

THE NANTU FOREST CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Nantu, Gorontalo Province, Indonesia

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1 The Case for Conservation & Community Development

The Indonesian island of Sulawesi lies at the heart of Wallacea, one of the most remarkable biogeographical regions globally. The biodiversity of this transition zone between Australasian and Asian faunas is unique in its astonishing richness. In Sulawesi, over 62% of mammals and 34% of bird species are endemic, making it a global ecological hotspot.

The Nantu Rainforest (Nantu) stretches across 600 km^2 (~62,631 ha) of this diverse Sulawesi landscape. Located in Gorontalo province it comprises a 52,629 ha Wildlife Reserve and a 10,002 ha production forest, all of which are primary tropical rainforest.

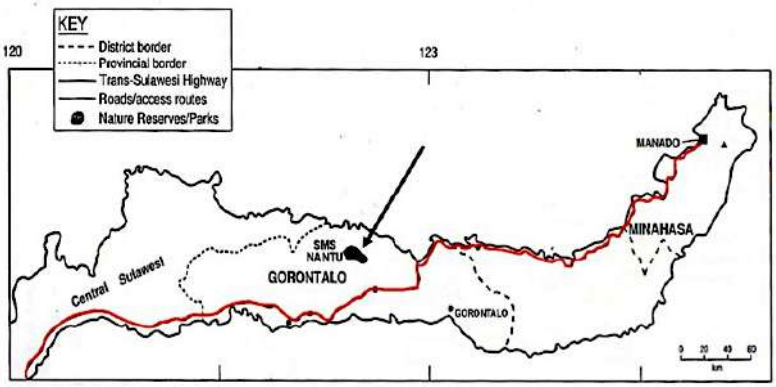


Figure 1: Location of the Nantu Forest (SMS Nantu) within Gorontalo Province, Sulawesi

Conserving the Nantu Rainforest is today both imperative and urgent.

It is ***imperative*** because of Nantu's significant environmental value:

- Biodiversity: Nantu represents a wildlife habitat of global importance. It is the last stronghold for many of Sulawesi's rare, endangered animals, including the Babirusa[1] and is of international importance for the horned Anoa and over 100 bird species. Scientists have described Nantu as "one of the top five sites for biodiversity in Southeast Asia."[2]

[1] A natural salt lick in the Nantu Rainforest is the only spot in the world where large congregations of wild Babirusa (Babyrousa babyrussa) can be readily observed.

[2] Pauli Hien, Will Duckworth pers. Comm.

- Water: The Nantu Rainforest's central location on the Nantu/Paguyaman watershed means that it provides indispensable environmental services to communities of over 15,000 villagers and 150 forest dwellers. By protecting watershed ecosystems, Nantu sustains downstream livelihoods, replenishes water supplies and regulates local climate patterns.

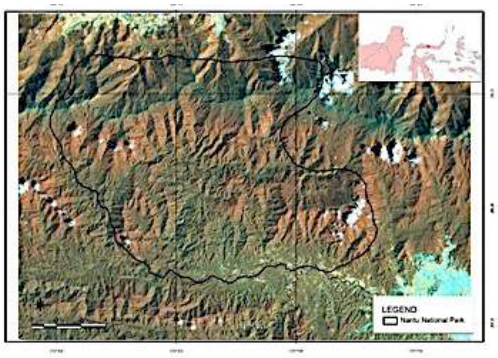
- Carbon: Nantu is also one of Sulawesi's last intact natural forest carbon sinks. Biomass present in the Nantu Rainforest stores over 13 million tonnes of biomass carbon. If the entire forest was cleared, up to 50 million tonnes of carbon dioxide could be released to the atmosphere.[3]

The need for conservation is ***urgent*** because of growing threats incumbent upon Nantu:

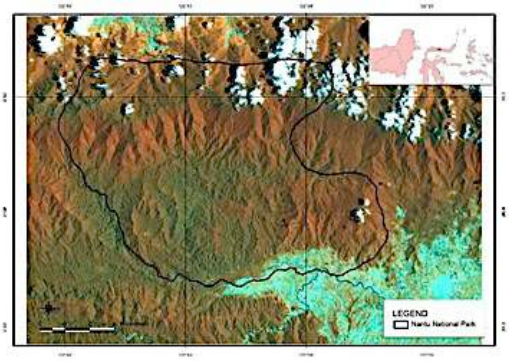
- Over the past 20 years, the forest and its watershed have been under constant pressure from wildlife poaching, slash-and-burn clearance and illegal logging. (See Figure 2[4]). Often these threats are the result of community poverty, political avarice and exploitation by commercial interests.

