



**Mission
 Statement**

PRCF Indonesia seeks solutions that support local people develop the capacity to manage their surrounding natural resources. This is done while maintaining their ancestral cultural values and establishing sustainable livelihoods and important biodiversity conservation needs.

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The People Resources and Conservation Foundation (PRCF) has been operating in Indonesia as an international non-governmental organization since 1996. It was the first Country Program to exist in the PRCF Federation. From the outset of our activities, West Kalimantan, in the heart of Borneo, has been the geographical scope of PRCF Indonesia. We have worked here particularly in partnership with local Dayak people. They live within landscapes holding degraded grassland habitats, protected areas, and remnant forest areas in the Sintang, Kapuas Hulu, and Bengkayang districts. We are particularly concerned with the conservation of natural resources, and with searching and carrying out activities that link protection of natural resources with the attainment of sustainable livelihoods. In doing so, we have also become aware of the need to strengthen local institutional capacities and of the importance of revitalizing ethnic cultural arts and identities.

Biodiversity Conservation Program

■ **False Gharial Survey in West Kalimantan:**

False Gharial is a globally critically endangered crocodylian species that can be found in lowland swamp forests in Sarawak and Kalimantan, Borneo, eastern Sumatra and Peninsular Malaysia. Still, information on the distribution, abundance, and status of the species is absent from many regions, and thus conservation priorities are unclear. In 2004, we conducted a survey on the distribution of False Gharial in West Kalimantan, with findings documenting the status and distribution of the species in selected survey sites, and describing current threats and potential follow-up conservation management actions at each of the locations. On the basis of these results, our upcoming activities will include prescriptions for conservation management of the species, with the likely establishment of collaborative management programs at one of the locations pinpointed to hold a significant number of False Gharial, and villagers with a good potential to further community-based conservation of the species.



False Gharial
 Photo Source: Mark Bezuijen, PRCF Associate

■ **Mueller's Gibbon Conservation Status Review:**

The Mueller's gibbon has only rarely been studied, both in the wild and in captivity. It is the least known gibbon species of the genus *Hypoblastus*. In late 2008 we conducted a survey at Gunung Nyiut Nature Reserve regarding the known location of gibbons in the reserve landscape, and to assess what threats, such as hunting and habitat destruction, pose the greatest risk to the gibbon population. Our subsequent objective is to identify the conservation status of the Gibbon in the reserve and to prepare a Conservation Strategy and Action Plan to address the needs. The Strategy and Action Plan will include measures to protect primate species within Gunung Nyiut. We will carry out participatory resource-use planning to help define Village Development Plans in three pilot villages in the reserve landscape. These activities will help involve local communities in collaborative management options to protect local populations of gibbons and other endangered primate species.

Dayak Cultural Arts Revitalization Program

Species List

False Gharial

Scientific name:
Tomistoma schlegelii
IUCN Status:
Endangered

Mueller Gibbon

Scientific name:
Hylobates muelleri
IUCN Status:
Endangered

Partners in Conservation and Development

Office of Cooperatives and Small Enterprises

University of Tanjungpura

Jasa Menenun Mandiri (JMM) Cooperative

Tomistoma Task Force of the SSC Crocodile Specialist Group

The value of Dayak weaving arts is not limited to the quality of the thread, clarity of color, or tightness of the weaving, but is reflected in the melding of designs, symbols, and life experiences within the pieces. Dayak weavings depict an assemblage of abstract concepts and patterns of human relationships. These are represented by utilitarian artifacts that once played significant parts in everyday life in the Dayak village. However, many younger Dayak weavers have never been properly exposed to the cultural significance of the symbols and design in Dayak ancestral weavings. In addition, older weavers are not transferring their artistry, symbolism, and technologies to the newer generations. Oral traditions are gradually being lost with the older generations and with them the traditional Ikat culture.

This continuous loss represents an eminent danger to the Dayak weaving arts and culture, which we are trying to address through the Dayak Cultural Arts Revitalization Program. This program, one of our most important cultural and socioeconomic endeavors, aims to revitalize the Dayak Ikat arts. The program helps local Dayak women to revive their ancestral weaving culture while securing income to sustain their livelihoods.

