



PLANET
INDONESIA

ANNUAL REPORT

2021

INDEX

2	Letter from the President
3	Letter from the Country Director
5	About Planet Indonesia
6	Core Model
7	Impact and Reach
8	Rights and Management
9	Governance
10	Regeneration
11	Improving governance of Kalimantan
12	Scaling through partnerships
13	2021 impact by the numbers
14	Climate Change and resiliency
15	Amplifying Conservation
16	Climate-Smart Agriculture
17	Habitat Restoration
18	Strengthening social-ecological resilience
19	Locally Marine Managed Areas
20	Locally managed periodic closures
22	Preventing Biodiversity loss
23	Understanding wildlife populations
23	Protecting critically endangered birds
23	Exchanging rifles for life-changing opportunities
24	Saving Indonesia's songbirds
25	Our response to COVID-9
26	Looking to the future: Strategic Planning
27	Financial statement
28	Our Supporters
29	Our Values
30	Our Principles

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of the Planet Indonesia Community,

After the tumultuous ride that 2020 took us on, I know I wasn't the only one among us hopeful that 2021 would bring about a return of some form of normalcy. I know I can't be the only one who, when looking back upon the social, political, and economic chaos that continued to ravage the globe in 2021, wonders if expecting any form of "normalcy" anymore is a fool's errand. Throughout this tumultuous year, planet Earth continued to cry out for help as loud as she could, reminding us of the dire need to take urgent global action to mitigate the impending climate disaster.

At Planet Indonesia, we look back on 2021 even more certain that our planet's most vulnerable communities hold some of the greatest potential to bring impactful solutions to the challenges posed by anthropogenic climate change. Conviction in this opportunity is central to the approach we have brought to our work since 2014. We believe that community empowerment and conservation go hand-in-hand. Reserving primacy for the socio-economic needs of the local communities we work with not only empowers our stakeholders, it creates a lasting bond that strengthens the resilience of the critical terrestrial and marine habitats we strive to protect.

Our 2021 impact detailed in this report lends credence to the power of this approach. Our operations continue to scale, whether measured by hectares of critical habitat protected, individuals impacted by our programs, or partners engaged. We significantly grew the amount of marine area protected by our programs by expanding to the Karimata Marine Reserve, bringing fishery and ecological governance to its critical coral reef and mangrove ecosystems. Our health services initiatives became even more crucial as we leveraged our community relationships to bring life-saving medical treatment and COVID-19 vaccines to thousands of community members. And, we continued to demonstrate the nimbleness of our model by recognizing a need to rehabilitate songbirds saved from the illegal wildlife trade by opening the first songbird rescue center in Kalimantan.



NICHOLAS HUGHES

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

In 2022, our staff and board are deeply focused on sharpening our short and near-term strategic goals to ensure we can continue driving and scaling our programs in the most impactful way possible in the years ahead.

Thank you to all who have joined us as donors or partners on this journey. Please know that we consider it our duty to leverage your support and goodwill to maximize our impact with a resolute commitment to innovation, efficiency, and transparency. We remain dedicated to these principles and fully committed to the communities we strive to serve — and ecosystems we strive to project — in Indonesia.



These are just a few examples of the amazing impact our team continued to drive in 2021, and I couldn't be prouder to serve as President of the Board of Directors for Planet Indonesia-USA, or more excited about the future of the organization

LETTER FROM THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR

The year 2021 was the seventh year that Yayasan Planet Indonesia provided services through collaboration with communities living in at-risk ecosystems. For seven years, we have been collaborating with farming and fishing communities, and government representatives in terrestrial and coastal areas of West Kalimantan, to improve the quality of life of community members and foster sustainable environmental management and conservation.

A challenge we have had to face this past year is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Many activities, unfortunately, had to be delayed due to local lockdowns and the team had to strategically adapt to continue and carry out activities as agreed. Yayasan Planet Indonesia has been very fortunate to have received consistent and understanding funding support which has greatly helped us to remain in service and accountable to communities and our supporters.

Here in Indonesia, the most impact has been on the economy which is felt directly by all village beneficiaries of Yayasan Planet Indonesia, farmers, fishermen, and traders. Yayasan Planet Indonesia continues to maximize the work and services of the organization not only by improving capacity building for leadership for all staff but also by improving the quality of the implementation of each program.



NOVIA SAGITA
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

***“ The potential of Yayasan Planet Indonesia is exceptional, we are proud to have a range of individuals who have experience and a high commitment to the organization. With this and our trust from the government, we will continue to have a positive impact and bring about social and environmental changes*”**

During the COVID-19 period, Yayasan Planet Indonesia was able to help people affected by getting support from several funding agencies to distribute emergency cash to cover losses incurred during the pandemic. This direct assistance is very useful for the beneficiaries in securing economic resilience. In 2022, the COVID-19 pandemic is starting to be forgotten, but we must learn valuable lessons and use them as guides, building a community that is resilient and adaptive in the new normal.

This year is a year of achievement for Yayasan Planet Indonesia. Apart from a new site and new funding agencies, Yayasan Planet Indonesia has also started to build 6 partnerships located outside Kalimantan, spreading across several islands in Indonesia. We hope to continue developing our impact and bringing about equitable change throughout Indonesia to strengthen its role in protecting the world against crisis'. With inclusive strategic planning and by setting standard procedures, at both management and at the site level, we further strengthen equality and safeguard our employees and stakeholders in times of uncertainty.

