

PROGRESS REPORT 2022-24

Seeing the Green Shoots of Long-Term
Corporate Sustainability at Scale



RIMBA
COLLECTIVE

WELCOME

Hello, and welcome to the first Rimba Collective Progress Report. I am proud to say that since becoming live and operational in 2022, we have become one of the largest conservation financing mechanisms in the world.

In just two years, we have supported 16 projects, financed more than 220,000 hectares of landscape and channelled \$USD 10 million into active forest conservation and restoration. We are also fully subscribed to scale to 550,000 hectares, which is an outcome we aim to deliver by 2026. If we engage enough new partners before then, our coverage could grow to 1 million hectares over the next three years.

I am immensely proud of our remarkable collective effort so far, and we have much more to look forward to.

It is a timely moment to take stock. 2025 will be the first year that companies must apply the rules set out in the EU's Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD). With this regulation and the other converging sustainability reporting and action requirements, boardrooms around the world are taking note. Leading corporations everywhere know they need to act, seize nature and climate opportunities, and demonstrate to their stakeholders the positive impact their companies can generate.

Multinational corporations whose greatest nature and climate impact lies upstream, with the sourcing, processing and trading of agricultural commodities, must now put **nature-based solutions** like the Rimba Collective centre-stage in their sustainability strategies. Nature-based solutions are the only way to deliver holistically against new and myriad impact measures across biodiversity, communities and ecosystems. They are also reframing the possibilities of what sustainability investment can deliver to shareholders and stakeholders.

We are seeing the risks of not investing in nature-based solutions all around us. Civil society is pursuing strategic litigation against those not taking action on their impacts, regulators are developing ever more comprehensive impact reporting requirements, and investors see Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) as a key risk to their capital. In the new normal, corporate sustainability is no longer just a reputational concern; it is a financial and legal risk, requiring board-level focus.



Michal Zrust
Founder



“I am immensely proud of our remarkable collective effort so far, and we have much more to look forward to.”

The stakes are high, but the solutions are ready. Companies must now engage in a suite of interventions that positively impact areas both inside and outside their value chains. Rimba Collective partners are leading the way towards minimising and rehabilitating the impact of commodities within their value chain areas. At the same time, many of our first 16 project areas lie outside but adjacent to some of the world's most densely harvested palm oil-sourcing landscapes.

These areas outside value chains are where the world's remaining intact forests and biodiversity lie. From the beginning of 2022 until June 2024, we secured the protection and restoration of hundreds of thousands of forest hectares in these richly biodiverse – but often highly degraded – areas. In doing so, we have prevented damaged landscapes from encroaching on our partners' value chains *and* delivered positive ecosystem benefits at scale.

We are only at the beginning of our journey. In the last two years, we have planted the first seeds that robust and healthy ecosystems need to grow. We know that short-term, financially limited conservation programmes fall short of the effort required to meet the great climate and biodiversity challenges we all face. So, our model is based on a 25-year-plus timescale designed to secure forest preservation funding for generations to come.

In the following pages, you can read more about the incredible collective efforts of the Rimba Collective partners to conserve forests, preserve biodiversity and support communities. You will see how we deliver integrity over and above industry standards and secure long-term outcomes for nature through both claimable and non-claimable activities.

We also have some wonderful stories to share, from two women leading their community's transition to sustainable economies to a more harmonious future for the relationship between elephants and local farmers.

I am incredibly appreciative of our growing Rimba Collective – the commitment of our corporate partners, the dedication of our project operators, the expert application of our team at Lestari Capital, and the active participation of forest-frontier community members we work with. Every day, we learn more, find new ways to innovate, enhance the projects we finance, and discover better ways to support nature and communities.

I hope you enjoy reading about these significant first steps on a long, fruitful road ahead.



Mike Zrust

Founder and Chief Executive, Lestari Capital.



Join us and help grow the Rimba Collective to 1 million hectares



If you are interested in becoming a Rimba Collective partner, we'd love to hear from you. Email Mike Zrust at m.zrust@lestaricapital to set up an initial meeting.

Pak Iwan meticulously inspects his small pineapple plantation, nestled along the peat canal within the Konsorsium Pendukung Sistem Hutan Kerakyatan (KPSHK) project.



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THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE IN NUMBERS



224,107
committed hectares
of forest conservation
and restoration



\$14m
funding delivered to
project operators



550,000
hectares of forest
conservation and
restoration to be
financed by 2026



16
active projects



~12,620
forest-dependent
households to benefit



89
endangered and
vulnerable species'
habitats to benefit
from conservation
and restoration

As of October 2024



A Dayak farmer harvests coffee.



Capturing the Bahenap River from above.



A close-up look at the damar resin found in Tanjung Village, West Kalimantan.



Navigating treacherous terrain by motorcycle to reach Bahenap Village.

