

# PROGRESS REPORT

## APRIL 2018



**Suku Mentawai**  
Education Foundation





# PREFACE

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Thank you for the gift of reporting the activities of our Yayasan Pendidikan Suku Mentawai. All activities that are included in this report took place in the Foundation during April 2018 and we have been able to prepare a well-planned report of both Office and Field Division activities in cooperation with Foundation Managers and Divisional staff. Hopefully this Team Monthly Report can provide information so as to know the extent to which our program is developing. The attached data and photography are evidence of the implementation of the program in April.

We make this report with the best intentions. Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

## **YPSM Divisional team**

Yayasan Pendidikan Suku Mentawai



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# I. INTRODUCTION

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Yayasan Pendidikan Suku Mentawai (YPSM) is a foundation engaged in teaching Mentawai cultural and environmental-based education. The mission of YPSM is to reestablish connection, strengthen, and to preserve the culture of Mentawai. To do this we have established a cultural education program and developed cooperative relationships with Mentawai community studios and formal schools that exist in the Mentawai municipality. Through this, the YPSM is providing access to Mentawai students and the broader community to learn about Mentawai culture and the land.

YPSM is utilising existing community studio spaces and helping develop new spaces to conduct the cultural education activities. The current activities and studios built by YPSM include:

1. Studio Pumaijat in Central Siberut district.
2. Studio of Uma jaraik sikerei in Muntei Village, South Siberut district
3. Uma Malinggai Studio in Dusun Puro, South Siberut district
4. Socialization by the YPSM Team in Saliguma Village
5. Socialization by the YPSM Team in Katurei (Tiop) and Sarausau Village.



*YPSM students are taught how to weave traditional baskets*



## II. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

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### A. Socialisation activities

These activities are aimed to establish cooperative relationships between the Yayasan Pendidikan Suku Mentawai and the community studios – if already existing. This month we presented the YPSM program in the villages of Cempungan, Saliguma and Katurei.

1. We present the program to each community and studio to provide strategic direction in theoretical and practical teaching, providing learning techniques according to the available curriculum and materials to achieve a mutual goal for the students.

2. Teaching Mentawai culture and art in each studio. This process is conducted in each studio and includes activities such as:

- a. Training in ceremonial dance
- b. Training in the meaning of each dance
- c. Training in ceremonial music
- d. Training in Mentawai arts and crafts

The implementation of cultural education, including culture and art activities mentioned above, is provided along with our own teaching methods to students ranging of all ages so that they can gain knowledge about the culture of mentawai and help top reserve and develop it amongst this generation.



*YPSM students discussing the various arts and crafts*

3. Data and Information on regarding the condition of each community Cultural Studio  
We have tallied the survey results and verification of the condition of each program studio, including studios that have yet to be facilitated due to insufficient funding and/or lack of other sources, so below is the results of this survey:

Table 1.1: Cultural Studio management teams				
STUDIO NAME	DESCRIPTION	PARTICIPANTS		
		Male	Female	Total
Malinggai Uma	Administrators	3		3
	Studio staff	8	7	15
	Students	6		6
	Coach	2		2
Uma Jaraik Sikerei	Administrators	3		
	Studio staff			
	Students			
	Coach	2		
Pumaijat	Administrators	4		
	Studio staff	2	3	5
	Students	10		10
	Coach	2		
Cultural Centre	Administrators	2	1	3
	Studio staff			
	Students	5		5
	Coach	2		2



Table 1.2: Studio facilities

STUDIO NAME	FACILITIES	AVAILABILITY		
		Always	Sometimes	Never
Malinggai Uma	Uma	✓		
	Stage	✓		
	Cultural art	✓		
	Writing materials		✓	
	Administration		✓	
Uma Jaraik Sikerei	Uma	✓		
	Stage	✓		
	Cultural art	✓		
	Writing materials		✓	
	Administration		✓	
Pumaijat	Uma		✓	
	Stage		✓	
	Cultural art		✓	
	Writing materials		✓	
	Administration		✓	
Cultural Centre	Uma		✓	
	Stage		✓	
	Cultural Art		✓	
	Writing materials		✓	
	Administration		✓	





B. Photo documentation of activities at Malinggai Uma studio



*Students learn ceremonial dance and singing*



*Female students learning the ceremonial dance*

*Students learn how to make the roiget basket*



### III. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

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#### A. Field work

The curriculum taught to students includes:

- practical activities taught in the field
- learning via the curriculum booklet



Research is explaining to students about sago or sago tools according to the research documented in the curriculum booklet. Research division also asks students questions about how the function and use of sago, and the students explain and draw the materials on the whiteboard.



