



**RIMBA**  
COLLECTIVE



From Commitment to Delivery:  
Scaling Nature-Based Solutions

# PROGRESS REPORT 2025

# FOREWORD

**2025 has been a year of incredible growth for the Rimba Collective, with progress beyond expectations. Throughout this expansion, we have retained a critical and unwavering focus on our core principles of robust and meaningful outcomes for people, nature and climate, whilst working within the regulatory frameworks and international standards that guide project selection and implementation.**



We are now transitioning into a critical new phase, in which projects move beyond initial engagement and design, and begin to produce externally verified ecosystem service outcomes (ESOs). This enables us to deliver lasting, positive impacts for local communities and nature alike, backed by long-term funding and delivered by experienced, on the ground Project Operators.

This past year, we finalised the design of an ambitious new Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, along with a standardised deforestation and fire alert verification system. Now, by integrating insights from the alerts into daily operations, teams working at ground level are better informed and better equipped to safeguard conservation and restoration areas from degradation.

Looking to the future, the Rimba Collective is committed to expanding our efforts, delivering strategic, long-term funding support to Project

Operators working at ground level, so they can continue to build greater resilience into the forests, farms and sourcing landscapes of Southeast Asia. This year, we will also launch a new blended finance partnership programme, which will strengthen the foundations and enabling conditions needed for building long-term impact at scale.

Our progress in 2025 demonstrates the Rimba Collective model is achieving what it was designed to do: protect natural capital, reduce risk, reward stewardship and build resilient landscapes that support nature, climate and people. We are delighted to share these results with you in the pages of this report and look forward to continuing our fruitful journey together in the years to come.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Chela Powell**  
*Associate Director Technical Development & Assurance*



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# THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE PORTFOLIO

- 1** **BITRA**  
Aceh  
13,544 Ha
- 2** **OIC**  
Aceh  
14,801 Ha
- 3** **QBar**  
West Sumatra  
9,969 Ha
- 4** **Satunama**  
Jambi  
10,519 Ha
- 5** **AHi**  
Jambi  
11,829 Ha
- 6** **Tropenbos Indonesia**  
West Kalimantan  
6,169 Ha

- 7** **SUAR**  
West Kalimantan  
10,377 Ha
- 8** **PRCF**  
West Kalimantan  
10,305 Ha
- 9** **Kubu Raya Project**  
West Kalimantan  
13,592 Ha
- 10** **Inprosula Phase II**  
North Kalimantan  
33,608 Ha
- 11** **Bentang Kalimantan Tangguh Phase II**  
West Kalimantan  
14,916 Ha

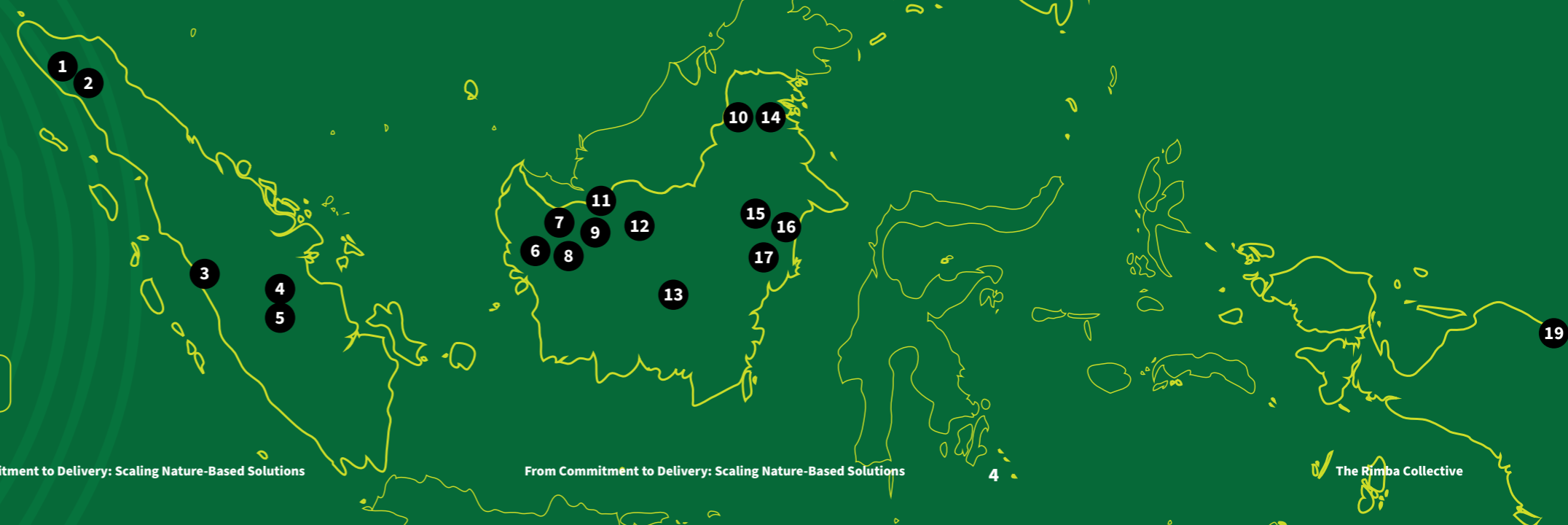
- 12** **Bentang Kalimantan Tangguh Phase I**  
West Kalimantan  
9,337 Ha
- 13** **KPSHK**  
Central Kalimantan  
13,265 Ha
- 14** **Inprosula**  
North Kalimantan  
13,680 Ha
- 15** **KBCF**  
East Kalimantan  
19,303 Ha

