CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION IN BORNEO, INDONESIA

PHOTO: Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation / Save the Orangutang

The intervention

- Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation together with their Danish partner, Save the Orangutan Denmark
- 3,995,380
- July 2023-December 2025 (30 months)

The intervention is focused adaptive capacity to better anticipate and respond to disasters and expected effects of changing weather patterns.

It revolves around **capacity building in managing spatial and climatic data.**

The intervention targets five vulnerable villages in Central Kalimantan and applies a strong focus on participatory **Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analyses (CVCA) and Community Early Warnings Systems (CEWS).**

It involves a robust advocacy push for all the five villages to ultimately **attain nationally recognised status as Disaster Resilient Villages** (DRV) potentially unlocking funding allocations to locally led climate adaptation.

From the initial workshops in Tumbang Mangkutup, it was stated:

"Taking active part in a village assessment makes us learn and more enthusiastic about preventing future disasters. We are very happy to be part of this project because it uses a different approach – it is bottom-up and we are asked about our opinions, priorities and ideas."

Activities and results

Targeting five villages and benefiting 5215 people, the intervention utilises a **bottom-up approach**, building implementing partner and local village **capacity through scientific evidence** to help transform gained knowledge into action.

Through **capacity building and learning by doing** the villages will become better equipped at influencing the local development plans to include **own adaptation priorities**. The villagers will also benefit from livelihood planning, establishment of sustainable CEWS and taking part in **local disaster mitigating activities**, including preparedness, response, and governance action.

After 6 months of implementation, important activities preparing and training project implementors have been conducted. Having also completed essential socialisation events in all five villages, the project is now ready to embark on the **participatory CVCA** exercises to **uncover the nature, extent and impact of natural hazards** such as floods, drought and wildfires but also **man-made hazards** such as those related to deforestation, mining and pollution.

The project **includes interaction and collaboration** between Village Governments, **Disaster Management Agencies, Environmental- and Forest Management Agencies, Indonesia's Meteorological, Climatological, and Geophysical Agency** as well as a research and capacity building partnership with **two local universities** as well as the **Danish Institute of Applied Hydraulics** (DHI).

As an interview with a programme staff from the implementing partner, revealed:

*"In these early stages of the intervention, what seems particularly useful is the **grounding of its activities at the village level**. The project and its activities provide the villagers with **means to investigate, identify, discuss and prioritise the hazards they are exposed to** and not least to help define approaches to the mitigation of effects from these hazards and ultimately incorporate these into locally led response and development plans.*

*We are looking forward to working on this and not least working with the **local village facilitators** - one important aspect of project outreach and rooting in the villages. **These facilitators are pivotal in linking village-project communication, assembly and secure high levels of inclusion and ownership related to the project and its activities."***

Context

The interventions takes place in **Mawas**, a remote area consisting of 309,000 hectares of peat swamp forest in the districts of Kapuas and South Barito in Central Kalimantan Province, Indonesian Borneo. Mawas has been subject to **substantial degradation**; forests were cleared, and more than 4.000 km of drainage and irrigation canals were established in the peat swamp forest in Mawas in an attempt to make Indonesia self-sufficient in rice. It is home to the **heavily marginalized indigenous population, the Dayaks**. Due to the heavy resource degradation, low agricultural productivity, and long-time marginalization, the target communities in this intervention are already suffering from high levels of poverty and are highly reliant on climate-sensitive livelihoods, such as smallholder farming and fishing. Their **socio-economic security is only jeopardized further** when they are hit by natural disasters such as floods, forest fires, and severe air pollution.