## B. Activities at the Uma Jaraik Sikerei studio

1. Documentation of dance, namely: pokpok dance performed only by women. Not only learning the theory of what the dance means, but also the students can learn the art in performing it.



2. The ceremonial dance mimiking the Eagle (manyang) is performed by males and here the studio students.





### C. Students learning to make traditional baskets and necklaces

In addition to learning the art of dance and music, students can learn the practice of making the Mentawai roiget (basket) and ngalou (necklace):



After the studio teacher gives an example to the children, students can learn and practice themselves.





In addition to making roigets (baskets), women also practice the art of making ngalou (beaded necklaces). The girls are very motivated to practice this skill so that students can know how to make the ngalou plus much much more.



The students also have fun practicing to make the ngalou necklaces as it is traditionally a very social activity for women.





The results of the lessons taught by the studio teachers is that the students are nearing completion and are able to successfully weave their own roiget.



Whilst not all students have completed their roiget or yet know how to make them, some do and others are in the process of learning.

#### D. Weekly schedule at Uma Jaraik Sikerei

This is the weekly schedule for students attending the YPSM program at the Uma Jaraik Sikerei. This month, SMP and SMA school students were busy with school examinations and therefore they did not attend our program so as not to interrupt.

Table 1.1: Uma Jaraik Sikerei studio, weekly schedule						
Studio name	Day	Venue	Location	Subject	Teacher	YPSM coordinator
Uma Jaraik Sikerei	Monday	Studio	Muntei	Music, art and weaving	Marternus & Yosep Sagari	Delpiana
Uma Jaraik Sikerei	Tuesday	Studio	Muntei	Music, art and weaving	Marternus & Yosep Sagari	Delpiana
Uma Jaraik Sikerei	Saturday	Studio	Muntei	Music, art and weaving	Marternus & Yosep Sagari	Delpiana

#### E. Socialisation activities in Saliguma village

YPSM travelled to Saliguma to explain the program and the purpose of the foundation to the community. The community were very spirited and enthusiastic for the arrival of YPSM because most of the people in Saliguma have lost connection to Mentawai culture - only the elders are aware of this knowledge. The children do not know about our culture.





Photographs of cultural dance demonstration at Saliguma village, performed by members of the cultural studio in Saibi Samukop. This is to show the art of dance and help explain our program activities.



The Saliguma community watch on and are very interested in learning the art of Mentawai cultural dance. They are enthusiastic because through YPSM and our program they can revive their connection to culture.



The Chairman of YPSM and the head of the village elder explain to the community about the meaning of the cultural dance so that the community can understand its importance and the meaning.





## F. Socialisation activities in Sarausau and Tiop villages

The YPSM Chairman of the foundation explains the program curriculum and proposed activities towards the school students.



After explaining about the program's activities and function, the children began participating by drawing their version of a Jaraik symbol. After completing this, YPSM team then explain about its meaning and the culture of Mentawai.



After the YPSM team conducted socialization activities with the students in Tiop, including details about the curriculum and presentation of activities for their participation, we gathered together for a group photo.





### G. Process of learning Mentawai culture at the Pumaijat studio in Saibi

Prior to commencing practice of the ceremonial dances, the gajeuma (drums) must first be heated. This is done so that the skin is tight and the sound is loud and good.



The YPSM program students are learning the art of ceremonial dance and music - this dance is the story of the Eagle. As they are learning about Mentawai culture, the students find that they already understand the basic motions involved.



## IV. YPSM PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

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### A. Uma Jaraik Studio

The activities taught in the studio this month include:

1. Turuk Laggai - Mentawai dance
2. Mentawai song
3. New cultural dance creations

The YPSM students then conducted a cultural dance performance, which was witness by tourists from the Netherlands.





## B. YPSM Office activities

Regular strategy meetings and discussions with other leaders and government departments





### C. Installation of the YPSM office internet facility

Thanks to our partner IEF and LUSH, who sponsored this activity, we now have WIFI facilities at our YPSM office. This enables us to communicate easily with others outside of Indonesia.





## V. MENTAWAI ECOTOURISM ACTIVITIES

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Mentawai Ecotourism is a business initiative we've developed to help protect our tribespeople, culture and forest habitat. One key aspect of this support is that 10% of all proceeds from guests goes to our YPSM cultural education program. In addition, Mentawai Ecotourism is a professional system to ensure the experience and impact of guests is bringing benefit to the community - including caring for guests and advising them on how to help us keep our natural environment clean from rubbish and disease.



