

March 2026

## From the Five Continents

In this edition, we take you around the world with updates from SD projects: from the rainforests of Colombia to the shores of Australia, passing through Indonesia, Malawi and the United Kingdom. People who plant, teach, care and build with humanity, in every corner of the planet. We hope you will enjoy this eNews and value your feedback!

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**Photo:** ©Participants of Human Force Camp, Amanecer, Colombia 2026



## South America • Colombia

### From the rainforest to the hearth: flavours that protect biodiversity

Calima El Darién Municipality, Valle del Cauca

In the mountains of Alto Calima, where the rainforest meets campesino farms, a group of six cooks and researchers is proving something extraordinary: that the best way to protect biodiversity might simply be to cook it.

Fundación Trópico has been working with communities in the DRMI Alto Calima protected area, in the municipality of Calima, El Darién, for years. And in 2025, with SDIA's support, their achievements were remarkable.

#### A recipe book born in community

The group of cook-researchers — made up of local farmers — worked throughout the year on a participatory research process that produced a recipe book featuring species native to the forest and local farms, alongside a list of edible and medicinal plants known to the communities. The result is not just a cookbook: it is living memory, food sovereignty and territorial pride.

"It has been wonderful to see the project's beneficiaries step into public spaces and proudly share what they have been doing", shares the Fundación Trópico team.

#### Stronger farms, more secure families

Beyond the kitchen, the project supported productive improvements on 8 farms: coffee and cacao processing equipment, a threshing machine, the introduction of free-range laying hens and the improvement of a panela sugar mill. Each of these investments shares the same goal: helping families reduce dependency, improve their income and stay on their land.

In a territory affected by armed conflict — which caused temporary displacements in 2025 — this kind of rootedness carries a value that goes far beyond the economic. Fortunately, all displaced bio-entrepreneurs have since returned.

Photos: ©Fundación Trópico in Alto Calima.



Photo: ©Human Force Camp, Amanecer, Colombia.



## Recognition that travels far

The work of Alto Calima did not go unnoticed. The cook-researchers participated in Colombia Birdfaire 2025, the Green Business Fair of SIDAP Valle del Cauca, and presented a paper at the Regional Congress of Protected Areas organised by the CVC. The crowning achievement: the project received a USD \$10,000 prize from American Bird Conservancy, awarded to the 14 bio-entrepreneurs involved — funds that are already being reinvested in the farms.

### In numbers:

**55 people trained, 38 of them women**  
**8 farms with productive improvements implemented**  
**6 cook-researchers leading the process**  
**USD \$10,000 in prizes reinvested in the community**  
**1 local biodiversity recipe book created collectively.**

Fundación Trópico also offered a cooking workshop during the most recent Human Force Camp in Amanecer, Colombia. Participants spent an afternoon in the kitchen cooking up a feast, under the guidance of chef Jose.

The project looks ahead with plans for pottery workshops, more participating schools and the standardisation of recipes for the tourism sector. The hearth is still burning.



### Photos:

1. ©Human Force Camp, Amanecer, Colombia.
2. ©Nicole and Fundación Trópico team in Amanecer.

## Asia • Indonesia

### Farmers building their own future

Bukit Batu, Palangka Raya, Kalimantan

In the lands of Kalimantan, Indonesia, a group of farmers has spent years stuck in a cycle that is hard to break: work hard, sell cheap. Middlemen controlled the prices and debt kept piling up. But that is changing.

The Bukit Batu project, driven by Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta (YTS) with the support of the SD Network, walks alongside farmer groups — known as KUBs — in building an economic model that is their own: fair and sustainable.

### An organisation that returns power to those who work the land

In 2018, the Forum Usaha Borneo Nusantara (FUBN) was established — an umbrella body that brings the KUBs together and gives them access to affordable loans, better prices for their harvests and connections to government support programmes. The goal is clear: economic freedom for farmers, in harmony with their natural environment.

To also address climate change — which is disrupting rainfall patterns and affecting crops — the project introduced agroforestry as a solution: trees and crops that coexist, protect the soil, regulate water and diversify income streams.

## A December of concrete progress

In December 2025, the YTS team carried out geotagging of 343 trees planted on participating farms — a monitoring system that will allow the team to track growth and survival, with precision over time. Farm visits also covered tomato, cucumber, corn, water spinach and chilli crops, checking progress and supporting farmers through on-the-ground challenges.

On the commercial side, results are encouraging: in December, the FUBN sold 1,367 kg of fruits and vegetables — long beans, cucumbers, corn, bananas and jackfruit — compared to just 103 kg the previous month. A leap that reflects real organisational growth.