- 16** **Wahea-Tabang Project (Belayan)**  
East Kalimantan  
94,718 Ha
- 17** **Wahea-Tabang Project (Narkata)**  
East Kalimantan  
65,450 Ha
- 18** **Kennemer Eco**  
Philippines  
67,304 Ha
- 19** **Biri Reserve Project**  
West Papua  
33,518 Ha

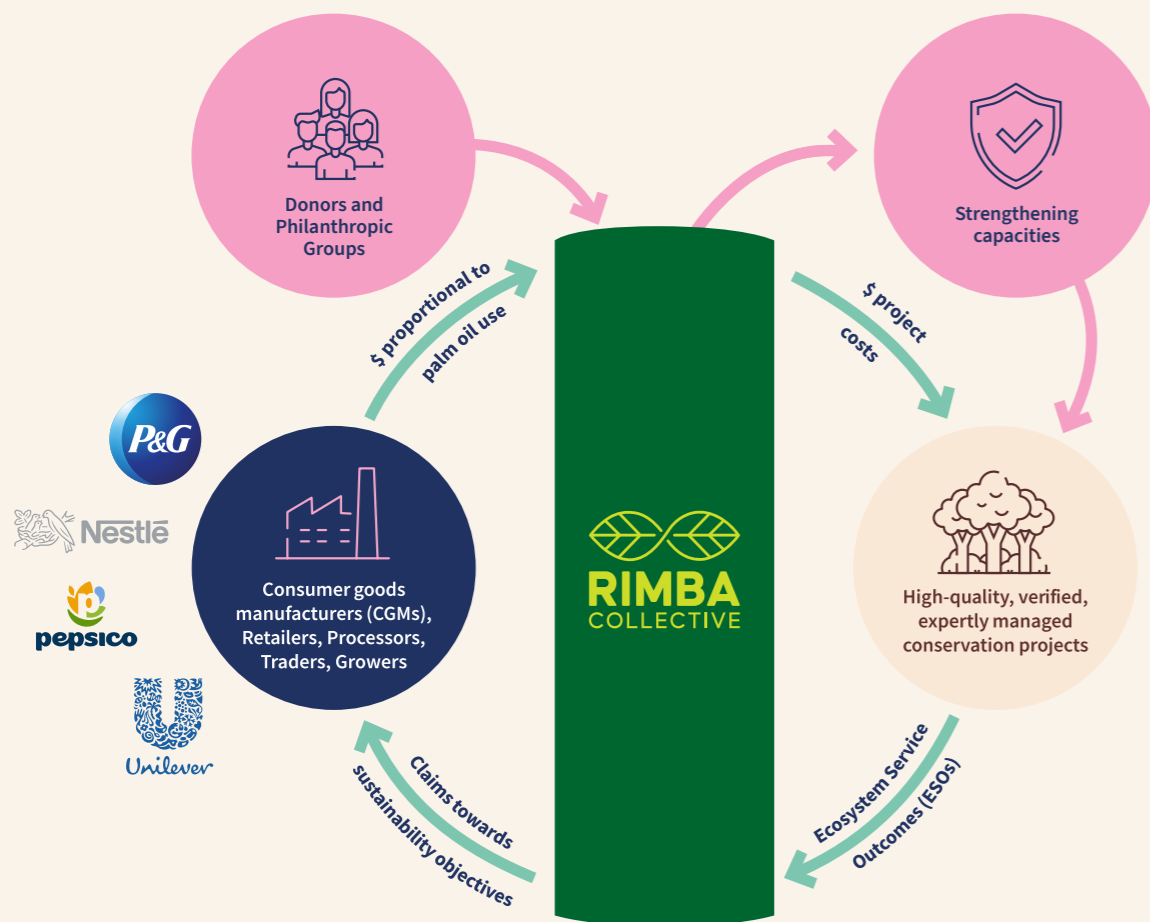
TOTAL CONSERVATION  
**440,512 ha**



TOTAL RESTORATION  
**25,691 ha**



# THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE MODEL



To see the Rimba Collective model in action, watch this short video highlighting our progress to date:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCaBDTNKkj4>

# THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE AT A GLANCE



**19**  
active projects



**\$81.5 million**  
in total investment secured (2022-2025)



**466,203 Ha**  
committed to protection and reforestation



**\$26.5 million**  
delivered to projects (2022-2025)



**117**  
endangered and vulnerable species protected



**~14,700**  
forest-dependent households benefitting\*



**650,000 Ha**  
targeted by end of 2027

*\*Representing seven of the 19 projects assessed during a recent MEL audit (not the total figure for the whole portfolio)*



FROM COMMITMENT TO CLAIM:

## RIMBA COLLECTIVE'S FIRST EXTERNALLY VALIDATED PROJECT

**In 2025, the Bahenap Village Forest Project in West Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) became the first project in the Rimba Collective portfolio to be externally validated and registered under Verra's CCB Standards. In crossing over this important threshold, this project (operated by Bentang Kalimantan Tangguh I, or BKT I), has opened the door to a new era, in which ecosystem service outcomes (ESOs) can be verified, claimed and compensated via independent, third-party validation.**

External validation under Verra's CCB Standards is a rigorous, multi-stage process designed to ensure that conservation projects deliver real, measurable benefits for climate, biodiversity and local communities. Independent auditors assess project design, baselines, governance structures, monitoring systems and safeguard mechanisms, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

For the Rimba Collective, this step is critical. While all projects undergo extensive internal monitoring and verification throughout their life cycle, external validation is the point at which ESOs can be formally recognised and claimed by corporate partners, and performance-based payments can be released to Project Operators.