To all funding agencies, supporters around the world, the Indonesian community, and the Indonesian government who have given prayers, attention, and unflinching support to Yayasan Planet Indonesia, I as a representative of the organization express my deepest gratitude.



ABOUT PLANET INDONESIA

Planet Indonesia is an international non-profit that conserves at-risk ecosystems through village-led partnerships in West Kalimantan, Indonesia. We utilize a right-based, approach to engage locally-led solutions and unlock the potential for Indigenous and rural communities to participate in conserving their surrounding natural resources, restoring and retaining balance within human-nature interdependence.

Our journey as an organization began by listening, responding, and adapting to the opportunities and challenges faced by communities in Indonesia. The Planet Indonesia core model (below) and its four pillars (page 6) are designed to bring positive change to the social ecological system by reducing threats to biodiversity and improving economic opportunity and access to basic services for local communities living within valuable biodiverse ecosystems. We link the four pillars of the core model through implementation of the community-led Conservation Cooperative Approach, the local governance institution which also drives the adoption of conservation action by communities.



CORE MODEL

Rights

Supporting communities to secure rights and tenure over natural resources - the lifeline for rural livelihoods



Management



Providing technical support and incentives to drive community-led management

Governance

Supporting and growing local institutions that act as the governance body over social-ecological systems



Regeneration



Providing socio-environmental services to amplify regenerative livelihoods and sustain well-being



IMPACT AND REACH



RIGHTS AND MANAGEMENT

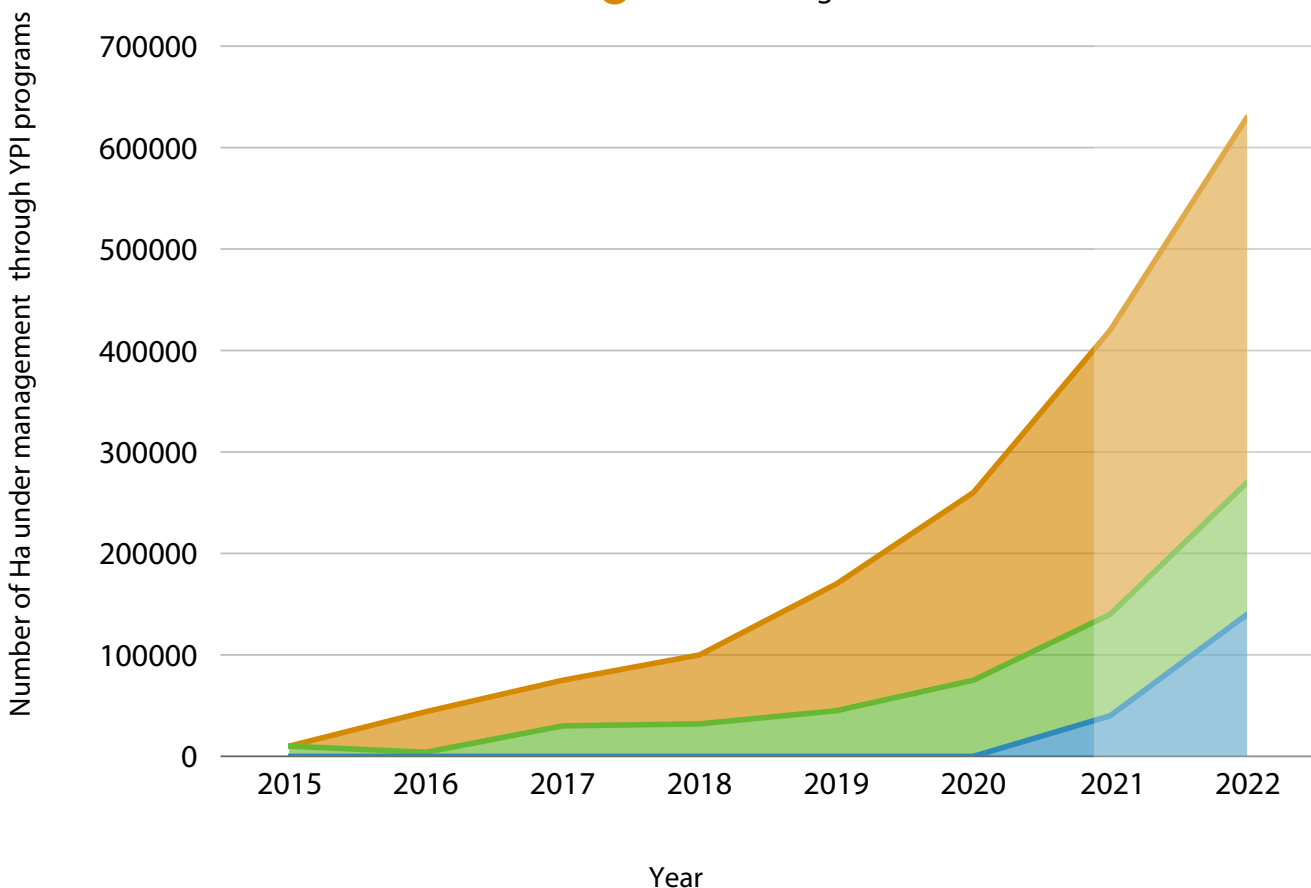


Since 2015, we have been measuring the hectares of terrestrial and marine areas that we reach through direct implementation of programs, programs managed collaboratively between communities and government, and programs implemented through partnerships.

