



InfiniteEARTH™
Beyond Carbon. Beyond Sustainability.

Rimba Raya

BIODIVERSITY RESERVE

2018 | YEAR END REVIEW

Seeds
of Change

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 has 14 villages within the concession and we need to ensure that each village is provided with equal opportunities.



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
BIODIVERSITY RESERVE



Rimba-Raya.com



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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
An InfiniteEARTH™ Project

InfiniteEARTH & Rimba Raya take great pride in supporting gender equality and women empowerment

Women are critical to the success of REDD+ and empowering them helps us build a stronger community with continuing economic growth.

The devastating loss of viable forests in developing countries has highlighted the need for communities to take action to protect their forests in return for compensation from industrialised nations. Decisions made in forestry management will affect men and women in varying ways.

In studies conducted by the UN and other organizations, it has become apparent that because men usually control the forestry institutions and resources, there is asymmetry between men and women when it comes to forestry decision making. However, it's usually women who gather the resources from forests, such as wood, food, medicine, and animal fodder which is used for the benefit of the family and community as a whole.

It's not enough to just keep the carbon locked in forests, trying to stop deforestation is certainly a major concern but for REDD+ to be a success, we need to ensure that we provide financing mechanisms that will have an impact on the community as a whole, while simultaneously empowering women, improving access to education, health and basic necessities.

The income gained from the sale of carbon credits help to achieve these goals as well as develop community run enterprises which will improve the economic and social status of the concession.

Women's groups can be effective structures for community-based forest management which is why we at InfiniteEARTH, thought it prudent to start the women's COOP where women would be empowered to develop initiatives that would be overseen by women while working in partnership with the men in the community.





MANGROVES

Rimba Raya has been involved in Mangrove tree planting in the Seruyan District since 2016. This is an initiative that we will continue to develop indefinitely because of its far reaching positive impacts on the environment and the community.

We identified an area in great need of reforestation and have begun a new initiative that consists of planting twenty-five thousand mangrove tree saplings close to the Rimba Raya concession. This initiative gives us an opportunity to reach out to the local community that was in need of support in their conservation efforts.

The goal was to help reforest an area along the Tatah River which the Seruyan Government hopes to develop as a mangrove ecotourism destination. By developing it in this way, communities and the local government would be able to generate an income while educating locals and tourists on the importance of mangrove forest ecosystems.

The largest area of mangrove forests are found in Indonesia, where mangrove trees cover some 23,000 square kilometres.

Mangroves aren't given the attention they deserve, they may not be the most beautiful trees, however the impact they have on the environment is enormous and there are many other benefits to planting these trees in a peat swamp.

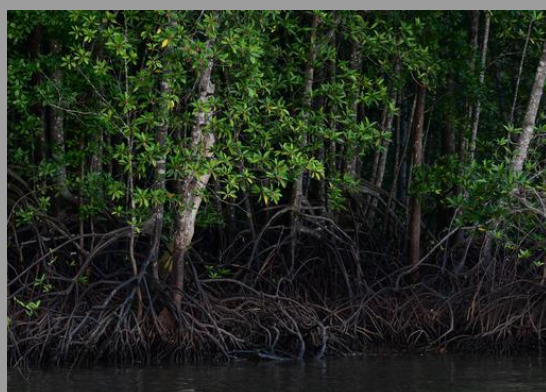
It's also true that one cannot just plant any type of mangrove in any environment. They are rather sensitive and choosing the right type of mangrove is vital to the success of a tree planting initiative.

This initiative has helped Rimba Raya build awareness of the positive and far reaching effects that the income gained as a REDD+ project can have on neighbouring communities.

This is an area where the community have not historically been particularly active in protecting the environment and we are hopeful that this initiative will help educate local inhabitants, while developing a feeling of unity which helps us build a closer relationship with our neighbours.

The benefits of mangrove forests on biodiversity are well documented and a healthy ecosystem will naturally help increase the fish population which will increase the income of local fishermen.

