

PROGRESS REPORT

MAY 2019



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



FOREWORK

We extend our deepest thanks to the supporters who continue to help the Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM) expand and bring cultural education to our community. We hope you continue to support us for the success of YPBM and our mission well in to the future.

This monthly report contains summary of all of our activities that have been carried out during April 2019. Through this report, we aim to clearly illustrate to our supporters and followers evidence of our activities this month. Thank you.

MARTISON SIRITOITET
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Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai



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I. INTRODUCTION

In May, the Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM) team continued to develop our Cultural and Environmental Education Programs (CEEP). The YPBM team continue to provide assistance with teaching and learning activities in each studio, including Uma Jaraik Sikerei studio in Muntei village, Bubukat Simalainge studio in Maileppet village, Sipesigeugeu studio in Puro village, and Pumaijat studio in Saibi Samukop.

In addition, this month the Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai has formed a new cultural learning studio and student group located in Buttui village, South Siberut sub-district. The Buttui studio and CEEP have now been operating for approximately one month.

During this month, we also sent a YPBM delegate to represent our Foundation and community participating at the International Indigenous Film Festival in Bali. The YPBM representative who showed his film and participated in workshops at this event was Martison Siritoitet, YPBM media division. This event was attended by 25 film directors from 14 countries, presenting approximately 40 Indigenous peoples films. This event took place on 10-13th of May, 2019.



II. CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

a. Muntei studio activities

In May, the Uma Jaraik Sikerei studio in Muntei village performed their learning activities well. The Uma Jaraik Sikerei studio has been focusing its studies on Mentawai traditional dance (turuk lagga), and the identification of medicinal plants, both theoretical and practical. During May, the Uma Jaraik Sikerei studio is also preparing to perform at the annual Mentawai Persona Festival, which will be held in Tuapejat, North Sipora Island District.



b. Maileppet studio activities

The Bubuakat Simalainge studio has also conducted learning in accordance with a predetermined activity schedule. This month the Bubuakat Simalainge studio studied creative Mentawai dance and the art of learning to use traditional musical instruments and songs. This month the Maileppet studio students were also presented a certificate from YPBM for their



c. Saibi samukop studio activities

In May, Studio Pumaijat, in Saibi Samukop Village, Central Siberut Sub-District, has continued progressing the CEEP learning activities well. The Saibi studio teach cultural learning every Saturday night from seven to nine in the evening. This month, the Saibi studio has been teaching cultural activities such as Mentawai handicrafts and learning the ceremonial dance songs.



d. Toktuk studio activities

During May, the studio in Toktuk village continued growing their CEEP activities and number of students. This month they focused their learning on identifying and gathering Mentawai traditional medicine, learning handicrafts, and taking important learning points as notes whilst being delivered by the program teacher. Toktuk have also commenced construction of their very own cultural teaching studio (sanggar).



III. OPENING OF NEW CEEP LEARNING STUDIO IN BUTTUI

In May, Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai has formed a new cultural studio and student group in Buttui village, South Siberut sub-district.

As a new studio, these CEEP learning activities only commenced here in May. The Buttui group focused their learning on traditional Mentawai dance (Turuk Iaggai), learnt how to make baskets from rattan, and they also worked on making miniature traditional Mentawai canoes (abak). The studio students are very enthusiastic about carrying out these learning activities, from the



IV. OUR ETHNOBOTANY RESEARCH PROGRAM

This month the YPBM team continued conducting research on Siberut's most importance plant resources. As part of this, we travelled again to Matobet in the Matotonan district, and to Buttui village. The research was conducted over an approximate 10 day period, starting on May 23-31st, 2019.

Within this research, we carried out activities such as: plotting 78m² areas of the Siberut forest to gather data on the natural resources within and gather plant materials for identification purposes. This identification activity was carried out 10 times across a vast plot of Siberut forest. We also conducted key informant interviews with community elders and Sikerei; plus Focus Group Discussion with elders about the natural resources of the Mentawai forest.



V. INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FILM FESTIVAL IN BALI

This month, we were invited to send our YPBM filmmaker representative to attend and show his film in the International Indigenous Film Festival event held in Bali. This activity was held on 10-13th May, 2019.

This event was a great success, with very many positive impacts and benefits obtained for Mentawai by Martison, the YPBM representative. His film was very well received and helped raise awareness about the situation in Mentawai and he also met with many film directors from around the world, sharing experiences and being able to discuss about culture, issues and our YPBM cultural school initiative as a solution. Martison is still in contact with many of these people from the event, who are interested to continue their support



VI. OFFICE ACTIVITIES

This month YPBM has carried out activities well, both inside and outside of the office. Further evaluation and discussion continues to be made to achieve YPBM goals and targets.



VII. EVALUATION

In evaluation of the YPBM program in May, the CEEP activities have been carried out well by each of the YPBM-assisted studios throughout Siberut Island. In addition, our ongoing research projects and fieldwork identifying our important natural resources continues to proceed well and in line with our targeted schedule. Our Mentawai language research has also continued throughout the month, with a total of over 3,000 words now documented and a majority of these translated with description sentence.

Next month, we will be quite busy and have a number of additional programs, including a multimedia program collaboration with the Sinchi Foundation from the Netherlands. Entitled Photo-Voice, this program aims to teach a mixture of our studio and school students about the skills and importance of Photography and Videography documentation.

Next month there will also be guests from America who are coming to work with YPBM through our Mentawai Ecotourism initiative. Their aim is to carry out research on Mentawai's endemic Gibbons, including visual documentation and conducting interviews to learn about the history and traditional stories and taboos relating to the Gibbons.



VIII. CLOSING

Thus, the report on the activities of the Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai team has been made accordingly. All documentation attached to this report are evidence of activities that have been carried out in April. Thank you to all those who have supported and helped develop the Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai program. We are very grateful for your actions in supporting the Mentawai.

The entire YPBM team would like to thank Rob Henry and the extended family of the Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF) for helping us further YPBM's goals over the years. We are very grateful and appreciate this commitment to protect indigenous peoples and cultures.

Our YPBM team realizes that this report is far from perfect and for that we accept input, ideas, direction, support and constructive suggestions from all parties without exception for the improvement and success of YPBM's future goals.

Masurak bagatta. **Martison sirtoitet**