At the end of 2021, over 400,000 hectares were protected through these management programs. We have seen a growth of 61.5% between 2020 and 2021. Programs managed collaboratively between communities and governments are by far the most numerous in the program structure. The amount of ha under management for 2022 is projected in the graph below.

● # ha managed in partnerships ● # ha community management

● # ha comanagement





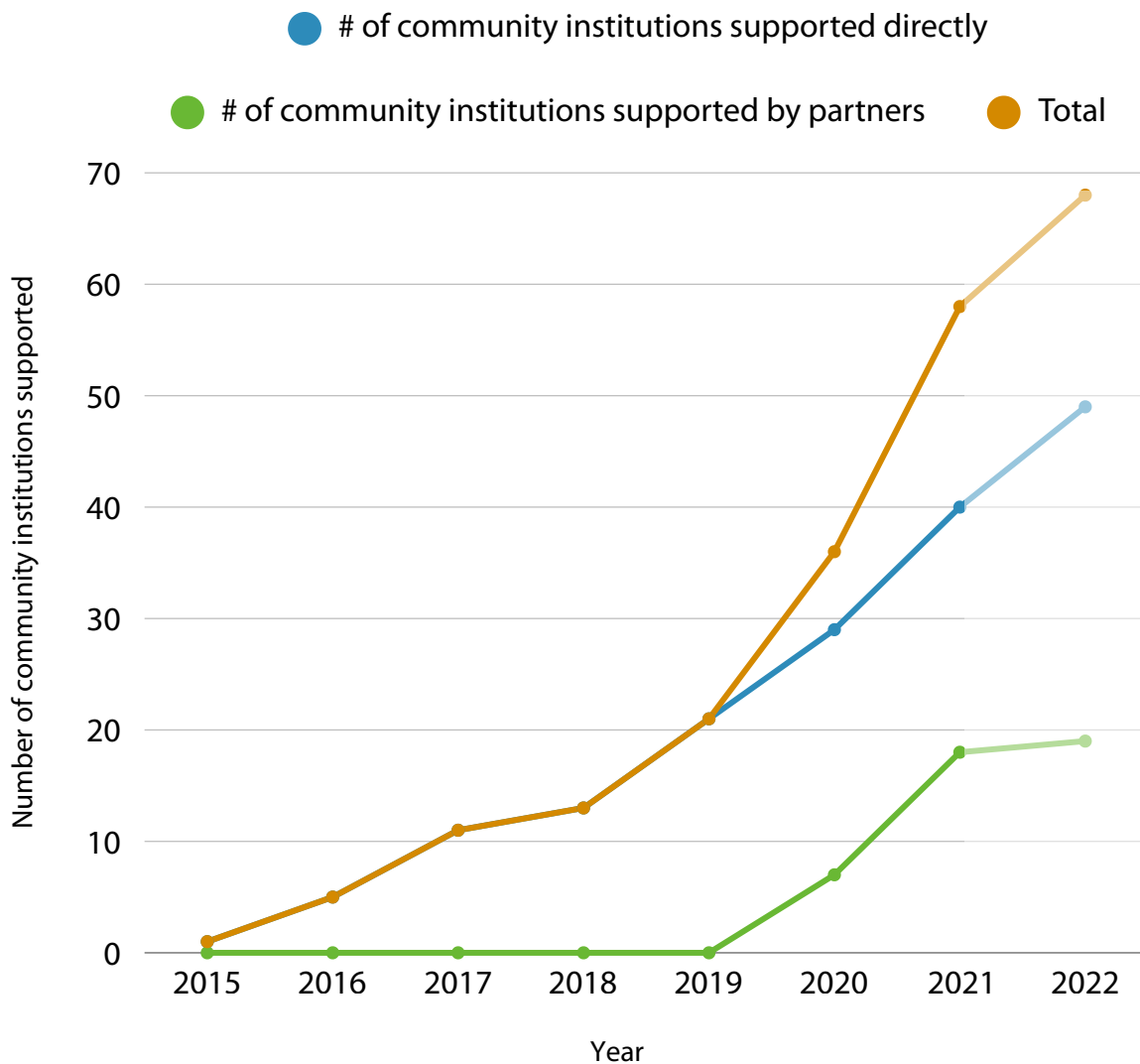
GOVERNANCE



As well as the number of hectares we have also been measuring the number of community institutions, associations, and community groups that are involved in natural resource governance.

Governance structures are formed of committed community members who act as a decision-making body and through these institutions, a variety of services are co-designed and delivered to address socio-economic hardships communities face.

These institutions, referred to as Conservation Cooperatives, are the cornerstone of our approach. The work we do to support these Conservation Cooperatives includes providing training and support on developing work plans and standard operating procedures, conducting public consultations to ensure all actors have a voice in resource management, supporting conflict resolution mechanisms, and assisting with evaluations. 2022 projected in graph below.





