



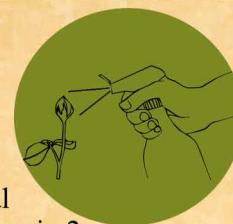
Reconnecting people with the natural world through Islamic teachings

SCHOOLS 4 TREES PROJECT

Why? Indonesia's natural and ancient rainforest is under severe threat from logging, burning for agriculture, palm oil plantations and mining. Felling the forests and burning the trees release huge amounts¹ of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Both deprive the earth of the vital trees that absorb carbon and make oxygen for others to breathe, as well as stabilising the soil and water and keeping the land fertile.



This pilot project in Java, Indonesia was launched to integrate class room lessons on the natural world with the consequences of deforestation. It was seen as a practical way of giving children a better understanding of the negative impact of human behaviour on the environment. Nine species of indigenous forest trees cultivated in local nurseries were planted on one hectare of land in Gunung-Haliman Salak National Park in December 2010. The trees were planted by the children from Pesantren² Husnayain 2 in Sukabumi, West Java. The head of the school, Kh Chalil Ridwan, said that although the initiative was small it had great potential to be replicated worldwide and he invited all schools to emulate their example. The children participated as part of the Eco-Pesantren movement in Indonesia which is integral to the government's environmental education programme.



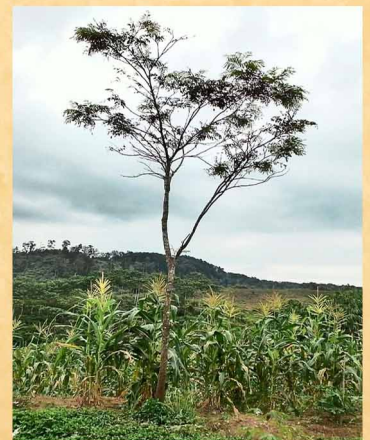
The project was initiated by IFEES and further supported by Conservation International, Gedephala Consortium and the Indonesian National Parks Authority.



Year One (2010)



Year Two (2011)



Year Five (2015)

¹Extrapolating ... estimates to Indonesia as a whole, we estimate that between 0.81 and 2.57 Gt of carbon were released to the atmosphere in 1997 as a result of burning peat and vegetation in Indonesia. This is equivalent to 13–40% of the mean annual global carbon emissions from fossil fuels, and contributed greatly to the largest annual increase in atmospheric CO₂ concentration detected since records began in 1957 (ref. 1).

<http://www.nature.com/nature/journal/v420/n6911/full/nature01131.html>

²Pesantrens are unique to Indonesia and are part of a huge network of Islamic boarding schools running to their thousands.

Total trees planted? 400-500 trees

Funds raised? Around £3000 was sent to Indonesia for the project.



This project started with a fundraising event in London, in November 2009 and attended by Indonesian government officials. Following the eco-pesantren movement that started in 2004 and formally by the time about 33 leaders of Pesantren committed and generated a monumental document called Fiqh al Buah. Since then several pesantren have followed this example and some of them have gained public attention such as Pondok Pesantren Nurul Haramain, in Lombok which begin to plant 50ha land with thousand trees, and Pesantren Modern Daarul Ulum, Lido which has pioneered in protection of small forest for water conservation and biological diversity and wildlife (www.ekopesantren.com).



Students of Nurul Haramain, Lombok are studying in their planted forest



Students of Daarul Ulum Lido, Bogor are studying biodiversity at their conservation forest (Harim Zone)



Students of Pesantren Husnayain 2 are planting for school 4 trees program in 2010



KH Cholil Ridwan Director of Pesantren Husnayain 2 are accepting the tree donation from IFEEES

About IFEEES

Our home planet Earth is undergoing rapid and sustained destruction of its eco-systems. This is giving rise to climate change, unacceptable levels of pollution, increasing damage to human habitations and ultimately threatening world-wide population disruption. Muslims comprise at least one fifth of the human community and they can contribute much that is vital to re-evaluate its future direction and save its earthly home.

IFEEES is a multi-dimensional organisation and we are proud of our achievements as our successes have come from mainly voluntary endeavour. We welcome the support of visionaries who would like to see this work rapidly multiplied.

IFEEES networks world-wide with NGOs, international organisations, academic bodies and grass roots organisations and invites collaboration from institutions and individuals from all persuasions who are also dedicated to the maintenance of the Earth as a healthy habitat for future generations of humankind as well as other sentient beings.

Contact Address:

Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences
93 Court Road
Birmingham
West Midlands B12 9LQ
United Kingdom
+44 (0)121 440 3500
+44 (0)121 440 8144
info@ifees.org.uk
www.ifees.org.uk