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## Inviting MAB-ICC UNESCO Participants to See the Beauty of the Sembilang National Park

The 30th annual meeting among UNESCO members, The Man and Biosphere International Co-ordinating Council (MAB-ICC) was successfully held on July 23rd through 30th of 2018 in Hotel Novotel Palembang, South Sumatra Province in cooperation with the South Sumatra Provincial Government, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK), the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

The focus of the annual meeting was the development of biosphere reserves

in restoring ecosystems and the MAB program as a means to achieve sustainable development. As the host, Indonesia proposed and recommended in nominating three new biosphere reserves, namely Berbak Sembilang National Park in South Sumatra and Jambi, Betung Kerihun Danau Sentarum Kapuas Hulu in West Kalimantan, and Mount Rinjani National Park in Lombok, West Nusa Tenggara. The biosphere reserves were proposed as a way to promote Indonesia's beautiful landscape and nature through its biosphere reserves.

As a result, the 30th UNESCO MAB-ICC officially marked the designation of Berbak Sembilang National Park,



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“The enthusiasm of the field trip participants had a positive impact on the community, the government, and all stakeholders involved.”

Betung Kerihun Danau Sentarum Kapuas Hulu National Park, and Mount Rinjani National Park into UNESCO's Directory of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). With the addition of three new biosphere reserves, Indonesia is now home to fourteen biosphere reserves.

As a partner in this event, Belantara Foundation invited all participants to visit one of the newly established biosphere reserve, Berbak Sembilang National Park. Joined by 190 participants from 124 countries, the trip journeyed through the beautiful scenery of the coastal area of Banyuasin Regency's peninsula, a natural place of mangrove forests plants, as well as habitat for various types of animals such as Sumatran tigers, saltwater/estuarine crocodiles and various bird species, especially migratory birds originating from Siberia which are often found in the final months of the year.

In this field trip, the participants were

also invited to visit one of the villages in Banyuasin District, Sungsang Village. Here, the participants were presented with traditional dances as well as given coconut ices as a welcome drinks. There were also various kinds of local products from the community of Sungsang Village, which came as a result from Trisakti School of Tourism's collaboration with Belantara Foundation's community development programs.

The enthusiasm of the field trip participants had a positive impact on the community, the government, and all stakeholders involved as they could spread their experience with their friends, relatives, and relations in their respective countries and inform them that Berbak National Park is a wonderful and a must-visit destination when visiting Indonesia.

This field trip was also a promotional event to promote Berbak Sembilang National Park as a destination for ecotourism that is open for local and foreign tourists.

(Betha Nopianti)

MAB -  
ICC

## Belantara Tourist Boat Takes Tourist to Experience the Beauty of Berbak Sembilang National Park



“In the spirit of the 2018 Asian Games held in Palembang, South Sumatra and to promote tourism in South Sumatra, with the South Sumatra government's initiative, Belantara built a "Musi River - Sembilang Tourism Boat".”

The Sembilang sector of Berbak Sembilang National Park is a representative of the peat swamp forests, freshwater forests and riparian forests in South Sumatra. Giant ferns (*Angiopteris evecta*), mangrove palms (*Nypa fruticans*), Australian pine trees (*Casuarina equisetifolia*), pandan (*Pandanus amaryllifolius*), Portia trees (*Thespesia populnea*), Nibung palm trees (*Oncosperma tigillarum*), jelutong (*Dyera costulata*), Mengaris (*Koompassia excelsa*), and gelam tikus (*Syzygium inophylla*) are plants that can be found in land and waters in this area.

Besides its marine resources, such as fishes and shrimps off the shores of the Sembilang estuary, it is also an area with ecological wealth (flora and fauna). It's home to where various species coexist such as the Sumatran tigers, Sumatran elephants, tapirs, gibbons, Asian golden cats, sambar deers, crocodiles, monitor lizards, giant

softshell turtles, Irrawaddy dolphins, various species of birds and of course the Sembilang fish (Eel-tailed catfish). Tens of thousands of Siberian migrant birds can be seen in Sembilang.