REGENERATION

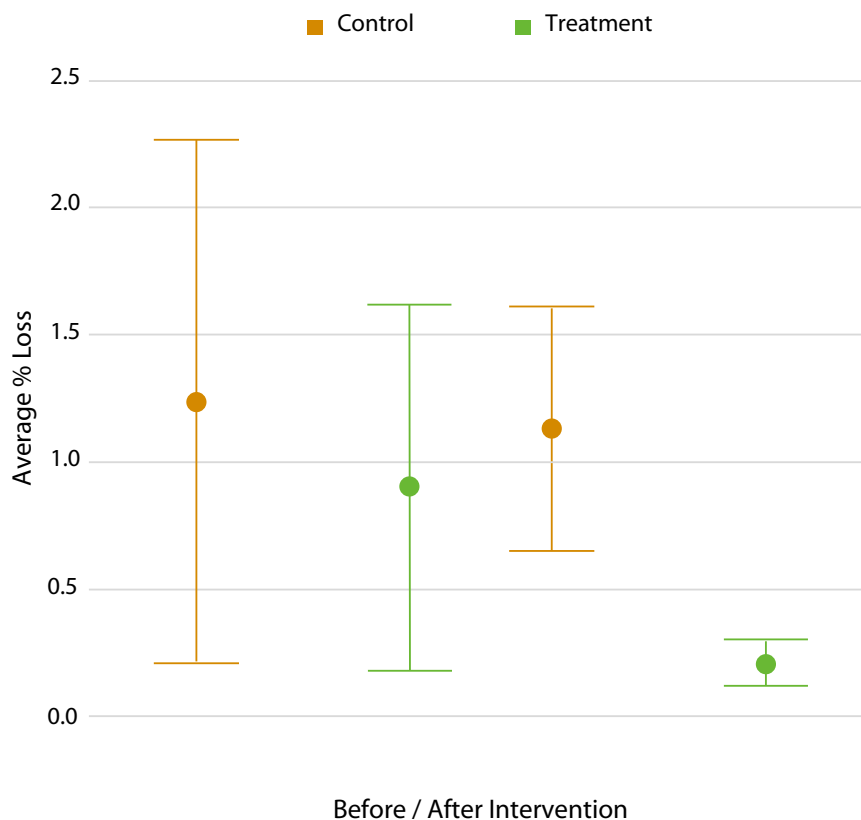


Regenerative activities can cover a wide breadth in scope, from developing resilient food systems through expediting sustainable agriculture and fishery practice to social design, prioritizing community health, community development, land-use management, and supporting sustainable livelihoods. By facilitating regenerative socio-economic services we help strengthen resiliency and disaster-risk preparedness for communities.

Consequently, these regenerative systems and built resiliency ensures that communities are less reliant on the exploitation of natural resources from their surrounding forests.

This coupled with natural reforestation efforts and agroforestry programs lead to the regeneration of degraded forest lands, connecting forest remnants and creating healthier ecosystems.

Planet Indonesia first began working in Gunung Nyiut in 2015 with Indigenous Dayak communities to co-manage this reserve with government agencies. Since then, village-led conservation efforts have seen the planting of 68,500 trees of 46 different species in degraded forest land and we have seen a 77% reduction in forest loss. An analysis of forest cover from 2000 to 2021 shows a dramatic reduction in deforestation rates in areas managed by communities vs control sites.





Improving governance of Kalimantan's largest marine protected area

We have once again expanded our support to communities, this time we are island hopping. Planet Indonesia has begun offering our services to two communities in Kalimantan's largest marine protected area, reaching the 2,500 people living within the Karimata Marine Reserve.

Calling this 190,000 ha Marine Reserve home are protected species such as dugong, a host of marine turtles, endangered giant guitarfish, octopuses, mud crabs, tiger shrimp, and all coastal wildlife that rely on the vast complex coral reef system and mangrove forest to live. Our primary objective in this protected area is to secure long-term ecological integrity and resilience to its people, its fisheries, and the biodiversity of this rich ecosystem. Helping strengthen participatory fisheries and marine management and good governance structures of the natural resources present here.

Video ▶ [Karimata Marine Reserve](#)

Working alongside villagers in this historically underserved region, we are striving to enhance community-led protection of marine ecosystems, improve livelihoods for coastal households, Catch Per Unit Effort for target fishery species, and access to healthcare and reproductive rights for community members. Ensuring that marine habitats in and around the Karimata Marine Reserve are under effective co-management, with coastal communities supported, ecosystems secure and adapting to the effects of climate change with biodiversity thriving.

This important work is being done with our existing government agency BKSDA Kalimantan Barat partnership. With their cooperation, we are looking to help communities and government agencies sit down together to find mutually beneficial solutions. This work also grows our partnership with Blue Ventures with the support of the Blue Action Fund.

Scaling through partnerships

Since its inception, Planet Indonesia has worked to amplify community-led approaches to conserve at-risk ecosystems. In 2021, we took the steps to move beyond West Kalimantan by asking ourselves, how can we amplify the impact of rights-based approaches in Indonesia that are grounded in local context? Knowing the implementation of a single organization is limited by time and resources, and that we do not want to fall into the sectoral traps of NGOs replicating endlessly without respecting and valuing local place-based organizations, we began looking for like-minded NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) across Indonesia.

