

# Fighting Climate Change



The project enables participatory planning with local communities, to identify appropriate boundaries and goals.



## Katingan Peatland Restoration and Conservation

Located in alluvial plain ecosystems on the island of Borneo, this project protects peatland to preserve and regenerate vital ecosystems. The project supports local livelihoods and traditional income streams, and conserves habitat for some of the world's most endangered species.

### The Context

Peatland ecosystems play a vital role in stabilizing water flows, enriching soil nutrients, providing clean water, and storing vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub>. The project zone is qualified as a Key Biodiversity Area, including four species considered critically endangered, 11 considered endangered, and 30 species considered vulnerable. As a rural area with a high concentration of the population living under the national poverty line, local communities need access to sustainable sources of income.

### The Project

The Katingan Project's goal is to protect and restore 149,800 hectares of peatland ecosystems, to offer local people sustainable sources of income, and to tackle global climate change – all based on a solid business model. Collaborating with various scientific bodies and environmental non-government organisations, the project is reducing the threat of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to stabilize healthy populations of faunal and floral species in the project zone.

Members of the community are hired and trained, supporting community-led enterprises, and ensuring long-term success and self-sufficiency through microfinancing and training. All community programmes are designed and implemented through community participation, transparent decision-making processes based on mutual trust, and proper management of project activities.

### The Benefits

The project brings Gold Standard climate, community, and biodiversity benefits for the region. To date, it has achieved emissions reductions of 12,687,575 tonnes of greenhouse gas through avoided deforestation and forest degradation, prevention of peat drainage, and minimizing fires and fire damage. It offers ecological enhancement at the landscape scale through ecosystem restoration, providing habitat for endangered wildlife including the Orangutan and Proboscis Monkey, species which the project zone is estimated to hold over 5% of the entire global population. In addition to enabling community sanitation and renewable power infrastructure, the project has benefited communities through a variety of socio-economic activities which also target the most vulnerable and marginalized community members. These programmes are designed to lift the poorest out of poverty by engaging them in community-based business development such as microfinance, women's empowerment, sustainable agroforestry, renewable energy development, and non-forest timber products (NTFPs).

