



# Health In Harmony

Regenerating rainforests by listening to communities



By Kelsey Hartman



By Oka Nurlana



By Marcelo Salazar

**Health In Harmony is an award-winning, international NGO with a proven model to reverse rainforest loss that leads to a thriving planet for us all.**

Using the innovative process of Radical Listening, we collaborate with the experts - Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) - to design planetary health solutions, in which we then invest. Health In Harmony's investments in rainforest communities improve both human well-being and rainforest integrity.

We currently protect 8.8 million hectares of rainforest to address the climate and nature crises and aim to scale our model pan-tropically to enable protection of the flora and fauna in all of Earth's 1.84 billion hectares of tropical rainforest.



**Indonesia**  
Since 2007

*Gunung Palung  
National Park, Bukit  
Baka Bukit Raya  
National Park*



**Madagascar**  
Since 2019

*Manombo  
Rainforest*



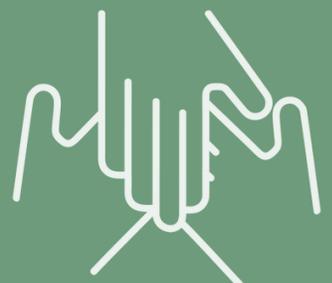
**Brazil**  
Since 2020

*Xingu River  
Basin in the  
Amazon  
Rainforest*

**HIH in-country teams are 100% staffed by national citizens.**

## HEALTH IN HARMONY'S DISRUPTIVE MODEL

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are the best experts in the integrated solutions necessary to stop deforestation. We partner with them to invest in those needs.



## COMMUNITY DESIGNED PROGRAMS

In all four program sites, communities have asked for **healthcare** solutions such as mobile clinics, maternal and infant care, and health centers. They have also asked for **regenerative livelihood** solutions, such as training in organic farming, agroforestry, and non-timber forest product. Lastly, **education** for youth has been a key request.

System linkages for a circular economy are emphasized in the design process. For example, to make visible the relationship between human and ecosystem health, patients can pay for healthcare with non-cash means, such as seedlings that are used in reforestation. Discounts on healthcare are tied to decreased degradation of the forest.

## PROVEN IMPACT

In 2020, Health In Harmony partners at Stanford University completed an analysis of community-designed programs in Gunung Palung National Park in Indonesian Borneo. After a \$5.2 million investment between 2007 and 2017, the impact at this proof of concept site was:

**\$65M in Carbon protected and primary forest loss stabilized**

**21K hectares of secondary forest regrown**

**3K orangutans protected**

**90% drop in illegal logging households**

**67% drop in infant mortality**



## GOING TO SCALE

Health In Harmony is working to take this proven model to scale through a technology platform called the Rainforest Exchange that will connect IPLC-designed, climate-critical solutions with global citizens, governments, corporations, nonprofits, and foundations. The Rainforest Exchange will convey the details of community-determined solutions for reversing rainforest loss to users world-wide who can view, vet, and invest directly in local organizations.

## INVESTING IN WOMEN

Tuberculosis coordinator Hamisah joined HH with a middle-school education. Over seven years, she came to manage an all-women team of tuberculosis workers who hand-deliver medications. The tuberculosis program drop-out rate plummeted from 50% to 1%. Hamisah became so highly respected that her neighbors voted her the first female village-head in the 120,000-person district.



## SHARED GOALS

We are working towards the vision set forth by the Paris Agreement and the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

1

No poverty

5

Gender equality

12

Responsible production

2

Zero hunger

8

Decent work and economic growth

13

Climate action

3

Good health and well-being

10

Reduced inequalities

15

Life on land

4

Quality education

11

Sustainable communities

17

Partnerships for goals

# Madagascar

## Manombo Rainforest



By Aina Eric Andrianarisata

### VOICES FROM THE RAINFOREST

*"In the past, Madagascar was covered by forest, but most of those forests have disappeared. But the forest in Manombo has not disappeared completely... This forest is what makes Madagascar unique. It is our wealth."*

—Mr Bruno, Village Chief, Tsaratanana Community

### Health In Harmony is partnering with IPLCs in Madagascar, one of only twelve mega-diverse countries in the world, to protect the Manombo Rainforest.

