

# Forest Wise

INDONESIA



Founded in 2018, Forest Wise sources, processes, and sells natural, sustainably harvested rainforest products. The social enterprise provides livelihoods to hundreds of local Dayak community members while creating an economic incentive to preserve the biodiversity of their native lands – the tropical lowland forests of Borneo.

Through their work, Forest Wise connects local farmers with global buyers and create a sustainable market for rain forest products. Based out of the Netherlands and with operating facilities in Sintang, West Kalimantan, Indonesia, Forest Wise sells Merah Oil, Virgin Coconut Oil, Illipe Butter and Arenga Sugar globally. Their customers include Lush Cosmetics, Jan Dekker, and IMCD Benelux.

### Impact Background

Borneo is a rugged, tropical island in Southeast Asia’s Malay Archipelago and is shared by Indonesia, Malaysia, and Brunei. The island is filled with dense, biodiverse rainforests. Nearly 56% of the rain forest in Borneo has

### IMPACT OVERVIEW

Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices and employment opportunities for local Indonesian communities that encourages the safeguarding of local rain forests and drives economic expansion in surrounding communities.

No. of beneficiaries	740 farmers on contract
Forest area of sourcing	200,000 hectares
Average annual income increase	+16%

### COMMUNITY



**Country**  
Indonesia

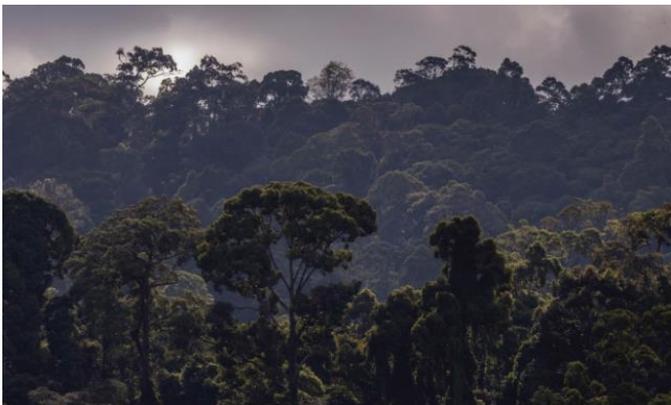
**Municipalities**  
West Kalimantan

**Indigenous communities**  
Dayak

been lost in the past 50 years. Timber clearing, paper production, and monoculture plantations have driven deforestation and damaged both wildlife and local communities in nearby rain forests. Individuals living in Borneo’s rain forest communities are often poorly paid and have limited access to secure employment, a steady income, and financial services.

Dayak indigenous communities are native to the island of Borneo, with around 2.2 million members of this group concentrated in the southern and central interior of the island. A rich ancient religious, social, and cultural tradition differentiates the Dayak population from the general Indonesian population. Dayak communities have a well-organized social hierarchy that reflects traditional Dayak customs. Subsistence farming and agriculture have been a staple of the Dayak people for centuries, and this lifestyle has recently come under threat as large-scale monoculture agriculture proliferates in the rain forests of Borneo. The Dayak have suffered a history of discrimination in the region from other ethnic groups, based on a prevailing indigenous class system in the jungles of Indonesia. This historical discrimination has created a notable cycle of poverty and exploitation marked by a lack of education opportunities and gainful employment.

Forest Wise aims to drive targeted community development through sustainable agriculture in the region. By developing a market for valuable products that are sustainably wild-harvested from the rain forests, Forest Wise conserves wildlife, generates employment opportunities for the local community, and promotes fresh air, and fertile soils. By selling illipe nuts, virgin coconut oil, and various other products, Forest Wise can further enhance the economic rain forest value, which increases incentives to preserve the rain forests while also raising incomes for farmers in local communities.



**Impact Delivery**

Forest Wise aims to preserve the rich environment, while meaningfully improving the lives of members of the local community members through sustainable agricultural practices that add economic value to surrounding rain forests. They do this through their commitment to:

- Improvement of livelihood*
  - Strengthen the capacities of community decision-makers to manage, cultivate, and administer natural resources in their local communities.
  - Increase incomes by acting as an intermediary between farmers and global customers.

---

- Environmental Preservation and Enhanced Economic Value*
  - Provide communities with various services, including training, technical assistance, and advising to enhance their technical capabilities to adapt to sustainable agricultural practices and improve productivity in the rain forest.
  - Increase the economic value of the rain forests through the introduction of a sustainable income alternative to logging or conversion of the forests into a monoculture plantation.