In the spirit of the 2018 Asian Games held in Palembang, South Sumatra and to promote tourism in South Sumatra, with the initiative of South Sumatra's government Belantara built a "Musi River - Sembilang Tourism Boat". It was built specially to promote the Berbak Sembilang biosphere reserve, which was officially recently designated into the World Network of Biosphere Reserves by UNESCO at the 30th International Coordinating Council (ICC) MAB Program (Man and The Biosphere) held in Palembang, South Sumatra on July 23-27 2018.

Inaugurated directly by the South Sumatra Governor, Mr. H. Alex Noerdin on August 9, 2018, in Palembang, the Belantara Tourism Boat is expected to

contribute to tourism in South Sumatra Province, especially the Sembilang sector of Berbak Sembilang National Park. It also aims to add value to the area, so to be recognized by the general public and attract interest in participating in conservation efforts of natural resources in the area.

With tourism, people would hopefully see nature's beauty and be called upon to maintain the integrity and sustainability of the tourism objects, such as the natural beauty attractions, historic buildings and heritages, as well as traditional cultures. The ceremonial event of Belantara's Tour Boat launching was marked by the inscription signing by the South Sumatra Governor, H. Alex Noerdin, followed by the ribbon cutting ceremony, and proceeded to the embarkation onto the boat's deck to conduct a trial trip as the end to Belantara's Tour Boat inauguration ceremony.

(Betha Nopianti)



*Make A Positive Impact  
On Forest Protection And  
Restoration*

## Who We Are?

The Belantara Foundation funds sustainability programs that conserve and rehabilitate ecosystems, protect endangered species and offer a better quality of life to local farmers in Indonesia. We work to protect the Indonesian landscape by funding local projects in areas that are set aside for conservation, reforestation and sustainable community development.



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## Belantara Foundation Present at the Indonesian Pavilion at UNFCCC COP 24

“Along the COP 24, Indonesia also held an “Indonesian Pavilion” to convey Indonesia’s latest development on climate change mitigation and adaptation.”

The 24th Conference of Parties (COP 24) of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC), also known as the Katowice Climate Change Conference, was successfully held on December 2-15 2018 in Katowice, Poland. The COP is the highest conference on global climate change, its status, and on how to control it. COP 24 especially discusses on achieving climate control targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and climate change adaptation programs mentioned in the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) document, which is the core of the Paris Agreement (COP21, 2015).

Along the COP 24, Indonesia also held an “Indonesian Pavilion” to convey Indonesia’s latest development on climate change mitigation and adaptation, Indonesia’s innovation and action in controlling climate change, its implementation of soft-diplomacies, and building a network of parties in an effort to control climate change

globally.

In line with the COP 24 theme, “Changing Together”, the Indonesian Pavilion was themed “Climate Change, Society Change: Let’s Work-Up and Team-Up”, so that all parties together decide to make changes. The Indonesian Pavilion featured 52-panel discussion sessions with 225 speakers and was attended by nearly 3000 discussion participants during two weeks, from December 3-14, 2018.

As in previous years, Belantara Foundation was present at the Indonesian Pavilion and represented by the Foundation’s Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Prof. Jatna Supriatna and the Foundation’s Executive Director, Dr. Sri Mariati, taking part in the following four discussion panels:

### Financing Climate Actions Through Partnerships

In this session, the Belantara Foundation became one of the panelists with clear evidence of financing climate change actions with partners in the field. Dr. Sri Mariati, the Executive Director, explained the various activities carried out with partners as well as the achievements to date. This session was also presented with Mr. Prabianto Mukti Wibowo (Indonesian Coordinating Ministry for Economic Affairs), Mr. Medrilzam (National Development Planning Agency, Indonesia Climate Change Trust Fund), Riki Frindos (KEHATI Foundation), Danae Maniatris (United Nations Development Programme), and Prof. Jatna Supriatna (I-SER UI, Belantara Foundation) as the moderator.