ABOUT THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE

The Rimba Collective is a pioneering initiative that meets multiple and growing demands for corporate sustainability from regulators, stakeholders, customers, and investors.

For the first time, leading consumer goods manufacturers are sharing responsibility by proportionately linking the purchase of agricultural commodities to ecosystem outcomes (ESOs) for nature and communities. And we go further, delivering large-scale projects where every outcome claimed by our partners can be attributed directly to the funds they have contributed.

Our collective approach enables each corporate partner to deliver on their individual sustainability objectives at the scale they collectively need while mitigating and spreading risk.

In the last two years, we have supported 16 live and operational projects within and beyond value chains across Indonesia, and we plan to expand into Malaysia and the Philippines imminently. These projects are not only actively avoiding and mitigating negative impacts but also generating positive impacts across hundreds of thousands of biodiversity-rich forest landscapes.

With 224,107 hectares committed for conservation and restoration and subscriptions reaching 550,000 hectares as soon as 2026, our work to date has laid robust foundations for implementing more nature-based solutions at scale over the next 25-plus years.

Aligning with Governments

In Indonesia, the government's social forestry policy has enabled communities to manage forests at scale. The Rimba Collective's work supporting and financing communities to protect and benefit from their forests is built on these strong foundations.

What are Nature-based Solutions?



Nature-based solutions are holistic approaches to conservation that protect and restore biodiversity, support communities' well-being and resilience, and ensure the sustainability of natural ecosystems.

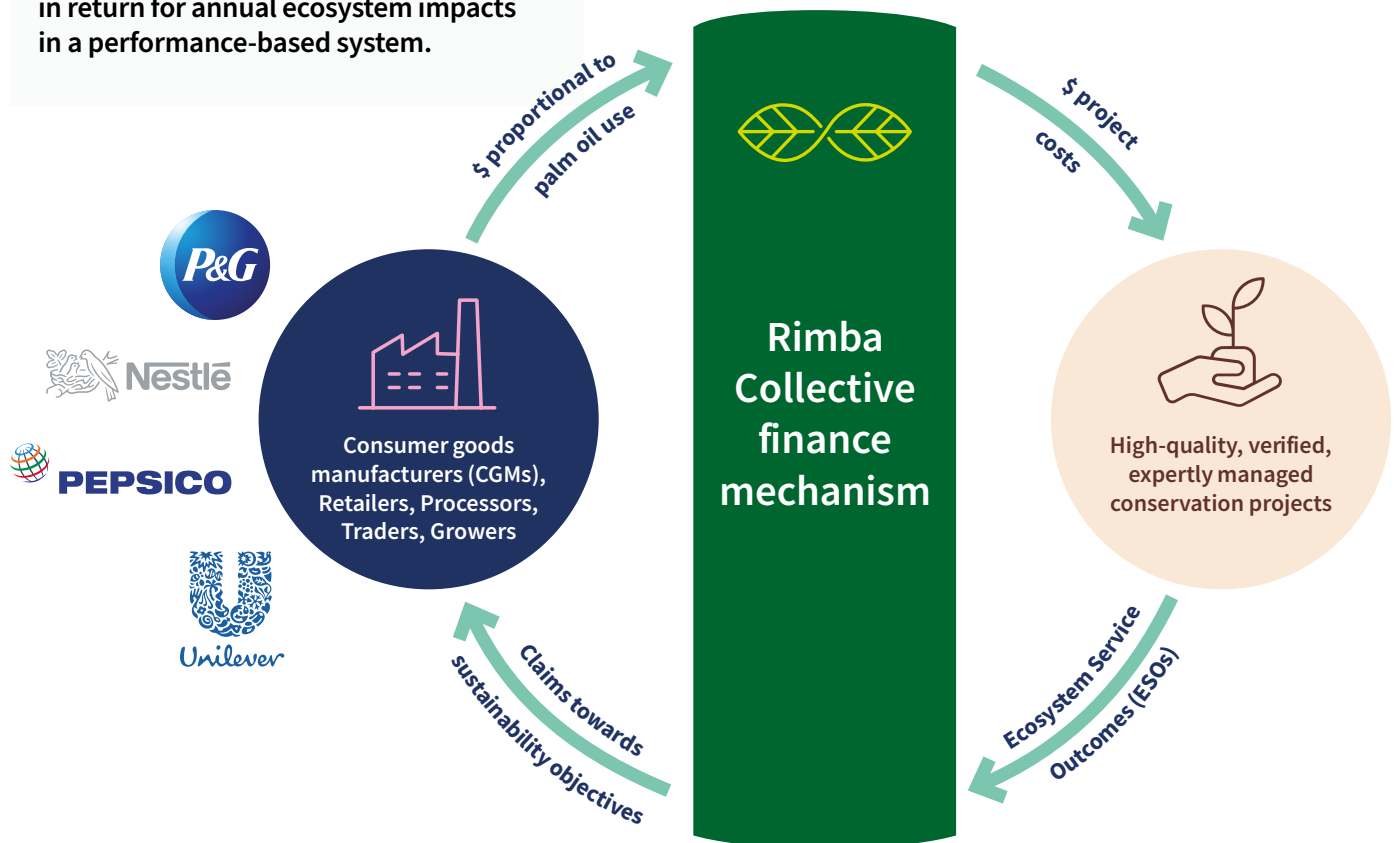
For corporations, nature-based solutions are profitable, scalable ways of mitigating nature-related risks by halting and reversing deforestation, attracting investment and tackling climate change.

