



# Rimba Raya

## BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

An InfiniteEARTH™ Project



2019 | YEAR END REVIEW

Seeds  
of Change



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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## Working towards a better future

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 Reduce Emissions caused by Deforestation & Degradation 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 contributes to the well-being and economic stability of 9 stakeholder villages along with 5 non-stakeholder villages. It's important to ensure that each village is provided with equal opportunities.

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Rimba Raya

BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

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PROTECTS

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



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



5,236,375

Tons of waste recycled  
instead of landfilled

## AND THE SEQUESTRATION EQUIVALENT OF:



15,618,970

Acres of U.S. forests



427,616,379

Tree seedlings grown  
for 10 years



Rimba-Raya.com



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## ALL FORESTS AREN'T CREATED EQUAL

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Forest is predominantly tropical peatland. Recently there have been several articles in the news highlighting the importance of protecting forests which are quickly running in short supply. This fact makes what we're doing in protecting a 65,000 hectare forest, it's wildlife and flora that much more vital. We work closely with local communities to ensure that we are successful in this endeavor and that their continued collaboration is beneficial to them.

Not all forests have the same value and it's important to highlight the value of peat forests:

Biodiversity in this habitat is rich with these forests supporting many unique and often endangered animal species such as the beautiful Bornean orangutans, sun-bears and clouded leopards.

Tropical peat swamp forests are said to be important for the nearby human populations. Traditional habits of local inhabitants, mean that they depend directly on these forests for food, water, fuel and timber sources, as well as medicine and materials for production of traditional goods.

Peat forests form a unique natural habitat and in their natural state, are water-logged because of a high water table. They act as a large water reservoir which helps reduce the occurrence of droughts, plays a role in flood mitigation and ensures a regular supply of water, contributing to the health and well-being of the community members and the environmental security of this rich ecosystem.

Peatlands are essentially 'archives' on past biodiversity and act as important store of carbon (one third of the world's soil carbon). Because plants do not decompose completely, being compacted and constantly wet, the carbon held within them becomes 'locked' into the peat. However if peat is extracted, the stored/sequestered carbon is released as CO<sub>2</sub>, a greenhouse gas, which exacerbates global warming and climate change. It's for this reason that peat forests, with their stored CO<sub>2</sub>, have monetary value in terms of avoided emissions.

The income we earn from the sale of carbon credits helps us continue our efforts in protecting this beautiful forest and support the community that depends on it.







## FLOATING CLINIC

We are well aware that despite efforts by governments and international entities, the health needs of marginalized people are not being met. Insufficient resources, inappropriate allocation, and inadequate quality are major impediments to the delivery of effective health care that reaches the poor. This fact was a great motivation for us to build a floating clinic that gives us access to the most remote villages where health services are extremely limited.

As mentioned in the last update, we conducted a health outreach program to 7 villages in the concession area in May 2019. This was so successful that community members asked for another one, so in December we conducted an outreach to 3 additional villages.

Children and women in particular benefit from these programs. Pregnant women are monitored, and the vitamin supplements provided, increases children's resistance to disease and improves their chances of development, growth and survival.

In 2020 we will increase the number and reach of these health outreach services, so as to be able to offer it once every quarter. Additionally, we are hoping to expand the partnership we have already established with local health and government officials as we work together in improving access to health services in our concession area.







## Tree Planting

Trees help flood-proof the land by putting down roots and binding the soil.

In 2020, we will be focusing on increasing the numbers of trees planted within the concession area and in preparation for that we have extended existing nurseries where several thousand new tree saplings are currently growing.

Trees have significant importance and potential as a means of income and security for the poor, so in addition to growing our saplings, we purchase many from local suppliers and in this way, we contribute to the improved economic status of several stakeholders.

The trees we plant will provide vital habitat for future generations of endangered fauna and flora. They also provide fruits for community members, helping us to contribute to their food security, and to the wildlife that have found a safe haven within our concession.







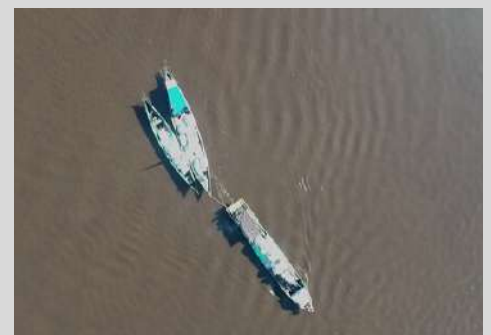
## River Clean-up competition



Generally, in developing countries, the absence of effective regulations combined with a lack of enforcement of the existing regulations, make it very difficult to initiate improvements in the management of waste. Citizens aren't usually exposed to comprehensive and continuous educational programs and thus are not aware of how to participate in the solutions to waste management issues. For this reason, we feel that we must commit to increased activities, programs and educational events that address the issue of garbage and the responsible disposal thereof. To that end we have introduced several River and Village cleaning initiatives, spending time to educate the community prior to the events and providing incentives for those villages that perform best.

In 2019 we held a competition for the Cleanest Village and all 13 villages nearest our concession border participated. After the competition, we noted that this particular initiative had been more effective than other 'clean-up' activities because it appealed to people's competitive spirit! They had fun, and we learned that we could help by providing additional trash receptacles in each village and that we need to have deeper discussions with local government in order to find better solutions for waste removal.

Overall, community members were very positive and several months after the competition, the pride of winners is still evident as they continue to keep their villages clean.