## A community that reviews, plans and moves forward

On 11 December, the project held its Annual Review and Planning meeting, with 43 participants — 31 women and 12 men — including the head of Bukit Batu subdistrict. Each KUB presented its results and work plan for 2026. A week later, the FUBN held its monthly meeting at the home of one of its leaders, with 20 attendees, where the groups formally committed to building collective farms and maintaining regular meetings.

YTS participates as an observer and facilitator — not as the protagonist. The community leads.

## Scholarships that keep young people in school

In many of the villages where YTS works, high school dropout rates are a serious concern. When families face hardship, young people often leave their studies to work or marry young.

To address this reality, the Kalimantan Kids Club (KKC) programme offers partial scholarships to secondary and higher education students, prioritising children of families who are actively involved in community programmes. Scholarships cover basic school materials — notebooks and stationery — and in January 2026, the registration process for the new year will open.

**Photos:** ©Bukit Batu



Effan inspecting Mr. Sudarto's corn stalks, a number of which fell over due to strong winds.



Abdul, our Program Coordinator, geotagging a tree sapling in Sei Gohong trans 38.

## Speaking of scholarships for young people...

The story of Kalimantan reminds us how much it matters that no young person has to choose between studying and surviving. That is why, at SDIA, we are very excited to announce a new opportunity available to our entire global network.

## Global • SDIA Network



Photo: ©Lucian & Loretta Parshall

**Loretta Parshall Scholarship Fund:** a new door opens for education.

**Some stories inspire programmes and Loretta Parshall's is one of them.**

Loretta was born in 1915 as the daughter of first-generation immigrants. She never finished high school, but throughout her life she insisted on one thing: education is the most valuable gift we can give those we love. She became a Subud member at the age of 60, practised the Latihan with dedication until her passing at 96, and was an example of steadiness and faith to all who knew her.

In her honour, Lucian and Hannah Parshall established the Loretta Parshall Scholarship Fund in 2025 — and entrusted SDIA with its administration. The fund is perpetual: its dividends are what finance the scholarships, ensuring this programme can exist for generations to come.

### Who can apply?

The programme is open to students at all levels of education, from preschool through to university or technical training. Subud members between 18 and 25 years of age can apply on their own behalf, and any active member can also apply on behalf of a family member — children, nieces, nephews, grandchildren.

### Available scholarship types

- Early education (3-5 years): up to USD \$1,000 for families needing tuition assistance for preschool.
- Primary and secondary (5-17 years): project-based scholarships for community initiatives (civics, environment or social projects) and needs-based awards, up to USD \$1,000 per year.
- Higher education — Evan Padilla Scholarship: up to USD \$1,000 per academic year for university, technical or vocational students, renewable for up to 4 years.

### 2026 Application Windows

The programme has two application windows to accommodate different school calendars around the world:

1. Window A: deadline 15 June 2026 (for programmes starting between June and September)
2. Window B: deadline 15 October 2026 (for programmes starting between November and February)

### Interested? Apply here!

The programme will be live very soon. If you would like to receive all the information as soon as it is available, write to us at: [info@susiladharma.org](mailto:info@susiladharma.org)

## Africa • Malawi

### Mayamiko wants to buy its home — and needs your help

The Mayamiko Child Care Centre has been a refuge for vulnerable children and families in Malawi for years. A place of care, learning and hope. But there is one thing that is not yet theirs: the roof under which all of it happens. Today, Mayamiko is running a campaign to purchase the property where their centre operates. And the reason is as simple as it is urgent: the monthly rent takes up a significant portion of their budget — resources that could otherwise be reaching the families they serve directly.

### What changes when they own their space?

A great deal changes. By acquiring the property, Mayamiko could reinvest in what matters most: more bedrooms to welcome more children, a functional office for their team, a playground where the little ones can play safely, and space for volunteers who want to join the work.



Photo: ©Mayamiko Child Care Center

It would not just be buying a building. It would be securing the future of a place that already makes a difference — today, tomorrow and for many years to come.

### How can you help?

The Mayamiko campaign is live on JustGiving. Any donation, however small, makes a difference. Visit their campaign at: [justgiving.com/campaign/mayamiko](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mayamiko) or donate through SDIA directly: <https://susiladharma.org/donate-2025/>. Choose **'Project Specific Donations'** and type in the box: **Mayamiko — property purchase.**

And if you cannot donate, sharing the link is also a huge way to help.

## Asia • Indonesia



Photos: ©BCU School with AGAPE

### **BCU School — Bina Cita Utama, Kalimantan, Indonesia**

*Learning together, growing together: BCU School in action*

BCU School — Bina Cita Utama — is much more than a place where children learn to read and write. It is a community that involves families, cares for the most vulnerable and teaches with heart.