Figure 2: LANDSAT comparison of encroaching forest loss near the Nantu Forest between 1991 and 2010

January 1, 1991



March 13, 2010



- In the past year, gold mining has also emerged as a significant threat. Alluvial mining, using high-powered jets to break down river banks, has recently polluted much of the Nantu and Paguyaman rivers. Mercury and other chemicals released into the rivers have also poisoned livestock downstream.

The **development of sustainable, low-carbon community economies** has thus become critical to and closely inter-linked with the success of conservation efforts in Nantu.

- Most villagers in communities around Nantu are unskilled settlers who face continuing low income and financial insecurity. Many may revert to short-term, destructive forest practices and livelihoods, and remain extremely vulnerable to exploitation by external logging interests and land speculators.

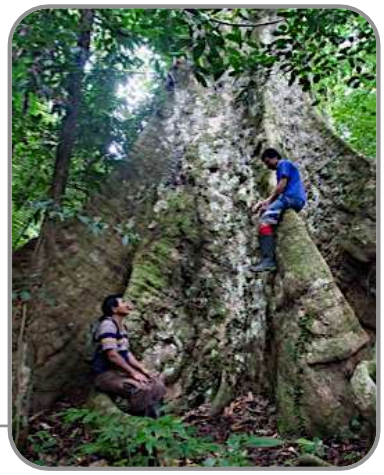
- Viable, sustainable livelihoods need to be introduced and developed as long-term alternatives to community economies currently based on resource extraction.

[3] Based on the IPCC GPG Tier- 1 approach and uses a multiplication factor of 22/6 or 3.67 to convert carbon stock to CO2 equivalent. "Nantu Forest Conservation Fund Feasibility Report," Starling Resources, ADMCF and YANI, Sept 2009

[4] 1,000ha of pristine primary rainforest in the south of Nantu were cleared in 1997, while awaiting gazetting of Nantu as a protected area (1999). This map shows the originally proposed boundary. In reality the southern boundary of Nantu lies precisely at the intersection of cleared (blue) and forested (brown) areas – the 1,000 hectares of forest cleared in 1997 having been excised from the reserve.

2 Program Overview

Over the past two decades, Yayasan Adudu Nantu Internasional (YANI), a local non-governmental organization, has spearheaded conservation work at the Nantu Forest and its surrounding villages. The focus of its current activities is on forest and wildlife protection, in the form of forest protection patrols, monitoring, awareness building and government lobbying. YANI also works with Nantu communities on small-scale livelihoods development and education.



➔ *See appendix for more detail on YANI's track record in Nantu*

Over the next decade, YANI aims to expand its reach and impact in order **to achieve sustainable, long-term security for the Nantu ecosystem and its associated communities**.

YANI is now expanding its long term conservation and community development programs, with support from ADM Capital Foundation (ADMCF). This step will build on its existing essential activities, as well as focus on developing revenue generating activities both for Nantu communities and for YANI's operations.

- Specifically, the program intends to deliver four specific outcomes:

  i. Elimination of immediate threats to the Nantu forest from deforestation, poaching and mining, as measured against baseline activity
  ii. Improved community economic security, as measured against baseline average household income
  iii. Expanded scientific activity, as measured by new research outputs[5]
  iv. Establishment of a local and national constituency of conservation supporters, as measured by growth in Nantu's media presence network and local support for conserving Nantu.

- Program activities to achieve these outcomes will include:

  i. Development of alternative local livelihoods
  ii. Direct action in practical avoided deforestation
  iii. Advocacy of Nantu ecosystem and watershed protection at a national level
  iv. Expansion of research activities and facilities
  v. Support for local education to underpin community development and build conservation awareness

Overall the Nantu conservation and community development program is expected to involve three phases over a period of 10 years.

- **Phase I** (July 2011 – July 2012): Development Planning
  The focus of Phase I is on a) supporting YANI's existing operations and b) developing a full

[5] Including research publications and conference presentations

development plan and program funding proposal. For the latter, ADMCF has hired a program manager based full-time in Jakarta. Deliverables by July 2012 include a full business plan for community livelihoods, a 5-year strategy and capacity roadmap for YANI, and increased advocacy through national media.

