

COURSE REPORT

NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCT (NTFP) MANAGEMENT IN PROBOSCIS MONKEY HABITAT

July 26-28, 2019

Sungai Hitam, Samboja Sub-district, East Kalimantan, Indonesia

A field training organized by:

Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)

Research & Development Institute for Natural Resource Conservation Technology (BALITEK-KSDA)

Tropenbos Indonesia Program (TBI)

Blue Forest Foundation

Pertamina EP



Training participants and organizers.

Background: Proboscis monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*), which are known locally as *bekantan*, live in riverine habitats on the island of Borneo. In Sungai Hitam, the population of the *bekantan* has been declining over the years due to fragmentation resulting from conversion of the forest to agriculture and other alternative land uses. This population is particularly vulnerable to extinction due to the fact its habitat lies completely outside of a protected area. To address this problem, ELTI and its local partners have been working together

ELTI is an initiative of: **Yale SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**



ELTI Alumnus, Mr. Kusnadi, introducing one of the NTFPs made from the *Nypa* fruit.

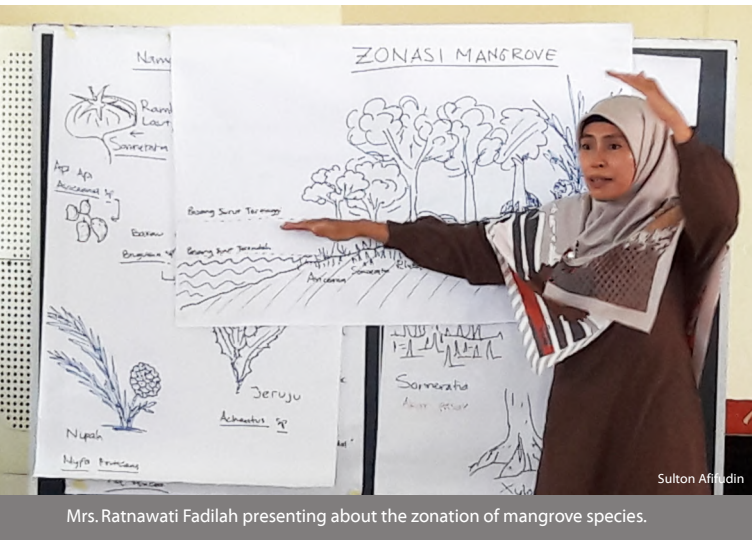
to improve the local community's ability to rehabilitate the forest, manage the forest sustainably, and enhance alternative livelihood opportunities through ecotourism and NTFP development.

This training event is only the most recent in a series of interventions. ELTI's work in this area started with a social and ecological site assessment that was conducted in coordination with Blue Forest Foundation in August 2018. A training event, *The Conservation of Proboscis Monkeys and their Habitat*, was then held in November 2018 to give local stakeholders a thorough understanding of primate and forest ecology. This training event follows on that effort by boosting livelihoods from the forest by identifying important NTFPs and teaching participants how to make various types of commercial food products from them.

This training event was jointly organized by ELTI, Balitek KSDA, TBI, Blue Forest and Pertamina EP, in close coordination with Mr. Kusnadi (Sungai Hitam Lestari), an ELTI training program alumnus. Mr. Kusnadi was closely assisted in organizing the event by Dr. Arbainsyah (ELTI Indonesia Program Coordinator) and Mr. Sulton Afifudin (ELTI Indonesia Research Assistant).

Objectives:

1. Identify the types and status of local NTFPs that exist in the Sungai Hitam mangrove forest, with respect to both humans and proboscis monkeys.
2. Practice managing various types of natural resources and negotiating market opportunities for products made from NTFPs.
3. Develop new skills in sustainable food processing.



Mrs. Ratnawati Fadilah presenting about the zonation of mangrove species.



Mrs. Ratnawati Fadilah explaining the characteristics of mangrove species used as food.



Mr. Nurkhalish participating in a tree planting activity.