### Forestry Private Sector Contribution to Climate Change Mitigation

The role of the private sector must be involved in efforts to preserve nature. During this session, the Belantara Foundation represented by Dr. Sri Mariati, the Executive Director explained about the collaboration with APP Sinarmas in developing ecotourism in Sembilang, South Sumatra. This project shows that conservation efforts can be carried out in partnership with the private sector. This session was also joined by is Mr. Wiratno (Natural Resource Conservation Agency), Dr. Amanda Katili Niode (Climate Reality Project), and Mrs. Elim Sritaba (APP Sinarmas), and Prof. Jatna Supriatna (ISER-UI, Belantara Foundation) as the moderator.

### Connecting People to Climate Actions

Because of its complexity, cooperation is an essential aspect of carrying out activities in solving and mitigating climate change. In this session, Belantara Foundation demonstrated how it cooperates with multi-parties to in developing ecotourism in Sembilang. One of the partners is the Trisakti School of Tourism. Partnering with this educational institution, the Belantara Foundation prepares the Sungsang village in Sembilang for local product development to attract tourists. This session was joined by Prof. Dwikorita Karnawati (Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency), Mrs. Fetty Asmaniaty (Trisakti School of Tourism), Dr. Djanadi Bimo Prakoso (Trisakti Foundation), and Ms. Herlina Hartanto (The Nature Conservancy), and Prof. Jatna Supriatna (I-SER UI, Belantara Foundation) as moderator.

### Transforming Land and Food Systems for a Low Carbon Development in Indonesia

When discussing climate change actions, efforts in mitigation will come

up, one of which is the development of low emission alternative technologies. In this session, Belantara Foundation demonstrated activities with its partners in South Sumatra in implementing ways to reduce chemical fertilizers for agriculture, biogas production, bio-slurry construction, and developing integrated farming systems. Prof. Rachmat Witoelar (Presidential Special Staff for Climate Change), Dr. Nur Masripatin (UNFCCC focal point), Prof. Jatna Supriatna (I-SER UI, Belantara Foundation) and Dr. Tri Handoko Seto (Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology) also joined this session.

Belantara Foundation’s participation in the Indonesian Pavilion at COP 24 certainly provides many benefits. Among other things, it promotes Belantara Foundation and what it does to a broad audience and also adds relationships for collaboration and more partners in preserving Indonesia’s nature.

(Betha Nopianti)



COP 24



**Holding The Annual Board Meeting, Belantara Foundation Invites All Board Members to Visit Sungsang Village**

“The Annual Board Meeting is an annually held meeting by Belantara Foundation, which brings together the entire Belantara Foundation Board (Advisory Board, Board of Trustees, Supervisory Board, and Management Board) and Management to carry out discussions and review the year's accomplishments and plan for the following year's objectives.”

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Attended by Mr. Mark Buckley, Mr. Tony

Sumampau and Ms. Erna Witoelar as Advisory Board members of Belantara Foundation; Mr. Marzuki Usman, Prof. Jatna Supriatna, Ms. Aida Greenbury, Ms. Elim Sritaba and Mr. Agus Purnomo as the Board of Trustees of Belantara Foundation; Mr. Ardinis Arbain, Mr. Agung Wiyono and Mr. Teguh Soedarsono as the Supervisory Board of Belantara Foundation; and Prof. Y Purwanto, Dr. Dolly Priatna and Mrs. Sera Noviany from the Executive Board of Belantara Foundation, the annual

meeting was successfully held at the Aston Palembang Hotel on 21-22 January 2019.