They sit alongside investments in technology, education, and awareness-raising initiatives as an increasingly critical component of any sustainability strategy.



How Does it Work? The Rimba Collective Unique Finance Mechanism

In our unique finance mechanism, companies finance a portfolio of conservation and restoration projects in return for annual ecosystem impacts in a performance-based system.



Private Sector-Led in Response to Market Demand

We are of the private sector and for the private sector. The Rimba Collective is managed by Lestari Capital (see inset), a conservation finance company that supports companies' transition to sustainable global economies. The Rimba Collective is both a response to rapidly growing market demand for ecosystem outcomes and a pioneering finance vehicle helping shape this dynamic market.

We understand the fast-changing context of corporate sustainability regulations. And we demonstrate how collaboration can de-risk the delivery of ecosystem outcomes with integrity at scale.

Our Founding Partners, Nestlé, PepsiCo, Procter & Gamble and Unilever, each have a unique set of corporate sustainability goals. But they are collaborating around a common ambition: to significantly protect and restore natural landscapes and support people's livelihoods over the long term.

The Rimba Collective plays a primary role in each partner's sustainability strategy. But more importantly, it turns their strategies into action.



Reuben Blackie,
PepsiCo



“The Rimba Collective contributes to our greenhouse gas objectives through the application of nature-based solutions to climate change and biodiversity loss. More than this, it supports our priorities of industry-level sector transformation – encouraging transparency and accountability in our value chain, taking action at scale, and enabling shared responsibility for positive change.”



Martin Huxtable,
Unilever



“At Unilever our ambition is to deliver resilient and regenerative natural and agricultural ecosystems. Our Climate & Nature Fund continues to support our partnership with the Rimba Collective, which forms a critical part of our goal to help protect and restore 1 million hectares of natural ecosystems by 2030. We are proud to be a founding member of such a pioneering initiative, collaborating for positive impact for people and nature.”



Francis Wiederkehr,
Procter & Gamble



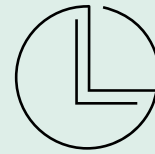
“The Rimba Collective is about the power of the AND, not the limitations of the OR: environmental and social goals; outcomes and impacts; today and tomorrow. Shared problems need shared solutions and expertise. Industry, NGOs, communities and individuals come together, and everyone has a unique and different but equally vital role to play.”



Alexander Murillo,
Nestlé



“Our forest-positive strategy aims to advance regenerative food systems at scale while respecting and promoting human rights. The Rimba Collective enables us to deliver on these aims by conserving and restoring the critical landscapes we source from.”



**LESTARI
CAPITAL**

Forging Collaborations that Deliver for Nature and Business

Lestari Capital manages the Rimba Collective. With over 40 staff operating across Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia, we are Southeast Asia specialists in conservation finance and corporate sustainability. We form long-term partnerships with companies to lead their global transformation to sustainable economies by building and operating mechanisms to meet diverse market demands.

Collectives

Pioneering collaborations of leading organisations delivering ecosystem outcomes to meet individual sustainability objectives through collective corporate action.

Solutions

Tailored products that help individual companies meet a growing range of compliance and certification demands when delivering on their sustainability commitments.

Climate

A project-first approach to the professional development and management of high-quality carbon credit portfolios for financial institutions, private equity investors and buyers.

Lestari Capital provides professional management of the Rimba Collective project portfolio, providing due diligence and oversight of project onboarding. We ensure that the Collective functions efficiently and transparently, and we safeguard performance payments and the integrity of ecosystem outcomes.

Integrity and our Long-term Vision

With growing regulatory scrutiny, no credible actor in corporate sustainability can afford to behave without accountability and transparency. The Rimba Collective is designed with robust, credible and verifiable ecosystem outcomes built in. Rather than depending on short-term grant funding, it is an intentionally long-term, 25-plus year model that institutionalises forest conservation and restoration for decades to



Project Monitoring and Evaluation

The projects we finance undergo rigorous third-party certification and are monitored quarterly, with monthly industry-standard satellite reports to ensure compliance with international conservation standards, early identification of any issues, and solutions found promptly. We continually evaluate developing standards and demands to leverage new technology and approaches to deliver high-integrity outcomes. We only report conservation and restoration outcomes that have been verified on the ground.