BKT I is one of the first generation of Rimba Collective projects – its successful validation represents a significant milestone on our shared journey. For our corporate partners, it confirms that sustainability commitments are being translated into independently verified outcomes; for Project Operators and communities, it unlocks performance-related finance that rewards stewardship and long-term planning; and finally, for the wider conservation finance sector, it demonstrates a pathway to verifiable impact at scale.



FROM SCOPE TO SCALE:

# EXPANDING THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE PORTFOLIO

The Rimba Collective continued to strengthen and diversify its portfolio in 2025, with the addition of two major new projects. The inclusion of CultureLand in the Philippines, and the Wahea-Tabang Project in East Kalimantan, brings the total number of projects to 19, significantly expanding the total number of hectares committed to protection and restoration.

In September, the CultureLand project officially became our first project outside Indonesia. Located in South Cotabato, Mindanao Island, and operated by Kennemer Eco Solutions (KenEco), the project has committed to protect and restore more than 65,000 hectares of forest, while developing new livelihood opportunities in forest-dependent communities.



 CULTURELAND, PHILIPPINES

## EXTENDING THE REACH OF THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE

From the 1960s to the early 1990s, large-scale commercial logging drove widespread deforestation across many parts of the Philippines. Then, in 1997, the enactment of the Indigenous Peoples' Rights Act (IPRA) formally recognised the ancestral land rights of Indigenous Peoples through Certificates of Ancestral Domain Title (CADT) and Certificates of Ancestral Land Title (CALT). This landmark legislation created a powerful foundation for community-led forest stewardship, returning legal authority over extensive forest areas to Indigenous communities.

However, while tenure rights were secured, most communities were not provided with the financial, technical or institutional resources needed to restore degraded forests or develop sustainable livelihoods. As KenEco's Country Manager for the Philippines, Jojo Joson explains, "they were given the lands but not the resources." As a result, many remaining forest areas have remained economically vulnerable, with pressures from smallholder expansion into low-value, short-term crops further increasing deforestation risks.

CultureLand will help to bridge these gaps by strengthening community-led stewardship. During its initial five-year phase, the project will be guided by three lenses: land, people and leadership. It will focus on reinforcing Indigenous governance structures, ensuring that communities develop the skills, systems and confidence to steward their landscapes independently over the long term, with a focus on high-value crops such as coffee and cacao.

Looking ahead, the project can be a pioneer for a new national model in the Philippines; community-led, private-sector-supported conservation, which clearly demonstrates that Indigenous communities can achieve economic independence, strong governance and long-term stewardship of their ancestral lands.



**Trust is built over time and not in a short-term cycle. This is not just a five-year, ten-year donor project... This one is intergenerational.**

*Cyril Cortez,  
Senior Operations Manager, KenEco*

### CultureLand (KenEco) Targets

-  **Mindanao, Philippines**
-  **67,304** hectares protected and restored
-  **21,000** households across 21 villages supported
-  Protection for **29** threatened species, including the Philippines eagle
-  **2.74 million** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided and removed over the next 25 years
-  **2,000,000+** trees planted

## SCALING UP AT LANDSCAPE LEVEL

Our long-term objective is to sustain healthy tree growth and continue protecting planted areas from disturbance. Over time, these restored areas will develop into a forest mosaic, serving as a lasting ecological legacy of the Rimba Collective intervention within the Wehea-Tabang landscape.



*Kasraji Mustari, Division Head of Operations at Nusantara Climate Initiative*

In East Kalimantan, the Wahea-Tabang Project (Narkata and Belayan) represents a different, but equally important dimension to our progress: scale. Operated by the Nusantara Climate Initiative (NCI), this is now the largest project in the Rimba Collective portfolio, with approximately 160,000 hectares committed to forest protection and restoration across two contiguous project areas, both of which are being developed with the goal of achieving CCB certification.

The Wahea-Tabang Project focuses on safeguarding ecologically significant forest landscapes, reducing deforestation pressures and supporting community-led stewardship through sustainable livelihood development and strengthened local institutions. Its size enables interventions to be planned and implemented at true landscape scale—enhancing biodiversity protection, climate mitigation and ecosystem resilience across a broad and interconnected forest system.

Given its scale, the Wahea-Tabang Project will be implemented in phases over several years, aligned with existing regulations and continuously monitored to secure the best possible chance of success; not just at scale, but over time too. As Kasraji Mustari, Division Head of Operations at NCI explains, “regular monitoring allows us to adapt our approach as conditions change, ensuring that implementation remains effective and responsive over time.”

### Wahea-Tabang Project (Narkata and Belayan) Targets

-  **East Kalimantan, Borneo**
-  **160,000+** hectares protected and restored
-  **5,500** people across 16 villages supported
-  Protection for **40** threatened species, including Bornean Orangutan
-  **14.5 million** tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> avoided and removed over the next 25 years
-  **500,000+** trees planted

Working to a 25-year timeline, the project intends to avoid and remove more than 14.5 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, with plans in place to plant over half a million trees over an area roughly the size of Greater London. The Wahea-Tabang Project officially joined the Rimba Collective on 18 December 2025.



When I pass away, I want it to be here in this village, and I want to know I did everything I could to protect our environment. If we succeed in preserving it, it will be a great legacy for future generations.

