



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 Year End Update

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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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CONSERVATION SUCCESS

25 ORANGUTANS RELEASED IN 2017

In our midyear newsletter we highlighted the exciting news of the **release of 10 wild born Orangutans**. By the end of 2017 we had **freed 25 ex-captive & rehabilitated orangutans** into our primary peat swamp forest which is ideal orangutan habitat.

There were 3 separate releases throughout the year. It's important to bear in mind that it isn't only the high cost of the release which needs to be considered, but also the compatibility of the individuals. Similar to people, orangutans don't all just like each other or get along, they are competitive and can sometimes be aggressive towards those not part of their core group. In their natural environment, this isn't an issue as they develop strategies and boundaries in order to deal social misbehaviour. In a release situation, which is already stressful for the orangutans, we must ensure that they feel comfortable & willingly support one another.

All 25 orangutans have embraced their new home and no longer feel the need to return to the feeding platform but have become self-sustaining. Occasionally a few of them visit the platform with the express intention of obtaining an easy snack! This allows us to observe their physical and mental state and confirm the continued success of their release.





CONSERVATION SUCCESS REQUIRES EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Orangutan Foundation International (OFI), with whom we have a conservation partnership, is fully committed to rehabilitating all their rescued orangutans which have often been abused and are severely stressed and sometimes depressed when they arrive at the Care Centre. These issues can lead to stunted mental and physical development, making their rehabilitation a long and arduous process.

“

I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things

— Mother Teresa



A successful release depends on teamwork and we are very proud of our Rimba Raya Team.

InfiniteEARTH, manages Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve, and uses the income gained from the sale of carbon credits to assist OFI in their endeavour to rehabilitate each orangutan, helping them obtain social and ecological skills while learning to be less dependent on humans for their survival.

The rescued orangutans are victims of either the pet trade or deforestation and consequent loss of habitat caused by irresponsible and illegal land clearing for agricultural purposes, mostly oil palm & timber.

Partnership

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Success is possible if we work together



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HYDROPONICS

Food security

Hydroponics is the process of growing plants without the use of soil. The benefit of hydroponics, if done correctly, is that plants can be as genetically healthy as possible because they receive exactly what they need and in the correct quantity so as to ensure successful growth. This means that plants don't expend energy searching for nutrients and use it solely for vegetative growth.

We've recently introduced this initiative and have seen some success with it so far. The skill in providing the correct quantities of nutrients while protecting the delicate plants from being attacked by pests is a valuable one which will benefit the community for years to come.



Benefits of Hydroponics on the environment:

- Being soilless, it doesn't require herbicides or excessive amounts of pesticides
- The production can be 4x the quantity of that grown in the same area using traditional (soil) methods
- It uses 90% less water than 'traditional' farming
- It ensures a controlled, hygienic environment for the growth of vegetables.



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REDD+ PEDAL INITIATIVE

PEDAL or Village Education Program for Nature and Environment is the first step in developing awareness and knowledge in our community.

We are proactively working to increased literacy and encouraging people to inform themselves on global issues which may seem far removed but have a daily impact on all our lives.



As a REDD+ project, we are committed to the protection of not only the environment and its natural resources but also to the success and health of our local inhabitants. While It is not our place to do it **for** them, we do provide funding, resources and 'know how' in order to assist communities in building micro-enterprises such as Zuper Shrimp paste, Salty fish, handicrafts, rice production, hydroponics and the Chicken Egg farm.

Aside from these income producing initiatives, we have introduced programmes that develop other aspects of their lives such as the village libraries, student awards, community health, clean water, electricity in remote areas, firefighting training and a team to patrol the region to manage flare-ups of hotspots created by the 'slash and burn' land clearing methods.

“

The supreme reality of our time is the vulnerability of our planet.

-- John F. Kennedy

Those who live closest to nature are more aware of the effects of global warming or climate change.

We're witnessing extreme droughts, flooding, increased frequency of natural fires and other side effects of climate change that lead to lower agricultural production and the reduction of life sustaining fish supplies.

We believe that the most important resource is **AWARENESS**, a keen understanding of the consequences of action or inaction.



Sometimes we need to hear the opinion of an objective third party. These are the words of a professional who evaluates projects such as ours to ensure we're doing what we say we are.

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As an independent auditor of projects seeking to comply with the standards of the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance, I have seen some great efforts by conservation project developers. Among dozens of good conservation projects I investigated, a few stand out as exceptional. InfiniteEARTH's Rimba Raya Project is one of them.

