

PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2019



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



FOREWORD

We thank you all for the opportunity so that the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation (Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai) team can complete the activity report in January 2019. Attached to this report are all activities that have been carried out by the Foundation team in January, including program evaluation in 2018 and the beginning of activities in 2019.

January activities include office work and set-up, development of the Culture and Environmental Education Program (CEEP) in each studio, including the Muntei cultural studio in South Siberut District, Maileppet cultural studio in South Siberut sub-district, Saibi Samukop cultural studio in Central Siberut sub-district, Suku Mentawai handicraft group in Muntei village, and review and development of the Mentawai YPBM Ecotourism program in Sirilogui village, North Siberut sub-district. Finally, the team developed the January 2019 report, which is the end of activities for the month.

Masurak bagatta

Martison Siritoitet

Divisi MEDIA & ICT

Yayasan Pendidikan Suku Mentawai



CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION

II. CEEP PROGRESS ACTIVITIES

- a. Muntei Studio Activities
- b. Mailleppet studio activities
- c. Saibi Samukop studio activities
- d. Handycraft group activities in Muntei village

III. OFFICE ACTIVITIES

- a. YPBM Team coordination meeting
- b. Meeting and discussion with YPBM guests from Jakarta

IV. GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CEEP

- a. Discussion with the head of the Toktuk hamlet
- b. MUSRENBANG meeting in Muntei village

V PROGRAM CURRICULUM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENTS

- a. Research on medicinal plants
- b. Research on various handicrafts

VI YPBM ECOTOURISM PROGRAM ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENT

- a. Program review and development in Sirilogui village
- b. Ecotourism guests from Germany
- c. Ecotourism guests from Spain

VII CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

VIII CLOSING

I. INTRODUCTION

The Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation continues making new breakthroughs to achieve its goals and targets in relation to the wants and needs of the Mentawai community. Our vision is to preserve the Mentawai culture by implementing our program throughout all districts. Over the past year we have worked to overcome obstacles and constraints, but there is still need for improvement to reach our goals.

Lastly, we would like to invite the public and cultural observers to continue to support and provide constructive advice for our Cultural and Environmental Education Program (CEEP).



II. CEEP PROGRESS ACTIVITIES

A. MUNTEI STUDIO ACTIVITIES

In January, the Muntei cultural group continued studying Mentawai culture and environmental education. Activities carried out included singing folk songs, listening to folk tales, and practicing our turuk laggai (traditional dance). The Muntei studio students are very excited about learning these new skills. The program teachers are also working on increasing the number of active students.



B. MAILEPPET STUDIO ACTIVITIES

The Maileppet Studio is a new participant within our program and is located in the village of Maileppet. Given the Maileppet studio is only commencing the program in January, we are providing intensive cooperation and assistance. The YPBM team and studio teachers will continue to coordinate and find methods to improve the educational opportunity for the students.



Learning this month has been proceeding well, with students from the studio making Ngalou (traditional necklace), learning to use traditional musical instruments, singing folk songs and learning about the history of Mentawai culture through folklore.



C. SAIBI SAMUKOP STUDIO ACTIVITIES

The YPBM team continues monitoring our programs in Saibi Samukop village. To recommence the program activities at the beginning of 2019, the YPBM team held a program evaluation meeting including discussions to better understand the goals and aspirations of the studio teachers and program facilitators in Saibi Samukop.



The agenda in this meeting included determining the schedule for the studio activities, gathering data from the studio staff and progress of the CEEP activities.



D. HANDYCRAFT GROUP ACTIVITIES IN MUNTEI VILLAGE

The Suku Mentawai handycraft community was formed in November 2018 and consists of 14 young Mentawai young people who are also currently studying junior and senior high school. This organization is the initiative of young people who are eager to develop talents in the field of Mentawai handycraft art. Program activities and gatherings began in January 2019, where they made crafts such as bracelets, necklaces, baskets, sculptures, luat (cultural headwear), sikairat, miniature canoes, miniature paddlers, miniature Uma, and discussed other handycrafts that they hope to develop.



III. OFFICE ACTIVITIES

A. YPBM TEAM COORDINATION MEETINGS

This January was a very productive month for all YPBM staff. The YPBM team always conducts program evaluations and coordination for implementation of activities, such as developing CEEP schedules for each studio, developing learning and teaching materials, cataloguing student data for each studio, and coordinating with the studio teachers to receive and discuss their monthly reports.



B. MEETING AND DISCUSSION WITH YPBM GUEST FROM JAKARTA

In December 2018, the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation submitted a request for volunteer assistance through the Australian Volunteer Program (AVI) – via their office located in Jakarta. The AVI program aims to help YPBM further develop our programs including experienced assistance in our upcoming research projects (Mentawai dictionary, cultural education curriculum booklet, ethnobotany research, and helping YPBM strengthen our management systems).



