



Ulu Papar Sustainable Livelihoods

Arkitrek 

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Concept Paper prepared by Ian Hall on 9th April 2014

Ulu Papar is a community of several villages only 40km from Kota Kinabalu, the State Capital of Sabah. In one of the villages, Kampung Buayan, Arkitrek have been building the Ulu Papar Bio-cultural Heritage Centre. Ulu Papar was until recently only accessible by foot. This isolation has

preserved a traditional culture based on shifting rice cultivation. As the influence of urbanisation and industrial agriculture begin to penetrate the region, the question is: how will the locals adapt their livelihoods in a way that upholds their identity and culture?

## 1 Community Research

What we've achieved so far

A Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) programme of participatory research and interactive training has allowed the Ulu Papar community to document and evaluate their indigenous knowledge and cultural heritage. This self awareness and the skills learned are intended to support sustainable livelihoods based on traditional knowledge.

Now, at the conclusion of this programme, there is a need to switch from direct training to indirect support and partnerships that will allow the community to develop these livelihoods under their own initiative.

## 2 Bio-cultural Centre

Kick-starting Sustainable Livelihoods

The first stage in the Sustainable Livelihoods process has been kick-started by the design and construction of a Bio-cultural Heritage Centre, which was designed, project managed and funded by Arkitrek, with additional funding raised by GDF. Of MYR60,000 spent on construction to date, approximately MYR28,000 went directly to community members for transport and construction services, with an additional MYR17,000 in direct income from homestay services provided for international volunteers working on the project.

During the construction process Arkitrek trained community members to adapt their traditional skills and materials to contemporary building design. These skills provide opportunity for sustainable future livelihoods.

To date, Arkitrek has also contributed pro-bono design and construction management services to the value of MYR40,000 to the Bio-Cultural Centre project.



Photo courtesy of Global Diversity Foundation



Bamboo Weave building envelope



Rice husk bio-crete walls

## Ulu Papar Sustainable Livelihoods

How can Arkitrek Continue to Help?

### 3 Arkitrek Build

Complete the Bio-cultural Centre

We need to raise funds to complete the Bio-cultural Centre and recruit volunteers to work alongside local craftsmen to get the job done.

Remember that this is not just a building, but also a training programme in sustainable building techniques and a source of income for local craftsmen and homestays.

The following is a list of outstanding projects to complete the Bio-cultural Centre. The Programme cost to volunteers will vary with PAX and duration. Construction costs are as follows:

**Finishes - MYR14,000 (priority)**

**Toilet + Septic Tank - MYR7,000**

**Sewage treatment - MYR5,000**

**Rainwater Harvesting - MYR6,000**

**Electrical - MYR5,000**

**Entrance Porch - MYR3,000**



### 4 Arkitrek Design/Build

Programmes for design students

Arkitrek can provide additional pro-bono design services through our Arkitrek Camp design/build programme. These programmes help to train the next generation of socially responsible designers. We are looking for funds so that we can provide scholarships to outstanding Malaysian students.. Additional components of the Bio-cultural Centre, such as a dormitory, could be provided by a 6-week design/build programme.

**Construction Budget- MYR30,000**

**Programme Budget - MYR60,000**



## 5 Arkitrek Masterclass

Taught by local artisans

Learn sustainable building skills from the village engineers of Ulu Papar. 1-week masterclasses in bamboo, earthbag and bio-crete construction. Classes will be held in the Bio-cultural centre and the itinerary includes a trek through the beautiful Crocker Range national park.

**1-week Masterclass for 6-8 people - MYR11,000**

Masterclasses teach how to apply traditional skills to create innovative building materials that are made from natural products. This cultural revival is a source of pride and identity, for both young and old.

The focus on natural materials also creates economic incentives to protect and sustainably manage natural resources: particularly bamboo, forest fern, and rattan.



## 6 Arkitrek Works

Supporting local enterprise

Arkitrek Works is a subsidiary of Arkitrek that sells green building materials. Bamboo Weave panels from Ulu Papar are a key product line, which brings sustainable livelihoods and a cultural revival of traditional craft to Ulu Papar



## 7 Legacy

Savvy locals proud of their heritage

The hard skills and knowledge gained from GDF and Arkitrek programmes have equipped the Ulu Papar community to deliver a range of goods and services, whose focus on natural and cultural heritage is increasingly in demand by urban society.

**To get involved, email us: [info@arkitrek.com](mailto:info@arkitrek.com) or call +60 (0)88 263009**

