



rimba

The Rimba Project

(LL005-15SUS)

Activities & Achievements (2017)

A Brief History of *The Rimba Project*

2011 UM Biodiversity Map
Limited release UMCARES publication

Late 2013 Dr. Zeeda's call

No systematic approach to documenting and promoting campus biodiversity.

Mission of new project was to address:

Campus greening and biodiversity documentation

Capacity building of students and staff

Apr 2014 RIMBA officially starts as a UMCares flagship project

Feb 2015 Living Lab Research Grant—The RIMBA Project with 3 staff members under new “twin-TNC” funding/management system

April 2016 RIMBA continues under Living Lab Research Grant with 1 staff member due to funding constraints

May 2017 Rimba continues under Living Lab Research Grant with 1 full time staff member and 2 part time staff members (of 6 months tenure each)



Why Urban Biodiversity?

A deep separation exists between conservationists who work on urban environmental issues, and those who work in nature conservation, often far away from cities.

Trzyna; IUCN, 2006

“[S]econd-generation ecosystems” are beginning to dominate the forested landscape, and there is a growing need to turn more attention to them.

Stokstad; *Science*, 2008

[Conservation landscaping] is a multi-stakeholder initiative where researchers in ecology and biodiversity collaborate with landscape architects and planners.

Musacchio; *Landscape Journal*, 2008

The RIMBA Project:

Key Initiatives 2017/18

Item / Timeline	2017/2018			
	Q1 JJO	Q2 SON	Q3 DJF	Q4 MAM
Publications				
Lingkungan Budi Tree Guide				
Campus Tree Mapping				
Tree mapping				
Engraving of tree tags*				
Tagging of trees*				
City Nature Challenge				
Recruitment of stakeholders and volunteers				
Formulating biodiversity education modules; running media and publicity campaigns				
Organising educational and promotional events				
Analysing collected data				
Campus Greening				
Adopt a Tree Programme initiative				
Sourcing corporate sponsors				
Preparation of labels for tree tagging				
Planting of trees (optimum time: wet season)				
Nature education and outreach				
Development of modular materials/templates				
Guided walks in Rimba Ilmu				
Biodiversity surveys**				
Awareness programmes				
Conservation follow-up with JPPHB (e.g. Section 12)				



Presentations & Publications

- **2 paper presentations:**
 - **“The University as a Living Lab: Exploring Translational Education in Sustainability.”** *Presented at the International Conference on Sustainable Cities, Communities and Partnerships for SDGs (SCCP2017) by Benjamin Ong on 6 October 2017*
 - **“Enhancing the Urban Environment for Biodiversity.”** *Presented at the Sustainable Living in Malaysia (SLiM) Symposium 2017 by Benjamin Ong on 27 October 2017*



Campus Greening & Biodiversity Conservation

- After successful displacement and downscaling of Health Metropolis plan based on two completed biodiversity surveys in Section 12 and Jalan Elmu, RIMBA has ***successfully retained and conserved 51 trees*** in 8 plots of Section 12 (former UM staff quarters) during the construction of the parking spaces by ASIAPARK. We are looking into possible avenues to develop the area into community spaces together with JPPHB, EPIC and MBPJ.
- ***Tree-tagging initiatives at Section 12-Jalan Elmu complex.*** Engraving machine purchased by JPPHB.
- ***Three RIMBA-JPPHB Greening Roundtable*** meetings held over 9 months. Key step towards policy paper on sustainably campus greening and biodiversity conservation.
- **93 trees** to be planted in 1 pocket of land around the Lingkungan Budi core. Trees were bought under RMK-11 fund.



Capacity Building & Environmental Education

- ***At present we have a volunteer base of about 147 students.*** This is up from 40+ in Sem 1 (2014), 20+ in Sem II (2015), 30+ in Sem I (2016) and 50 in Sem II (2016).
- ***1 volunteer-led project is completed.*** Trees of Genetics is a project led by senior volunteer Najmi Ayob and has successfully identified, mapped and tagged trees around Genetics Department and Ambang Asuhan Jepun.
- ***We are managing 90% of Rimba Ilmu's visitor load.*** In the absence of a dedicated Education/Conservation Officer in Rimba Ilmu, we have helped Rimba Ilmu accommodate up to 3 times as many visitors as before.
- ***12 guided walks*** have been conducted
- ***1 community engagement programme,*** the Ecological Footprint Workshop, has been organised in collaboration with EPSM.
- ***SLiM Symposium 2017,*** a conference co-organised by EPSM and RIMBA and supported logistically by Sustainable Science Cluster. RIMBA volunteers provided 90% of the manpower for the conference.



What's next?

- ***City Nature Challenge 2018 (Klang Valley)***. This is a global biodiversity survey powered by citizen science which RIMBA is bringing to Malaysia together with Water Warriors and Institute of Biological Sciences.
- ***Other potential collaborators*** include Chevening Alumni Malaysia, Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI), Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman, Kota Damansara Community Forest.
- ***Our planned outputs include*** biodiversity education guides, outreach to schools and municipalities all over Klang Valley, and contribution to global biodiversity data resources.



