while students showing high performance, dedication and commitment to furthering their studies received backpacks and cash grants.

In the village of Telaga Pulang a '**Student Field Program**' was initiated, complimenting the Community Farm initiative. The proceeds from the village farm are used to fund the local school.

In April this community farm made a profit of IDR 2,000.000(approx. \$150). While this may not seem like much, the average salary in the village is between 1.3 mil and 2.6 mil IDR.

Literacy is not only important for educational purposes; it gives people an opportunity to learn about the mysteries of our world while gaining knowledge of diverse cultures. It also provides a means to discover and learn skills providing ideas on new community projects that can help improve standards of living and increase income.

An old school room and an abandoned building have been given new life with the construction of 2 libraries in the Ulak Batu and Muara Dua villages.

The construction is 75% complete and so far we have almost half the 1000 book minimum required to be able to consider these official libraries. This is a valuable initiative for investors and we hope to surpass the 1000 book minimum.



“

A child without education is like a bird without wings.

-- Tibetan proverb

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Rimba Raya is showing the world it is possible to protect forests, their indigenous wildlife **AND** improve the livelihoods of local communities at the same time.