Core and Additional ESO Indicators

We track nature-based and people metrics across all the projects we finance. The table shows the progress we have already made with our Core ESO impacts. Our Additional ESO figures reflect the long-term nature of the Rimba Collective initiative, indicating estimated impacts over a 25-year timeframe based on the financed portfolio size. As we expand, these impacts are likely to increase at scale based on the existing portfolio hectareage.

Core ESO*	Reference Unit	Current portfolio (as of Oct 2024)
Total hectares under conservation and restoration	Hectares	224,107
Hectares under conservation	Hectares	201,796
Hectares under restoration	Hectares	22,310

Additional ESO	Reference Unit	Current estimate (25-year target)
Tons CO ₂ e emission reductions**	tCO ₂ e	12.9m–14.3m
Tons CO ₂ e emission removals**	tCO ₂ e	4.2m–4.7m
Trees planted	Seedlings	6.5m–7.2m
Number of total beneficiaries	Individuals	45,400–50,400
Number of households benefitting in terms of net income increase through project activities and community standard of living	Households	13,700–15,200
Number of women benefitting from empowerment activities	Women	7,900–8,800
Number of children education beneficiaries (girls/boys)	Children	3,900–4,400
Number of beneficiaries from clean water support	Individuals	17,900–19,900
Number of beneficiaries from health support	Individuals	2,600–2,900
Number of endangered and vulnerable species benefitting from conserved and restored habitat in project	Species	89

* For easier reading and comprehension, some values have been rounded up or down.

** Projected climate outcomes resulting from conservation and restoration activities (not intended for tradeable carbon credit units)



Free and Prior Informed Consent Principles (FPIC)

Our community partners' leadership and participation are central to the success of the projects. We only finance projects that employ FPIC principles across their entire lifecycles, from design to completion, always considering and respecting our partners' needs.



Highly Attributable Outcomes

Our project boundaries are tightly set. When acting as the sole funder, the Rimba Collective funds the conservation and restoration needs within the project boundary. Where we align with other funding sources, we ensure that we do not claim credit for outcomes that are not attributable to our partners' contributions. So our partners' claims are always 100% verifiable.



Proportionality: A Unique Finance Mechanism

Companies must contribute funds proportional to the scale of their palm oil footprint. In turn, they receive Ecosystem Outcomes (ESOs) to claim in proportion to the funds they have contributed – so we avoid double claiming and each contribution can be directly linked to impact on the ground.

All of these measures ensure that our partners' claims against their sustainability commitments stand up to regulatory scrutiny. Additionally, to embed forest conservation and restoration over the long term, we engage in activities unlinked to short-term claims. For example, investing in forest-friendly livelihoods and responsible fishing practices helps create a healthy, regenerative and sustainable relationship between communities and nature for generations to come.



Grade System of ESOs

Under our specially designed system, planned and achieved ESOs are assigned grade A, B or C to indicate where they sit in the verification timescale. The system ensures project operators and corporate partners cannot communicate outcomes they have not yet achieved.

Going Where Others Don't for Nature

The high risk of fire prevents many operators from developing projects in dry, degraded peatland areas. However, we know that healthy peatlands store more carbon than all other types of vegetation in the world combined. So, our portfolio includes projects in degraded peatlands because of the huge opportunities we see for biodiversity, carbon capture, and reinvigorating local economies.

Unfortunately, in late 2023, a devastating fire spread into our Kahayan Hilir Villages project area.

It damaged approximately 4,000 hectares of land just one year after the project had started. The fire was the result of a perfect storm: dry, degraded peatland, drought caused by El Nino, and the burning of adjacent land for agriculture.

The planning for this project factored in the need for well-maintained wells, effective canal blocking, and water table management. Unfortunately, however, when the fire happened, some of these interventions were awaiting the go-ahead in the FPIC process with the local community. It was immensely distressing to see fire destroying natural habitats and impacting people's livelihoods. But we are actively addressing the fallout and redoubling our efforts to return more hectares of degraded land to health.