*Aziman, Head of Jambo Papeun LPHD, Sumatra (BITRA Indonesia)*



FIELD VISITS

# BOOTS ON THE GROUND, PARTNERS IN THE FIELD

In 2025, two of the Rimba Collective’s founding partners—Procter & Gamble (P&G) and Nestlé—journeyed into the heart of Indonesia’s forest landscapes to witness progress firsthand, deepen relationships with community partners and see how long-term, performance-based conservation finance translates into measurable impact for nature and people at ground level.

These visits, part of an ongoing programme of immersive field engagement, provided opportunities not only to understand how Rimba Collective projects operate in practice, but also to reaffirm why collective action is essential. Crucially, they also helped to connect our Project Operators to our Founding Partners—the right and left hand of the Rimba Collective.



P&G IN SUMATRA

## SEEING PROGRESS IN ACTION

In February, the Rimba Collective and BITRA Indonesia hosted P&G’s Tropical Oils Sustainability Director, Mr Francis Wiederkehr, at the Jambo Papeun Village Forest Project in South Aceh, Sumatra; a project that has committed to protect and restore 13,544 hectares in a buffer area on the southern edge of UNESCO-recognised Gunung Leuser National Park.

During his visit, Francis noted Indonesia’s importance as a major palm oil sourcing region for P&G, and what this means for their sustainability mission. “We want to protect or restore forests in the landscapes surrounding our supply chains,” he explained, before adding that “one of the reasons we (P&G) joined the Rimba Collective is because we wanted to make sure we have a positive impact in those areas where we do business.”

During the trip, Francis met with local forest management units (LPHDs), inspected patchouli and nutmeg plantations, visited a new processing facility and joined a forest patrol team as they conducted biodiversity monitoring surveys, mapped out forest boundaries and addressed local threats.

His lasting memories from the field were of the people themselves: “I really liked the engagement

### BITRA Targets

-  **13,516** hectares conserved
-  **28** hectares restored
-  **450** households supported
-  **900** women empowered
-  **37** species protected
-  **112** conservation jobs created

with the community and was very impressed with their dedication to preserve their forest... they can be proud of what they’re doing and achieving.”



**“**  
We joined the Rimba Collective because we wanted to have a positive impact in those areas where we do business.

*Francis Wiederkehr, P&G Tropical Oils Sustainability Director*

# WALKING THE TALK WITH COMMUNITIES







In October, Nestlé’s Global Climate & Sourcing Manager, Ms Livia Paraguassú, led her team into the peatland forests of Central Kalimantan to visit the KPSHK project; one of the Rimba Collective’s longest-serving initiatives, which is focused on peatland restoration, fire prevention and livelihood support.

Guided by community forestry leaders and forest rangers, Livia trekked through peatlands, planted seedlings, inspected orangutan nests and engaged directly with villagers – experiences that brought strategic commitments into vivid reality. Reflecting on her visit, she said: “through the Rimba Collective, we have the opportunity to support a resilient climate, resilient nature, resilient people.”






Nestlé’s visit highlighted the importance of community-led conservation—particularly in patrols, biodiversity monitoring and peatland restoration—as well as the vital role these ecosystems play in climate mitigation efforts. During the trip, she noted that “community participation and leadership in the decision-making process was a standout feature of the Rimba Collective model at ground level.”

Livia also reflected on how working with the Rimba Collective has expanded Nestlé’s own approach to sustainability: “Our climate and nature strategy has actually evolved and expanded since we joined the

## KPSHK Project Targets

-  **Kahayan Hilir, Central Kalimantan**
-  **13,265 Total Area**
-  **Peatland ecosystem**
-  **Main threats: Recurring forest fires**
-  **Biodiversity: Orangutan, deer, orchids, and pitcher plants**
-  **Community: Four Village Forests (HD) comprising 9,785 people**

## Project objectives

-  Restoration of swamp peat forests
-  Prevention of forest fires
-  Capacity building for patrol teams
-  Establishment of an integrated forest management
-  Strengthening social forestry practices

Rimba Collective,” she said, before adding that collective financing enables the company to reframe its roadmap in terms of broader ecosystem and community outcomes.



Through the Rimba Collective, we have the opportunity to support a resilient climate, resilient nature, resilient people.

Livia Paraguassú, Nestlé Global Climate & Sourcing Manager

# INSIGHTS FROM OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS

The Rimba Collective’s model is designed to help tackle climate change, prevent deforestation and improve community resilience, through local economic development and job creation in critical sourcing regions. PepsiCo is proud to help lead progress in the palm oil sector and even prouder to invest through the Rimba Collective to work towards meaningful outcomes at scale.

Erin Sweeney | Senior Manager, Sustainable Agriculture (PepsiCo)



It’s been inspiring to see more and more projects fully up and running through 2025, with the first project also achieving third party verification. Expanding our geographical reach into the Philippines and exceeding our initial forest protection targets shows just what can be achieved by working together. By pooling resources and putting clear strategies in place, the Rimba Collective enables landscape-level impact, ensuring that conservation efforts have the scope and longevity to protect ecosystems, support communities and deliver climate resilience.

Francis Wiederkehr | Tropical Oils Sustainability Director (P&G)



As a founding partner, Unilever sees the Rimba Collective as a powerful example of how collective action can drive impact at scale. By optimising shared responsibility across the palm oil value chain, Rimba has enabled us to protect and restore significant forest landscapes while supporting a more resilient, deforestation-free supply chain. The scale of the Rimba Collective’s landscape approach, combined with its strong credibility, makes it a critical partner in delivering our long-term sustainability ambitions.

