



InfiniteEARTH™
Beyond Carbon. Beyond Sustainability.



An InfiniteEARTH™ Project

Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve addresses all 17 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



Find out how we address goal # 5
Gender equality and women's empowerment.



Rimba-Raya.com



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At InfiniteEARTH & Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve we believe in empowering women.



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.



Here are some of the initiatives developed and managed by the women in the Rimba Raya community.

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 packaging along with a more hygienic and healthy production process has been an important factor in expanding their market to neighbouring villages with large populations that have increased their sales volume. 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 and expanding market share.



CHICKEN AND EGG FARMING



This initiative has been in place for just over a year. Organic eggs are produced and the members of the enterprise sell them at local markets and to neighbouring villagers. 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 developed in February 2017 and 300 chicks were purchased. After approximately 35-41 days of development, they were ready to be sold. The current activities for this initiative includes 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. It has become apparent that greater investment is required in this initiative, as the team requires additional training and bigger facilities to ensure that they can replicate the ideal environment for eggs to incubate to increase the chicken population.

SALTED FISH MICROENTERPRISE

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 businesses. 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.



TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFTS

We are aware that traditional skills are being lost in the world of modern development and we hope to ensure that some of these skills are protected and developed in a way that will be financially beneficial to the community and in this way, pass the knowledge and skills on to younger generations while gaining an income to ensure economic stability.

The women in the COOP make mats, fishing baskets and use recycled materials to create bags and other decorative items.



TREE SEEDLINGS



An InfiniteEARTH Tree Planting initiative in the Rimba Raya concession has seen almost 300,000 new trees being planted in the 64,000 hectare peat swamp forest since 2013.

We are dedicated to ensuring the survival of varying species of trees and have therefore grown and purchased several varieties of seedlings from the local indigenous population for our replanting efforts. The women have been particularly active in this initiative, nurturing the seedlings in our forest nurseries. These seedlings are used to not only reforest Rimba Raya but are also sold to provide additional income for the local communities.

Through a new Mangrove Tree planting initiative, which has involved local government, we have started to plant 25,000 mangrove seedlings, some of which were grown by the women in the concession.

These seedlings are being planted in an area near the Rimba Raya Project, identified by experts as in need of mangrove reforestation.



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.