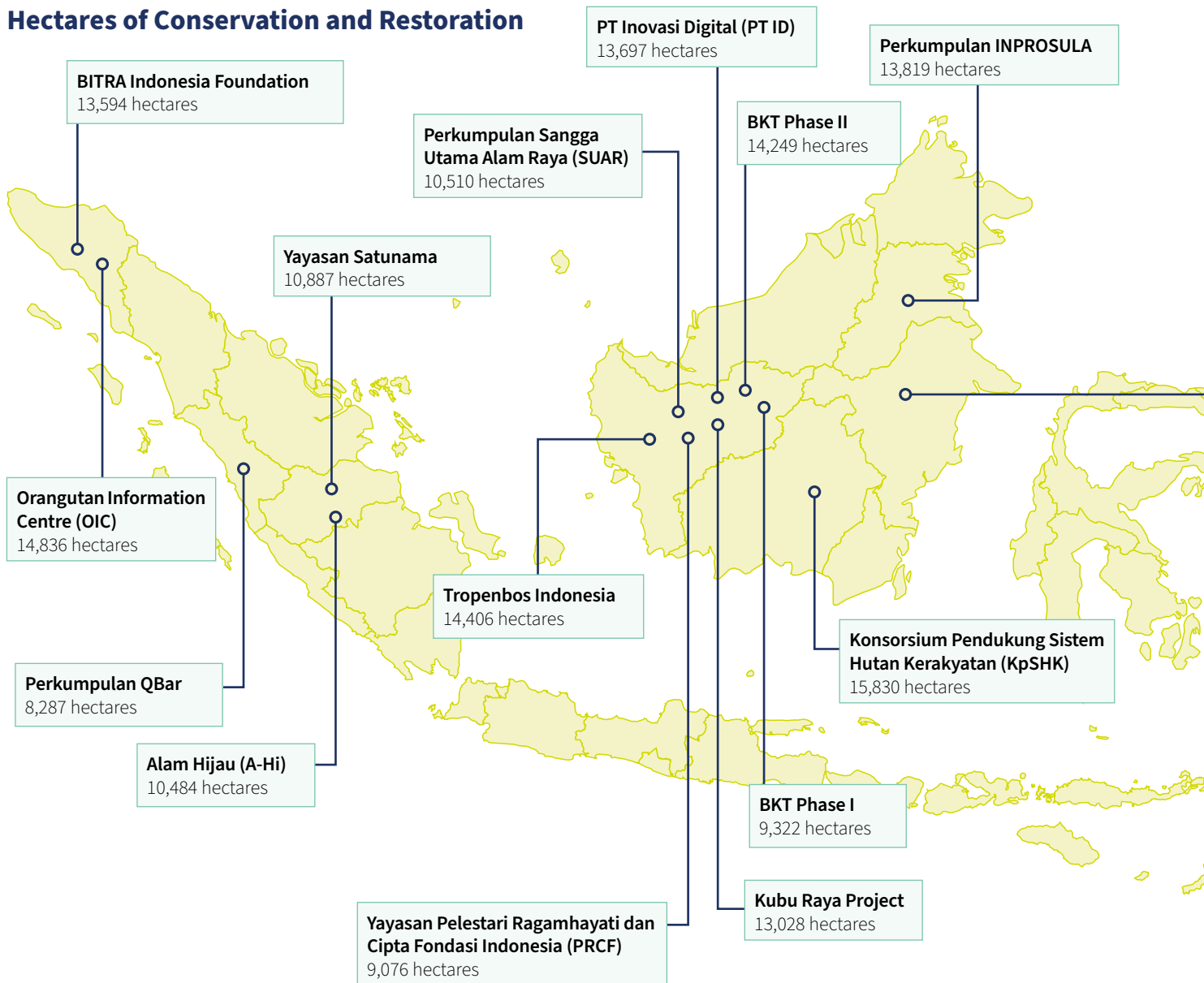
EMBEDDING A PROJECT PORTFOLIO FOR LONG-TERM OUTCOMES

Our first projects became live and operational in 2022. By June 2024, 16 projects were active across nearly 225,000 hectares of landscape in Indonesia.

These are significant numbers for nature-based solutions, but these first two years have also been about embedding careful and robust onboarding processes. To deliver credible, verifiable impact at

scale over the next 25-plus years, we have activated a comprehensive approach to project selection, incubation and implementation.

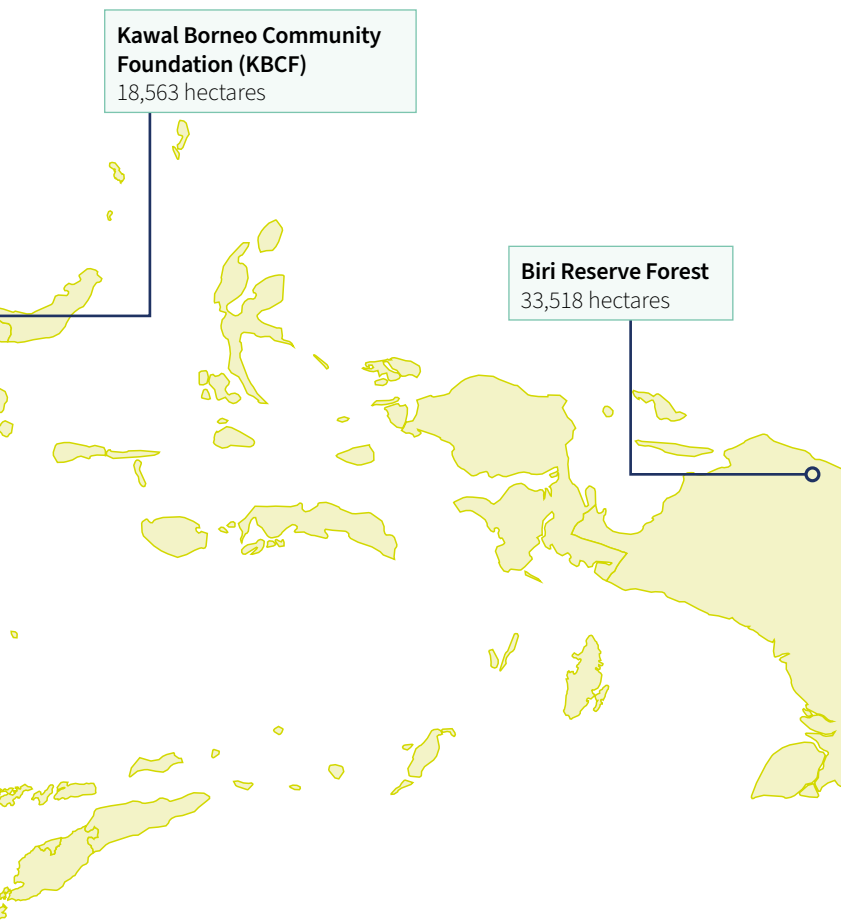
Hectares of Conservation and Restoration



