

PROGRESS REPORT

AUGUST 2019



Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai



PREFACE

With support of our Australian partner, Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF), our Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continues to strengthen our Indigenous learning hub program and further our 7 primary targets. During August, 2019 we achieved the following in accordance with our aims:

I. Increase student participation in our indigenous learning hubs

During August, we conducted mentoring with teachers and managers of our 5 existing learning hubs to discuss challenges and strategy to increase student participation. This month we had a total of 136 students participating weekly across 5 learning hubs.



Montly expediture to further this target:

AUD \$ 0

II. Mentawai students understand our Indigenous knowledge and its values for the future

During August, students attended weekly classes at our 5 existing learning hubs. Following our guided curriculum, our program teachers taught the following topics in accordance with their region's Indigenous knowledge: traditional dance, song, folklore, plant medicine, the process of administering traditional Mentawai tattoos, value of forest resources and conservation techniques, and handicrafts such as making small baskets (roigets).



Montly expediture to further this target:

AUD \$ 230

III. Increase number of Indigenous learning hubs throughout Siberut Island and broader Mentawai

During August, we provided support in developing strategy for an Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trading (DFAT) Friendship Grant application, through which we aim to increase our existing learning hubs from 5 to 11 within the coming year. This will also increase our learning hub managers to a total of 11 and teachers to a total of 22.

In addition, representatives from our foundation attended an Australian Volunteer Program (AVP) partnership workshop in Bukit Tinggi. We expect to receive our first AVP participant in early 2020.

Finally, we travelled to Sipora Island to present our Indigenous learning hub model and discuss partnership with the head of Mentawai government (Bupati) and Education and Cultural department. Our aim is to collaborate with our local government to ensure that our program can reach all students across Siberut within the next 1-2 years and across broader Mentawai within 5-10 years.

The government response was positive and we have now secured a signed letter of commitment to develop partnership utilising our program as practical framework to integrate Mentawai's Indigenous education throughout all Mentawai districts.



Montly expediture to further this target:

AUD \$ 115

IV. Increase economic capacity for students and broader Mentawai community

During August, we continued to discuss strategy with regards to selling student's handicraft creations as a means for each hub to source income to perpetuate their growth. We believe this will also help increase ownership and formation of student groups from different age levels seeking to improve their skills to source income and in-turn grow Mentawai's economy. We are currently discussing the sale of Mentawai souvenirs via our partner IEF's online store and our social media accounts.

In addition, we continue to grow our Mentawai Ecotourism initiative, through which we source funding for our learning hub program and improve ecotourism opportunity and development for our community. This month, the Mentawai Ecotourism team accepted 2 groups of guests from Australia and England and furthered proposals for external funding support to secure ecotourism assets, including guesthouses. We used our profits to purchase a new Epson printer this month.



Montly expediture to further this target:

AUD \$ 210

V. Strengthen indigenous learning materials for current and future generations

During August, we progressed our 3 current research and documentation projects to further strengthen our student learning materials:

Mentawai oral literature: We finalised our 4th field trip to Matotonan / Madobak district regions to obtain further recordings of Mentawai folklore, taboo, song and other forms of oral literature. As a result, we increased the number of variations documented and transcribed from 120 to 151. We have identified 15 of our most important folklore stories to be published as a book.



Mentawai's Sarereiket dialect dictionary: Our dictionary team have now finalised a format to present our data and are in the process of reviewing all words for accuracy and shortcomings.

Mentawai ethnobotany: We finalised our 4th field trip to Matotonan / Madobak district regions to collect missing samples and photographs of plants that are within our Siberut's 63 most important plants catalogue. We have now commenced formulating our data in preparation to publish as a plant catalogue book.



Montly expediture to further this target:
AUD \$ 505

VI. Increase organizational capacity to improve administration, operation and financial security of our foundation

Our foundation team consists of 10 staff, 10 learning hub teachers and 1 hub manager. During August, we conducted weekly strategic discussion meetings to improve operation of our foundation from our office in Muntei, Southern Siberut Island. We purchased a new Epson printer / scanner with support from Mentawai Ecotourism.



Montly expediture to further this target:
AUD \$ 957,70

VII. Execute and strengthen monitoring and evaluation program and strategy

During August, we continued our monitoring and evaluation program throughout all learning hubs in order to identify strengths and shortcomings to further improve for the months ahead. Our hubs are in need of equipment such as blackboards, books, pens, and other minor facilities to ensure maximal impact of our indigenous learning hub program.

Montly expediture to further this target:

AUD \$ 4

Masurak bagata, thank you.

Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM),



For further details:

e : contact@sukumentawai.org

ig: [@sukumentawai](https://www.instagram.com/sukumentawai)

fb: [@Mentawaifoundation](https://www.facebook.com/Mentawaifoundation)



**Yayasan Pendidikan
Budaya Mentawai**

www.sukumentawai.org

our partner :



IEF
Indigenous Education Foundation

www.iefprograms.org