

# PROGRESS REPORT

## *FEBRUARY 2020*



Yayasan Pendidikan  
Budaya Mentawai



# PREFACE

With the support of our Australian partner, the Indigenous Education Foundation (IEF), the our Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continue to advance the indigenous learning hub program and strengthen our 7 key targets. In February 2020, we achieved the following:

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

In February, we strengthen our objective by integrating cultural activities in the field, such as the process of making our staple food – sago, the various foods made from Taro, and identifying a number of medicinal plant species. Additionally, we've organized further cultural event opportunities for the students to perform their arts – including the Sedulur Archipelago Sambang event. Our strategy is to increase diversity in learning for the students, which we believe will improve participation and retention. We had a total of 160 students participating across 4 learning hubs this period.



**Funds spent on activities this month:**

**AUD \$ 7.60**

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

This month, we continued our focus on developing collaborative partnerships with Mentawai formal schools. We met with Yosudarso, and Mentawai N2 Vocational Schools, both of whom responded positively and are eager to collaboratively integrate our learning hub program and to assist in reconnecting and preserving Mentawai indigenous culture for future generations



**Funds to continue this target:**

**AUD \$ 10.50**

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

The Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continues to provide assistance in facilitating access for students to understand culture via the indigenous learning hubs. Whilst we are always seeking to improve our learning program, we do provide a broad range of topics and activities to increase cultural awareness and value for our students. The current learning topics include making traditional Mentawai food, handicrafts, identifying various medicinal plants in the field, further developing our expertise in traditional dance and music.



**Funds spent on continuing this target:**  
**AUD \$ 200**

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

We continue to work with each learning hub teacher and student group to develop ideas to further this objective. This month we discussed the value in ensuring our students obtain high level skills in Mentawai arts and crafts, and increased opportunities to turn these skills into a source for income.

During February, YPBM and our partner learning hubs collaborated with "Sambang Sedulur Nusantara" from Jakarta with the aim of increasing awareness and recognized value of Mentawai's traditional tattoo culture (titi'). This event also presented a great opportunity for our learning hubs to showcase their arts and crafts to the many foreign guests that were present.

We continue to grow our Mentawai Ecotourism initiative, with news this month that our application for a volunteer from the Australian Volunteer International (AVI) program was successful. One particular candidate has been recommended by the AVI, whom we will be introduced to in March. This volunteer is to assist us in designing a growth and development strategy for our Ecotourism program.

During February, Mentawai Ecotourism also initiated an English language program which provides opportunity for our learning hub students to learn how to speak the English language.



**Funds spent on continuing this target:**

**AUD \$ 0**

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

In addition to the topic-based curriculum, the Suku Mentawai team (YPBM) continued work on 3 existing projects:

### a. Mentawai Oral Literature

We continue to progress our field work in checking accuracy of our data and making improvements. This month, we also finalised the funding proposal and budget to publish a hardcover book.

### b. Mentawai Dictionary

This month we continued to develop strategy to commence work on translating and publishing an Indonesian language to Mentawai's Rereiket dialect dictionary. This will also then be translated into English to Mentawai's Rereiket dialect dictionary.

### c. Mentawai ethnobotany research:

At present we awaiting results from proposal submissions to various potential funders to publish our Mentawai plant field guide. Meantime, we continue to work closely with researcher Samantha Lee (Australia) to explore further opportunities to progress this project.

### d. Learning hub curriculum

During February we began planning and strategizing for further research assignments to improve and expand our teaching / learning materials for each hub. We have finalised a proposal and budget.



**Monthly expenditure to further this target:**

**AUD \$ 0**

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

YPBM consists of 9 staff and 8 learning hub teachers. During February, YPBM further strengthened our network by collaborating with international tattoo artists and organisations. This also helps increase awareness of our foundation and learning hub programs. Monthly evaluation and progress activities were conducted at the YPBM office. In particular, we focused on the collection of learning hub student data, developing program schedules, oral literature book proposals, planning for learning material research assignments, preparing collateral for promoting dictionary and other merchandise sales, and of course preparing monthly reports.

***Funds spent on continuing this target:***

***AUD \$ 905.15***

## VII. Conduct and strengthen strategic and monitoring and evaluation programs

Furthering this target, we continued monitoring activities across all learning hubs. As a result of this month's learning hub monitoring and evaluations, we have requested confirmation of each hub management structure. For the Pasigeugeu hub in Toktuk who have yet to officially formalize their management structure, we provided assistance in doing so. Going forward, we recommend that each learning hub requires a printed copy of their management / hub structure to be made visible on their premise, which aligns with Mentawai procedures. This print will also include the name of each hub. Additionally, we need to provide whiteboards for the hubs that have yet received.

***Funds spent on continuing this target:***

***AUD \$ 55***

Masura' bagata, thank you.

Martison Siritotet, Yayasan Pendidikan Budaya Mentawai (YPBM).



For further details:

e : [contact@sukumentawai.org](mailto:contact@sukumentawai.org)

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

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



**Yayasan Pendidikan  
Budaya Mentawai**

[www.sukumentawai.org](http://www.sukumentawai.org)

our partner :



**IEF**  
Indonesia Education Foundation

[www.iefprograms.org](http://www.iefprograms.org)