



PROJECT KAMPUNGKU

Kampung Young Action Plan

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Project/Initiative Description

The project initiative is to provide renewable energy via solar power to an impoverished local indigenous community in Malaysia. Along with a few carefully chosen technical volunteers, the team and I will engage, share, teach, and work alongside the communities of Kampung Dedari and Kampung Aur and Kampung Young. We wish to set up the solar equipment and assemble lighting infrastructure in houses throughout these villages of about 15 homes. Concerning the long-term strategy, this project will be monitored and coordinated by a highly regarded Malaysian Naturalist, Andrew Sebastian, and his Non-governmental organization, ECOMY. We plan to document the whole project with the help of a videographer. As part of my commitment and interest, I will visit Project KampungKu will visit the villages annually to ensure everything's running smoothly.

Many indigenous groups in Malaysia (the *orang asli*) live without access to the national electrical grid and treated water. As a consequence of their independence from the national grid, they are forced to venture into protected forest regions and harvest wood in order to build fires that act as a light source and a heat source for cooking. Those who are better off lack even a stable, basic income and live in acute poverty as a consequence.

Renewable Energy Component

Renewable energy initiative and reasoning

This project is directly installing renewable energy via solar panels and solar chargers in a Malaysian indigenous community village. Solar power is a renewable energy source that harnesses the energy of the sun and converts the light energy into electrical energy. This is a limitless energy recycling process. In the case of Kampung Dedari, Kampung Aur, and now Kampung Young, we've selected the Sun King 400 units, which is a solar and lighting technology that is feasible, efficient, and can be operated with ease.

We will be using 20 units of the Sun King 400, which include a panel and light per Sun King unit. We have identified 15 homes that require lighting infrastructure in Kampung Young and will purchase an additional five units in the event of damage to the original 15 units deployed in the village.

We have chosen this specific unit because of its powerful 400-lumen lighting feature (the main attraction for our series of projects), robust design, and versatile solar charger companion unit. Furthermore, these units are produced locally, which translates to lower per unit cost than previous renewable energy systems we've employed in the past. Moreover, in the event of damage, the units can be repaired or replaced significantly quicker too. After observing a series of successful projects in the Malaysia peninsula utilising the Sun King 400, we have reason to believe these units present the final solution to the desire of the *orang asli* to use light infrastructure independent of the national electricity grid.

As a commitment to transparency, project KampungKu is excited to share the product specifications with REFF in the hope the committee scrutinizes the ability and potential of the Sun King 400 as much as we have at Project KampungKu

Cost distribution

I would estimate that 1/3 of the costs would go towards the funding and installation of the renewable energy equipment in Kampung Young. Working with this specific community is not easy, hence the high travel costs that make up the majority 2/3's of the project funding. Kampung Young approximately 137 miles from the capital, Kuala Lumpur, which is where many of the volunteers and I live. The long distance yields high petroleum costs. Furthermore, Kampung Young becomes inaccessible by road after a certain distance. Therefore, we have to use boats to arrive at the village. Because overnight guest rooms are scarce in the village, Andrew, my co-project manager, has advised me to seek accommodation elsewhere. Seeking accommodation elsewhere adds to the travel expense.

Action Plan Summary and Timeline

The project will be broken down into four phases:

Phase 1: Reconnaissance Trip

This will happen from the 20-21st of May. We will arrive at TRV resort, the accommodation for the project, in the late morning in one car. There will be two volunteers including Andrew and I travelling to the project site. As soon as we arrive at Kuala Tahan, we will rent a boat to Kampung Young and spend the afternoon there. During the reconnaissance trip, my objective is to survey the project site and convey a good impression to the local people and establish a strong base of mutual respect and friendship. The reconnaissance trip should only be a day long. As soon as our surveying is over, we will return to the TRV Resort by the same boat, spend the night, and leave early the next morning.

Phase 2: Arrival at Kuala Tahan and Project Conference

We will arrive in the early afternoon at the TRV Hotel in Kuala Tahan with our six volunteers on June 3rd. As soon as we arrive, we will provide an hour for unpacking in the hotel rooms. When the hour is up, the project conference with the authorities, our volunteers, supporters on the ground, and local stakeholders will initiate. We will discuss the mission objectives for each phase in the Kampung Young and how each member will contribute to the project individually. For example, I will brief the volunteers on how to assemble the equipment and have them present the step-by-step process of putting the technology together for me. As a part of my presentation to the volunteers, I will also highlight the importance of protecting the equipment from damage and urge them to convey that information effectively to the Kampung Young *asli*. Furthermore, we will finalise the inventory of the project and then open the discussion to answering any questions from the team members. We expect the project conference to take no more than two hours. The rest of the afternoon and evening will be reserved for unstructured time, where Andrew and I will volunteer taking the project participants to the Mutiara resort for education on Taman Negara's history along with time to for nature watching from elevated platforms in the resort.