Program

Day 1

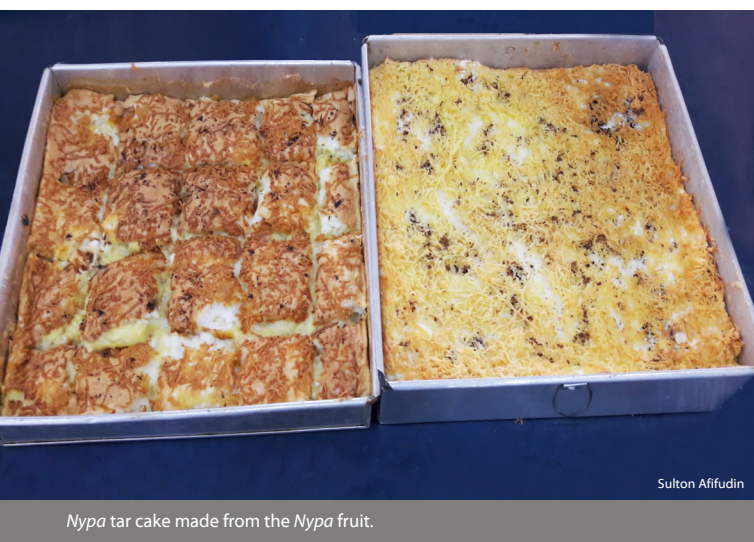
The training started with an Opening Ceremony, including a prayer and opening remarks by Mr. Taufiqurrahman (representative of the Head of Balitek KSDA), Dr. Arbainsyah (ELTI Indonesia Program Coordinator) and Mr. Akhmad Nurkhalish (Head of Samboja Sub-District). Mrs. Ratnawati Fadilah (Socio-Economic Technical Advisor from Blue Forest Foundation) then gave an introductory presentation on supporting mangrove conservation through developing livelihoods by collecting NTFPs from mangrove species. After lunch, Mr. Andi Darmawansyah (Biodiversity Officer from Blue Forest Foundation) and Mrs. Fadilah used a game format to introduce and discuss ecological mangrove rehabilitation as it relates to NTFP management in *Bekantan* habitat. After an afternoon break, the participants and organizers went to the Sungai Hitam riparian zone to plant trees in commemoration of International Mangrove Day. After the tree planting activity, Mrs. Fadilah and Mr. Darmawansyah showed the participants how to identify and collect NTFPs that can be used as food from mangrove tree species. These included *Acanthus ilicifolius* leaves to make *Acanthus* tea and chips, ripe fruit from *Sonneratia caseolaris* trees which can be made into juice and jelly, and the fruit from *Nypa* trees that can be used to make tar cakes. Participants were then divided into two groups with each group being instructed to search out, describe, and collect the NTFPs. This activity continued into the late afternoon.

Day 2

Mr. Afrian Noor (Pertamina EP staff) started the day by giving a motivational speech about Pertamina's support for this initiative. Mrs. Fadilah and Mr. Darmawansyah then used a game to introduce additional key concepts related to NTFPs found in mangrove forests. Mrs. Fadilah also gave a presentation about the recipe and ingredients needed to make the various products from the mangrove forest species. After the morning break, all participants worked together to make tar cakes and jelly



Participants practicing food production from mangrove tree species.



Nypa tar cake made from the Nypa fruit.



Course participant presenting her group's results.

from *Nypa*, juice and jelly from *Sonneratia*, and chips and tea from *Acanthus*. Participants then reassembled into their groups and discussed their findings from the previous day's observations and the practicum on making the products from mangrove species. Each group started developing a PowerPoint presentation to share what they had learned with the rest of the group.

Day 3

The third day started with group members working together to finalize their PowerPoint presentations. Mrs. Fadilah and Mr. Darmawansyah then used another game to motivate and encourage the participants to conserve the proboscis monkey and restore the vegetations. After the morning break, representatives from each group gave short presentations explaining what they had learned and what they plan to do with the information and experiences gained from the training. Mrs. Fadilah and Mr. Darmawansyah gave feedback. Afterwards, Dr. Arbainsyah provided an introduction to the ELTI Leadership Program, to which course alumni could apply for additional training, professional development, and project support. The training then ended with a course evaluation and closing remarks by Mr. Nurkhalish.

Participants:

A total of 26 participants attended the training. The participants included representatives from the Sungai Hitam community, local community organizations (i.e., Karang Taruna, Dasawisma, Pemberdayaan Kesejahteraan Keluarga, and Pokdarwis), the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, local companies (i.e., PT. Inhutani I Bukit Bangkirai and PT. Singlurus Pratama), Mulawarman University, the Ministry of Environment & Forestry's Balitek-KSDA, and local government offices of Sungai Hitam village and Samboja Sub-District.



Participants receiving their certificate.

Follow-up:

All of the participants were very active throughout the training. A WhatsApp group was established so that participants could easily continue communicating with each other as well as the organizers after the training. Some of the training participants have also requested assistance from ELTI's Leadership Program to conduct future trainings and provide follow-up support on packaging mangrove species products, identifying mangrove forest plant species, and restoring mangrove forests.

This event was possible thanks to Arcadia, whose Environmental Conservation grants support programmes that protect and enhance biodiversity, and provide field training and academic research.