



Seeds
of Change

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.

2017 Mid-Year Review

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SDGs:

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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



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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)

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Rimba-Raya.com



10 ORANGUTANS

The LONG ROAD TO FREEDOM

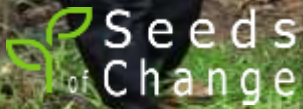
InfiniteEARTH is proud to sponsor a major orangutan release into the **Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve** in Central Kalimantan on the island of Borneo, Indonesia. The forest, nearly the size of Singapore, is ideal orangutan habitat and provides perfect conditions to ensure that the recent release of 10 orangutans has long term success.

The 10, wild-born, previously captive orangutans were released on the 22nd and 24th of February 2017. This was made possible thanks to our field conservation partnership with the Orangutan Foundation International (OFI), led by Dr. Biruté Mary Galdikas who works tirelessly to save these endangered animals.

The OFI team has done an outstanding job of rehabilitating these magnificent creatures which were all rescued from oil palm deforestation and the pet trade industry.

Extensive planning went into the project with significant expenditure on several important aspects including; field surveys (to identify the best release site), the building of a new release platform and a 1 Km long boardwalk over the swamp as a means of providing deeper access into the forest.





The orangutans were taken by truck from Pankalan Bun to Buang village in the Seruyan Regency, a trip taking four hours. This was followed by a 30 minute boat transfer along the river to the release site at Tatah Selamat in Baung village.

The terrain was wet and rugged and given the requirement that the site be remote enough to ensure the orangutans are given every opportunity to adapt to their new home with as little interference as possible, the job of getting them there was indeed quite challenging.

It was certainly 'no walk in the park' but it was most definitely worth it when we saw the delighted orangutans as they exited the transport cages, with most of them showing little interest in the fruit on the platform, and immediately climbed up into the forest canopy.

We are delighted
with the success
of this release



”

The significance of this release transcends just the future of these 10 individuals.

It represents hope for an entire species.

The fact that it was all made possible from the “market based solutions for conservation” developed by **InfiniteEARTH**, makes it infinitely sustainable

— **Todd Lemons**, Founder of InfiniteEARTH

As a demonstration of their satisfaction, an orangutan couple began to copulate immediately after release. They seemed to be giving their stamp of approval and placing their mark on the territory, these great apes are giving us hope for the future of the critically endangered Bornean orangutan.

Since they've been given their freedom, we have observed that 6 of the 10 orangutans have not returned to the feeding platform. They have fully embraced their new home and are thriving on their own!



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“When one door closes,
another door opens.”

-- **Dr, Birute Mary Galdikas**

Co-Founder & President of the Orangutan
Foundation International (OFI)

As they leave us and embrace a new life, the feeling is bittersweet, but we couldn't be happier, because we know the orangutans have worked hard to get here and they are where they belong.

Everybody who contributed to the success of this release found it hugely rewarding to see these Bornean orangutans embracing freedom and we are looking forward to the next release which is planned for later in 2017.



65,000ha
of High Conservation Value
(HCV) Tropical Peat Forest

An area almost the size of
Singapore

THE CARBON VALUE OF THE RIMBA RAYA BIODIVERSITY RESERVE:

130m tonnes
of total avoided emissions over 30 years

=

4.5m tonnes
of avoided emissions annually

THAT'S THE ANNUAL EQUIVALENT OF:


39,544,817,580
Miles driven by an average
passenger vehicle


218,429
Tanker trucks' worth
of gasoline


23,759,239,704
Miles flown in a
commercial airplane


2,436,503
Homes' electricity use
for one year


1,000,000
Cars removed from the
world's highways


5,236,375
Tons of waste recycled
instead of landfilled


1,856,644,537
Gallons of gasoline
consumed


87,870
Railcars' worth of
coal burned

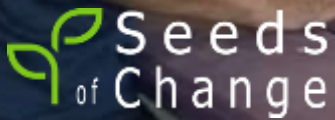

4.8
Coal-fired power
plants in one year


38,200,988
Barrels of oil
consumed

AND THE SEQUESTRATION EQUIVALENT OF:


15,618,970
Acres of U.S. forests


427,616,379
Tree seedlings grown
for 10 years



Literacy: 2 New Libraries

In the villages of Ulak Batu and Muara Dua, two abandoned and derelict buildings were completely renovated and converted into village libraries. The remoteness of the villages ensured that construction supplies weren't easy to obtain and it was therefore necessary to transport them from larger towns.

The libraries are now complete and already contain about 800 books each. Some books have been donated by the Jakarta Educational Dept. and the Seruyan local government. We've also reached out to the public on social media, requesting donations of additional books which will be very useful for the "Village Literacy and Education program" or "Program Edukasi Desa untuk Alam dan Lingkungan (PEDAL) Pustaka" (in Bahasa- the official language in Indonesia).



The program has a particular focus on the importance of nature and protecting our environment. The books supplied are mostly nonfiction although there are several children's books to encourage fun while learning to read.

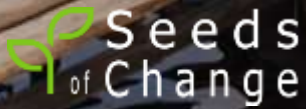
With the introduction of these libraries, we have created a space where adults and children, who are motivated to improve their literacy skills, are given support and guidance to be able to achieve that goal.

