BERBAK SEMBILANG
Sustainable Ecotourism Program

Berbak - Sembilang National Park, located in Jambi and South Sumatra with an area of 1,136,758 hectares has been granted as a biosphere reserve by UNESCO (in 2018). The Sembilang sector of the national park is located in Banyuasin Regency, South Sumatra, and covers an area of 203,000 ha. Its landscape is unique as it has four different ecosystems and is home to Sumatran tigers, Sumatran elephants, and many different wild cats, as well as a transit point for migratory birds migrating from Siberia to Australia.

Reaching Berbak Sembilang National Park can be done with a 40 horsepower speedboat from Banyuasin II Regency (Sungsang Village), which will take around 2-hours, or 4-hours if embarking from South Sumatra Province's capital, Palembang.

Our targets for 2019 are to choose 2 villages at the national park's border, and add 2 villages more in 2020. For the full experience journeying to the national park, one can embark on Belantara's boat, which has air-conditioned rooms, a main/meeting room, a bathroom, a kitchen and a full top deck for birdwatching and sightseeing. It’s a 4-hour cruise from Banyuasin Regency (Sungsang Village), or 8-hours from Palembang, South Sumatra.

The objectives of Community Based Ecotourism Development in Berbak Sembilang Biosphere Reserve are to:

**The Objective**

- Strengthen the capacity of villages up to the district officials in understanding the importance of the national park and its boundaries. Our targets for 2019 are to choose 2 villages at the national park’s border, and add 2 villages more in 2020.
- Raise public awareness and community participation in the conservation efforts of protected forest and reforestation activities, and increase the understanding of ecological linkages between conservation and local development as economic opportunities from managing the more holistic approaches.
- Organize communities around the national park to be involved in SMART monitoring and tourist guide training, especially understanding migrant and resident birds at the national park.
- Organize the capacity building of communities and develop livelihood alternatives for people living around the biosphere reserve.
- Develop infrastructures for ecotourism in Sembilang, such as sea huts, bird towers, mangrove trackings, roads, sanitation, and clean water.

**The Gaps**

- Only one out of the four villages in the Sembilang sector (biosphere reserve area) intervened.
- Public transportation from Palembang to Simpang PU and Sungsang Village is still limited.
- Inadequate infrastructure to support economic improvement and become a tourist destination, therefore requires infrastructure development, such as mangrove bridges, road repairs to Sungsang Village (I-IV), bird observation towers, and a gateway sign for the tourism village.
- The community’s capacity, especially as a tourist destination needs to be increased.
- The development of tourist sites for domestic and international tourism is not yet fully developed to its potential.

**Our Projects**

- We offer five programs to raise people’s awareness to protect the environment through sustainable tourism activities.
- We educate the villagers to create high-quality fish products to become a tourism village.

**Our Step’s**

- Strengthen the women’s groups (Fisherman’s women group)
- Improvement of natural protected area
- Superior product production
- Training and mentoring
- Product packaging
- Promotion

**Potential of Ecotourism in Berbak Sembilang National Park Areas**

Ecotourism Potentials in Berbak Sembilang Biosphere Reserve are river tourism with the scenery and beauty of mangrove forests complete with attractions of various eagles perched on mangrove trees while watching fishes in the river, migratory birds and wildlife observation, Forest Tracking, and Fisherman Village Tourism (including the oldest fishermen village in South Sumatra). Those are among the many possible attractions that have not been developed yet.

**The Faunas**

- 461 Vertebrate species
- 139 Protected Species
- 99 Species in the IUCN Red List
- 25 Migratory Bird Species

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Program Activities

- Socio-economic Survey and Public Engagement
- Capacity Building
- Development of Alternatives Economical Income Sources
- Supply Clean Water and Sanitation
- Conservation Education and Awareness
- Wildlife Monitoring at The Forest Tracking Site
- Development of Tourism Villages
- Establish Cooperation with Other Stakeholders

What We Do

1. **Belantara’s Ecotourism Boat**
   As a support to the South Sumatra government in developing the region and in the spirit of the 2018 Asian games held in South Sumatra’s capital Palembang, Belantara Foundation built an Ecotourism boat to promote tourism in Berbak Sembilang National Park. Inaugurated by the Governor of South Sumatra, Mr. Alex Noerdin on August 9, 2018, in Palembang, this boat can accommodate as many as 40 people and is expected to attract domestic and international tourists to visit Berbak Sembilang National Park.

2. **Berbak Sembilang Ecotourism Development at Sungsang Villages**
   - The installation of Berbak Sembilang Signboards in the villages of Sei Sembilang IV & V (near the Sembilang National Park office and migrant birds habitat).
   - Supply clean water by building artesian wells, and provide sanitation by building 80 bio-septic tanks.
   - Create awareness on the importance of sanitation and keeping the environment clean through collaboration and cooperation.
   - Together with villagers, make their village clean, attractive, and vibrant by painting their houses with colorful and vibrant colors.
   - Clean; homestay training; provide garbage collection equipment; institutional training for garbage, waste shredder machines, and clean water management.

3. **Community Empowerment On Fisherman Village**
   Raise community awareness to protect and conserve the ecosystem by creating high-quality products and help develop the villages to become South Sumatra’s coastal village tourism destination.

4. **Local Commoditie’s Potential**
   Train to package, process and promote the various local products (shrimps, shrimp paste, fishes) of Sungsang IV Village and Sembilang Sub-Village, from previously only raw materials causing low-income for households into processed and packaged goods.

**Population In Sungsang Villages**

- Women: 3722
- Men: 3504
- Head of Families: 1843
- Family Income: IDR 3-4 m/Month

[Call For Action]
To empower the community to conserve nature and for sustainable tourism

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**Our Partners**

[Diagram showing partnerships with various organizations]