The meetings conducted with Bobby were also focused on discussions about our YPBM child protection documents, notary deed of establishment, minister's letter, contract letter of YPBM eco-tourism staff and management.



The head of the Australian Volunteer Program in Jakarta, Bobby visited us here in Mentawai and met with the YPBM team to ensure that our organization was run to a high standard, to enable us to accept volunteers and collaborate. Outside of our YPBM administration, we showed Bobby our local infrastructure, including hospitals, police office, government office and markets to ensure the safety of volunteers during their stay.



IV. GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR CEEP

A. DISCUSSION WITH THE HEAD OF THE TOKTUK HAMLET

Yan, head of the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation, held a meeting with the official leader of the Toktuk hamlet with the aim of discussing the implementation and expansion of our Mentawai cultural learning program.

As a result, the Mentawai Cultural Education Foundation and Toktuk Hamlet Community have agreed on introducing the cultural learning program in Toktuk Hamlet in February 2019. The village leaders approached YPBM and are very positive about opening the program within their community. We will schedule an introductory event and continue to assist as the learning process is carried out.



B. MUSRENBANG MEETING IN MUNTEI VILLAGE

On January 31, Yan, the head of YPBM, was invited to attend the government's Muntei village Development Planning Meeting (MUSRENBANG). The aim of this gathering was to hear from the community groups about their aspirations regarding local economy, restoration of the river, infrastructure including roads and bridges, and the development of Tourism Awareness Groups (POKDARWIS), ecotourism and cultural and environmental education. Yan successfully presented the YPBM plans and vision.



V. PROGRAM CURRICULUM RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A. RESEACRH ON TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

In January 2019, further research was carried out on Mentawai's traditional medicines with Mr. Maternus. In this activity, the research involved collecting several medicinal plants and discussing their functions for people who have been affected by a certain disease. For example, medicine for headaches, medicines for wounds, and so forth.



B. RESEARCH ON VARIOUS MENTAWAI HANDYCRAFTS

January 2019, research was conducted on materials used to make some of Mentawai's unique handicrafts. This data was sourced from Mr. Jonas Salemurat in Muntei village. The names of materials and which items they are used for have been collected and logged as part of this research.



VI. MENTAWAI ECOTOURISM DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

A. PROGRAM REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT IN SIRILOGUI VILLAGE

This month the ecotourism team and YPBM staff travelled to Sirilogui village in order to assess a colony of Mentawai (some endemic) monkeys living in the mangroves. We are seeking to target Sirilogui as a new ecotourism attraction and also coordinate the CEEP program development plan in this village.



The Village Head and Sirilogui youth leader greatly appreciated the YPBM team's initiative on developing monkey ecotourism and CEEP program plans in their region. They hope that in the future the YPBM team will continue to coordinate and execute a well-planned collaboration with the village.



B. ECOTOURISM GUEST FROM GERMANY

This January, YPBM Ecotourism program had a guest visit from Germany, Franzi Prod. His aim was to travel to the village of Rorougot for three (3) days.



C. ECOTOURISM GUEST FROM SPAIN

On January 29, YPBM Ecotourism program also received a guest from Spain. Andrea spent time surfing on Nyang Nyang island and then contacted the YPBM ecotourism manager to travel to Rorougot for two days.



VII. EVALUATION

Referring to all the YPBM program activities that have been carried out in Dec / Jan, including office activities, studio activities, Ecotourism management and CEEP monitoring and development, we still need continuous evaluation and improvement.

Essentially, CEEP has been running well but there is still so much we can refine and improve, such as teaching methods and curriculum, strategy on how to attract more students and for the students to practice harder. For example, the Maileppet studio, the activities are positive and the students are very enthusiastic about learning, but they are still finding their feet. In Saibi, the activities are positive and the students are increasingly enthusiastic about learning – despite relying on makeshift lighting at times, namely flashlights. We also now have a Mentawai youth group community in Muntei village who are focusing on developing their skills and making quality Mentawai handicraft products, which they hope will also attracts interest for visitors to the village of Muntei and increase their source of economy.



VIII. CONCLUSION

Thus, this report on activities of the YPBM team was made in accordance with our month's activities. All documentation attached to this report have been carried out during the month of Dec/Jan. Thank you to all those who have supported and helped YPBM in the development of our cultural education and ecotourism program and for the continued support of our Foundation for years to come.

The entire YPBM extended family would like to again thank Rob Henry and the Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF) who have contributed a lot to YPBM and the success of the YPBM program over the years. Our goal is to save the Mentawai indigenous culture and protect the future for our people.

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

Masurak bagatta.

Martison Siritoitet