After the recent planting of trees where local government, community members and school children all participated, there was an enthusiasm in the initiative that bodes well for continued future participation as we move forward in our efforts in reforestation.





Tree Planting

One of the initiatives we are most proud of is Tree Planting. We are thrilled to announce that since 2013 we have planted 295,145 trees in our Rimba Raya concession and surrounding areas. An impressive 121,000 of these were planted in 2018- 2019.

To appreciate the significance of this initiative, it's important to understand what a tropical peat swamp forest is.

Peat swamp forests form in tropical areas where wet soils or frequent flooding prevent organic material from fully decomposing. This organic material slowly accumulates and as it does, more water is retained- in effect becoming a water-logged sponge. As these mounds of organic material build up they can rise above the flood levels and these peat deposits can extend up to 20 m.



It takes thousands of years for peatlands to form and are deficient in nutrients because of the lack of mineral input, and the leaching of organic compounds causes the water to become extremely acidic.

Fires are deliberately started to clear areas for agricultural development. Animals that live in the peat forests; orangutans, sun bears, pangolins and proboscis monkeys, are severely threatened as is their ever decreasing habitat.



Tree Planting and conservation

Proboscis monkeys have been particularly impacted by the deforestation in Borneo, Peat swamp forests are key habitats for these unique animals which are found only in coastal and river habitats in Borneo. They build nests and sleep in tall trees along the rivers. They coexist well with the orangutans in our concession.

Sadly Proboscis monkeys are an endangered species with an estimated 7,000 left in wild while Orangutans are considered critically endangered.

The Sun Bear is listed as 'vulnerable' on the IUCN Red List.

The fruit trees we plant ensure that all fruit eating animals continue to have a source of food in their ideal habitat. Orangutans which were released into our concession, after a long process of rehabilitation as carried out by the Orangutan Foundation International team- with whom we have a conservation partnership, are able to forage for food on their own. In fact, on a visit to the Rimba Raya Camp in October 2018, one lone orangutan came to the platform for a snack, it's clear that during the rainy season there is an abundance of fruits in our forest, I would say this is definitely something to be proud of.

Trees planted in 2018 and 2019

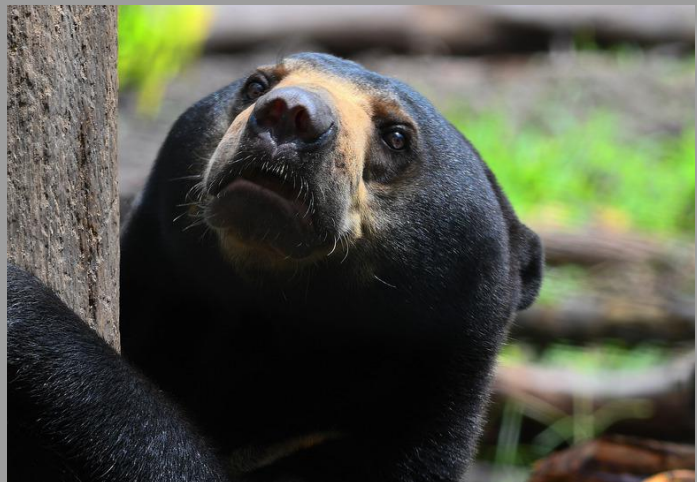
Mangrove trees- 25,000

Forest and fruit trees- 76,000

Agarwood trees- 20,000

Total planted – 121,000

Our efforts in preserving our forests, reforestation and helping to protect endangered species, makes our project one of the most effective in Borneo.





ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT FOR ULAK BATU VILLAGE SUPPORTED BY NEW ZEALAND HEAD OF EMBASSY FUND

We have great pleasure in announcing that we have been able to bring Solar Power to the Ulak Batu Village due to the generous support from the New Zealand Head of Embassy Fund.

The goal of this program is to help villagers benefit from having sustainable electricity that would allow the community to be more active during the evening hours. The electricity not only improves the lives socially but also allows the children to have proper illumination to study at night while adults can more effectively prepare for work, cook and care for the home during the night.

