

Protecting Forest Through Community Based Conservation In Sibolangit District, North Sumatra, Indonesia.

Indonesian Species Conservation Program (ISCP)

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Small Scale Permanent Award

Project overview

Sibolangit districts, much like many protected forest areas in Indonesia are subject to degradation from human activities. These activities include reduced acreage due to legal plantations by industries, illegal farms by local communities that live in the forest areas or their buffer zones, and hunting.

The program at ISCP is addressing the problems caused by local villages, namely small scale deforestation for small farms and the hunting of protected wildlife.

Reducing Deforestation. The program plans to expansion of mixed farming into permaculture models and will show villagers how to best use small plots of land for subsistence farming and cash crops, and also to establish nursery of forest plants in villages.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

If the project is not implemented, the deforestation of Sibolangit Forest will become increasingly widespread and may lead to erosion and flooding. Also also the illegal hunting or killing of protected wildlife species will continue not decrease.

Sibolangit Forest is a major nature reserve providing water infiltration for Medan City. As we know Medan is the capital city of North Sumatra.



Logo Of ISCP

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The threat to biodiversity in the Leuser Ecosystem (KEL) of Sibolangit protected area comes from the conversion of land for agricultural purposes (owned by the State, corporate / company and owned by the community).

Some indication of the threat of damage to the Leuser ecosystem of Sibolangit protected area, its problems and potential risks are below:

1. Funding to support the implementation of the project.
2. The area of intervention is quite extensive.
3. Changing habits of local residents like illegal logging and installation of and snaring of animals and
4. Burning of land to create and open new farms.

This has created the *silent forest effect* where the forests remain but are increasingly emptied of wildlife. The hunting of protected wildlife species including songbirds, Pangolins, Orangutans and Slow lorises is an ongoing problem for conservation include deforestation in Sibolangit. Through this project we will try to fix the protected area to be good again ,increase the population of varieties of wildlife and improvement of forests in sustainable ways by replanting trees from local nurseries that involve local communities/villagers, this is a key activity of the project.

With the support of the Forestry Department, BKSDA, ISCP started a community outreach program in to inform local people of which species and forest protected areas are protected by law.



ISCP created a nursery in the junior high school in Sibolangit district, North Sumatra, Indonesia to help with replanting the deforestation in Sibolangit

How would you best describe the project?

The initial impact of this program can be seen in the reactions of some community members. Pangolins and slow lorises which are both protected by law in Indonesia have been surrendered to ISCP. These were released into a safer forest in coordination with the Forestry Department in Sibolangit district. The best example was a villager tip that saw the arrest of two poachers and the rescue of nine slow lorises that the poachers had captured.

Funding is presently required to expand the community farm approach to other villages. There is some doubt in general among the villagers that a community farm will serve their needs and wants but ISCP is confident that once the income from the first harvests are realized, more villagers will ask to participate in the program.

The program expects the long term conservation impact to be a steady decrease in hunting of protected wildlife whether for the local pet trade or international illegal wildlife trade. Pangolins and slow lorises are the favored targets of the hunters but local hunters themselves have said these two animals are becoming very rare in Sibolangit. Given this break, the wildlife populations in Sibolangit is expected to increase as well. With wider community participation in conservation, illegal logging is expected to decrease as well.

Further information

ISCP already work to engage local communities in Sibolangit area since 2011 and also as the local NGO mainly partner of BKSDA in working area in Sibolangit district (according to the permit/MoU BKSDA –ISCP) since March 2016.

Related to this information can be seen on our website at www.iscp.or.id or youtube <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChpCVlqpNsSvTVVMXYFJ23g> and

Mongabay Indonesia publishing at <http://www.mongabay.co.id/2016/11/11/warga-mulai-serahkan-satwa-sukarela-lembaga-konservasi-terbatas-bksda-terpaksa-titip-di-kebun-binatang/>
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/rumah-kinangkung-village-a-look-inside-indonesias_us_5760309de4b072d1185b23e1

ISCP will continue a mechanism for long-term funding of district and community-level activities is needed to ensure that conservation initiatives do not stop when CEPF funds are no longer available. This can be made by global crowdfunding created by ISCP or with other funding partners. Therefore, projects associated with all strategic directions which pursue creation



Planting sugar palm as agroforestry better than palm oil in Sibolangit district

of trust funds and other sustainable funding sources or alternative mechanisms of sustainability should receive priority .

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The project involves the removal or alteration of any physical cultural resources (defined as movable or immovable objects, sites, structures, and natural features and landscapes that have archeological, paleontological, historical, architectural, religious, aesthetic, or other cultural significance.