

PROGRESS REPORT

MARCH 2019



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



PREFACE

We give our thanks to all those who continue to support our Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM) and the work that we do. We hope you will continue your interest and contribution toward YPBM's success in the future.

This monthly report contains a summary of our activities that were carried out in March, 2019. Through this report, we hope to clearly illustrate to the readers the activities and impact of our Foundation. Again, thank you.

MARTISON SIRITOITET

MEDIA & ICT DIVISION

Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai



CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- I. INTRODUCTION
- II. CEEP ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT
 - a. Muntei Studio Activities
 - b. Maileppet studio activities
 - c. Saibi Samukop studio Activities
 - d. Youth community handicraft activities in Muntei village
 - e. CEEP development in Toktuk Village
- III. DEVELOPMENT OF YPBM PROGRAM IN 2019
 - a. Progress of the Mentawai dictionary research project
 - b. Progress of the Mentawai ethnobotany and oral literature research projects
- IV. OFFICE AND OUTDOOR OFFICE
 - a. Evaluation Metting
 - b. Metting with Head distrik Southern Siberut
 - c. Metting with Dr. Juniator Tulus
- V. EVALUATION
- VI. CLOSING

I. INTRODUCTION

March was a very busy month for us. In addition to running the CEEP program, we also conducted planning and field research activities gathering data for the development of a Mentawai dictionary and also documentation of Mentawai oral literature and ethnobotanical knowledge. Our research was conducted in various regions, including the villages of Muntei, Puro, and Maileppet. We also conducted research in more remote regions, including Buttui, Matobe and Mototonan villages.

A very valuable experience for us, the YPBM team conducted research in a remote community for about two weeks whilst staying in an Uma (clan house) situated between Mototonan and Buttui village. For the first four days, our research was conducted in Buttui, which involved a 40 minute work there and back. We then moved our research to the village of Mototonan, which involved a trek each day of approximately 1 hour each way.

We found this very challenging on the first day of the activity, but after a few days we felt comfortable and enjoyed the task, adapting to the friendliness of the community there. We hope to now log all the data and complete an initial analysis to a professional standard. Our goal then is to utilize this data to create a Mentawai dictionary and also Mentawai folklore books to be integrated into our program and shared with the community.



II. CEEP ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

a. Muntei Studio Activities

In March, Muntei Studio has carried out the usual learning activities such as Turuk dance, Paligagara dance, cultural stories and learning about the introduction of medicinal plants in Muntei village. The program students remain enthusiastic about learning.



b. Maileppet studio activities

In March, the Maileppet studio has been focusing on teaching the students about folk songs, turuk laggai dances, and folktales. The program is progressing well and the students of the Maileppet studio remain enthusiastic about participating in the classes and learning about culture.





c. Saibi samukop studio activities

In March, Saibi Studio taught about cultural dances specific for men, the turuk pokpok dance for women, handicrafts such as weaving Miru and Lapek (mats). The students were also invited to gather resources from the forest to be used to make the Miru and Lapek. The Saibi students were also taught how to use a small Buddha instrument. The Saibi studio students remain enthusiastic about learning Mentawai culture.



In addition, YPBM students from Saibi Samukop had the opportunity to perform at an educational seminar in the village of Saibi Samukop. In this event, the Saibi studio students were given the opportunity to display the turuk laggai dance at the opening of the event. This provides a great opportunity for the students and is having a very positive impact on the community.



d. Activities of the handicraft community of the village of Muntei

This March, members of the Suku Mentawai youth group carried out activities as per usual. They have made handicrafts such as miniature frames, sisip, and also handicrafts from shells. This month, they also gained the service of a senior elder as a mentor. Pak Jonas is devoting his time to helping empower and hone the skills and knowledge of this youth community.





e. Development of CEEP in Toktuk Village

In March, Toktuk studio launched the YPBM program and the name of their program studio, which is Sipasigeugeu. Cultural learning activities have commenced well and the YPBM team will ensure that particular care and assistance is provided in these early stages.



CEEP learning activities in the Sipasigeugeu studio are held every Sunday at four in the afternoon. At present, the Sipasigeugeu studio does not yet have a specific learning space for the program – a sanggar, however for the meantime the classes will take place at the community's health building.



III. DEVELOPMENT OF YPBM PROGRAM IN 2019

a. Progress of the Mentawai dictionary research program

This month, we will continue conducting research for the Mentawai Language dictionary, collecting important data. These activities include conducting research with the elders of our Mentawai community and logging it onto the computer. This is our current strategy to work toward our target of a Mentawai-Indonesian dictionary. We are focusing on research at the moment.



b. Progress on Mentawai ethnobotany and oral literature research projects

This month, after conducting research in the villages of Muntei, Maileppet and Puro, we conducted a second round of research in the villages of Buttui and Matotonan. There, we collected about 440 surveys and extensive data from the people living in Matotonan and Buttui villages. Our surveying activities took just over a week in total. We began research in the village of Buttui for four days, and then finalised our research in the village of Matotonan.



IV. OFFICE AND OUTDOOR OFFICE ACTIVITIES

a. Evaluation Metting

This month, the YPBM team held its usual meetings and evaluations for each activity, including both preparation and strategic planning of activities. The meetings that have been held this month include: discussion on preparation and strategic planning for conducting research in the villages of Buttui and Matotonan, Mentawai dictionary research, plus various coordination and evaluation meetings.



b. Discussi with Head southern Siberut sub-distrik

This month, Chairman of YPBM met with the southern Siberut su-distrik Head. this meeting discussed about plan to submit a proposal build of cultural education center to the central ministry, Jakarta. the distrik Head agreed and gave a letter of recomendasion to YPBM.



c. Metting with Dr. Juniator Tulus

This month, the YPBM team also had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Juniator Tulus, a Mentawai Doctor of Anthropology. In this presentation, Dr. Juniator Tulus offered valuable advice and direction with regards to conducting research in the field, procedures for analyzing and also the value of our work. This is very helpful, as this year YPBM has a number of projects such as research and documentation of Oral Literature / folklore, Ethnobotany surveys and plans to publish a Mentawai dictionary. This presentation was very useful and inspiring for the YPBM team, learning about the experiences and wisdom of Dr. Juniator Tulus, who has long been involved in research.



V. EVALUATION

All YPBM activities have progressed really well this month, including the CEEP learning and cultural development in each studio. We will continue to refine and improve our CEEP and learning methods and materials, focusing on our 5 current studios, including Uma Jaraik in Muntei village, Bubuakat Simalainge in Maileppet village, Sipasigeugeu in Toktuk village, Pumaijat in Saibi Samukop village, and the Suku Mentawai youth group in Muntei village.



VI. CLOSING

Thus, the report on the monthly activities of the Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai team has been made accordingly. The documentation attached to this report are a true representation of activities that have been carried out during the month of March, 2019. Thank you to all those who have supported and helped in the development of the YPBM program. We are very grateful for your commitment to supporting Mentawai people.

The entire YPBM family would like to thank Rob Henry and the extended family of the Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF) for helping YPBM in our efforts to achieve our targets. We are very grateful and appreciate this commitment toward helping us to protect Mentawai Indigenous culture and knowledge.

We realize that this report is far from perfection and for that we welcome your input, ideas, direction, support and constructive criticism without exception for the improvement and success of YPBM's future goals.

Masurak bagatta, **MARTISON SIRITOITET**

