

# PROGRESS REPORT

## *SEPTEMBER 2019*



Yayasan Pendidikan  
Budaya Mentawai



# PREFACE

With support of our partner, Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF), our Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continue to grow our Indigenous learning hub program and further our 7 key targets. In the month of September, 2019 we achieved the following:

## I. Increase student participation in the Mentawai culture learning center

In September, the Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continued to increase student participation in our 5 Indigenous learning hubs. We have decided to assign one staff member as a manager of each hub and give responsibility in implementing ideas and activities to increase student participation and retention. Incentive will be offered to the managers with high increases in student participation and retention over a 6 month period. This will commence in October. This September an average of 78 students participated each week across our 5 learning hubs.



**Montly expediture to further this target:**

**AUD \$ 0**

## II. Increase the number of Indigenous learning centers throughout the wider Siberut and Mentawai Islands

During September, the team continued developing strategy to increase the number of learning hubs, Indigenous teachers and hub managers. To further this target, we are currently providing training to each staff member assigned to manage an individual learning hub. We believe that this will enable us the capacity to then train the new (localized) hub managers.



**Montly expediture to further this target:**

**AUD \$ 30**



### III. Mentawai students understand cultural knowledge and its values for the future

During September, students continued to expand their knowledge about Mentawai cultural heritage by attending weekly classes at our 5 existing learning hubs. Referring to our curriculum format, program teachers gave lesson of the following topics in accordance to their Indigenous knowledge: traditional dance, song, folklore, plant medicine and ecology, the process of administering traditional Mentawai tattoos, value of forest resources and conservation techniques, and handicrafts such as making small baskets (roigets).

In addition, we assisted by providing requested learning equipment such as blackboards, writing books, pens and pencils to assist in facilitating a productive and enthusiastic learning environment.



**Montly expediture to further this target:**

**AUD \$ 314**



#### IV. Increase economic capacity for students and the wider Mentawai community

During September, we continued developing strategy to initiate a Mentawai souvenir business to provide avenue for our learning hubs to sell handicrafts, and develop a small gallery to showcase their arts. We have also identified a member of the local community who is highly skilled in weaving and we believe will be a strong partner to further this objective. We are now finalizing the concept and business details.

This month we received one guest from Australia via our Mentawai Ecotourism initiative, which transfers profits back to our foundation. To further enhance our Ecotourism services, we purchased sleeping mattresses for our guests.



**Montly expediture to further this target:**

**AUD \$ 20**

#### V. Strengthening indigenous hub learning materials for present and future generations

In September, we followed up on the development of 3 research and documentation projects to strengthen student learning materials at each hub

**Mentawai oral literature:** During September, the team focused on transcribing the additional 31 variations recorded. In total there are now 151 variations documented and recorded. Once transcribing is complete we will focus on determining accuracy of each type of oral literature chosen for the proposed book we seek to publish. We are currently developing a funding proposal to publish this book for our Mentawai students.





**Mentawai's Sarereiket dialect dictionary:** During September, we continued furthering our data accuracy activities by travelling to Madobak village in Sarereiket to meet with two elders who speak this dialect and are knowledgeable in this field. They both agreed to review our list of root words and translations and a week later provide us with their corrections and recommendations. In total we have 2,100 root words plus their suffix and prefixes. Whilst incorporating these recommendations, our editors are preparing the preface, introduction and other written contents for the dictionary.



**Ethnobotany Mentawai:** Ethnobotany activities continued with accreditation of the top 63 important plants to be presented in our plant catalogue book. On 10-12th of this month, the Ethnobotany team attended the 2nd International Conference on Tropical Silviculture in Bogor, hosted by IPB university at their international convention center. This was a wonderful opportunity to contribute to the discussion concerning ethnobotanical trends and issues on a local, regional and global scale. The team are also in the process of preparing a funding proposal to publish a plant catalogue book for our Mentawai students.



**Montly expediture to further this target:**  
**AUD \$ 173**

**VII. Increase the organization's capacity to improve the administration, operations and financial security of our foundation**

The foundation team consists of 10 staff, 10 program teachers, and 1 hub manager. In September, we held weekly strategic discussions to improve our foundation's operation and growth. In addition, our Chairman, Fransiskus Yan, travelled with IEF staff to Jakarta to meet with a variety of leading Indigenous education organisations working in Indonesia and across Asia, including AMAN, Samdhara Institute, National Museum of Natural History, and the central government cultural and education department to present a proposal for support to develop a cultural learning center in Muntei. This was a very empowering and beneficial activity for our Suku Mentawai foundation team. Many inspirations obtained through these meetings have been shared with our staff and incorporated into our strategic development design.



**Montly expediture to further this target:**  
**AUD \$ 972**



### VIII. Execute and strengthen monitoring and evaluation strategy

This month we conducted monitoring and evaluation of our program across all learning hubs and as a result we have determined that not all hubs are able to access materials to be used during their arts and handicraft classes. In addition, there is a deficiency in tools for each hub to process the materials for arts and handicrafts. We are discussing temporary alternatives and a strategy to provide handicraft materials and tools for each hub.

**Montly expediture to further this target:**

**AUD \$ 16**

Masurak bagata, thank you.

Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM),



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