

Case Study:
Peatland Restoration

REVERSING THE IMPACT OF DEVASTATING FIRES BY RESTORING PEATLANDS

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The Challenge

Peat is essential in promoting natural forest growth and in its ability to absorb carbon. In its natural state, peat functions as a sponge, keeping moisture in the ground while nourishing plant life and trees. This is essentially true in the rainforests of Indonesia. The clearing of peat lands for industrial and other purposes is leading to huge environmental and social concerns.

Our Solution

In areas where peat has been degraded, or even lost due to fires, Belantara works to restore the landscape and revive damaged ecosystems.

The Berbak-Sembilang ecosystem is a combination of peat swamp forests, freshwater swamp forests, mangroves and lowland forests, as well as two national parks. Belantara works with local NGOs in the following areas:

- Supporting the restoration of the peat ecosystem;
- Planting trees and other indigenous vegetation;
- Preventing fires through the construction of canal blocking systems, construction of hydrant wells and fire monitoring towers;
- Capacity building of the Community Fire Brigade Group (KMPA) and community-based patrols;
- Increasing public awareness through environmental education and nature conservation;
- Empowering communities to improve the economy and involvement in nature conservation efforts

Our Impact

Restoration

- Developed three pre-restoration assessment documents
- Trained 25 members from the surrounding villages of Kota Kandis, Jati Mulyo, Catur Rahayu, and Teluk Dawan in restoration techniques
- Build five infrastructures, including nursery centres, to support restoration
- Provided 114,540 seeds (covering 13 species) for restoration, out of which 100,000 seeds have been planted covering 275 hectares
- Provided over 1,000,000 seedlings consisting of 13 species, for restoration covering 2,741 hectares of land

Protection

- Established three protection agreements
- Developed three standard operating procedures for protection/patrol
- Built the drill wells to support protection programs
- Built 84 canal blocking system
- Conducted three fire burnout training programs, with 30 participants per session
- Held four fire prevention training sessions, with 39 participants per session
- Constructed 17 infrastructure projects – 11 drill wells, four monitoring towers, one monitoring drone, four monitoring posts, and one water treatment infrastructure to support protection efforts
- Provided 33 community-based fire brigade patrol packages to cover 400,593 patrolled hectares



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Community Development

- Constructed three village libraries
- Built two units of clean water facilities (water tower and water treatment facility)
- Built 100 units of bioseptic tanks
- Trained members of the PKK/Pembinaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga, a civil social organization for women empowerment on how to process products made from local industries

The Belantara Foundation is a non-profit organization that works to protect the Indonesian landscape by establishing local sustainability projects in areas that are set aside for conservation, reforestation and sustainable community development. Through its multi-stakeholder approach with Indonesian provincial governments, NGOs and communities, the Foundation funds programs that conserve and rehabilitate ecosystems, protect endangered species and help local farmers realize sustainable prosperity in Indonesia. For more information visit: belantara.or.id



Belantara
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