For a new project to qualify, it must be operated by local NGOs or entities with established track records of working hand-in-hand with communities and local government. It must also protect and restore large areas of natural forest, peatland, and mangroves, and deliver measurable benefits such as carbon sequestration, water quality improvement, erosion control, and enhanced soil fertility. In every project, local communities must actively participate and benefit in areas including job creation, health and education.

We have rigorous criteria for eligibility – involving expert oversight and independent verification – ensuring that all activities are legal, and technically, operationally, and financially feasible.

The first 16 projects deliver multiple interrelated outcomes for conservation, biodiversity and livelihoods.



Forest Conservation in Action

Experts agree there is no credible path to net zero without protecting and restoring forest landscapes. Trees are the best technology we have for capturing carbon and removing emissions. The forests of Indonesia and Malaysia are home to some of the world’s richest biodiversity hotspots, providing habitats for many critically endangered species. For nearby communities, forests are longstanding sources of cultural, spiritual and economic survival.

From the beginning of 2022 until June 2024, the Rimba Collective has partnered with local organisations, funding projects in the critical, often remote, areas where deforestation threatens forest-frontier communities and biodiversity. The projects we finance build on local people’s deep understanding and connections to nature to create sustainable livelihoods and protect forests from human and natural threats. We also collaborate to improve local forest management governance, expand capacity, and develop stakeholder oversight.



Project spotlight: Sustaining nature and livelihoods with forest patrols

Bonifus was a proud member of the Bukit Belang LPHD (a village forest management institution) forest patrol for ten years. His story shows the potential for conservation when people in forest-frontier communities receive the resources they need to participate in sustainable livelihoods.

Bonifus remembers fondly his time in the patrol in Tanjung, a remote village in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. However, he explains: “I did not get any incentives. I did it basically because I love the forest, and I liked doing it.”

His dedication was admirable, given the conditions the patrol faced. As Aduş Arbillo, head of the patrol, described, “It’s still a jungle, so there’s no track. We carry a lot of stuff on our back – it’s quite heavy with food supply for five days, jackets to keep us warm, cooking tools, etc. This adds to the tough track we need to pass through. It usually takes one whole day for us to arrive at the lodge.”



The forest patrol in Tanjung

The patrol was also poorly equipped. With little training, the team set out without ‘handy talkies’ (walkie-talkies), limiting the area they could monitor. They also had just a single GPS device and camera and no recharging equipment or software to compile reports. It was a frustrating situation that is all too common in Indonesia: local people passionate about protecting their forest but thwarted by a lack of resources.

“Effective forest management is not easy nor cheap, and needs specialist skills. That’s why collaboration between parties is very important.”

Imanul Huda, PRCF Indonesia Country Program Manager

Tanjung Village is surrounded by 2,520 hectares of biologically rich Hutan Desa (village forest), 90 percent of which is protected. The Rimba Collective is working here with the People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) Indonesia, part of a US-based non-profit organisation. Together, we are helping to professionalise Adus’s patrol and others like it, offer incentives to young people, and preserve the natural landscape.

Since 2022, we have helped train patrol teams across the region. This has included specialist training on SMART (a spatial monitoring and reporting tool) and GPS tracking. Patrol teams are now paid and use handy talkies, radio rigs with a 30-kilometre reach, DSLR cameras and safety jackets for the patrols that use river lanes.

Village forest patrol teams have a critical role in the long-term conservation and protection of biodiverse landscapes. When given the right training, funding and equipment, they also empower local communities to engage in work that sustains people and nature over the long term.

Bonifus now works as a member of the Water Gallon Social Forestry Business Group. But he hands over to the next generation of forest patrol workers confident that the future of their natural landscape is in safe – and well-resourced – hands.

