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Eco-tourism Potential in Krueng Sabee

One of the restoration areas for the NEWtrees program by WWF-Indonesia in Aceh is Babah Krueng located near the headwaters of Krueng Sabee River, Aceh Jaya. This area is the habitat of various wildlife species. Elephants, tigers, sun bears, different types of primates, and birds are some of the wildlife that can still be easily found



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passing through the area. Through the NEWtrees program by WWF-Indonesia, a total of 26 hectares of a critical land area has been restored in 2014 with 18,568 agroforestry trees planted through a collaboration with Krueng Sabee Watershed Forum.

Not only do they revitalize critical land areas, WWF-Indonesia and Krueng Sabee Watershed Forum also develop the restoration areas to become an eco-tourism destination. The natural beauty of the Krueng Sabee River – from the lush forest by the river, the rich biodiversity, to the local custom – offers a unique attraction to tourists interested in eco-tourism. The harmony between humans and nature is an essential factor found in this tourist destination. To get here, tourists may take a boat cruising through Krueng Sabee River, a journey lasting approximately two hours. Tourists visiting the restoration area can rest or stay at the accommodation provided by WWF and Krueng Sabee Watershed Forum.

The Eco-tourism development in this area began as an activity to protect



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and plant plants in the watershed area. Eco-tourism has become one of the sustainable income development options for the local community of Krueng Sabee, so they can gain benefits from the efforts they have given in preserving the forest since 2008. From an economic perspective, the eco-tourism development in this area carries hope that the mindset of the people – who used to exploit the forest and the ecosystem – can be transformed as they learn how to

enjoy natural resources in ways that are sustainable.

The support of all relevant parties in the development of Krueng Sabee Eco-tourism is essential in order to build a watershed utilization based eco-tourism area that can be an example to other locations with similar characteristics.

Yuyun Andayani
Northern Sumatera Program

Investing for a Better Future of Ujung Kulon's Biodiversity



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angle to approach this matter. As one of WWF Ujung Kulon Project's main initiatives, NEWtrees is the program proposed to solve the Langkap issue. NEWtrees' main goal is to conduct reforestation to conserve the habitat that buffers all living creatures within the NP. However, looking at the critical condition of the Javan rhino that is currently threatened by the invasive Langkap in their natural habitat, NEWtrees adopts a non-zero sum game approach done by planting the Javan rhino food plant to push the Langkap invasion away within UKNP and help conserving other plants in the biodiversity chain within the UKNP. Replacing Langkap with Javan rhino's natural food plant is done to increase the amount of Javan rhino's food plant in their natural habitat to ensure feed availability that can sustain the rhinos' existence. It also indirectly allows us to solve the feeding competition among the Javan rhino's other sympatric ungulate. Javan rhinoceros' existence in the UKNP is known to be in a crucial yet fragile state. Javan rhino is considered as the umbrella species that indirectly holds the sustainability of the UKNP's biodiversity. The NEWtrees' initiative to replace Langkap with the Javan rhino's natural food plant is carried out with the hope to keep the biodiversity chain, especially plants within the UKNP, intact.

We believe that by investing in the UKNP land and replacing the Langkap plant with Javan rhino's natural food plant we can provide a solution to the complex matter caused by the Langkap invasion. We hope that by using this approach, we can manage the Langkap invasion through conservation of habitat and correction of the ecosystem's balance, which will lead to the conservation of the rhino species.

Kurnia Oktavia Khairani
Project Leader
Ujung Kulon Program



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Javan rhinoceroses' existence has been struggling with the certain challenges over the years. Java's crown jewel creature has been threatened by several; poaching and natural resources extraction activities by humans, feeding competition by its sympatric ungulate, unknown causes of deaths presumably caused by microorganisms, and now, by the invasive plant species that have degraded their natural habitat. As the last and only habitat for Javan rhinoceroses in the world, Ujung Kulon National Park's (UKNP) future is uncertain as it faces invasive palmar plants such as Langkap. Not only has Langkap degraded the Javan rhino habitat, but it also puts the UKNP's biodiversity in

jeopardy. Until now, scientists have yet to find the beneficial significance of the plant to biodiversity other than invading other plants' territories until it practically eradicates them and causing ecosystem imbalance in the NP. This also directly affects Javan rhino population in the UKNP. The degraded habitat overtaken by Langkap also decreased the Javan rhino's natural food plant.

This predicament has been one of the most discussed agenda in the Javan rhino conservation efforts. A list of steps is being considered to handle the matter. Conserving the habitat to conserve the species is the proposed

NEWTrees: A Gift for Our Grandchildren

"For decades, the people in our village, Panji Wayang, have been encroaching the forest due to economic pressure and we never expect that someday our grandchildren will also become encroachers. Furthermore, we gladly welcome the cooperation between WWF-Indonesia and Bukit Barisan Selatan National Park Authority in this forest restoration program." These were the words expressed by one of the members of NEWTrees group in Ngambur, Pesisir Barat Regency, Lampung Province, in a discussion held on Friday, 23 December 2016, in BBSNP Ngambur resort.

