



Case Study:
Community Development

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT REPLACES NON-ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARING TECHNIQUES

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The Challenge

The province of Jambi is home to lush rainforests that are the natural habitat for several endangered species. This is also where three Belantara Foundation grant areas are located - Bukit Tigapuluh National Park, Berbak Sembilang National Park, and Dangku Meranti Nature Reserve. Lack of farming knowledge, natural resource management training and unsustainable clearing techniques have damaged these sensitive peatlands and other ecosystems. As the landscape is restored, local communities require support to improve their standard of living without compromising the environment.

Our Solution

The Belantara Foundation funded a project in partnership with the Zoological Society of London, the sustainable trade initiative, IDH, and two local organizations, Gita Buana and UPTD TAHURA Orang Kayo Hitam. A number of strategic interventions were conducted to help the province:

- Community-based restoration programs to drive employment;
- Protection from fire threats by mobilization of the local community (e.g. blocking canals, water reservoirs, fire monitoring towers, and capacity-building for community fire guards in target villages);
- Sustainable use of non-timber forest products;
- Education and forestry awareness, including the development of libraries

Our Impact

Improved community involvement in Jambi has achieved results showing improved quality of life for villagers and the protection of the natural landscape:

- Local workers found employment in the community-based restoration program;
- A total of 120,000 seedlings have been planted in 300 hectares in Orang Kayo Hitam grand forest;
- Livestock raising and biogas utilization training for the local community were carried out;
- The utilization of liquid bio-slurry (from the biogas digester's waste) for vegetables and perennials, such as rubber and oranges. Indigenous vegetation was planted as part of the land restoration;
- Community-based fire protection including a trained fire-brigade that conducts forest patrols, a new monitoring tower, and a fire danger warning system were put in place;
- Construction of three new public libraries with 3,000 books;
- Conduct of new hydrological studies on the Dangku Meranti area;
- Construction of three canal blocks, and two horticultural and agroforestry learning centers;
- Development of food/ agriculture crops (seed, fertilizer and organic pesticide) for 30 hectares, which benefit 56 local farmers; and Development of horticulture s crops (seed, fertilizer and organic pesticide) for 30 hectares, which benefit 77 local farmers.



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FOUNDATION

OUR PARTNERS:



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