

# Small Grants Programme by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity at Gunung Leuser National Park (Indonesia)

## Gunung Leuser National Park

The 1,092,692-hectare Gunung Leuser National Park (GLNP) is known as one of the components of the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra, a UNESCO Heritage Site. In addition to being an ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP), GLNP also forms part of the World Network of Biosphere Reserves in Asia and the Pacific.

It is particularly significant for conservation because it is the only forest in the world where the Sumatran orangutan, tiger, elephant, and rhinoceros can all be found.

The park plays a crucial role in providing livelihood and other ecological services to locals in surrounding villages. However, GLNP is threatened by forest clearing due to the increasing population's heavy reliance on small-scale agriculture, encroachment, illegal logging, and other challenges.

GLNP's significant biological resources and the challenges it faces make it a suitable pilot site for SGP I. The park received a total of **EUR 1,223,567** distributed across **38** grants (17 small grants and 21 micro-grants).

## Meaningful partnerships fostered

The following agencies and organisations worked together to achieve wins through the SGP:

- Directorate of Biodiversity Conservation Species and Genetics (KKHSG), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia (*the implementing agency*)
- GLNP park management
- Penabulu Foundation (*the service provider that managed the implementation of SGP I in Indonesia*)
- Civil society organisations and community-based organisations (*grantees*)
- ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity
- Federal Government of Germany through the KfW Development Bank
- GITEC Consulting Group

Launched in 2014, the **Small Grants Programme** by the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (SGP) is an initiative aimed at sustaining biodiversity in the ASEAN Heritage Parks (AHPs) in line with the interests of local communities who directly depend on the selected parks, providing alternative livelihood opportunities to the locals, and strengthening the role of the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) in promoting biodiversity conservation in the ASEAN region.

SGP I was implemented in four AHPs in Myanmar and two AHPs in Indonesia.

## Small grants, big impact

The numerous small grants under SGP I touched the lives of local communities within GLNP and nearby locations and created a wave of impact.



*"The SGP has successfully filled the resource gaps that have been lacking, especially from financial and human resources aspects. The cross-cutting themes of biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvement have been relevant to reducing the forest's pressures. The outputs can be seen from the decrease in forest disturbances due to increasing people's awareness of the importance of the forests."*

**Dr. U. Mamat Rahmat, S.Hut., M.P.**  
Head of Gunung Leuser National Park

## Sustaining biodiversity, changing lives with small grants

SGP I supports a range of conservation and livelihood activities that fall under several thematic areas.



### Livelihood Enhancement

SGP I helped reduce the pressures on biodiversity by offering alternative sources of livelihood.

- Supported livelihood projects amounting to **EUR 778,616** or **63%** of the total grants in GLNP
- Empowered **1,100** beneficiaries through capacity building on community economic empowerment and **240** beneficiaries through direct capacity building on ecotourism
- Supported the production of more than **20** biodiversity-based products such as clothes and shawls designed with natural dyes, woven bamboo crafts, sugar, honey, powdered ginger lemongrass drink, banana chips, and traditional medicine
- Supported livelihood interventions in **20** buffer zone villages
- Backed the development and improvement of **three** ecotourism sites
- Supported the formation of **three** credit unions operated by women conservation cadres



### Habitat and Species Management

SGP I helped improve environmental conditions in the park by funding rehabilitation efforts.

- Supported biodiversity conservation initiatives amounting to **EUR 444,951** or **36%** of the total grants in GLNP
- Empowered **101** beneficiaries through capacity building on wildlife conservation and **66** beneficiaries through direct capacity building on restoration
- Funded the creation of a wildlife corridor near the conservation partnership area in Barak Induk, Sekoci Lapan resort
- Supported the issuance of **seven** PERDES or park regulations on conservation
- Supported the empowerment of **524** women to implement conservation activities
- Funded the introduction of an energy-efficient stove technology which can reduce the need for wood by **50%**
- Funded the Conservation Field School and Ecosystem Recovery in the Barak Induk Conservation Partnership Area that will be used to prepare an ecosystem recovery plan for the GLNP
- Supported the restoration of **50** hectares of degraded forest with the local community from Barak Induk and Walhi



### Community Outreach and Conservation Awareness

SGP I enhanced community awareness among local communities about their crucial role in biodiversity conservation.

- Backed the creation of groups that spearheaded outreach and awareness activities like Taman Nasional Gunung Leuser (TNGL) Care Community Forum
- Supported:
  - Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with the Head of Education of Langkat District to initiate environmental education in a formal setting
  - Conservation Camp that initially reached **300** students
  - Selection of **30** Conservation Ambassadors who rally support for biodiversity conservation
  - Training of Trainers for **30** elementary school teachers from **15** schools, who became conservation cadres



### General Park Management

SGP I increased local communities' sense of ownership of park management as they participated in the co-management of GLNP.

- Supported the forging of conservation partnerships with local communities like Yayasan SEMPUL Indonesia's preparation of a conservation partnership plan in the context of ecosystem restoration to support the protection of plant and wildlife habitats in GLNP
- Supported the training of patrol groups to assist in human-elephant conflict mitigation efforts (Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari)
- Supported the creation of conflict mitigation patrols that protected **20,500** hectares of the national park
- Backed the development of web-based applications and a centre of conservation data and information to support efficient and integrated park management like Yayasan Pesona Tropis Alam Indonesia's e-Pustaka, e-JaSa, and e-Ticketing

Scan this QR code to know more about the various grants and interventions implemented in GLNP.



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