My company audited Rimba Raya twice – once fairly early in the project's development schedule and once about a year and a half later. Since securing the right to “use” the land in a conservation project was the foundation of the entire project, the early years were dominated by this effort, preventing the conversion of this tropical peat dome forest to a gigantic palm oil plantation.

I interviewed citizens of the communities and towns surrounding the project lands. During the first audit, all of the people were friendly and open, but somewhat suspicious of the Rimba Raya project, itself. They had been hearing of the benefits promised by the project for about 3 years at that point, but most of the project efforts were unseen. The general attitude throughout the area was that they heard enough talk and wanted to see action.

By the time the second audit rolled around, they had seen some action. Average family income in the project zone was initially below the national poverty line of Indonesia. Today it is above the poverty line. Dozens of people were employed by the project, fulltime. Many more were able to provide goods and services for project activities, including tree seedlings and seasonal labor for replanting efforts. When asked what he saw as the most important benefit of Rimba Raya, a local Imam responded that it was expanding income opportunities for women. The skeptical, wait-and-see attitudes encountered during my first visit were gone.

Why is a pointy-headed, nerdy, natural scientist, like me, so impressed with the community benefits and popular acceptance of Rimba Raya? While it is clear that preserving vital orangutan habitat and preventing the emission of millions of tons of CO₂ into the atmosphere is important for wildlife diversity and the problem of climate change, without local community acceptance and adoption of a conservation project's goals, the conservation of habitat and prevented emissions are temporary. Rimba Raya is a solid example of a conservation project with direct economic benefits to local community members. It is designed and managed to carry these benefits far into the future, and to take the conservation benefits into the future with them.

—Richard Scharf



ZUPER SHRIMP PASTE



Every spring, each family in the Sungai Perlu village, harvest 200-500kg's of good quality shrimp. A traditional shrimp paste is made, packaged with food grade materials and sold to neighbouring villages.

This initiative continues to bring consistent income to the village. Improved health and hygiene in the production process has been an important factor in expanding the market to the neighbouring big towns.

The women's COOP in charge of this initiative would like to expand production while maintaining a high quality product and the focus is now on a strategic marketing plan.



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



COMMUNITY BASED WASTE MANAGEMENT

It's often difficult to change bad habits. Human beings are notoriously capable of extreme denial despite overwhelming evidence. The same can be said about waste disposal; 'out of sight, out of mind' is an attitude we've all adopted. Unfortunately the situation has become dire and we can't deny that our pollution is choking our dwindling natural resources.

50%

Education is the key and in light of this InfiniteEARTH and Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve decided to proactively involve the community in building awareness through our garbage processing programme. The **Garbage Bank** initiative was introduced in 2014, encouraging people to bring their recyclable materials to our 'bank', where they are allocated a monetary value, based on weight, to withdraw or keep in their account as savings. The villagers adopted this initiative with great enthusiasm and over time we are seeing the effects of the change in attitude and the pride of the villagers as they keep their environment clean. Children are particularly involved which is an important element in insuring that this behaviour continues and new habits are formed.

Rivers and fresh water supplies are an extremely valuable commodity for the success of our crops, our fish supplies and our drinking water. It's therefore particularly important to ensure that their value is acknowledged and they are protected from pollution.

The small choices we make, compound into long term, tangible successes and benefits for all of us.

Ratik Bahalap is an initiative in which plastic and other waste materials are used creatively to make handicrafts as a means of supplementing the village income in addition to being a successful method of controlling the environmental destruction that usually results from irresponsible garbage disposal.





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

-- Native American Proverb



COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

We've learned that in order to be successful we need to support each other emotionally, psychologically and financially.

Most of the images shared in this newsletter have been provided by our community and we thank them for their contribution.

In these final pages, we would like to give our readers insight into the lives of our community members through their eyes.

Presentation of gifts and monetary awards to students



Team who have inspected our project for validation.

The results will be released in early 2018

Strategic planning for field patrols and concession mapping



Tree Planting is an important part of what we do



All members of our community make a valuable contribution.





COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION

Education is a key factor in ensuring the long-term success of our community



While traditional skills are still embraced and passed on from generation to generation, learning new skills is vital to the growth of our community.

**Decisive and productive
Action is our ambition
for 2018, what's yours?**



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.