The community living within the buffer zone of BBSNP and in that village is highly dependent on natural resources found inside the national park. The high frequency of encroachments in national park areas have currently become the biggest threat for the lives of the wildlife in BBSNP. Hence, through NEWTrees program, WWF-Indonesia involves the local community to undertake this planting activity inside the national park.

"All of NEWTrees group members agree to plant resin trees (damar) for this program due to their benefits, not only for forest conservation, but also the economic value that can empower

the local community. Resin tree is not harmful because we only take its latex without cutting it off. It will also bring long term utility for our grandchildren." Said another member.

Through this NEWTrees program, the community group in Ngambur will plant several tree types such as damar, salam, bayur, pulai, jabon, and pikus inside the BBSNP, all within an area of about 25 hectares with the seeds of approximately 11,000; the planting will commence in January 2017. WWF-Indonesia and BBSNP authority previously have quantified the size of the location where the new trees will be planted.

In the same occasion, BBSNP authority also explained that through this NEWTrees program, the people will not only obtain the economic benefits of the trees' presence, but also the availability of oxygen and water supply reserve that the trees ensure, which are hugely pivotal to the life of humans." As a representative of WWF Indonesia in this meeting, Sujarwo provided an explanation that WWF is not only concerned about the conservation activity, but also keen on involving the community through sustainable community development programs.



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"Boosting the farmer's economy around the conservation areas does not mean that the farmers must have large plots of land, however they should have the knowledge of good and sustainable agriculture practices. For that reason, WWF-Indonesia is also active in educating the farmers through field farmer school, aiming to increase their productivity in a sustainable way and no longer posing as threats for BBSNP and the wildlife inside it. In the future, we hope Ngambur can be one of the program's locations. If the people here care about environment preservation, there will be many parties who are willing to help and

support. This NEWTrees program is a long term commitment and hopefully it will be profitable for everyone involved. After planting the trees, the community group will stay involved in nursery activities. In this case, we have signed an MOU with the Pesisir Barat government and BBSNP authority to collaborate. We expect the synergy with the government will result in a prosperous community and sustainable forest."

Hijrah Nasir
Communication and Education Officer,
WWF BBSNP Lampung

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP

NEWtrees Program provides a new opportunity for community to assist in the process of reforestation and protection of conservation areas and forest areas as well as in monitoring the growth of trees through geo-tags (labels of the trees with the spatial coordinates of the exact location), the public can check easily and directly how the trees planted are growing.



NEWtrees Sites



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Community Rising Passion in Tree Adoption System in Tumbang Bulan and Jahanjang Village



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As generally known, massive fire in several years ago has destroyed peat swamp forest and land in Central Kalimantan especially in Sebangau area. Replanting under Newtrees Program in the damaged area is one of several approach of WWF in order to revitalize and to restore Sebangau.

WWF through its Newtrees program in Central Kalimantan tried a new way to do the replanting the damaged area. The new approach is simply called as Trees Adopting, a replanting based on reimbursement

executed by selected individuals. This approach is taken based on prior experiences whereas selected group of people involved in replanting without even thinking whether the seedling would grow well. Consequently, WWF chose several highly motivated individuals with sense of responsibility to ensure that the seedling planted would grow and revitalized the once damaged area.

There are 3 varieties of endemic trees planted for Newtrees such as as

Belangiran (*Shorea balangeran*), Jelutung (*Dyera costulata*) and Pulai (*Alstonia scholaris*). The seedling were selected and nurtured by the individuals joining the Newtrees program. They were given compensation of Rp.2000,- for every seedling they planted. Each individual held the responsibility of replanting in 2,5 hectare area. In return, they would have additional handsome amount of income to support their family needs.

What more appealing is the additional benefit that still waiting when they continue involved in Newtrees program. They will acquire compensation for each tree alive in the monitoring period for Rp. 2000. It takes around 2 to 3 years for nurturing, and another several years to do the monitoring process that will take place periodically to ensure the three growth. For each of the monitoring period, they will again be given compensation with the same price for every tree that is alive.

The monitoring system used called Geotag, a system WWF has used for quite some time. Geotag can provide

an informative and comprehensive complete data on newtrees progress and accomplishment.

The Tree Adopting approach is benefiting the people bearing the responsibility for replanting. By having a risk to be failed, with the consequence of losing the financial benefit, has dramatically increase the motivation of the local people having sense of ownership to ensure that the replanting is successful.

In 2016, WWF has initiated Tree Adopting system in 2 villages namely Tumbang Bulan and Jahanjang, which located in Katingan district. Five people were selected in Tumbang Bulan village, while another 10 were selected in Jahanjang village to join Tree Adopting. Each person is given the responsibility to manage 2,5 hectare area. In total, WWF has been replanting around 37,5 hectare area consist of 15.000 new replanted trees.

Aside from the financial benefit, the local people who were involved in Newtrees program also developed increased understanding concerning the importance of sustainable forest

in order to support their livelihood that eventually will be inherited to their offspring. They have become local conservation ambassadors to their local community in promoting the importance of sustainable forest for the sake of their welfare. That's why WWF plans to replicate Tree Adopting to another villages intervened by WWF, due to the fact that it's proven to be more effective and efficient in revitalizing Sebangau.

Jelfi
Communications Coordinator
Central Kalimantan Program



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