

Fairventures Worldwide



Photo: Fairventures Worldwide - Christof Krackhardt

Ecosystem: Forest

Area Impacted: 500 ha

Production Quantity: 150.000 m3 timber,
50 tons of mixed fruit and vegetables

People Employed: 600 farmers

Population Impacted: 3,000



Indonesia

The Situation

Central Kalimantan, an Indonesian province on the island of Borneo, is one of the world's deforestation hotspots. The project area alone has lost more than 50% of its forest cover since 1970. The remaining forest is under threat by logging, conversion to palm oil monoculture and population pressure. The deforested areas are severely degraded and can only be farmed with heavy fertilizer use. Palm oil companies are among the few that can afford the investments needed to farm these degraded lands – and are increasingly pushing into the area. Each year, considerable areas of forest and bush land are burned to make room for plantations – creating problems at a global scale: In 2015, an acrid haze engulfed Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and caused daily GHG emissions that surpassed the daily emissions of the entire US economy. The traditional livelihoods of the local population are swidden-fallow agriculture, hunting, fishing and foraging in the forest. This livelihood model was sustainable with small population numbers on a completely forested Borneo. Today, more population shares less forest, swidden-fallow cycles are shorter and the forest does not have the chance to regenerate. Local wildlife such as orangutans and monkeys, birds and wild pigs are receding. In addition, Central Kalimantan's rivers are polluted by small-scale gold mining and fertilizer overflow from plantations. Government regulations outlaw the burning of the forest without providing alternatives. Game and fish catches are decreasing. Even basic vegetables are imported from other islands. With further environmental degradation, life in these areas will soon become unsustainable.

The Solution

The solution to Central Kalimantan's land use problem is multi-species agroforestry which a) functions sustainably in degraded areas with poor soil, b) generates enough income to make further mining, illegal logging or conversion to palm oil plantations unnecessary, c) can be implemented by smallholders with little disposable income and d) is in line with government regulations. Fairventures Worldwide works together with the local indigenous Dayak to introduce fast-growing timber as a source of income for nutritional security. The approach has a heavy focus on the improvement of soil quality. Since Kalimantan has little agricultural infrastructure, local nurseries as well as an intensive course program had to be established: Farmers had to change their behavior drastically, from shifting cultivation with relatively little farmer input, to constant work and improvement of the same small plots and, from individual work with little regard to environmental consequences to a holistic approach on community and regional scale. The resulting fields provide habitats to insects, birds, and small mammals. Pest control has been accomplished by fencing off vegetables and relying on organic agents. The decrease in chemical fertilizer protects rivers from fertilizer run-off.



Farming for Biodiversity

Unsustainable agricultural practices remain one of the greatest threats to ecosystems and biodiversity. As the world population is expected to reach nine billion by 2050 and climate change further threatens livelihoods, we have to find ways of agricultural production that support farmers and the environment we all rely on.

The good news is these solutions already exist: From modern beekeepers who work on reviving ancient local wisdom to phone apps connecting rural farmers with urban consumers.

With Farming for Biodiversity, we are on a global mission to surface these local solutions, celebrate them and bring them to scale.

Our vision is to make these community-led initiatives shine and reach:

- Over 200 million globally through media impressions and publications
- Over 100,000 active website participants and readers of online publications
- 200 selected agriculture & biodiversity pioneers through eight technical and campaign trainings, hosted across the globe
- 800,000 farmers, conservationists and other land users at the community-level



Through our crowd-sourcing contest Solution Search, we have identified over 300 innovative and replicable ideas that connect agriculture, livelihood and the environment. These selections were assessed by our renowned panel of expert judges from leading organizations around the world.

Based on the solutions surfaced, we will host eight in-country workshops to introduce the most promising approaches to local influencers. Trainings will equip participants with the skills to implement locally driven solutions in their own communities. Longer term grants will provide an additional incentive to continue their work. These efforts will expand these approaches globally, reaching 800,000 people!

Throughout the project, we will gather, analyze and publish lessons learned. An online peer-to-peer network will connect all solution providers and facilitate interactive exchange across countries and themes. We will actively engage in global environment and agriculture policy processes – such as the Convention for Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) meetings, drawing attention to community leaders and local champions.