*Mentawai Ecotourism guest is trekking in one of the tourist attraction, the Buttui district. Buttui is one of the most enjoyable trekking locations for tourists. Besides, local residents in Buttui are still practicing our traditional culture.*

Mentawai Ecotourism activities for the month ahead include:

1. Improve the office space for guests arrival
2. Display cultural artwork and tools for guests to examine
3. Print and hang promotional banners and brochures for guests to examine
4. Train a principle guide to ensure guests receive maximum service and that they understand to be respectful of our culture and habitat.





*Ecotourism guests are discussing with local people before departing for the forest, so as to ensure they don't become injured or feel unsafe. For the sake of the safety of guests who travel, guides must provide directions to guests throughout the tour.*



*To keep the natural environment clean, we request guests to always carry plastic bags for plastic trash. After that, the waste is brought back to the Mentawai Ecotourism office.*



## VI. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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The effectiveness of programs and activities is very important for the Mentawai community, with locations and activities very broad and difficult but must be faced with the challenge for the awakening of culture and protecting the Mentawai Natural environment. Our spirit and fight is needed to reach the target and hopefully can be achieved in accordance with the inspiration and support of the community – particularly so as our culture and Natural Environment is the source of life and wealth for the Mentawai people. The level of public awareness about maintaining culture is very high and can not be forgotten or eliminated by the influence of modern development. What is needed to develop a culture and maintain Natural Environment is the spirit of striving to maintain the identity of culture and language - especially the younger generation, students, and the general public. In various places that our program has been commenced, YPSM continues to move in collaboration with the natural environment and living traditions of the community. With the presence of YPSM, the community is very enthusiastic and happy about reconnecting with culture and the value of maintaining our Natural environment. Thus far we have achieved:

### A. Community response

The community's response to the YPSM program and activities is extremely good and supportive. YPSM continues to be developed and entered into the community in villages most in need and our program and activities are supported by community leaders, Government and the general public. In order to preserve the culture and the natural environment, the public knows that the life of our society exists within this culture and habitat and can not be undermined by anyone else - even an outsider. The society's attitude about the importance of culture relates back to their own health and wellbeing.



## B. Response from the Government in each region

The YPSM has been in communication with the local government, building partnerships and much needed support. Each village government is very supportive of our programs and activities being undertaken in the region. This is expected to continue and enable us a long-term program so that peoples awareness remains on the importance of maintaining the culture and natural environment. The Government is ready to build cooperation with YPSM in the hope that each established Studio can be assisted by their social program budget, taken from the APBDDES allocation. YPSM highly appreciates the support of the Village Government in responding to the activities undertaken, the need for assistance and guidance on a gradual basis, and to help complete the management of the Studio Administration starting with the management and program activities.



## C. Response from the Formal Education Department

A key focus activity of YPSM involves presenting the program to students within the villages schools and inviting them to collaborate with our program at the local Studio (sanggar). The formal education department is first consulted and is very enthusiastic and proud of the students who decide to attend our program at the studio. The Education department expects its students to be able to learn their cultural and creative arts and crafts and to know more about cultural history through our curriculum. Enthusiasm amongst students, youth, community leaders and members of the studio is very high and particularly amongst communities where the activities are active in the studio. The community is very enthusiastic about the introduction of our the program to revive culture and protect the Natural Environment. This is also very true of the Formal Education Department and formal school teachers, who are very grateful for the presence of YPSM to revive the Culture and traditional Arts and Crafts through Studios which have been formed into a collaborative learning centre together with parents, students and studio managers. YPSM is striving to be at the forefront to open the horizons for culturally creative development and activities through collaborating with every element of the Mentawai community.



#### D. Response from our Indigenous Elders

YPSM have consulted and have the full support of Mentawai Indigenous leaders for the cultural program and activities we are undertaking amid the life of Indigenous people still active within the community. Our programs and activities are very helpful in strengthening and displaying Cultural Art and Creativity within the community. Cultural activities open the horizon of the community, traditional leaders, community leaders, and teach the importance of maintaining Culture as this is our identity and an asset to the Mentawai people's wealth.



## VII. CONCLUSION

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This is the YPSM team's progress report for the month of April 2018. The YPSM team will always focus as closely as possible to run YPSM's program successfully and to help protect Mentawai culture. Our vision is that YPSM program will produce a positive impact in the community so that Mentawai people have access to keep in touch with Mentawai culture. Thank you for your time.

Masurak bagatta.



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