- **Phase II** (July 2012 – End 2014): Preparation
  Phase II will largely involve a) expanding YANI's operational capacity; b) strengthening YANI's infrastructure; and c) implementation work planning and preparation.

- **Phase III** (2015 – 2021): Implementation
  Pilot implementation, monitoring and impact assessment will take place in Phase III. A plan to expand the program to more communities will also be developed, taking into account lessons learnt and best practices from the pilot implementation. By this point YANI will have attained optimal capacity to support expected expansion.

3 Program Principals

Implementing organization:

- **Yayasan Adudu Nantu Internasional** (YANI) is an Indonesian NGO and the local implementing agent. Based in Gorontalo, Sulawesi, YANI's experienced field team has for the past two decades[6] been dedicated to dynamic forest conservation work with Nantu communities. Its work includes high impact forest protection patrols, livelihoods development, education and awareness building.

Funding and planning partner:

- **ADM Capital Foundation** (ADMCF) currently provides operational funding and program planning support. ADMCF is a philanthropic foundation that provides strategic funding to organisations and projects working in poverty alleviation, education for under-privileged children and environmental conservation. It has supported YANI's work in the Nantu Forest since 2008.

National and Provincial government Partners:

- **Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam Gorontalo** (BKSDA Sulawesi Utara and Gorontalo), the provincial branch of the National Directorate of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation, has signed a 5 year Memorandum of Understanding supporting YANI's conservation work in the Nantu Wildlife Reserve. In return, YANI submits quarterly reports to BKSDA documenting its activities and progress.

- The Gorontalo Provincial Police seconds six officers to patrol the Nantu Forest on a 24/7 basis. While YANI sponsors living expenses for the team while in Nantu, wages are paid by the provincial government. Continuous hands-on protection of Indonesian rainforest in this way is extremely rare/unique and as a result the Nantu Rainforest Reserve today remains one of Indonesia's few remaining pristine rainforest ecosystems.

- YANI also works in close collaboration with a diverse range of other local and national public partners, including the Ministry for Research and Technology (RISTEK), the Centre for Research in Biology (LIPI), Sam Ratulangi and Gorontalo State Universities, the Gorontalo Provincial Government and the Association of Indonesia-wide Gorontalonese Citizens.

ADMCF and YANI will be identifying further program partners as part of its program proposal. Potential partners include, but are not limited to, funders, other NGOs, local government, agribusiness and community development experts and trainers, major agri product buyers, national media and researchers.

[6] YANI was officially established as a foundation or *yayasan* in 2002, which formalized the field conservation work in Nantu undertaken by members of its team since 1989. Its board includes senior national and local scientists, and Gorontalonese civil society leaders.

4 Funding Needs

A **combination** of government and private funding ensures YANI is able to continue operations at the vanguard of Nantu's protection, while further developing its conservation and community development program. This funding however remains limited, restricting YANI to a small portfolio of basic field-level enforcement and monitoring activities, despite the intensification of external pressures on the forest.

Funding for the Nantu conservation and community development program is thus **urgently** needed. Contributions to support either the full range or a specific area of the program's funding needs are very welcome, and will ensure that YANI can continue working with the Nantu forest and its communities.

- **PHASE I** (July 2011 – July 2012).

  a) Support YANI's existing operations:
  For YANI to continue its operations at their current, basic level, annual funding of **US$264,319** is needed. ADMCF has committed funds of **US$150,000,** which leaves a shortfall of **US$114,319.**

Table 1: Phase Ia Funding Requirements

Existing operational funding needs	**Expense per annum** (USD)
Basic forest protection field activities: Includes all operational costs for two remote field posts, 6 field assistants, honoraria for 6 special forces police (full-time) @ $11,500/month	102,084
Special forest protection operations: Includes 5 x operations by 20 enforcement personnel, against illegal miners and loggers @ $2,500 each	12,500
Anti-poaching operations: Includes 2x 48-hour operations, as well as support for subsequent legal prosecutions @ $890 each	3,570
Field transportation: Includes hiring of road and river transport @ $1,185/month	10,080
Offices: Includes rental and utilities (water, electricity, internet, telephone) for 2 x Project Offices in Manado and Gorontalo	16,000
Management salary: i) International Conservation Coordinator @$6,050/month ii) Graduate Assistant @$900/month	 72,600 10,800
Educational program: i) Scholarship Program (full scholarships for 2 students @$3,000 each a year) iii) Nantu Forest Fans Club (youth wing of YANI) activities including library, events ii) Quarterly schoolchildren visits to Nantu Forest	 6,000 12,000 4,500
Stakeholder engagement: i) Liaison with national stakeholders, government, etc. – 5 x round trips to Jakarta ii) Field visits by board members (2 senior scientists) iii) Monitoring/evaluation for Min. of Forestry MoU – workplan prep & 1 field visit	 10,000 2,400 1,785
Total expense per annum	**264,319**
Committed funding (ADMCF)	150,000