Rauf Prasodjo | Global Sustainable Palm Oil Lead (Unilever)



The Rimba Collective enables Nestlé, together with the other Founding Partners, to scale our positive impacts beyond individual farms and value chains, addressing environmental challenges at the landscape level. By uniting major food and beverage actors, it combines conservation and restoration with climate, biodiversity and community benefits, helping mitigate risk and secure supply. By 2025, we’re delighted to see 466,203 hectares committed to conservation and restoration, with projects delivering real, encouraging results on the ground.

Livia Paraguassú | Global Climate & Sourcing Manager (Nestlé)



# A NEW CHAPTER FOR THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE BLENDED FINANCE

As the Rimba Collective portfolio continues to grow, its funding model will also evolve to reflect the realities of implementation. At its core, the Rimba Collective is built on a market-based financing model, in which long-term investment in forest conservation and restoration within sourcing landscapes is ultimately supported by the value chains that depend on them.

While corporate payments will continue to provide the backbone of this market-based approach, complementary blended finance plays a critical supporting role, particularly in strengthening and professionalising projects during their earlier stages of development. By supporting capacity building, systems development and innovation, blended finance helps prepare projects to deliver outcomes at the scale and level of integrity required by corporate buyers.

## The Rimba Collective Technical Facility Assistance Programme

This approach is formalised through our new Technical Assistance Facility (TAF) programme; a three-year, donor-focused partnership opportunity designed to strengthen and diversify existing Rimba Collective operations. For every dollar of donor support, multiple dollars of corporate finance will also be unlocked, thereby acting as a multiplier for climate, biodiversity and livelihood benefits.

### Here's a closer look at how the programme works:

- **Corporate partners continue to invest** in verified ecosystem service outcomes (ESOs);
- **Donor partners strengthen project operators' ability** to achieve and scale those outcomes through capacity building, knowledge sharing and developmental support;
- **Projects build their capacity** through improved access to real-time monitoring, risk management and best-practice implementation systems.



## A Proven Model, Ready to Scale

Forest protection requires finance built for generations, not reporting cycles. Systems that support communities' transition from grants-based funding to outcome-driven stewardship require investment in that process. They also need time. Blended finance creates the stability, learning space and risk-sharing needed for that transition to succeed.

### For everyone involved, the benefits are clear:

- **For communities**, it means skills, agency and long-term opportunity;
- **For corporates**, it means resilient supply chains and credible, verifiable claims;
- **For donors**, it means ground-level impact within a landscape-level project;
- **For nature**, it means ecosystems restored and protected, both now and for the future.

The result will be a coalition of experts, investors and implementers, transferring knowledge, skills and resources between various nodes in a network of connected stakeholders. Through improved capacity development and knowledge sharing, we can expect to see systemic change across the project portfolio and the value chains it represents, evidenced by improved forest management and the sustainable delivery of ESOs.

Lestari Capital will continue to facilitate this process, by preparing the supply side for access to market-based finance and supporting the professionalisation of delivery over time. Ultimately, this approach will de-risk participation for companies, enabling confident, collective investment at landscape scale, while supporting projects to transition away from short-term donor dependence toward durable, market-aligned nature finance.

# BIODIVERSITY: ORANGUTAN CONSERVATION IN SUMATRA



In Sumatra, long-term forest protection is essential to counter habitat loss and the illegal wildlife trade—pressures that cannot be addressed through short funding cycles or isolated interventions. “We continue to uncover and expose the illegal wildlife trade,” explains Binur Naibaho, Landscape Director of the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC), who have been working for two decades alongside local communities to arrest the decline in Sumatra’s orangutan population.



“**Here at ground level we can really make a difference**”

*Supriyadi, OIC Forest Patrol Team*

With funding support from the Rimba Collective, the OIC is rolling out a new range of strategies designed to expand conservation efforts for orangutans and protect the forests that support them:



**Forest patrols** with local community teams to prevent poaching, detect snares and other threats;



**Support for sustainable livelihoods**, especially through improved productivity of crops such as cocoa and maize, so that people can prosper without clearing new forest.



**Monitoring** of wild orangutans, including those isolated outside protected areas, to reduce conflict and guide rescue or relocation if needed;



**Conflict-mitigation** measures for other species, such as Sumatran elephants that raid crops, to reduce losses for farmers and prevent retaliation against wildlife.



**Community outreach and education**, raising awareness that orangutans are legally protected and teaching farmers how to respond safely when orangutans enter their fields;

Funding from the Rimba Collective has been essential to all of these initiatives. Investment has been used to recruit, train and equip teams of rangers who now regularly patrol more than 14,000 hectares of forest.

“We are the front line,” says Supriyadi, one of the rangers. “Whether collecting data or deterring hunters, it’s here at ground level where we can really make a difference in our fight to save the forest.” The results of OIC’s patrols are promising. In addition to occasional orangutan sightings, the team have identified around 20 individual tigers roaming the landscape (in other areas of a similar size, the average is just three). “We find fresh tiger tracks almost every month,” says Supriyadi. Like the pugmarks, signs of progress are increasingly beginning to appear; with a 25-year funding commitment from the Rimba Collective, Supriyadi and the OIC believe these changes are just the beginning.

Positive outcomes are not driven by short-term enforcement or one-off interventions; they depend on long-term, performance-based financing that allows conservation teams to plan, adapt and remain present over decades. In Sumatra, this continuity is what turns protection into a system and makes orangutan conservation a credible, investable outcome.

When asked what the future holds for this forest and the orangutans it supports, Supriyadi is both optimistic and determined: “With consistent patrols and community involvement over a period of 25 years, I am certain we can restore much of what was lost.”