The event was opened by Mr. Marzuki Usman as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and moderated by Prof. Jatna Supriatna as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Sri Mariati, the Executive Director of Belantara Foundation, explained that Belantara Foundation supports 11 Sustainable Development Guide Goals (SDG) programs:



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To support the 11 SDGs and 169 development achievements for the well-being of humans and the earth, Dr. Sri Mariati also explained about Belantara Foundation's accomplishments in 2018 based on the 2016 - 2017 proposals on the consensus program for conservation, institutional development, and restoration and protection on the 10 grant areas in 5 provinces (Riau, Jambi, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan and East Kalimantan).

**Protection**  
438,212 Ha

**Restoration**  
2,633.2 Ha

**Social Forestry**  
46,970 Ha

**Villages**  
84 Villages

**Results :**

**Partnerships**  
35 Partners

**Canal Blockings**  
82 Units

**Education**  
2,253 People

**Drill Wells**  
14 Units

**Watch Post**  
4 Units

**Eco Tourism**  
18 Sites

**Agriculture**  
18 Units

**Biogas Digesters**  
4 Units

**Fisheries**  
22 Units

**Community Groups**  
129 Groups

**Home Industries**  
3 Units

**Libraries**  
3 Units

**Fire & Wildlife Towers**  
2 Units



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The next day, January 22, 2019, Belantara Foundation invited all Board members to visit Sungsang village. Sungsang village is a village being helped by Belantara Foundation to become the destination village for Sembilang ecotourism in South Sumatra.

Belantara Foundation collaborates with various partners and programs, and one of them is with Trisakti School of Tourism for community empowerment. In this program, the community and women groups are educated and trained on how to process raw Sembilang fishes into great known products of Sungsang Village.

The members traveled for almost 3 hours by speedboat to go to Sungsang village. Upon arrival, they were greeted by Mr. Romi, Village Chief of Sungsang Village, and Mr. Bimo as the head of Trisakti School of Tourism; and were also welcomed with a welcoming dance

from South Sumatra.

Mr. Marzuki Usman, Mr. Romi, and Dr. Sri Mariati took the time to give a speech in front of the village community.

In addition, the participants were also invited to see the production process of the now excellent Sungsang village products, such as crackers, dry pastels, shredded fish, and coconut chips.

As a closing to the 2019 Annual Meeting and Field Trip, the participants then went on board the Belantara Tourism Boat for lunch and experienced the beautiful scenery from the boat's top deck.

(Betha Nopianti)



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## Vice Regent of Siak Receives Agritourism Grand Design Book

*“The Vice Regent of Siak, Mr. Alfredri was given the Bunga Raya Agritourism Grand Design Book at the book's launching ceremony in 2019. The Vice Regent symbolically received it during the book's launching ceremony in Taman Harmoni Raya, Bunga Raya Sub-district, Saturday, January 26, 2019.”*

The Bunga Raya Agritourism Grand Design Book is a master plan for agritourism that details the overall potentials in Bunga Raya sub-district. It is compiled by Belantara Foundation together with the Agritourism Team of Bunga Raya, and Teras Riau Association, and although it took a significant amount of time, the book was finally completed.

The Vice Regent of Siak, Mr. Alfredri was given the Bunga Raya Agritourism Grand Design Book at the book's launching ceremony in 2019. The Vice Regent symbolically received it during the book's launching ceremony in Taman Harmoni Raya, Bunga Raya

Sub-district, Saturday, January 26, 2019, handed over by Purwowidi Astanto, the Conservation Coordinator of Belantara Foundation, representing Belantara Foundation's Executive Director, Dr. Sri Mariati; and was accompanied by the Teras Riau Association; the Head of the Sub-District and Sub-district secretary, and the Head of Sabak Sub-district. Present at the book celebration event was the Head of Youth and Sports affairs of Siak Regency, Mr. Syahrudin, and the Head of the Siak Regency Tourism Office represented by the Head of Tourism Marketing, Mr. Basriyansah.

It is hoped that with the existence of this agritourism grand design book, the

development of agritourism in Bunga Raya can be immediately realized and achieved in accordance with mutual expectations and also determined through the Regent's Decree.

(Syifa)