In 2021, we initiated collaboration with six local organizations that work hand in hand with communities. We are currently co-developing with partners learning modules, training materials, toolkits, and technical support based on the partners' needs to amplify and contextualize the Conservation Cooperative approach.

Partnering with these organizations with similar values we believe will enable us to scale out impact in Indonesia, unlocking the potential of ecosystems to support equitable social-ecological trajectories for rural communities, while also engaging in cross-pollinate learning to strengthen the work that partners and ourselves are committed to doing.

Scaling out the Conservation Cooperative approach will be a dynamic process. Over the next five years, Planet Indonesia will trial partnerships across several islands in Indonesia. We will reflect, learn, adapt and apply the experiences to inform the next stages of expansion for the benefit of communities and the environment.

“The partnership program is a new program at Planet Indonesia. I am delighted to introduce the CC approach to more partners and different landscapes so that we can learn how to contextualize and adapt the CC approach - Wahyudi, outreach and partnership support



2021 IMPACT

by the numbers

26

Conservation Cooperatives active from just five CCs in two village sites in 2017 to 26 CCs in 20 village sites in 2021.

1089

Kilometers on average patrolled every month by community SMART patrol members.

1182

Snares were disarmed in terrestrial sites, and a steep decline of 73% in hunting, encroachment and logging within areas patrolled since monitoring began.

32,440

Mangroves trees were planted and 4,937 agroforestry trees were planted.

25

New community enterprises started to strengthen the economic resilience of community livelihoods.

55%

Increase in income from our sustainable agricultural farmers and an increase in the use of Climate Smart techniques.

29.7%

Temporary improvement in yield from periodic fisheries closures.

306

Rifles surrendered to reduce the amount of hunting in and around the protected areas we work in to protect biodiversity.

106

Health ambassadors active across 14 Conservation Cooperatives - our team has helped over 500 people get access to COVID-19 vaccinations and vital healthcare in 2021.

38%

Average growth in community-led savings and loans programs total with savings reaching 969380874 IDR or 67,014 USD.

A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a large, thick tree trunk. The trunk is the central focus, showing its textured, brown bark. The tree branches out into a dense canopy of vibrant green leaves that fills the upper two-thirds of the frame. The sky is visible through the leaves, appearing as a pale, overcast blue. The overall composition is vertical and emphasizes the height and scale of the tree.

**CLIMATE
CHANGE
AND
RESILIENCY**

Amplifying Conservation

Building Resilience is often a phrase associated with local communities and the work we do at Planet Indonesia. This concept was truly tested in 2021. With the world facing two crises, the COVID-19 pandemic and the worsening effects of climate change, our work became more demanding and yet even more crucial. More than ever before our team had to listen and adapt to the needs of the village partners we serve.

When we established Planet Indonesia seven years ago, our Conservation Cooperative framework was built to combat the drivers of cultural and environmental degradation. By working in this way in partnership with local community experts in natural resource management, our holistic approach is perfectly positioned to combat these global issues at a local scale.

While this year has not been easy, it amplified why effectively engaging locally-led conservation solutions, ensuring rights and services, and supporting democratic village-led governance towards natural resource management is so important.

From starting with just five Conservation Cooperatives between two villages in 2014, in 2021, we supported 26 Conservation Cooperatives active across four sites in West Kalimantan. We are lucky to be supported by you, our loyal donors, partners, advocates, and fundraisers. In whichever way you have helped Planet Indonesia and our mission this year we want to say a heartfelt thank you. We hope you will continue to help us advance community-led conservation.





Community members in Tangkit Hamlet and Nanga Pari Village in the Sintang District of West Kalimantan are working together to build a demonstration plot to help train other community members on how to develop and use organic fertilizer created from rice husk charcoal.



Climate Smart Agriculture

The communities we support through our Climate Smart Agriculture Program have applied various farming techniques to not only increase yield but reduce emissions from unsustainable agriculture practices. A demonstration plot also allows them to experiment with techniques to see which ones work best for them.

Overall, in 2021 we witnessed a 55% increase in yields from farmers using climate-smart techniques. Farmer mentors are also trained to support farmers groups of up to 30 farmers in their local communities. These mentors are integral to ensuring that community members lead the process and amplifying peer-to-peer support.

Habitat Restoration

Conservationists from the village of Sungai Nibung, Kubu Raya monitored the progression of a major restoration project they led, planting more than 18,000 mangrove seedlings to return 4 hectares of the coastal area back to quality habitat that supports wildlife and multiple villages. These efforts are instrumental in mitigating climate change as mangrove forests can sequester more carbon annually than any other ecosystem on Earth.

By July, the communities we support in Gunung Nanning Protection Forest had planted more than 1,400 seedlings of various fruit trees and crops such as bitter bean, durian, and cacao. Every four months, community members monitor these plants to assess the overall health and development of these important food-supplying crops.

2021 saw in total, 32,440 mangrove trees planted and 4,937 agroforestry trees planted.