This is a shortened version from our **Stories From the Field** series. To read the story in full, scan this QR code / click this link:

<https://rimbacollective.com/updates/we-can-restore-what-was-lost-saving-the-orangutans-of-sumatra>

## LIVELIHOODS: CONNECTING FOREST HEALTH TO COMMUNITY WEALTH IN WEST KALIMANTAN

Ibu Yuliana carefully lifts the lid on a wooden box in her garden, revealing a miniature city of amber that's bustling with stingless bees (*kelulut*). For the villagers of Tamao in West Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo), these boxes represent a golden opportunity for the local economy. Interestingly, the bees and their treasure have been a relatively recent discovery.

“When I was a child, no one really paid attention to stingless bees,” says Yuliana, a 45-year-old schoolteacher and part-time farmer who was born and raised here in Tamao. “People only collected honey from wild bees that make their colonies in trees. But now, we realise *kelulut* have so much value and potential—for health, economy and the environment.”

The beekeepers of Tamao have noticed a connection between ecosystem health and the wealth of the community. “A healthy forest means healthy bees and healthy communities,” says Yuliana. “If the forest is damaged, the bees suffer, and so do we; protecting the environment is crucial, not only for us now, but also for future generations.”



Using funding from the Rimba Collective, the LPHD in Tamao is helping beekeepers like Yuliana to unlock the full potential of honey production, through a combination of training, marketing and promotion.



**A healthy forest means healthy bees and healthy communities.**

*Yuliana, School Teacher & Part-time Farmer*



## BKT II in Practice



An Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use Project  
**(AFOLU)**



Categorised as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation  
**(REDD)**



Covers **14,249 hectares** of tropical rainforest in Kapuas Hulu District, West Kalimantan



Home to **89% forest cover**  
11% non-forest (lakes, swamps, shrubland, etc.)



Covers **4 village forests** (Kensuray, Lanjak, Melemba, and Tamao)



An essential buffer zone between the Sentarum Lake and Betung Kerihun National Parks, part of the **World Network of Biosphere Reserves**



Rimba Collective funding for BKT II began in **February 2024**

## BKT II Targets for Livelihoods & Biodiversity



**14,916 hectares** of tropical rainforest conserved



**646 households** with improved NETT income through project activities



**56 species** of flora and fauna protected



**10 social forestry** business groups established across four villages



**193 women** benefiting from empowerment activities



## It all flows into the community.

**Sodik Asmoro, Head of Melemba LPHD**

Around 60 km and a 5-hour boat ride from Tamao, another LPHD supported by BKT II and the Rimba Collective is generating new livelihood opportunities around age-old traditions; through a combination of rattan handicrafts and traditional, hand-woven 'tenun' fabrics, the women of this community are leading the way in a project that generates income through the sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs).

Pak Sodik Asmoro is the Head of the Melemba LPHD. Many years ago, he worked these forests as a logger, but now believes there's more long-term value to be gained from a healthy forest, when managed correctly. As Sodik explains, "it all flows into the community."



## We have the products. We just need help reaching buyers

**Utas, Secretary of Melemba LPHD**



One of BKT II's core objectives is to create sustainable livelihood opportunities aligned with the Rimba Collective's broader goal of empowering women in forest-frontier communities. By improving working conditions, supporting enterprise development and expanding access to markets, the project is helping to strengthen local economic resilience.

These livelihood outcomes reduce pressure on forests by making conservation a viable economic pathway. Crucially, they also demonstrate how long-term, integrated investment can enable women-led enterprises to thrive, while continually reinforcing forest stewardship at scale.



To read the full version of this story, please scan the QR code / click this link:

<https://rimbacollective.com/updates/everything-flows-into-the-community-connecting-forest-health-to-business-wealth-in-west-kalimantan>

# FORESTS: COMMUNITY-LED PROTECTION IN JAMBI, SUMATRA

## Prevention is key. We need to be ready.

*Widya Mimasari, Fire Patrol Team, Talang Tembago Village*



In 2023, the residents of Talang Tembago Village, in Jambi's Merangin District, mobilised to protect their *Hutan Desa* from encroachment by illegal gold mining operations from outside. Their response demonstrated the depth of local resolve, but also the limitations of informal action.

Now, with funding support from the Rimba Collective, this commitment to forest protection has been formalised; working alongside local NGO SATUNAMA, the villagers have established community-led forest management units (*Lembaga Pengelola Hutan Desa*, or LPHD), enabling regular patrols to monitor biodiversity, protect water sources and deter further illegal activity through a structured, long-term stewardship approach.

Besides illegal mining, one of the biggest threats to the forest is fires caused by slash-and-burn land

clearance. With support from the Rimba Collective, SATUNAMA is raising awareness, developing fire prevention strategies and creating the infrastructure needed for emergency response.

"Prevention is key," explains Widya Mimasari; a 24-year-old rice farmer and housewife from Talang Tembago and the only female member of the new fire prevention unit. "We need to be ready," she adds, "and that's why SATUNAMA's support and training has been so important—it helps us take preventive action."

Widya's fire prevention group (*karhutla*) is one of four set up by SATUNAMA. Their responsibilities include identifying water sources, monitoring plantations and forest buffer zones for fire risks, and encouraging farmers to avoid burning near vulnerable areas or at potentially dangerous times, such as the dry season.