The community have fully embraced this initiative and the women in particular, have gone to great lengths to create activities that support learning while simultaneously having fun. They ensure that subjects relevant to the community are introduced and this has led to healthy vigorous debates between constituents.

The general knowledge of the population increases on a daily basis with a burgeoning realization that literacy is a key component in self-improvement. The program highlights the need for indigenous people to learn about the consequences their actions could have on the environment.

We would like to introduce additional libraries to other remote villages in the concession area and we already considering a library at Sungai Perlu village in the Southern unit.





Health: Floating Clinic

Statistically, people in Indonesia have an average lifespan of 67 years. Children in rural areas and under the age of 5 suffer a myriad of health issues, most of which are the cause of stunted growth. A large percentage of these illnesses are a result of a lack of immunizations and are completely avoidable.

By introducing a floating clinic, we can supply necessary rural health services which have been inaccessible and unaffordable in the Seruyan district, particularly for villages located on the Seruyan River which have limited road access.

The boat, which has two floors, is currently under construction and is due for completion in the 4th quarter of 2017. Some delays have been encountered due to the remoteness of the building site, which limits access to equipment and supplies sourced in neighboring towns.



In addition to an immunization program there will be family planning and prenatal services. Villagers will also be able to benefit from regular health educational outreach programmes which will focus on providing information to village constituents on 'Best Health Practises'.

The floating clinic will provide a vital service to the elderly, who have difficulty making the long and arduous trip to the nearest health centre. Rugged terrain and lack of roads mean it will also be useful as a water ambulance in emergencies.

When visiting the villages, There are plans to deliver food packages, with particular focus on the nutritional requirements of children aged 12 and under.

A section of the boat will include a travelling library and reading programs will be offered to villages which do not yet have a permanent library.

The boat may also transport recycling from these remote villages, an endeavour which certainly contributes to our goal of protecting the environment.

We have partnered with the Seruyan Health Department and The Family Planning Agency to provide medical staff, basic health equipment and coordinate with health officials in each village.

9 of the 14 villages in Rimba Raya will heavily benefit from the floating clinic, the remainder already have health centres or easy access to one.



“

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

-- Native American Proverb



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Nutrition: Chicken Farm Eggs and Meat

In 2016 the villagers of Baung expressed an interest in receiving support for a Chicken Farm Microenterprise to help the village grow economically and provide a constant source of protein to the village and its neighbours through the sale of these organic eggs.

A chicken coop was built last September. Due to limited supplies of healthy egg-laying chickens, the chickens were only purchased in January 2017.

Now that the brood is established, organic eggs are produced and the members of the enterprise sell them at local markets and to neighbouring villagers.

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Just because a child's parents are poor or uneducated is no reason to deprive the child of basic human rights to health care, education and proper nutrition.

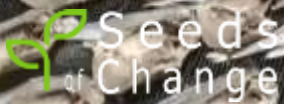
-- Marian Wright Edelman,
Founder and President, the Children's Defense Fund

The income earned from the sale of eggs is a boon to the local community and provides an insight into the benefits of organic animal husbandry. Income is also used to supplement the purchase of new chickens to maintain a biologically viable brood. Challenges include difficulty in sourcing healthy chicks and finding effective methods of keeping predators away from the coops **but these challenges have been overcome.**



Thanks to the success of the egg farm, it was decided to explore the viability of a chicken farm for meat. A large coop was built in February 2017 and 300 chicks were purchased. After approximately 35-41 days of development, they are ready to be sold.

The current activities for this initiative included the development of the market to whom the chickens will be marketed and sold. In addition the group overseeing this initiative are being trained to establish effective and sustainable organic farming practices.



Economic Growth: Salted Fish

National poverty in Indonesia has been on the decline over the last few years with a general improvement of the country's economy and a low rate of inflation. However the annual average income of around US\$ 1, 800 (in rural areas) is very low when compared to the average annual income in developed countries. Income is particularly low in rural regions where people generally have a subsistence lifestyle.

The Salted Fish microenterprise was developed in late 2016 and has been effective in bringing income to both the women and men of the Muara Dua and Tanjung villages. The fishermen (mostly men), have an increased demand for their fresh fish, while the women develop and expand their salted fish sale business.

Rimba Raya has assisted the women in obtaining Health and Hygiene certification and are teaching them to package and market the fish to neighbouring villages and larger cities. By transporting the product to Jakarta, sales revenue is potentially 200% greater than if sold to local villages.

On average, this microenterprise provides a **supplemental** annual income of approximately US\$ 500 per person. This is a substantial amount when one considers that it's a third of the average annual income. Additionally it's an income women, as homemakers, would not otherwise have had.

The fish are dried in the sun and are not treated with any chemicals, making them an organic, high quality product. Investment in packaging equipment allows for the transportation and increased preservation of the product. Contributors to this initiative ensure that they follow procedures which assure sustainability.



InfiniteEARTH is passionate about helping the constituents in the Rimba Raya concession develop revenue building microenterprises. We focus on giving women an opportunity to run these enterprises, enabling them to make valid financial contributions to their families and to their villages.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Rimba Raya initiatives are funded by
InfiniteEARTH's sale of carbon credits.

We focus on helping local communities
embrace the positive aspects of being
part of a REDD+ project.

