



THE TRUST TIMES



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Grassroots Generosity

Kids and The Deer Sanctuary

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Team Phase Review Week!

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We are the **Bukit Lawang Trust**

a grassroots Conservation & Education charity
based in rural North Sumatra, Indonesia

The Bukit Lawang Trust was founded in response to a flash flood in 2003. The flood destroyed much of Bukit Lawang and killed more than 240 people, leaving approximately 1400 people without a home.

Rebecca Coley as our Founder had visited the village a couple of months before the flood and decided to take action to help those she had met on her travels. Rebecca set about raising funds and went back with her family to provide basic aid to those affected. Initially, the Trust took the form of a medical clinic serving those who were suffering as a direct result of the disaster.

In 2007, fourteen volunteers from Rebecca's home-country travelled to Sumatra to build a permanent structure for the Trust, along with local people and support from the Jersey Overseas Aid Commission.

Our mission is to facilitate an economically and environmentally sustainable balance between human activity and severely endangered natural ecosystems through the implementation of a range of volunteer led development programmes.

We deliver high quality education in Conservation, English language, Eco-farming and Sustainable Business Enterprise in order to enable people to access more opportunities for their academic, financial, physical and holistic wellbeing as well as foster a respect and care for the environment. Through our volunteer cultural exchange programme we are able to provide free, quality education to rural communities here in North Sumatra to build stronger, more resilient communities while supporting efforts to protect severely endangered ecosystems.