## We all need a healthy climate and we all must share the benefits.

*Hasan, Coffee Farmer, Talang Tembago Village*

This project, like the rest of the Rimba Collective portfolio, depends on long-term community buy-in to be successful. With that in mind, SATUNAMA is working closely with farmers in Merangin District to secure their commitment and ensure project activities deliver clear benefits to their communities. One of many local coffee farmers to have come onboard recently is 55-year-old Hasan. "I fully support the LPHD," he says, "but my support depends on whether the programme actually benefits the people—if it is truly about stewardship and forest care, then it should also benefit the people within that forest; if it does, then I'm all for it."

Hasan was initially sceptical, but after raising his concerns at a meeting in Talang Tembago, the response from the LPHD put his mind at ease. "I saw that this programme is a joint effort," he says, "and it comes from within the community." Like many farmers here, Hasan isn't looking for handouts or neatly packaged solutions; instead, he's hoping for a lasting and mutually beneficial partnership. "We don't want a gift," he says, "that's not what it's about—it's about collaboration; real change takes time."

## Ecosystem Service Outcomes Targeted



**9,603 hectares**  
of forest conserved



**1,284 hectares**  
of forest restored



**10.6% of**  
**village households**

benefitting from increased net income (including women's empowerment activities)



**11.7% of**  
**target species**

benefitting from habitat conservation and restoration

## SATUNAMA Activities and Objectives

- Strengthen forest management institutions through capacity building for village governance;
- Create fire prevention strategies to protect forest areas from fires and degradation;
- Increase biodiversity management through training, data collection and collaboration;
- Improve education in biodiversity, conservation and agroforestry.
- Support policy development, improved reporting and coordination;
- Address land use changes and illegal activities;
- Support community livelihoods through training, equipment and capacity building;



To read the full story, please scan the QR code / follow the link below:

➡ <https://rimbacollecive.com/updates/from-the-ashes-regrowth-and-resilience-in-jambi>

# SUMATRA FLOODS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF FOREST PROTECTION

In late November and early December 2025, heavy rainfall swept across Aceh, North Sumatra and West Sumatra, triggering floods and landslides. A total of 1,189 people lost their lives in the tragedy, while more than 350,000 were displaced. Entire communities saw homes, farms and futures washed away.

This disaster was driven by a literal ‘perfect storm’ of weather systems converging; peak monsoon rainfall, La Niña conditions and Cyclone Senyar. But weather alone does not explain the scale of destruction, or its disparity between different locations. What really made the difference was the condition of the surrounding landscape.

Syafrizaldi Jpang is the Executive Director of the Orangutan Information Centre (OIC), which is one of three Rimba Collective projects in Sumatra affected by the floods. He has his own ideas about what caused the disaster. “I see the great floods in Sumatra not merely as natural disasters,” he says, “but as the accumulation of decades of wrong land-use decisions.”

He insists the right decision now is to invest in forests and prevent recurrence. As he explains, “protecting remaining forests is far cheaper and more effective than repairing damage afterwards.” To that end, Syafrizaldi views the OIC’s ongoing partnership with the Rimba Collective as an effective mechanism for this investment; the foundation for recovery in the immediate aftermath, and the building blocks of future resilience. With the right support, he believes local knowledge can be key to both processes:



**Tree roots bind soil and absorb water, reducing surface runoff that causes flooding. Project activities therefore not only protect forests—they can also save lives. Without these programmes in place, our village and the surrounding areas would have been more seriously affected.**

*Dyah Lestari, Forest Management and Biodiversity Specialist, BITRA*

“Partnership with the Rimba Collective acts as a capacity multiplier. Local communities—those who live, work and depend on the landscape—can become frontline actors in monitoring, protection and rapid response. I also believe this partnership must continue to mature by building long-term local capacity; this ensures conservation is not vulnerable to project, donor or leadership changes, but becomes a rooted practice.”

# REFLECTIONS ON COP AND THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE JOURNEY

A new era for forest finance is dawning. The announcement at COP 30 of the Tropical Forest Forever Facility (TFFF) with more than USD 5.5 billion committed and 53 countries endorsing the launch declaration is a welcome milestone; it signals a global recognition that conserving tropical forests is essential for climate stability and that the world is prepared to invest in protecting them.

At the Rimba Collective, this news is both inspiring and affirming. Almost four years ago, together with our Founding Partners, we committed to a bold idea: that long-term, performance-based financing for forest conservation could be built at scale, driven by private sector leadership and grounded in transparent, accountable outcomes. It required innovation, experimentation, and partners courageous enough to invest ahead of certainty.

Today, that early leadership is bearing fruit. The Rimba Collective is now financing more than 460,000 hectares of tropical forest across Southeast Asia, steadily advancing toward our target of 650,000 hectares by 2027. With a portfolio anchored by rigorous certification standards (Verra CCB) and long-term commitments from some of the world’s largest consumer goods companies, we are operating one of the world’s largest conservation financing mechanisms with strong safeguards and verifiable impact.

As the world builds new global mechanisms like the TFFF, lessons learned by the Rimba Collective can be instructive for anyone intending to deliver conservation finance at scale in complex environments. Below are insights and observations from two members of our team who are working at the forefront of these developments.

Forest conservation and restoration require nothing less than a transformation of the socio-economic

dynamics that shape land-use decisions on the ground. Many of the outcomes that matter—such as ecosystem recovery, biodiversity improvement and the establishment of new livelihood pathways—do not happen in 3–5 years; they unfold over decades.

Short-term financing windows, still common in global development and conservation, inherently limit what can be achieved. They push operators toward short-term activities rather than long-term results and do not provide communities with the stability needed to view conservation as a viable economic pathway.