Phase 3: Building Relations

We will arrive at Kampung Young in the early morning of June 4th with our six volunteers. We will leave the TRV Hotel around 8 am and hire two boats to transport us to the village location. As soon as we arrive, we will hold a short briefing to reiterate the plan for the day and the importance of respecting the environment we are working in. Immediately after the meeting, we will identify a model home chosen on the advice from the village head, and begin the demonstration technology installation as soon as the locals and the equipment are ready. We will ask the locals to carefully observe the installation of the renewable energy equipment in the model home. Abdul Jalil Rahman, the KampungKu liaison with the *orang asli* around Taman Negara, will lead the installation process because of his close relationship with the locals and his proficiency in Malay.

Phase 4: Mass Installation

The mass installation process of the solar panels and lighting instalments throughout the 12 homes of Kampung Young will happen during this phase. We expect the locals to work collaboratively with the volunteers to implement the panels and lights in every home in the village. We will collaborate with the locals by splitting them up into teams led by volunteers, and show them how to operate the technology and install them in their homes. During this process, we will answer any questions and create an amiable work environment. We will take periodic breaks as well as the community meal break, known as a *kenduri*. We hope to have some media coverage during this phase of the project to create awareness of the difficult living situations of the local indigenous community as a consequence of low-income work and their polluted sources of food and fuel. In conjunction with the media coverage, our videographer will film the entire process. Once all the Kampung Young *asli* are familiar with how to operate the equipment, we will allow the solar technology to charge the lighting units while we return to the TRV hotel.

Phase 5: Celebration of Light

The KampungKu team will return to Kampung Young in the evening to hold a *celebration of light* to commemorate the hard work of the volunteers and the indigenous people and the community and connectivity created as a consequence of working on the project together. During this phase, we will simultaneously activate the lightning units with the Kampung Young *asli*, the dying light of day serving as the dramatic backdrop. We will mingle with the locals for a short while after the celebration of light and return to the TRV hotel via the boats we used to arrive at Kampung Young. The evening will be reserved for unstructured time and everyone will be expected to leave early the next morning for Kuala Lumpur.

Phase 6: Long-Term Monitoring

The costs will cover the journey of the volunteers of the project visiting Kampung Young to ensure that the systems are working smoothly and to receive feedback. Any problems that arise with the equipment will be reported back to Andrew Sebastian immediately, who is in charge of the long-term sustainability of the project. Andrew will oversee the repair and maintenance of the solar equipment and camping lanterns. These periodic visit will occur on a quarterly basis, one year from when we install the panels and lights. Phase 7 will also act as an opportunity to attract both local and foreign investment by networking with companies that have expressed interests in working with us, such as Veritas Architects, which will enable the expansion of the project to other villages in need of assistance in the Taman Negara region.

Participants and Stakeholders

The villagers of Kampung Young

The first and most important stakeholders and beneficiaries of Project KampungKu are the people/community of Kampung Young. The project has been purposefully designed to fulfil their needs for electricity in the village, and we owe the successes of the project to them. Furthermore, they will be working collaboratively with our volunteers to have the panels and lighting fixtures installed and will be in charge of maintaining the health of the equipment in the long-term, so the educational aspect of the project and the long and short-term socio-economic benefits are in their interests.

The volunteers

The next stakeholders are the volunteers themselves. Our ground team is composed of six people from various social backgrounds and ethnicities and are working to serve the people of Kampung Young for their various reasons. They will be actively engaged in installing the equipment and educating the locals on the instalment processes of our renewable energy equipment. Andrew J. Sebastian will oversee advising and coordination duties and will be working on the ground with the volunteers before and during the instalment process of the solar panels and lighting fixtures in the village.

Green Empowerment

Green Empowerment, a Portland-based renewable energy NGO, will be indirectly supporting the ground efforts in the mainland peninsula. Green Empowerment is currently operating in many countries, including and not limited to Peru, Malaysia Borneo, and the Philippines, and boasts a high number of self-sustaining renewable energy installations in these countries. Green Empowerment is currently operating in Malaysia Borneo and has advised me on specific actions that must be undertaken to ensure the longevity and scalability of the project. Green Empowerment directly benefit from advising on the project and linking the mainland peninsula project of Kampung Young with some of their local projects in Borneo.

We look forward to exploring permanent and self-sustaining renewable energy solutions with Green Empowerment for the villages we're currently assisting.