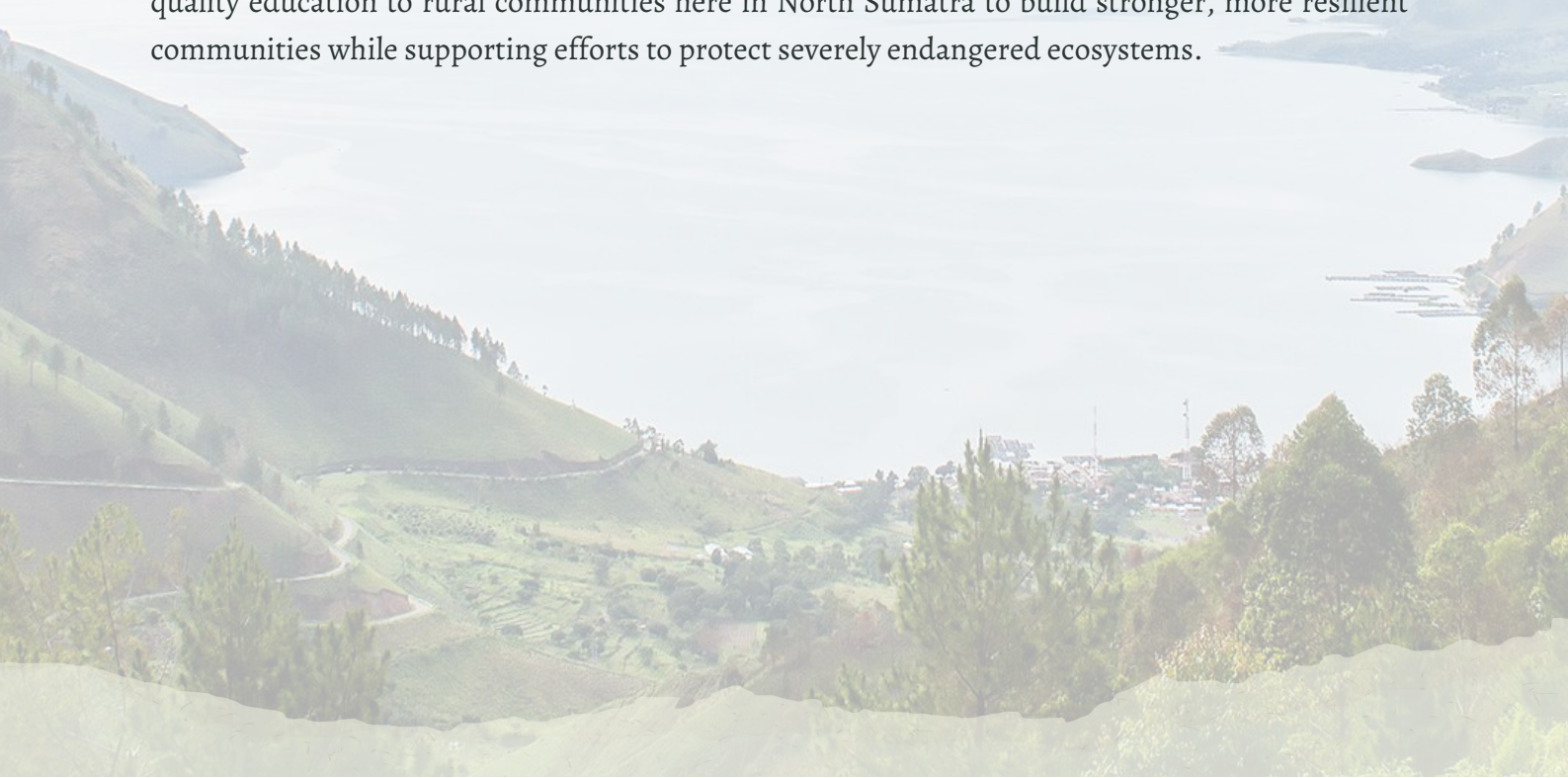




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TRUST Update

Sustainable Business Program



We are currently delivering our business programme courses to two new communities: Batu Katak and Tegapen. We currently have 14 participants from Batu Katak and 10 from Tegapen. This round of the programme began at the start of September and will end in December, with the presentation of the projects to a panel. Classes take place once a week in 2-hour sessions, Monday in Tegapen and Wednesday in Batu Katak. Through these courses, we try to give participants as many skills and as much knowledge as possible in marketing, finance, etc. to carry out their business. And beyond the courses, it is also very enriching for the participants and for us to be able to exchange and share each other's experiences.

We are already halfway through the programme. At this stage, the majority of lessons have been taught and the coming weeks will be used to prepare everyone's pitch for the panel day. On that day, entrepreneurs will have to present a development or business creation project including the notion of sustainable development. It is a pleasure to teach motivated participants who are very involved in the programme with very diverse and varied businesses or business creation ideas. There is no doubt that we will see some great presentations, we can't wait to see the results and the conclusion of the work we have done together over the last few weeks.

(Marine)

fruit



party!

**“Reward your kids with things they get to do instead of things they get to have.
This teaches them that true happiness comes from experiences instead of possessions”**

anonymous

Our educational program in the community carries out special activities for children in Porli. The children there held a fruit party as a form of appreciation for students who had attended class well and were able to keep up with the learning. We created a reward chart so that it can be a useful tool in motivating children. A reward chart is simply a visual way to track progress so kids can see it in each lesson. When they complete the entire chart then they have a Fruit Party. We believe in these activities as an opportunity for children to have quality time and know that we care about them. This is a new experience for them to be able to learn something new and fun, as well as improving their attitude. This can be helpful and provide an opportunity for children to learn important social skills such as cooperation and sharing.

The kids started the party by sharing the tasks of looking for banana leaves and cutting and arranging fruit. At the party they learned how to pronounce English words with fruit and how to share food with friends. We always hope that what we do is something that can prepare the community to be better and more resourceful. (Yessie)





Kids and The Deer Sanctuary

The trip to the deer sanctuary was a great day for the teachers, parents and trust family to join together and enjoy a day somewhere new. In the morning, the children and their parents piled onto the odong-odong with cheers of excitement, tailed by the staff and volunteers of the trust on bikes. The journey itself was scenic, broken only by a quick snack stop along the way. When we arrived, everyone gathered across the fence of the sanctuary to see the deer, who grazed elegantly in the park on the other side. The teachers handed out stems and leaves, then the children handed the green food through the fence in amazement, as the deer stepped towards and began to chew. It was great seeing the parents and children bonding over seeing wildlife, and having that moment as a little community. The deer were also interesting; being from England, it's the first time I'd seen deer that looked this way! After the sanctuary, we moved on down to a river spot where the group enjoyed sitting down, drawing, drinking and eating together. The event was a success - I was grateful to be a part of it. (Matthew)

Team Phase Review Week



Every two-month cycle, the team takes off for a weekend of team building, fellowship, and fun. Our Team Review Weekend took place at Kupu Kupu Gardens and Guest House. Once we arrived, we were taken to our gorgeous rooms with breath-taking jungle views. After a few minutes of rest, we had games! Things started out a little up close and personal when we were all told to hold hands with two different people. Then we were told to move around, without detaching hands, and untangle ourselves into a circle. Then we found ourselves tied to another person with an interlocking string tied around our wrists. We were told we had to unhook our two strings, without untying our wrists. This proved to be a very frustrating game for most of us.