Video ▶ [Habitat for Hope](#)



“ We must restore the forest, so we can keep breathing! - Oka Pransiska, Ecosystem Restoration Co-ordinator



Strengthening social-ecological resilience



To understand if holistic integrated approaches help build social-ecological resiliency in times of crisis, we joined a research coalition. Using the pandemic as a case study, supported by a generous gift from the David Lucile Packard Foundation, Planet Indonesia, Health in Harmony, Alam Sehat Lestari, and Stanford University sought to better understand the impact of the pandemic and how integrated approaches can shield communities from negative economic, social and environmental shocks. While additional data is being collected and more detailed analyses are underway, the preliminary findings are astonishing.

- Deforestation was significantly lower in villages we were partnered with vs those that were not.
- Control sites were more likely to engage in illegal logging than treatment sites.
- Treatment sites showed more diverse access to resources and livelihoods.
- Individuals were far more likely to engage in unsustainable jobs in control sites.

Preliminary findings support our core model and that advancing rights nested in good governance can build social-ecological resiliency.

2021 also saw the success of our stingless bee cultivation program around our terrestrial sites. We started with conducting a stingless bee survey in the areas to determine the potential for expansion of this program among community members in order to help support their interests in developing alternative and sustainable livelihoods.

Cultivating stingless bee honey can be lucrative with a single hive producing nearly 50 ml per hive per month. The best part? These hives are a healthy and environmentally friendly investment as these bees are important pollinators in the Bornean forest and promote the healthy growth of many of the crops used for food among villages.

By providing business mentoring support and community grants 25 new enterprises were kick-started this year to strengthen the economic resilience of community livelihoods.





Locally Managed Marine Areas

Locally Managed Periodic Closures



Fishermen in Kubu Raya are seeing a temporary 29.7% improvement in yield from periodic closures. Each closure typically lasts three months and is an important strategy in maximizing mud crab yield in these mangrove forested areas. These closures allow the crabs to grow and reproduce which has both ecological and economic advantages. Implementing a few closures a year is an important mechanism for developing resilient livelihoods. Mud crabs are a common species found in coastal mudflat ecosystems and are an essential part of the food web for humans and wildlife.

Just as the year 2021 got started, the 6th temporary fishing reserve, impacting six villages located within Kubu Raya, came to a close. This three-month closure which started in October ended on January 14th with the removal of closure signage and a spark of celebrations with food and prayer guided by village leaders. This closure encompassed a total of 22 rivers that connect the villages of Sungai Nibung, Serut Dua, Mengkalang and Mengkalang Jambu Village.



I am optimistic, especially for the community of Mengkalang Jambu Village that they know that protection and sustainable management of mangrove areas is important and brings value in the future - Agustar, Village Head



Holding temporary fishing closures is an important tool in the conservation and maximization of the yield of aquatic food items, such as mud crabs. This species is a popular source of protein along the coast and is consumed by humans and wildlife alike. Temporarily closing fishing for this species can allow it adequate time to spawn and potentially grow larger as mud crabs are notoriously fast growers and eager reproducers. By simply reducing fishing pressure on local populations for a short period of time, communities can enjoy larger harvest rates and crab sizes once the periodic reserve opens up again. While these rivers are closed, communities will shift fishing intensity onto open rivers as well as participate in alternative livelihoods supported through local Conservation Cooperatives.

Upon lifting the temporary reserve, our dedicated team of researchers conducted a simple experiment to compare the harvest rates of mud crabs between these temporarily closed rivers and open rivers. They collected data by setting traps in both study areas and counting and weighing the crabs caught for comparison.



We found that, within these temporary fishing closure sites, mud crab harvest rates increased by 29% catch per unit effort for each trap as compared to just a 2% increase in catch per unit effort for each trap in fishing areas that had remained open. This is a significant number because it immediately translates to a 30% increase in income for the month for hundreds of individual coastal families, allowing them to acquire greater food and income security.

By using this method, all the villages we partner with have experienced an average of 50% increased yield in mud crab fisheries over the course of this program and have enjoyed a significant improvement in economic resilience.

In total, we helped facilitate closures in 6 villages helping conserve over 9,000 hectares of mangrove habitat. Our model helps integrate community-based services into natural resource management for short-term benefits and long-term conservation outcomes.

Blog ▶ [Community-led fisheries management: Reflecting on our recent temporary fishing reserve](#)

Interview ▶ [Locally Managed Marine Areas: an interview with Agustar](#)



Protecting Biodiversity

Understanding wildlife populations



In March, we published data collected through interviews with local experts living alongside wildlife. The method, called Pooling Local Expert Opinions, has allowed us to understand trends in wildlife populations in a quicker, more reliable, and cost-effective manner compared to more traditional methods of studying wildlife. Results allowed us to gain a better understanding of the density of various animal populations we help conserve and we are starting to see wildlife return to patches of previously empty forests.

Blog ▶ [Local knowledge estimating wildlife](#)

Protecting critically endangered birds

In October, a total of 28 conservation champions from the local community of Tauk, community forest patrol members, and members of the BKSDA Kalbar-Serimbu Resort, received a certificate of appreciation for their research and protection of helmeted hornbill nests. The helmeted hornbill is the largest species of hornbill in Asia and is one of the most critically endangered birds in the world. We would like to formally thank everyone involved in this important work and recognize the achievements of the communities we support in this conservation program.