Protecting Biodiversity

Improving the biodiversity-related ecosystem service outcomes is one of the Rimba Collective's key objectives. Most of the projects that we finance are in extremely rare and valuable biodiversity hotspots containing a rich and unique range of plant and animal species. Project areas provide habitats for many rare and threatened species, including the critically endangered orangutan, Asian elephants, Sunda Pangolin, and tigers. Protecting and restoring such biologically rich areas is essential for delivering ecosystem services, building resilience to climate change, and supporting local communities' economic and cultural life.

Biodiversity-related ecosystem service outcomes are measured via various metrics, including the number of endangered and vulnerable species benefitting from the conservation and restoration of habitat and the net biodiversity benefits for endangered and vulnerable species. Working with partners, we develop project biodiversity action plans to reduce threats to biodiversity and protect, connect and enhance the habitats of rare and threatened species. The projects we finance have also implemented illegal wildlife trade controls and mitigation, and improved how existing regulations are communicated.



Project spotlight: Finding common ground for people and elephants

Communities in the eight villages of Aceh Selatan District of Indonesia rely on farming for their livelihoods. Four of the villages nestle alongside the Gunung Leuser National Park, designated as the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra by UNESCO. One of the most biodiversity-rich areas in the world, its preservation is critical for endangered species and storing large amounts of carbon from our atmosphere.

However, as the growing villages cultivate more land, animals' habitats become lost or degraded. In this region, species such as Asian elephants are forced to seek alternative food sources, including agricultural crops – particularly corn and oil palm trees. Sadly, elephants in search of food can quickly destroy an entire village's sources of food and income, which can often result in conflicts between people and elephants.

When we visited this area in May 2023, we heard that, in the absence of support to deal with incidents involving elephants, local communities were taking matters into their own hands. Retaliation actions such as snare setting are a major threat to local biodiversity – not only because they harm their targets but also because hundreds of untargeted species are impacted as well.



In the last two years, our focus with the Orangutan Information Centre in North Sumatra has been on implementing rigorous onboarding processes, while also laying the essential groundwork for strategic plans aimed at mitigating human-to-elephant conflicts in the coming years. Focusing first on Lawe Sekhakut, Ukhat Peseluk, Bunbun Indah and Bunbun Alas villages, we are helping local farmers switch to alternative crops that are both profitable and disliked by elephants. We are also funding a research station to monitor and report publicly on biodiversity, deepen our shared understanding of the area, and develop long-term biodiversity conservation solutions.

By conserving and restoring forest ecosystems within these landscapes, we are also mitigating human wildlife conflict and improving the communities' welfare over the long term.

Supporting Forest-Friendly Livelihoods

The livelihoods of forest-frontier communities and the protection and restoration of nature are closely intertwined. But often, local people have little alternative but to encroach on forest areas to cultivate the land and make a living. Trees are cut down, natural habitats are disturbed, and opportunities to preserve biodiversity and reduce carbon levels are lost.

Rimba Collective projects create more forest-friendly livelihoods by working with partners to strengthen sustainable local economies. We help create jobs that protect forests, draw on their natural resources, and present opportunities to reach wider markets. By building stronger local economies, we also support local people's land rights and improve access to local services, including healthcare, education, clean water and sanitation.





Project spotlight: Forest protection, forging social bonds, and an abundance of pineapples

According to Tajri, an Indonesian pineapple farmer, you can't rely on the weather as much as you used to. "Compared to before, it is significantly hotter now. Back then, the rainy and dry seasons in our area had specific timings. Now, sometimes it rains a bit and there is a massive flood. Sometimes, it is slightly dry and the plants die. So for farmers, the impact is significant."

In forest villages like Tanjung Dalam, where Tajri lives, farmers are witnessing the effects of climate change first-hand. Tanjung Dalam is a remote village, three hours by broken road from the nearest town and over 12 hours from Jambi City, the province's capital. Every family relies on farming for their living, and as the village grows, people encroach ever further into the forest to find more land to cultivate.

But pineapples grow naturally and plentifully, and reduce the need to chop down forest areas for other land uses. Pineapple plants produce abundant fruit that can be harvested every week for at least ten years. They're also less vulnerable to fluctuations in global market prices than crops such as rubber and coffee. With excess fruit shared amongst the community, pineapple farming helps strengthen social bonds too.

Tajri explains: "If we compare it to other plants, like cinnamon and coffee, they require harvesting and scraping before we bring it to the market. Whereas pineapples, after harvesting, we bring them home, and then we bring them to the sides of the road where vehicles commute. That on its own can already generate money."

Since 2022, the Rimba Collective has been working with Alam Hijau, a Sumatran-based NGO, to help local people maximise the yields from existing farmland and help producers process the crops to create higher-value products – the first steps towards a more prosperous and sustainable future for the people of Tanjung Dalam over the next 25 years and beyond.