Once the games were completed, we started the workshop. The theme of our workshop was "Goals". We learned how to set goals for ourselves and how to best achieve those goals. We learned, as a team, how we can encourage each other to reach our goals, by holding each other accountable and supporting each other. We were given 10 pieces of paper and told we should write 1 compliment on each piece of paper, for each person in our team. Dinner was a homemade sweet potato curry made by our very own manager Jesse. After dinner, the guitar came out and the sing-a-longs began, we were all together, laughing and enjoying ourselves while singing some of our favorite songs, including The Spice Girls. Lastly, we were told to choose materials from nature, without harming nature, and make a costume for one of your teammates. We had to have a theme and story behind the costume. We would be judged on the theme, execution, and presentation. All 3 teams did a great job, but alas, the other 2 teams could not defeat our team of volunteers. **(Andrea)**



Obrolan Wanita



In one of our Obrolan Wanita sessions (Women's Group), we invited a previous participant from the sustainable business programme who has a wealth of experience in sewing and is now successful in her field. Her name is Echa, and we invited her to share some of her knowledge with us on how to create clothing patterns, starting from measuring, drawing, and transferring them onto newspaper and then onto fabric. She also taught us strategies on how to make clothing that isn't too tight or too loose, so that customers are satisfied with the results. Echa specializes in sewing traditional kebaya dresses with various styles as per her clients' requests. Some of the participants in the women's chat are capable of basic sewing but do not know how to create patterns. We are thrilled and proud that a former business programme participant can share her knowledge with them. At the very least, if they want to make clothes for themselves or their families, they can do so. And even if they want to delve deeper, they can turn it into a business to help support their family's economy. **(Sifa)**

Ecofarming!



Fortunately, after years of partnering with PPLH Bahorok, they've entrusted us with our own piece of land for organic farming. As a newcomer in this area, we need to learn a lot about organic farming in Bukit Lawang.

After a month of learning from local farmers, we will provide you with three essential insights to consider before commencing your organic farming journey, based on their valuable lessons:

1. Weed Management for Soil Health: Establish weed barriers around plants to prevent soil erosion. Some weed species act as protective barriers, anchoring soil, reducing erosion, and retaining moisture. Identify and nurture beneficial weeds while managing undesirable ones.

2. Bio-Vermicompost Benefits: Use bio-vermicompost for soil fertility and as chicken feed. It enhances soil quality through organic matter breakdown and serves as a nutritious supplement for poultry.

3. Strategic Manure Application: Apply composted manure at the right time to avoid introducing pathogens and prevent plant damage from excess heat. Properly composted manure is preferred.

4. Watering in Heat: Be cautious when watering during extreme heat. Frequently watering in hot conditions leads to shallow root growth, making plants more vulnerable to drought stress due to rapid water evaporation.

As we look forward to more months of learning and implementing these newfound skills, we invite everyone to join us on this fulfilling journey of happy, tiring farm work.

Together, we'll sow the seeds of sustainable, organic farming in Bukit Lawang. **(Agus)**

Our New Programme Coordinator!



Hallo from Medan, Indonesia. I am Agus and consider myself as a local resident deeply connected to this region. I graduated from a Bachelor of Science degree from an agricultural university, and I'm passionate about sharing knowledge through volunteer work. Being accepted as a member of the PC team is a thrilling experience for me, as it marks my transition from working primarily in a closed science laboratory to a more socially engaged role.

One of my most memorable memories is the realization of how much I've learned about farming, particularly in the realm of organic farming, which was a relatively new area of expertise for me.

I envision myself as a catalyst for positive change in the lives of others, aiming to bring meaning and value to everyone involved with BLT.

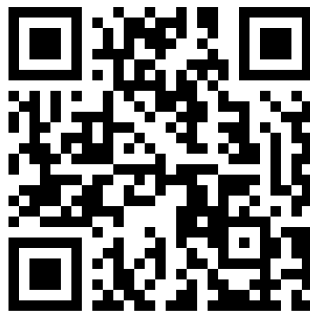
why you should join with us...

"I highly suggest coming to volunteer here at BLT. You will meet so many amazing people, from fellow volunteers to the people in the village. Everyone is working here. And you just can't be sad when you see the kids walk in in the morning so happy with smiles on their faces and high fives ready".
- Andrea

"Volunteering here will instantly change your life. It will bring you into the present faster than you can think about it. You will learn and experience so many things within even the first weeks, and whenever I've felt overwhelmed I have been fully supported by the new team around me. If you need a change, you want to feel like you're making a difference, and you love nature, then think about becoming a volunteer here for sure. I promise that whatever happens you won't regret it".
- Matt

"If you want to live an unique experience surrounded by beautiful nature, discover a new country, culture and people, and do something meaningful, don't hesitate to challenge yourself by joining the Bukit Lawang Trust team!"
- Marine

*Because we believe that
what comes from mind will change the mind,
what comes from heart will touch the heart,
and what comes from life will change the other life*



make a change with us!





MOMENT IN CLASS

change the world by being yourself