

## Three-Year Action Plan: Gunung Leuser Orangutan Heritage Area

This three-year action plan for the **Gunung Leuser Orangutan Heritage Area** is structured around three core principles:

- **Empowering local communities** to participate in conservation efforts.
- **Ecological conservation:** protecting the forest and wildlife that live there
- **Socioeconomic development for local people** through the creation of sustainable livelihoods, education, and business development

Building on the **five pillars of Wildlife Heritage Areas**, this plan outlines a strategy for generating both ecological and socioeconomic benefits over the next few years. The **Steering Committee** will be responsible for overseeing the plan's implementation, making sure that its core principles are upheld and that the community is represented at every stage.

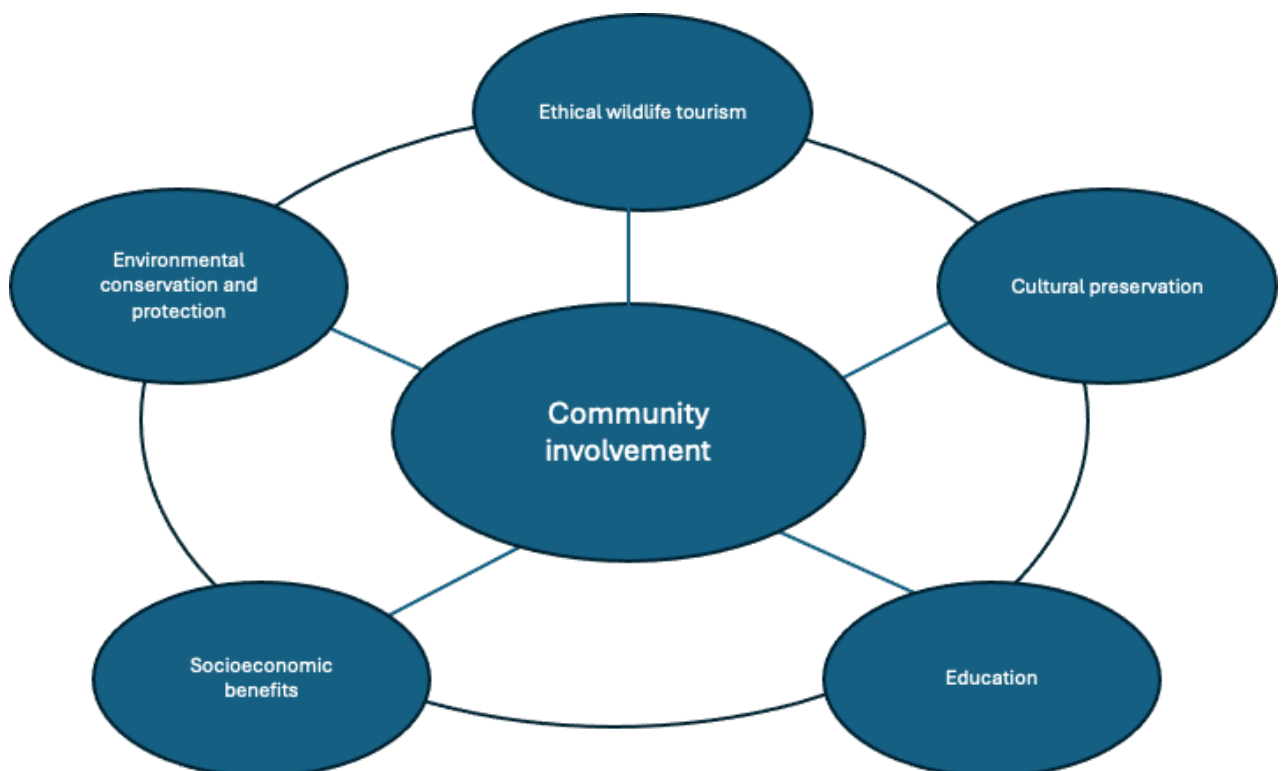


Figure 1: Community-based ecotourism model



## Program timeline:

The program's three-year duration is designed to establish self-sustaining community initiatives. The goal is to equip communities with the necessary knowledge and resources to continue protecting their forest resources and managing their own sustainable businesses after the program concludes.

The duration of the program is 3 years; during that time, all aspects should be implemented and working. We will report once per year on the program with all data for wildlife heritage areas.