Exchanging rifles for new opportunities



Our collaborative rifle buy-back program, run in conjunction with BKSDA Kalbar, held exchanges in the Bengkayang District in September. A total of 75 rifles were exchanged for farming equipment, clean water dams, internet towers, and more. In total through this program, 306 rifles have been surrendered. By trading in rifles and receiving alternative equipment, community members are able to focus on building more sustainable forms of food procurement. This program represents an effort to reduce the amount of hunting in and around the protected areas we work in to protect biodiversity.

Blog ▶ [Exchanging rifles for opportunities](#)



Saving Indonesia's Songbirds

Rooted in the culture of Indonesia, owning songbirds is a symbol of sophistication and wealth and is a tradition that has expanded. To feed this modern demand, poachers across Indonesia enter forests in search of birds.

We have many methods for addressing the illegal songbird trade. Primarily our community-led conservation approaches build protected habitats for birds in the wild, however, we recognized a need for policy, advocacy, and law enforcement work to combat environmental crime ex-situ. In 2021, we celebrated great strides in songbird conservation through the ongoing development of the Wak Gatak Songbird Rescue Center, set to open in June 2022.

Often, protected species need to be removed from wildlife markets or are confiscated en route. In such cases, these birds will be taken to our Wak Gatak Songbird Rehabilitation Center in Pontianak to receive medical treatment and rehabilitation ahead of release back into their native environment. Our on-site veterinarian Dr. Happy Ferdiansyah leads this center's efforts in returning valuable birds back to the wild.

“ *These birds are very important in nature for their ecological function. This rescue center is very important for them because we can make a bridge to get the bird out of the cage in the wildlife trade and into the wild - Dr. Happy Ferdiansyah, Veterinarian*



The Wak Gatak Rescue and Rehabilitation Center Clinic. Other buildings include large aviaries and a quarantine area.

Our response to COVID-19 through supporting healthy families



This year was an extraordinary year for our Healthy Family Initiative as we continued to face a global pandemic, challenging us to add additional COVID-19-related support to our regular programming. One of our most significant initiatives was assisting in logistics planning for increased access to COVID-19 vaccinations for community members.

We helped make it easier for individuals to get to local government-mandated community health clinics, known locally as Puskesmas, where community members could receive their vaccine from the local government. Critical to the success of this initiative is outreach, where information and counseling are provided to villages about the vaccine and COVID-19-related health information. In 2021 a total of 1750 at-risk individuals in rural communities received a vaccine through health partnerships.

Within our own organization, our COVID-19 response has been strong as we have provided vaccinations to 100% of our staff members in Pontianak, Indonesia.

This complements the Conditional Cash Transfer program established in 2020, developed to provide emergency relief funding to our partner communities providing economic stability in uncertain times.

Running a health clinic is no easy task so we work with health ambassadors, who are typically women, providing training, equipment, and other means of support so they can successfully run each clinic. 160 health ambassadors working across 26 Conservation Cooperatives were supported in 2021.

Conducted in collaboration with local Puskesmas, we also assist with traveling health clinics, which include a health screening, consultation with a medical professional, a pharmacy, and educational information regarding health plans, helping serve community members of all ages with specific needs. In 2021, we have provided close to 2000 community members with life-saving medical treatment to help them lead healthy lives.

We have learned a lot over the past years of running this initiative. Looking forward, we plan on increasing the capacity of health ambassadors among our project sites. This program is extremely important, not just in a pandemic, but for the long-term development of rural communities living alongside critically endangered habitats. When health is prioritized, sustainable and conservation-focused practices are more likely to succeed, putting communities in a better position to govern their natural resources, become independent, and prosper.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: STRATEGIC PLANNING

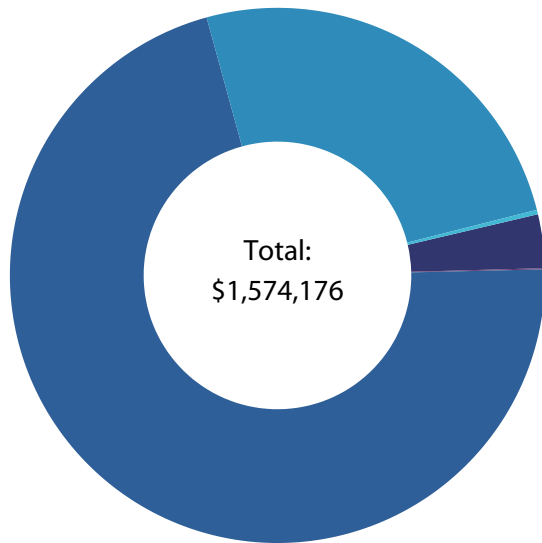
This year the team initiated twin strategic planning processes to provide institutional-level direction for its two entities Yayasan Planet Indonesia and Planet Indonesia - USA for the next five years. The strategic plans will guide organizational growth, future operations, and the scaling of impact within Indonesia.

Our inspirational impact statement is:

"Unlocking the potential of ecosystems to support equitable social-ecological trajectories for rural communities".

