



Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Indonesia



**Preserving Borneo's richly biodiverse tropical peat
swamp forests and improving local lives**

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve project reduces greenhouse gas emissions by protecting 47,000 hectares of tropical peat swamp forest from deforestation for palm oil production. Located on Borneo's southern coast in Indonesia, the project also protects ecosystem biodiversity and conserves habitat for endangered species such as the orangutan, all while fostering sustainable development amongst local communities.

The Context

The Rimba Raya peat swamp forests are located in Central Kalimantan province on the island of Borneo in Indonesia. Before the project was established, these immensely biodiverse tropical peatlands were scheduled for conversion into four palm oil estates by the provincial government.

The Project

The Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve protects 91,215 hectares of rich, tropical peat swamp forests which are monitored by local rangers as well as by satellite and aerial imagery. The reserve is adjacent to the world-renowned Tanjung Puting National Park and forms a physical buffer zone along the park's eastern border. As well as preserving ecosystem diversity and the habitat of endangered species like the Bornean orangutan, the project reduces emissions by avoiding the planned deforestation of over 47,000 hectares of forests for palm oil production.

The Benefits

The Rimba Raya project not only sequesters carbon and protects habitat for local wildlife; it also promotes local sustainable development, particularly regarding environmental education and economic capacity building. The project employs 73 field staff personnel, 18 of whom are women, and provides other project-related jobs to another 22 local women. The project further focuses on female capacity building by providing financial support for chicken meat and egg working groups, and for recyclable handicrafts. Project activities also promote community education, with two village libraries built in 2016 and two more planned for construction.

In early 2017 the construction of a new orangutan release centre and feeding station was completed, which led to the release of 19 Bornean orangutans throughout the year



1
official
working group

dedicated to sustainable fishery created through World Education's food security program



2
libraries

built for local villages, with a further two planned for construction.



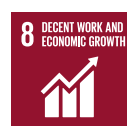
40
women

employed in project-related activities



1,872
water filters

distributed between nine villages



73
field staff
personnel

hired from 14 villages in project monitoring



99
fuel-efficient
cookstoves

distributed since 2013



3,500,000
tCO₂e

mitigated on average annually



91,215
ha

of High Conservation Value tropical peat swamp forests protected

For more information on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, please visit: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>

Official name: Rimba Raya Biodiversity Reserve Project | **Registry link:** <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/674> | **VCS ID:** 674