A total of 15 solar panels were placed at strategic spots around the village. In one area 6 were installed and they supply enough electricity for 21 houses, a mosque, a guest house, the village health clinic and 6 units of road illumination. In another section of the concession, an additional 9 panels were installed to supply electricity to 36 houses, the village centre and 9 units of road illumination. Local inhabitants are in charge of ensuring the system runs effectively and is well maintained.



CAMERA TRAPS

We are working on a new and exciting initiative that involves Camera Traps being placed in and around the Rimba Raya Project concession. The images resulting from the program will be used to monitor both human and wildlife activity in the area. We are particularly interested in generating population data for future improved management of key species. The Rimba Raya team are currently identifying possible locations for the traps.

The monitoring will take place over a year and this will give us an opportunity to identify key wildlife species in our concession such as the Asian Sun Bear, Clouded Leopard and the severely endangered and threatened Pangolin.

So far we have purchased 30 Bushnell camera traps and we cannot wait to share the data with you.



REDD+



All initiatives at the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve are paid for by income gained through the sale of Carbon Credits by InfiniteEARTH.

While it takes a community to make REDD+ successful, it's the funds received that make it all possible.

We mentioned a new partnership with Veridium Labs in our last newsletter. They have begun creating entirely new marketing channels for REDD+ credits and thus have made significant purchases from IE/RRC in 2018. Veridium Labs has become one of the largest purchasers of the credits that support our initiatives.



Veridium accounted for over a third of InfiniteEARTH's carbon sales in 2018, with more expected in 2019. Their work with IBM on creating a transparent and liquid marketplace for voluntary credits will be vital to the long-term viability of the REDD+ markets and therefore to the Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve.

For more about Veridium Labs, please visit their website at www.veridium.io.

Mr. Jumeri is a retired school principal from the village of Muara Dua in the Rimba Raya Concession. In our last Newsletter we featured story written by his daughter, Ibu Tutriatunningsih, (known as Trie or Tutri). I thought it would be nice to hear what her father has to say, it has become clear why Trie was so determined to pursue her goal of having a higher education.



“ Rimba Raya Conservation (RRC) which is based in the Seruyan Region has a unit office in my village of Muara Dua in Central Kalimantan, Borneo. Rimba Raya has done a lot for the elementary school where I was principal for many years. There are many things I could list as being implemented by Rimba Raya but the most important for me was the development of a proper library. I am passionate about literacy and this was a dream come true for me. The catalyst for expanding an already existing 'reading corner' into a proper library, was that many books had been donated to our village school by the local government, InfiniteEARTH and Rimba Raya. The problem was that there wasn't a system in place or trained people who knew how to run a library. The books were not arranged in a way that would allow for our community to make the most of them, Rimba Raya helped to set up the library and arranged a local person to be trained as the head librarian who would in turn trains other members of the community.

I was also delighted when Rimba Raya gave my students incentives to learn and be better students through the 'Student Awards' program where they received bags, stationary, books and money. In a community where there is very little extra money, this was exciting for students who showed appreciation by trying to improve their grades.

Rimba Raya also educates and leads by example- teaching us to care for the environment. In the 'Clean Village Program' elementary school children, teachers and staff from Rimba Raya walk together along pathways in the village to collect garbage, they also help to dispose of the garbage.

Finally the Tree Planting Program where trees are planted every month along the tatah Ji (Ji canal), while doing this, our children learn more about nature. Before the actual planting, the Rimba Raya team spend time to tell us about how we can help protect our environment, they explain which types of trees needed in our village and they teach us how to care for our forests. These are subjects that aren't covered very well in the school room.

I'm happy that Rimba Raya is helping in the Muara dua village, we don't always have all the help we need from local government, so it's very important to receive it from RRC.

Children and their education has been my life's work and the support received from Rimba Raya Conservation has been invaluable, I've seen big changes over the years.

For the future we expect that the programs which already exist will continue and be developed further to help all elementary school students as well as the community as a whole. „

-Mr.jumeri (retired principal of SDN 1 Muara Dua)

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.