Remaining need for funds	114,319

b) Develop a full program proposal:
ADMCF has committed to funding program proposal development for Phase I, including the hiring of a dedicated program manager based in Jakarta.

- **PHASE II** (July 2012 – End 2014).

a) Expand YANI's existing operational capacity
For YANI to expand its operational scope and activities to attain optimal effectiveness, an increase in operational budget from **US$264,319** to **US$308,959** is needed. This represents the need for additional annual funding of **US$44,640**.

Table 2: Phase IIa Funding Requirements

Expanded operational funding needs	Expense per annum (USD)
Existing operational funding needs: See Table 1	264,319
Graduate staff: 2x full-time graduate staff ($30,000 per annum)	30,000
Transportation (road & river): Boat and car drivers ($9,600 per annum) Boat and car fuel ($5,040 per annum)	14,640
Total expense per annum	**308,959**
Committed funding	0
Remaining need for funds	**308,959**

b) Strengthen YANI's infrastructure
For YANI to support its operations efficiently and effectively, a one-time investment in infrastructure of **US$58,100** is needed.

Table 3: Phase IIb Funding Requirements

One-time infrastructure funding needs	One-time expense (USD)
Transportation (road): 1 x 4WD vehicle	25,000[7]
Transportation (river): 1 x longboat and engine	2,000[8]
Communications: 1 x short-wave radio system	3,500
Energy source: 1 x generator	600
Scientific inventory of Nantu Forest: To be conducted by Indonesian and international scientists	25,000[9]

[7] One-time investments in a boat and car, together with monthly investments in fuel and salaried drivers, will remove the recurring need for hiring of road and river transport. This will also allow more flexibility in arranging additional trips per month for national stakeholders, government officials and funders, both saving funds in the longer term as well as being more efficient in term of YANI's operation.
[8] Ibid.
[9] Ideally a forest inventory would be undertaken once every three or five years.

Miscellaneous: Boats, rucksacks, lamps, life-jackets etc	2,000
Total one-time expense	**58,100**
Committed funding	0
Remaining need for funds	**58,100**

c) Implementation work planning and preparation
Expenses for implementation planning to be determined during program proposal development in Phase I.

- **PHASE III** (2015 – 2021).
  Expenses for Phase III to be determined during program proposal development.

5 Contact Us



For more information on the Nantu Conservation and Community Development Program and funding options, please contact ADMCF or YANI.

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Appendix: YANI Achievements & Track Record



Achievements:

- Since 1989 the YANI team have spearheaded conservation of the Nantu Nature Reserve through initiatives with local communities. These initiatives are designed to protect the forest, develop livelihoods and raise awareness of the Nantu's ecological heritage.

- Protection of the Nature Reserve has involved the establishment of 24/7 forest patrols by community members, local police and project assistants The patrols have effectively stopped illegal logging, slash-and-burn clearance and wildlife poaching within the forest, and continue to act as an effective deterrent.

- In addition to protection activities, YANI aims to provide alternative livelihoods for local communities. Field staff have distributed 8000 teak and 30,000 cocoa trees to local farmers, and partner with key buyers to provide training and advice. YANI plans to expand its livelihoods activities and is currently preparing a comprehensive livelihoods program to accelerate the communities' economic development.

- Another key goal has been to enhance awareness of biodiversity protection in communities around Nantu. YANI published 5,000 copies of an original children's storybook about the babirusa, and organised live "Conservation Concerts" featuring local entertainers.

- To support education in the community, YANI created scholarships for local secondary schoolchildren, and coordinated weekend English classes taught by volunteer undergraduates from Gorontalo State University.

Awards:

- The value of these conservation and community initiatives has been perennially recognised by awards from both public and private institutions. Major awards over the past decade include three Darwin Initiative grants, two Whitley Awards for Conservation, British Government Foreign and Commonwealth Office grants, a Mongabay Conservation Award and the Moawota Gorontalonese Civil Society Award.