Our strategy is to show villagers the value of their cultural heritage by encouraging them to restore traditional weaving techniques, and by fostering the production of items holding vanishing Dayak symbols and artistry. We have included a conservation aspect into the program by promoting the protection of remnant forests and encouraging their enrichment with plant-producing natural dyestuffs used in traditional Dayak Ikat.

Dayak Cultural Arts Revitalization in Sintang:

As the ancestral Dayak Ikat weaving art of Borneo becomes increasingly rare, and the weaving traditions begin to disappear, the PRCF in collaboration with the KOBUS Foundation and the Jasa Menenun Mandiri are revitalizing the weaving tradition in all its significance and splendor. The goal is to help local Dayak weavers revive valuable elements of their weaving culture by enhancing artistic, managerial, and institutional skills needed to attain self-sufficiency and, thus, sustainability. In particular, we aim to restore these arts through research into the artistic design and symbolism behind Ikat motifs; provision of training to younger weavers in the art of weaving; promoting the establishment of a cooperative to promote the art; and providing incentives to weavers through technical, marketing, and financial support.

Tembawang enrichment planting with traditional dyestuff-producing plants:

As labor-intensive Ikat weavings holding natural dyes fetch greater prices and are more culturally significant, we work with women from four rural villages to help their families enrich their *Tembawang*s, or household forest gardens, with dye-producing plants no longer available. The initiative facilitates access to scarce natural dyes and provides an extra incentive to help protect and enrich local remnant forests and village *Tembawang*s. To complement the re-establishment of this traditional source of raw material, we provide weavers with training on handling seeds, seedlings, and wildlings of dyestuff plants.



Weaver at work (above)
Close-up of traditionally woven "ikat" textiles (below).
Photo Source: Imanul Huda, PRCF



Partners in Conservation and Development

Yayasan Dian Swadaya Khatulistiwa (YSDK)

KOBUS Centre (KOBUS)

Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya (BBBR) National Park

Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation

Danau Sentarum National Park

West Kalimantan Office for Natural Resource Conservation

Sintang Department of Industry and Trade



■ **Research into Dayak weaving arts tradition and symbolism:**

Dayak weaving is rich in tradition and symbolism, with processes, representations, and cultural values passed down from one generation to the next through grandmothers, and mothers to daughters. But the intrinsic value of the Ikat weave fades out as the Ikat process gives away to commercial textiles, and the meaning of weave design and motifs are forgotten. To prevent the loss of traditional Ikat weaving knowledge, we have conducted research in the Sintang and Kapuas Hulu regions of West Kalimantan, to collect “Ikat dreams,” which are the traditional precursor of all weavings; “Ikat-symbols,” which are depicted in each of the designs within the weaves; and “Ikat representations,” which depict the weaver’s dream through a careful arrangement of interlaced and sequenced motifs. Research findings have been collected and collated into reference documents for the weavers.

■ **Village-level Institutional Development:**

Traditional village institutions, although quite strong in the past, are beginning to fade in light of modernization and the increasing of government influence in village politics and socioeconomics. To revitalize traditional arts in a sustainable manner, we have strengthened existing village institutions by helping villagers form self-help groups and by helping women weavers from sixteen villages form a weavers’ cooperative called Jasa Menenun Mandiri—or Weavers Go Independent in English. At present the cooperative’s members include more than 900 Dayak women weavers, from a modest initial membership of about 30 women. Given its success, and that in effect the cooperative is now running essentially independently, we are now limiting our support to marketing and remaining needed technical assistance.

■ **Dayak Cultural Arts Revitalization Program in Kapuas Hulu:** Following the success of cultural arts revitalization activities in the Sintang region, we are now working to expand this program into a more isolated region of West Kalimantan. We previously conducted research on Ikat weavings and symbolism at the target location, where we believe we can achieve a successful outcome with the Dayak Iban community of the Kapuas Hulu region. Our objective is to work with three pilot villages by establishing self-help groups, and then to continue with activities that would link the revitalization of the Dayak Ikat weaving culture, with the attainment of sustainable livelihoods and the management and conservation of forest resources.