## Water purifying systems

About 80% of illnesses in developing countries are linked to poor water and sanitation conditions. 1 out of every 5 deaths under the age of 5 worldwide is due to a water-related disease. Clean and safe water is essential to healthy living. Clean water means reduced mortality rates, particularly for children, women and the elderly. One might ask why people don't just boil their water to ensure that it's safe to drink and we would remind you that the fuel required to make fires is more expensive than most people can afford.

Communities located on the border of our concession, continue the age-old tradition of using the water from the Seruyan River for all their needs, these include fishing, drinking, bathing and as a means to remove sewage. One of the challenges faced by people who are on the poverty line, is the ability to find funds to afford clean water solutions.

2019 has been a successful year for Rimba Raya in terms of clean water access. With carbon credit income, we've managed to install 3 large water purifying systems in 3 villages, each system has 2 x 2000 liter tanks, a 2800 watt generator and a series of filters. Community members are already remarking on their improved health.

The purifying systems are in addition to the individual water filters which were given to every household in the 9 villages we support. These filters are replaced when broken and we provide access to replacement filters. Local inhabitants are taught how to care for the system, keep it clean and ensure that they are used correctly. Our clean water solutions have had significant impact on the health of individuals in the area.

The lack of access to clean water and sanitation remains a serious challenge, especially in rural areas which is why our efforts in this regard are so important. Something so seemingly simple has far reaching consequences, the reduction of waterborne illnesses improves productivity, if people feel well they are able to work efficiently- thus ensuring that family income isn't hindered by ill health.







## Partnerships

It was a great pleasure to personally meet Dr. Birute Galdikas in early December 2019. Jessica Grillo was conducting a due diligence visit to our concession and the two ladies certainly hit it off!

Dr. Galdikas is the founder of Orangutan Foundation International (OFI), with whom we hold a conservation partnership.

We contribute to the conservation, rehabilitation and release of orangutans into the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve which also provides an important buffer zone that protects all wildlife in the Tanjung National Park, an area rich in biodiversity.

Dr. Galdikas is a world expert in orangutans, she's a scientist, conservationist and educator and has been a mentor to women and girls across the globe for 50 years. She's been studying wild orangutans for about 45 years and it was my great pleasure to meet with her and hear some of remarkable stories.





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## Camp Rimba

No update would be complete without talking about the amazing and beautiful Camp Rimba, our orangutan release station, located deep in the forest. It was built especially for rehabilitated orangutans to be released by Orangutan Foundation International (OFI) into our concession.

After my visit to the project area in July, I wrote about the wonderful Putri, (meaning 'Princess' in Bahasa), and her beautiful infant son. Well, in November, we were treated to something really spectacular, something I considered to be a birthday present as it was incidentally my birthday month!

Putri's son had grown so much in the short weeks since my last visit and was showing great independence, he was taking his own bananas, drinking a milk-water concoction under the very watchful eye of his mum who held his head to be sure he didn't dunk it down too far! But best of all; once Putri tired of being on the feeding platform, she gathered a fistful of bananas and went up into the canopy with the little one hanging onto her for dear life.

At the top of the tallest tree, she swung upside down and her little boy was dangling beneath her, holding on only with his little fists clutching her back hair- he was dangling high up and it seemed so precarious! I held my breath. Finally she turned right way up and moved along a few trees and there something amazing happened...the young creature made a few tentative moves further along the branch, he was suddenly not in contact with his mum and longer, but he bravely kept going! One shaky step after another, slowly climbing from branch to branch.

His mum was deceptively calm, she continued to eat her bananas- but I could see that she was keeping a keen eye on the adventuring infant. He explored on his own, turning this way and that and unsteadily moving around. We were witnessing the equivalent of a human baby's first steps! What a very special moment and we were fortunate enough to be there at that exact moment!

He soon tired and went back to snuggle in mums lap and we breathed a collective sigh of happiness and relief that he had managed so well.

A magical moment that is forever engraved in my memory bank and I'm looking forward to more orangutan antics.







### MICRO-FINANCING

Our Micro financing initiatives support the community and help develop economic stability.

Zuper Shrimp Paste, Chicken Farms, Fish Farms micro-enterprises address several SDG's

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## LITERACY AND SCHOLARSHIPS

We provide scholarships to high achieving children from low income families and through our Educational Fund, all children receive benefits such as books, stationary, school bags and funding for use in school related activities. Currently we have 2 libraries which provide a learning space and help develop literacy in the community



## CLEAN WATER AND GOOD HEALTH

For a community that lives on the banks of the Seruyan River and use it for everything from fishing to drinking to bathing, it was vital to ensure the availability of clean water. By providing water filters to every house and installing 3 large water filtration systems, we help to ensure the health and well-being of our community







## FLOATING CLINIC

The Floating Clinic gives us access to people in the most remote villages, benefiting those with limited resources and mobility. Our Outreach medical services, are particularly beneficial to women, children and the elderly who would otherwise not receive vital medical services.



## SOLAR POWER

By providing each household with solar lanterns along with larger solar installations, we are improving the quality of life of all community members







## TREE PLANTING

We've planted over 300,000 trees to date, these trees sequester carbon, keep the air clean and produce fruits for people and animals in our concession. In 2018/19, we also planted 20,000 mangrove trees, creating a vital marine habitat that provides protection to marine life. All saplings are purchased from local suppliers, giving communities added economic stability



## DRONES, COMPUTERS, GENERATORS AND CAMERA TRAPS

We provide the tools required to collect data that will help us be more efficient. We train people to develop skills and abilities and give communities access to technology.







## PROTECTING ENDANGERED WILDLIFE

We partner with Orangutan Foundation International (OFI), the government and the community to protect threatened & endangered key species.





## 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.