Veritas Design Group

Veritas Design Group was founded in 1987 upon the principles of constant innovation and a commitment to quality. Today the VERITAS Design Group is led by its Group President David Mizan Hashim and its Principals, who are backed by a team of over 330 qualified professionals and professional support staff. Although VERITAS began as an architectural practice, it now offers a full range of supporting design services through subsidiary and associates companies. Based in Kuala Lumpur Malaysia, they boast an impressive portfolio of projects including Legoland Malaysia and environmentally-focused projects such as the International School Kuala Lumpur. We hope to benefit Veritas Architecture by incorporating some of their staff as volunteers for our project as a corporate social responsibility venture.

Ecotourism & Conservation Society Malaysia

Ecotourism & Conservation Society Malaysia (ECOMY), the NGO managed by Andrew J. Sebastian, are also key stakeholders in the project initiative. They will provide any short-term funding for the project wherever necessary, for instance, purchasing the equipment ahead of time. Additionally, they host the official KampungKu website, documenting the scope of past projects and the lives we've touched. Their direct benefits include recognition for assisting in development projects aimed to improve the lives of *orang asli* living along the river Tembling.

The Orang Asli Department Peninsula Malaysia

The Orang Asli Department Peninsular Malaysia will also indirectly benefit from our work in Kampung Young. The Orang Asli department will be responsible for giving us permission to enter and work with the locals in Kampung Young and will facilitate as communicators, if needed. We believe the Orang Asli Department Peninsula Malaysia will benefit from our renewable energy initiative by improving the economic aspects of the community as a key component of the government's anti-poverty initiatives.

Nearby Villages

The nearby villages in the Taman Negara area will be indirectly affected by the development of renewable energy and sustainable lighting infrastructure in Kampung Young. They will have the opportunity to ask for assistance in the same way as Kampung Young has and Project KampungKu will evaluate the level of support we'll provide.

Taman Negara Bird Group

The Taman Negara Bird Group is a registered NGO based in Kuala Tahan and is composed of birdwatchers and tour guides serving the area. Among our objectives to bring clean energy and lighting infrastructure to the *orang asli* of Taman Negara, we also hope to promote the conservation of rare bird species and other animals in and around Taman Negara. We hope that by providing lighting infrastructure to the villagers of Kampung Young, they will farm less wood from the area for night-time lighting resulting in less habitat loss.

Educational Component

Annual Assessment Outline

Accompanying the project, we will have a videographer present documenting the project. As part of the completion of the project on June 4th 2019, the team and I will compile the photos, videos, and any observations we deem notable into a "final report" document. Furthermore, the second document will be completed on June 4th 2020. This second document will provide an annual overview of the project to determine whether it was successfully in achieving its goals. These images, videos, and observations will be given to the CAS students as a comprehensive conclusion to the project, which I believe is a great opportunity for the renewable energy committee to identify the successes and limitations of the project. With this information, the committee could potentially advise new strategies for future students seeking to undertake renewable energy projects. I will be sure to include interviews and quotes from the villagers themselves, as well the village head. I believe compiling this information will be useful to the CAS students as they explore how the project volunteers have interacted with the locals and how the locals perceive their lives before and after the installation of the renewable energy technologies.

Giving Back to CAS Students

International and Local Exposure

Lewis and Clark College has an established presence in Malaysia as a pioneer in grass-roots renewable energy initiatives thanks to the success of the first renewable energy project in Kampung Dedari. Public support for sustainable energy projects in Malaysia has taken off after national news coverage of the project, with thriving renewable projects imitating our model cropping up around the country. Not only are successful, LC student-led projects vital for the international marketing of the college, but local marketing for REFF. The Lewis and Clark College website and the Pioneer Log have covered stories on Project KampungKu illustrating to our currently enrolled students and prospective LC students the abundant opportunities offered by our flourishing sustainability community. Furthermore, my participation in the steering committee of Green Empowerment's Associate Board enables me to disseminate details of LC's sustainability department and the exciting projects they're willing to endow, which enhances the local reach of the sustainability department outside the college campus.

Networking Opportunities

I believe that the CAS students can benefit from my connections with Green Empowerment. The relationship will enable students to receive hands-on experience both with sites similar to the Kampung Young project in the mainland peninsula in Borneo, or travel with Green Empowerment to work in Latin American countries where the organization is currently undertaking renewable energy projects. I have successfully brought Green Empowerment to LC to host a talk about the phenomenal work they do worldwide, and I wish to continue this partnership between Lewis and Clark College and Green Empowerment. My vision for the future is to have Green Empowerment and Lewis and Clark College participate in joint events regarding sustainable energy and grass-roots suitability issues. As a part of my contribution to CAS students, Veritas Architects will secure two VIP tickets to students interested in attending Green Empowerment's Passport to Empowerment event in October. Not only will students be able to network with professionals in renewable energy at the event but speak to major corporations interested in contributing to renewable energy as a part of their corporate social responsibly, such as Veritas Architects.