Workshops and environmental education programmes





Volunteers were exposed to a few field skills such as bat and bird samplings, tree identifications and data collection

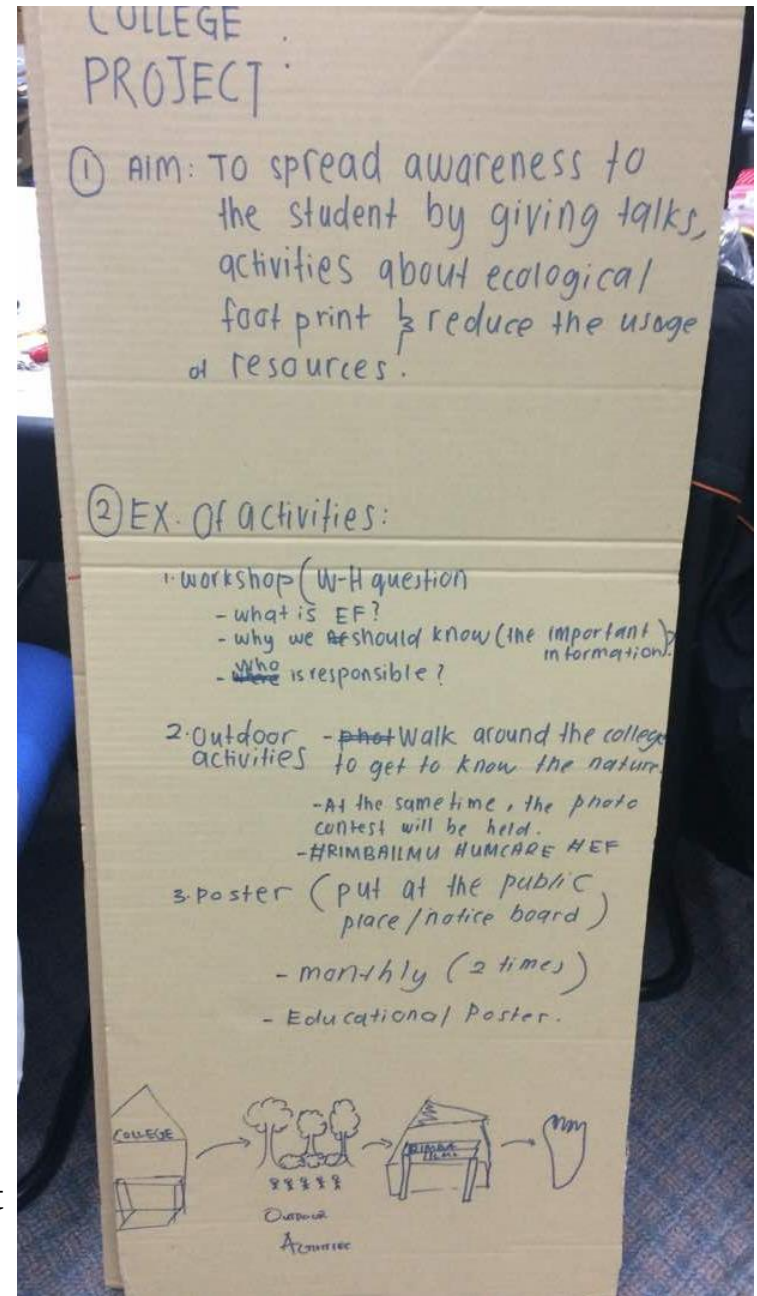


Trees of Genetics: The final step of tagging each individually identified, mapped and labelled tree around the Genetics/AAJ complex.





Ecological Footprint Workshop on 22 October brought together 20 residential college students to brainstorm ideas on how to reduce their environmental impact.





SLiM 2017 Conference on 27 & 28 October (top) and appreciation dinner party for volunteers at Rimba Ilmu on 15 November (bottom)

Key Performance Indicators

No.	Catogories	Key Performance Indicators / Akujanji (agreed during confirmant of grant)	Progress and Status of KPI
1.	Project Target Achievement	1) Planting of 100 trees at Samali Tree area and Lingkungan Budi 2) Database on trees of the UM campus (Library area, Lingkungan Budi and Faculty Science–Genetic Building Complex)	1. Sourcing corporate sponsorship(Ongoing)
2.	Capacity Building	One (1) volunteer-led project	1. Trees of Genetics/AAJ (completed)
3.	Innovation / Technology / Knowledge Transfer	Twenty-four (24) guided walks and/or environmental education programme in Rimba Ilmu	Twelve (12) guided walks and/or environmental education programme in Rimba Ilmu (50%)
4.	Community Engagement	Two (2) community engagement	Two (2) community engagement (Completed)
5.	Networking and Linkages	EduTREE Services - partner in Nature Art Festival, Project H.O.P.E., LightUP Penan	Ongoing
6.	Publications	One (1) submitted digital/printed document	Ongoing
7.	Policy Papers / Guidelines / Standards	One (1) greening policy guideline	Completed