Madagascar is an extremely biodiverse country where nearly 50% of forests have been lost in the last six decades and 98% of lemur species face extinction, making them the most endangered mammals on earth. Madagascar's ecosystems are under increasing duress due to the complex pressures of poverty, an expected doubling of the population by 2050, widespread food insecurity paired with a vulnerable healthcare system, and the increasing intensity of climate shocks.

The Manombo Rainforest contains lowland rainforest and one of Madagascar's last remaining pandanus swamps, a waterlogged jungle of stilt-rooted trees, and is home to nine lemur species and one-of-a-kind amphibians like the Malagasy poison frog. The Manombo Rainforest legally encompasses 15,730 hectares, but Health In Harmony estimates that only 5,800 hectares remain forested today. Manombo is shrinking rapidly under the pressures of slash-and-burn agriculture, logging, and hunting, all of which are rooted in food insecurity, as well as the lack of healthcare and alternative livelihoods for IPLCs in the region. Communities have requested urgent support - exacerbated by the global pandemic - for their basic healthcare needs, maternal and infant health services, educational resources, and training in regenerative livelihoods.

Health In Harmony has partnered with 31 communities around Manombo Rainforest and is supporting community-designed solutions that work at the intersection of human and ecosystem health.

**Health In Harmony's program in Manombo was featured by the World Health Organization as a model to address climate change.**

### COMMUNITY-DETERMINED PROGRAMS

#### HEALTHCARE

Health In Harmony's medical team provides two mobile clinics per month to eleven locations selected by the communities and accessible for all villages. Services include maternal care, access to contraception, adult and pediatric services, treatment for malnutrition, vaccinations, and referrals. To ensure equitable access to affordable, high-quality healthcare, patients can pay for treatment with non-cash payments, such as handicrafts, produce, and seedlings used in reforestation and agroforestry programs.

## REGENERATIVE LIVELIHOODS AND FOOD SECURITY

To address the short and long-term well-being of communities and their land, we work alongside communities to strengthen food-system resilience and reduce slash-and-burn agriculture. Community-designed regenerative agriculture training focuses on enhancing crop variety and integrating climate-resilient crops and crop management that will lead to higher-yield agriculture and more nutrient-dense diets. The training includes fast-growing rice varieties which allow three harvests per year, composting to regenerate soil fertility, and vegetable gardening to support diverse diets.

Agroforestry training focuses on growing a canopy of trees above marketable spices that will provide a sustainable income for community members. Health In Harmony trains communities in planting crops such as vanilla, cloves, pepper, cinnamon, jackfruit, and coffee.

## EDUCATION

Health In Harmony recognizes the importance of education to lift communities out of poverty and provide them with more opportunities.

Educational support is provided through training, teacher support, school infrastructure, and materials. Planetary health education is incorporated into the curriculum to teach about the importance of protecting the rainforest and the interconnection of the health of the rainforest and the health of the community. Providing educational support not only educates children, but also allows their mothers to attend agricultural trainings and sustainably provide for their families.

## REFORESTATION

Manombo has become too fragmented to support the long-term survival of megafauna, water filtration and cycling, and consistent rains. In collaboration with local communities and Madagascar National Parks, Health In Harmony conducts strategic reforestation to expand the rainforest and reconnect fragmented parcels that are critical to species health, rewilding, and peripheral forest integrity. Without addressing degradation and reforesting, the surviving lemur populations will go extinct due to insufficient habitat and genetic diversity. Labor is provided by community members and supported by food for them and their families. In addition, communities can participate in these activities as part of the non-cash payment system for healthcare.

## PARTNERS

Health In Harmony partners with the Madagascar Ministry of Health, Madagascar National Parks Office, Marie Stopes, Groupe d'Étude et de Recherche sur les Primates de Madagascar (GERP), The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Centre ValBio, Madagascar Biodiversity Center, Harvard T.H. Chan Medical School, University of Chicago, and Zoo New England.

## BUDGET

Total programming costs in Madagascar for 2022 are \$979,584. We are happy to provide a more detailed budget if requested.



By Aina Eric Andrianarisata

## IMPACT

- 31 communities have access to high-quality, affordable healthcare
- 1,695 COVID-19 vaccines administered
- Over 8,800 patient visits at mobile clinics
- 13 seedling nurseries built, with a capacity of 45,000 seedlings
- 15 hectares reforested
- 9 endangered lemur species protected
- 7.4 hectares planted with agroforestry
- More than 2,000 community members trained in regenerative agriculture
- 60% of agriculture training participants were women
- 3 schools have been renovated