We'll leave the last words to Tajri: "Our village forest is far from here. But if the people's livelihoods and economy are unfulfilled, they are forced to take part in forest encroachment. With guidance, naturally, the people will be inclined to seek a closer alternative."

Empowering Women

Empowering women is a key aim and outcome of our work with forest-frontier communities. Women are influential decision-makers in households and local economies. They have a deep knowledge and understanding of the forest's natural resources and are powerful voices within families and communities.

The Rimba Collective and our partners support women by improving their work conditions, creating job opportunities, and increasing access to education, health and drinking water. As we strengthen local economies, we also focus on pathways for women to achieve their potential as business leaders.



Project spotlight: From rattan workers to forest patrols to leading champions of local industry: the women of Gohong Village

Meet Wina and Marlinie. Like generations before them, they are rattan weavers. “I’ve been learning how to weave since I was in third grade,” says Marlinie. But in the biodiversity-rich landscapes surrounding Gohong Village in Central Kalimantan, Indonesia, where Wina and Marlinie live, rattan weavers do much more than produce beautiful products; they preserve critically threatened nature and spearhead their communities’ culture and livelihoods.

Rattan is a versatile material grown in peatland ecosystems, which makes it a ‘paludiculture crop’. In Gohong, it used to be used to make floor mats. Now, six local rattan businesses manufacture everything from bags and bracelets to hats and shoes. A rattan bracelet sells for 25,000 rupiah (USD 1.7), while a large floormat could be 1 million rupiah (USD 70.5). The complex patterns they weave hail from the Dayak, a native group of Kalimantan.



But the local peatlands are constantly threatened by fire. The Gohong community vividly remembers the 2015 wildfires that devastated great swathes of peatland landscapes. Those fires cost Indonesia USD 16.1 billion and took over three years to control. In Gohong and elsewhere, they also cost people their livelihoods, health, and, in many cases, their lives. Today, sunlight is still often blocked by smoke from forest fires.

At the same time, rattan workers have struggled to create and deliver their products to markets beyond their immediate vicinity. They haven’t had any investment, marketing or mentoring opportunities. Sometimes they have also lacked equipment, such as heavy-duty sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, and rattan splitters and smoothers.



Wina and Marlinie, weaving rattan in Gohong Village.

Since 2022 in Gohong Village, the Rimba Collective has been working with KpSHK, a network of NGOs that support forest management in Indonesia. Together, we have worked with the local community to support long-term training, technical monitoring and access to bigger markets, including Jakarta and international buyers. We have also helped professionalise the community-led fire patrol (often including rattan workers themselves), who help protect the rattan-producing peatlands.

For the last two years, rattan workers have displayed their beautiful products at events, including the local archery championship, the Keltang Expo, and the Kahayan Hilir honey festival. These opportunities have flourished under the Social Forestry Business Group (KUPS), whose commitments include enhancing community resources, collaborating to optimise product quality and quantity, adapting to market demands, and empowering marginalised communities.

Leading all these efforts is Marlinie, who is now Chair of KUPS, while Wina has a place on the board as Secretary. So not only has the rattan industry of Gohong been rejuvenated, but it has also provided valuable opportunities for local women to realise their business potential as champions of local industry. Best of all, Gohong now boasts a sector that can sustain livelihoods and protect local landscapes for generations to come.

LOOKING AHEAD

In the coming years, the Rimba Collective will continue to evolve as a large-scale, rigorously transparent, and credible response to companies' fast-growing voluntary commitments, regulatory demands, and stakeholder requirements.

As new European Union regulations and global frameworks push us closer to a nature-positive world, we will play a fundamental role in supporting leading corporations as they transition and transform.

From many years of experience, we know how difficult community-focused conservation and restorations are. We will continue to lead and innovate in robust and credible action, providing technical assistance, financing early-stage projects, evaluating and adapting to new standards, and maintaining transparency, especially when projects fail. We will never claim for conservation that has not been delivered.

The Rimba Collective is fully subscribed to deliver 550,000 hectares of projects. But we aim to double this target by welcoming more companies into the Collective. The portfolio will deepen its impact as an inssetting mechanism by focusing on new typologies of projects that support the reduction and removal of Scope 3 emissions. We will also extend our geographic reach to Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand to positively impact a broader scope of commodity production areas.

Above all, the Rimba Collective will continue to build a world where actions, not targets, speak for companies.





JOIN THE RIMBA COLLECTIVE

With our first projects now well established and plans for growth within and beyond value chains, now is the ideal time to join the Rimba Collective.

We are actively seeking to partner with more organisations across the value chain, from growers and processors through consumer goods manufacturers to retailers. If you would like to know more, please contact Mike Zrust at m.zrust@lestaricapital.com



An initiative from



Lestari Capital Pte Ltd
No. 72 Circular Road #02-01 Singapore 049426

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