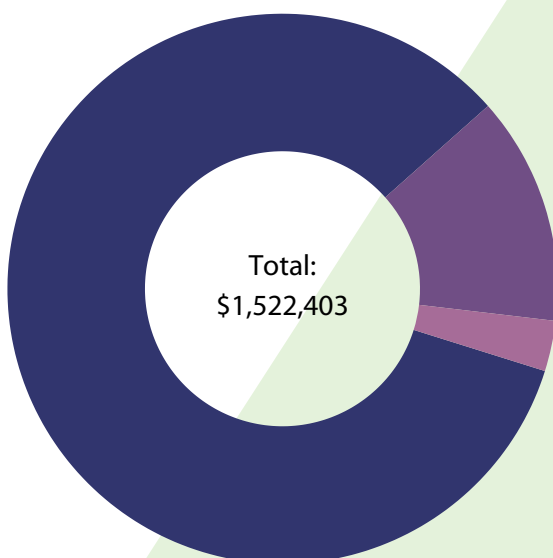
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Revenue



- Non-Government Grants \$1,119,164 (71.10%)
- Federal Grants \$398,740 (25.3%)
- Bank Interest \$4,237 (0.27%)
- Corporate Contributions \$1,105 (3.24%)
- Individual Contributions \$50,930 (0.07%)

Expenses



- Program costs \$1,272,669 (83.6%)
- Management and Administration costs \$204,514 (13.4%)
- Fundraising costs \$45,219 (2.97%)

*These financial statements represent the combined revenue and expenses of the US office and Indonesian office

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR SUPPORTERS

We are lucky to be supported by you, our loyal donors, partners, advocates, and fundraisers. In whichever way you have helped Planet Indonesia and our mission this year we want to say a heartfelt thank you.

Anonymous
Blue Action Fund
Bureau of Oceans and
International Environmental and
Scientific Affairs
The Darwin Initiative
The David Lucile Packard
Foundation
EAZA-Silent Forest Campaign
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
Full Circle Foundation
Green Boots Foundation
Illegal Wildlife Trade Challenge
Fund
International Climate Fund
The International Foundation
International Narcotics and Law
Enforcement Affairs
The Jurong Bird Park
Lincoln Park Zoo
Mandai Nature
March Conservation Fund
National Geographic Foundation
Otter Foundation
Pangolin Crisis Fund
Prince Bernhard Nature Fund
Trafigura Foundation
UNAS
Walton Family Foundation

Aidan Milner
Allan Shopp
Amelia Murphy
Amirah Nelson
Amy Sunshine
Anna Cabe
Annabelle Wilmott
Anonymous
Anuj Jain
Bertie
Benevity Community Impact
Fund
Chadwick Cover
Chris Fergus
Christina Kreps
Conor Gibson
Dylan Kitts
Ellen Carpenter
Emmy Quinn
Eni Bakallbashi
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Robin Cumella
Ruth Elizabeth Donohue
Sarah Otterstrom
Sean Driscoll
Shaun Haddon
Shirley Leibel
Sunny Nelson
Susan Riordan
Taylor Saia
Tobias Joel
Wei Ming Hauschild
Wesley Meyers
Zoë Lieb

OUR VALUES



Radical listening

Collaborative working processes



Open, honest, empathatic and communicative workplace culture

Mutual respect in working relationships



Maintaining supportive, nurturing working relationships

Reflective feedback mechanism



Agile, lean and adaptive working arrangements

Evidence-based decision-making



OUR PRINCIPLES



Human-Nature Synergy

Human-nature interactions can be maintained, balanced, and configured in a way that both ecological systems and community development paradigms thrive. Human well-being is symptomatic of ecosystem health, and the linkage is felt directly within rural village settings.

Place-Based



Place-based approaches account for the features and unique sets of circumstances that occur in a given area. By valuing local knowledge and insight, we are able to design and develop to the needs and opportunities identified by the local resource users present on the ground.



Community-led

Community ownership is critical in acknowledging rights and enabling a secure position for communities to drive the evolution of their surrounding area. This pivots away from conventional approaches of community members acting as recipients of an externally-led program. Instead, communities are at the center, shaping their own future.

Systems-Thinking



The symbiotic relationship between a rural community and the surrounding natural ecosystem cannot be ignored relative to local and global linkages. A holistic understanding of an area includes developing an overarching snapshot, identifying all parts of influence, and how these interact and converge to form a bigger picture.



Process Orientation

Process orientation enables moment-specific opportunities and needs to be addressed as they arise. This invites participatory involvement to shape the entire experience. Innovation and place-based context can be integrated to enable practical and user-friendly outcomes for all involved.

Evidence-driven



A strong foundational base builds upon what has proven to function. Monitoring, evaluation and reflective processes seek to inform decision-making processes, program design and partnership arrangements.



Value-Adding

Strengths, opportunities, and pre-existing institutions are harnessed, built upon, and further developed where possible. While community needs and gaps are identified, they are not defined in a deficient manner.

Adaptable



The dynamics on-the-ground are ever-evolving as conditions often change. Processes to detect variabilities and management tools that shift to meet these changes must be incorporated into any work plan.



Two-Way Learning

As facilitators and coaches, we recognize that we are constantly learning and that each opportunity allows for more experience to be gained. We are not equipped with all the answers, therefore, we engage with humility and acknowledge the interactions with our community partners are a two-way learning exchange.

Observational and Listening Lens



An observational and listening lens seeks to understand prior to forming preconceived decisions. The act of observing is critical to ensuring place-based approaches flourish as we steer clear of copy-paste replicas. Listening draws and builds upon the signals indicated by our partners.



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