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## Year 1:

*(Full breakdown of activities in Annex 1)*

### Empower local communities:

- Community Education: Implement education programs for children.
- Environmental education: explore wildlife tourism best practices and training for local guides
- Managing groups of students from our partner, the University of North Sumatra (USU)
  - Researching local communities, farming, population studies, forest research, wildlife and biodiversity education, area mapping etc.
  - Data sharing for journal publications

### Ecological conservation

- Monitoring Sapo Padang Enclave, planting native forest trees, setting camera traps
- Outline key wildlife corridors and important areas for orangutans
- Monitoring elephant corridor, primate expedition with international partner, OSI WILDATTITUDE



## Socioeconomic development for local people:

- Livelihoods Development: Support the creation of a local cooperative to generate income through trekking and other activities.
  - Collaborating with USU to create programs for both farmers and conservation
  - Ecotourism:
    - Treks from March onwards, including supplementary activities such as rafting
    - Guests staying at local guesthouse
    - Volunteers help open new forest trail experience, assist in projects at Batu Kayak and in other activities
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## Year 2:

### Empower local communities:

- Develop partnership with USU and provide increased opportunities for work experience for students
- Host event for local people highlighting and celebrating their achievements, showcasing wildlife (camera traps, other footage from expeditions)
- Continued consultation on ongoing activities, and present opportunities for community to develop own initiatives
- Ensure local people have opportunities to discover and learn about the wildlife in the forest through mini expeditions

### Ecological conservation:

- Increase native tree planting activities
- Invest in more robust wildlife monitoring; increased number of camera traps, regularly monitored by volunteers and students to expand data collection on wildlife, with a focus on documenting key species like orangutans, elephants, and gibbons.



- Education program for local children; focus on wildlife, human-wildlife coexistence, and the need to protect the forest

#### Socioeconomic development for local people:

- Infrastructure & Education: Build the "School of Nature," which will serve as a centre for volunteers and researchers, offering courses on wildlife tracking, housing a library, and providing workshop space. This is a key infrastructure investment.
  - Market Access: Open the local cooperative to external markets and identify enterprises interested in purchasing local products like rubber, palm sugar, and kemiri.
  - Educational training for tour guides and trek leaders; ethical wildlife watching, english as a second language, first aid training
  - Increase the number of people who gain income from our ethical tourism activities
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#### Year 3:

##### Empower local communities:

- Program Handover: The communities will gain enough knowledge and resources to independently manage their enterprises and conservation efforts.

##### Ecological conservation:

- Wildlife Monitoring: Create a team to conduct monthly monitoring of the Sapo Padang enclave corridor.
- Educational Tourism: Secure commitments from European and American universities to send student groups annually to study local wildlife and forests.

##### Socioeconomic development for local people:



- Sustainable Partnerships: Establish a long-term partnership with a local livelihoods cooperative through an external contract.

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## Conclusion:

The first year has been a busy but successful one, and we are inspired by the enthusiasm of the local communities. Our three-year plan will serve as a flexible blueprint, adapting to new opportunities while staying true to our core principles. By keeping the local community at the heart of our efforts and leveraging international support, we are confident that our ambitious plan will not only conserve this incredible, biodiverse area but also inspire more people to protect nature.



## Annex 1:

### Ibu Bumi Orangutan NGO: First-Year Program Activities

#### January

- **Monitoring & Reforestation:** We spent five days monitoring in the Sapo Padang enclave. Our team of six planted approximately **300 native forest trees** across a five-hectare area.
  - **Budget:** The budget for this activity was **520€**.
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#### February

- **USU University Partnership:** We managed a month-long program for six students from our partner, **USU University** in North Sumatra. Our team handled all field logistics for their research on local communities, farmers, and forest biodiversity.
  - **Field Work & Data Sharing:** We visited Sapo Padang twice to assist with their research. We are currently sharing data with USU for their journal publications and to help them develop future conservation programs.
  - **Budget:** Our budget for this support was **350€**, not including the students' personal expenses.
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#### March

- **Ecotourism Season:** The ecotourism season began with two trekking trips.
  - **Monitoring & Conservation:** A team of five spent seven days monitoring in Sapo Padang, planting more trees, and installing camera traps.
  - **Budget:** The budget for this was **350€**.
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#### April

- **Trekking & Rafting:** We conducted four trekking trips, accommodating a total of **10 guests** (4 for trekking and 2 for rafting).



- **Monitoring:** My team of three also spent three days monitoring in Sapo Padang.
  - **Budget:** The budget for these activities was **200€**.
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## May

- **Expeditions:** We organized a six-day expedition with four volunteers to create a new forest trail from Batu Jongjong to Sapo Padang, with a budget of **1,000€**. We also participated in a 15-day primates expedition with our international partner, **OSI WILDATTITUDE**.
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## June

- **Volunteer Program:** Nine volunteers assisted with ecotourism activities at Batu Katak for two weeks.
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## July

- **Volunteer Programs:** We hosted a one-week volunteer program as part of a social holiday with a team of six. A separate one-week volunteer program for two guests was conducted with a team of 11.
  - **Elephant Corridor Monitoring:** A two-person team spent one week monitoring the elephant corridor, with a budget of **200€**.
  - **Full Guesthouse:** Our guesthouse was fully booked for trekking activities all month, involving a total team of 13.
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## August

- **High Season:** We hosted **more than 20 guests** and conducted **over six trekking trips**, with a team of 21 people.