This is why long-term, predictable, performance-linked financing is indispensable. It gives forest operators the certainty required for multi-year planning. It enables communities to participate with confidence. It provides the time needed for ecosystems to recover, for trust to be built, and for new norms of land stewardship to take root.



**Long-term, performance-linked financing provides the time needed for ecosystems to recover, for trust to be built, and for new norms of land stewardship to take root.**

*Nindita Hapsari, Rimba Collective Portfolio Manager*



By pioneering a blended finance approach, the Rimba Collective can significantly strengthen the valuation, credibility and long-term impact of primary forest investments across the region.

*Agnes Laurens, Head of Special Projects from Rimba Collective*

A key challenge in primary forest conservation is the financing gap between investment and effective implementation. While private sector actors are increasingly willing to invest in forest conservation, their capital typically cannot cover all technical and institutional needs required for long-term project success. Put simply, corporate investment pays for outputs, but not necessarily the systems and processes that can make their delivery sustainable over the long term.

This creates a clear opportunity for blended finance, and particularly grant-based funding, to support and de-risk implementation, while also enhancing project durability. Technical assistance can dovetail with corporate investment and would finance capacity building and support for systems change. This kind of large-scale, multi-faceted investment and development ecosystem does not yet exist in Southeast Asia; by pioneering this approach in the years ahead, the Rimba Collective can significantly strengthen the valuation, credibility and long-term impact of primary forest investments across the region.

We welcome this new era for forest finance, and we are proud to have embraced it early. Together with our visionary partners, we have proved that bold ambition, backed by real investment and rigorous accountability, can deliver measurable impact. Now, the challenge and opportunity ahead is to scale this transformation and bridge the funding gap, so that tropical forests, and the communities working to conserve them, can thrive together for generations to come.

## Join the Rimba Collective!

As global expectations around climate, biodiversity and supply-chain integrity continue to rise, the need for credible, transparent, performance-driven partnerships has never been greater. The Rimba Collective provides a proven mechanism for delivery of these ambitions; one that links measurable ecosystem outcomes to responsible corporate action and long-term forest stewardship.

We are actively seeking to collaborate with forward-thinking companies across global value chains, as well as private donors who are committed to safeguarding tropical forests and supporting resilient communities.

**By joining the Rimba Collective, partners contribute to:**

-  Large-scale conservation and restoration across high-integrity landscapes
-  Verified ecosystem outcomes for climate, biodiversity and community resilience
-  Strengthened governance, risk management and transparency standards
-  Long-term, adaptive partnerships designed for durability and impact

If your organisation is ready to move from ambition to measurable action, we invite you to explore partnership opportunities with us in 2026 and beyond.



For more information, please contact

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## AFTERWORD



The Rimba Collective was established in 2021 to protect and restore tropical forests by supporting community-led conservation projects at scale and over the long term.

Our unique funding model has since demonstrated that performance-based, collective action can—and indeed does—work at scale; by aligning long-term corporate commitments with community-led forest stewardship, we are translating ambitions into verifiable outcomes across entire sourcing landscapes, reducing risk and building resilience through nature-based solutions.

Looking back on 2025, everyone associated with the Rimba Collective—from founding partners and Lestari Capital implementers to project operators and field teams—can be proud of our collective achievements. At the close of the year, the project portfolio had already exceeded its scale targets, while maintaining low losses and demonstrating its capacity to deliver verified outcomes for nature, communities and corporate investors. To sure up these foundations and build a platform for future growth, we also took steps to integrate risk governance into the Rimba Collective model, institutionalising project management with an emphasis on data-driven decision-making.

In 2026, our focus will be on consolidation, integrity and value delivery to our corporate investors across biodiversity, climate and nature outcomes. This process is already underway, evidenced by the portfolio-wide rollout of a Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) framework, which has been designed to support the continued success and resilience of all Rimba Collective projects. Our existing funding mechanism will also be expanded through a blended finance approach, with our new Technical Assistance Facility partnership programme facilitating greater capacity building and knowledge sharing for our projects.

Looking ahead, we are exploring opportunities for cross-pollination between projects in the Rimba Collective portfolio, supported by a mix of training, capacity building and MEL across our network of Project Operators, while also expanding the client base of the Rimba Collective and preparing for further scaling, which includes welcoming new geographies in 2026. We will continue to integrate our two newest Project Operators—KenEco and NCI—into the portfolio, and will be reporting directly from the field on their progress in the months to come.

The Rimba Collective has now moved beyond proof of concept. With a growing portfolio, embedded risk governance, a portfolio-wide MEL framework and strengthened onboarding protocols, the project is positioned for long-term scale and performance. We can now begin looking forward to a future in which forests are protected and restored at the scale that's needed to deliver meaningful impact; a future in which local communities are the co-designers and drivers of conservation approaches; and in which private donors and corporate investors dovetail to deliver long-term impact at scale for people, nature and planetary health. I for one am feeling proud of our recent achievements and energised about our next steps. I look forward to sharing this journey with you in the months ahead.

**Michal Zrust**  
*Founder and CEO of the Rimba Collective*

## ABOUT LESTARI CAPITAL

Founded in 2017, Lestari Capital is a pioneering natural capital asset manager mobilising finance for the protection and restoration of biodiversity-rich ecosystems.

By connecting corporate sustainability commitments to community-led conservation, supporting rural livelihoods and encouraging sustainable land use, we are shaping the future of nature-based finance in Southeast Asia and beyond.

An initiative from



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CAPITAL



RIMBA  
COLLECTIVE

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