Collaborative Management and Sustainable Livelihoods Program

■ **Village Development in the Buffer Zone Bukit Baka:**

Nanga Juoi is a small, remote village surrounded by protected primary forests, logged-over forests, and degraded brush-lands. The village is located on the border of the Bukit Baka-Bukit Raya National Park and within a timber concession. A long-term objective of the PRCF in Nanga Juoi is to help the community attain and maintain sustainable living conditions, while at the same time helping protect the natural resources that surround them. We have found that as the program advances in the village, it has helped create incentives for the community to link nature conservation to their own social and economic development.



Villagers at Bukit Baka
(Source: PRCF Photo Archives)

For this program, we included technical and financial assistance for the village community as a whole. In addition, we helped villagers with economic options to improve their present livelihood conditions, and with incentives to support nature conservation efforts in the region. Our ultimate purpose is to establish a Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Program in the Mentatai Watershed, with the objective to integrate the conservation and wise use of natural resources with sound socioeconomic development of stakeholder communities. As proposed, we hope to attain this by supporting local villages in planning, development, and to carry out training and extension to local people through a Community-based Training Center.

Donor Organizations

The Ford Foundation

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Indonesia

Voluntary Services Overseas (VSO)

Aid To Artisans (ATA)

Regional Network of Indigenous People (RNIP)

US Agency for International Development (USAID)

National Geographic Society

Private Donors

PRCF Core Funds



www.prcfoundation.org

Activities thus far implemented by the PRCF at Nanga Juoi include:

- **Rural Water System:** Together with USAID and two individual donors, PRCF constructed a rural water system to improve the village's sanitary conditions.
- **Fish Ponds:** With PRCF support, the village community built ten community fish ponds with a combined total of approximately 800 square meters, and a water canal to constantly feed the fish ponds with fresh water.
- **Village-level Community Based Tourism:** With villagers and the KOBUS Centre, the PRCF has helped the Nanga Juoi community to develop a village-level tourism program to help maintain the community's cultural traditions, support its social evolution, and improve its economic conditions.

Degraded Lands Rehabilitation Program

The PRCF is especially interested in encouraging local communities to take charge of the management of natural resources available to them, with a view to managing them for sustainable harvest. In West Kalimantan, we work in an area where recurrent fires have led to the proliferation of invading grasses, particularly *Imperata cylindrica*, or "alang-alang." In this region, because of the poor state of natural resources, local communities have been generally faced with little option but to accept the creation of private industrial forest plantations with palm oil or fast-growing tree monocultures.



Ransi Panjang
Photo Source: PRCF Indonesia

Our objective in these areas is to help local people maintain ownership and control over their ancestral lands, rehabilitating them and making the best possible use of their land resources.

■ **Ransi Panjang Degraded Land Rehabilitation Program:**

Ransi Panjang is a Dayak village established within a mosaic of *alang-alang* grasslands and remnant gallery forests. We work here to promote traditional agroforestry practices with a potential to reclaim degraded grassland areas, and undertake forestry activities to enrich household forest gardens, referred to locally as *tembawangs*. Through land rehabilitation activities, we have helped fifty village households establish twenty-two hectares of rubber clone plantations. Further, a Village Self-help Group was established to help farmers organize themselves to market their products, and to address relevant community needs through a savings and loans scheme attached to the village institution. In support of the Self-help Group, we have also provided technical and financial assistance to establish a Clone Rubber Garden with six different clone varieties. This has helped villagers improve their own plantations and supported the savings and loans scheme through funds coming from clone sale proceeds.

■ **Community-based Training Center for Grassland and Forest Rehabilitation:**

One of the long-term objectives of the PRCF in the Ransi Panjang region is to foster nature conservation through the involvement of self-reliant communities who enjoy economic sustainability. To foster this objective, we have provided incentives to villagers to rehabilitate degraded forestlands. We have complemented this by providing training and giving technical assistance to strengthen local capacities, and by offering financial support to further community-based activities. The long-term aim at this site is to establish a village-led training center to teach farmers how to rehabilitate degraded forests and grasslands, and how to apply productive land-use alternatives in "alang-alang" areas.

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