In 2025, BCU had two big pieces of news to share: a parent workshop that made a real difference, and a sustained commitment to the AGAPE orphanage in Tangkiling.

#### **Preparing families for a big transition**

Towards the end of last year, BCU organised a parent workshop titled "From Preschool to Elementary: Aspects of Child Development and Preparation". The event featured Sarah Malahayati Ginting, a specialist educational psychologist, who shared practical tools for supporting children through one of the most important transitions in their early childhood. BCU kindergarten principal Wuryanti complemented the session with a presentation on the school's mission, vision and curriculum. The afternoon closed with questions, reflections and a group photo that captures something hard to measure: community.

"We hope the insights shared will be a valuable guide for accompanying children through this important transition", said the BCU team.

#### **A year of commitment to AGAPE**

Throughout the year, BCU maintained its commitment to AGAPE, the local orphanage in Tangkiling. The work was organised around four areas:

## Productive garden

BCU hired Pak Arief, a local gardener, to visit the orphanage twice a week and teach the children to grow their own vegetables. In addition to seeds, tools and equipment, BCU is installing an irrigation system together with Pak Gimán so the garden can grow sustainably.

## Waste management

BCU supported the construction of a waste collection point and funded repairs to AGAPE's pick-up truck, which can now transport rubbish to the nearest disposal facility. Small changes, big impact on hygiene and wellbeing.

## Trips and experiences

The AGAPE children enjoyed five outings during the year: visits to the BCU campus, a day at Kalawa Waterpark, participation in the BCU Green Run, and a boat tour at Pulau Kaja to see the orangutans. Moments many of them will not easily forget.

## Art and expression

On the final visit of the year, BCU organised an art workshop at AGAPE. Under the guidance of Pak Eko, the children had the chance to express themselves freely as painters for a day. A simple but powerful experience.

## A note of gratitude from BCU

*"All of this was made possible by those who donated to the BCU Sponsored Run for Agape. Your generosity had a meaningful impact on the wellbeing of these children. Thank you!"*

## Europe • United Kingdom



Photo: ©Blue Spirit

### Three years of wind in the sails: Blue Spirit closes a chapter

Three years of work. Nearly 200 young people discovered sailing.. A community that believed in the project from day one. That is what Blue Spirit has to celebrate — and to be grateful for.

With this eNews edition, Blue Spirit shares a message directly from their team: *"Thank you everyone for your support over the past three years. Your generosity has enabled almost 200 young people to discover sailing with Blue Spirit... and so much more. It's been quite a ride, and you made it happen!"*

## An impact report worth reading and sharing

To mark this milestone, Blue Spirit has published its first Impact Report — a document capturing everything that was achieved, how it was achieved and what it meant for the young people who took part.

### Read the full report here

Blue Spirit — Impact Report  
[tiny.cc/68gx001](https://tiny.cc/68gx001)

It is worth reading, sharing and celebrating with them!

Oceania Australia

⚡ **ATTENTION! DEADLINE APPROACHING**

Applications for the Susila Dharma Australia Refugee Scholarship close on  
MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2026.

If you know someone who may be eligible, share this information **TODAY**.

Susila Dharma Australia offers a \$3,000 AUD scholarship for refugees and asylum seekers studying at a university or TAFE in Australia. This is a concrete opportunity for people who have had to rebuild their lives to continue building their future through education.

### Who can apply?

To be eligible, all three of the following criteria must be met:

- Study and reside in Australia
- Be from a refugee or asylum seeker background
- Be enrolled full-time at a tertiary institution (university, TAFE, etc.) for all of 2026

### How does the scholarship work?

Up to 3 scholarships of \$3,000 AUD each will be awarded. Recipients can choose how to receive the funds:

- Two payments of \$1,500 (one per semester), or
- One payment of \$2,000 in Semester 1 and \$1,000 in Semester 2

### How to apply?

Visit the Susila Dharma Australia website to find the application form and full details:

[subud.org.au/susiladharmaaustralia](https://subud.org.au/susiladharmaaustralia)

**Deadline: Monday, 9 March 2026. Do not wait!**

# Building with Humanity

These stories are made possible by people like you — donors, volunteers, allies — who believe the world can be better. Thank you for being part of this network.



**Thank you** to all our readers and donors.

Please share your thoughts with us at [stories@susiladharm.org](mailto:stories@susiladharm.org)

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The Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) is an association of 57 members operating in 26 countries around the world. SDIA connects these local teams with resources for training, expertise, project management and financing.

Our member projects run activities in the following Program Areas: Health and Wellbeing, Child Development, Education and Youth, Environment and Sustainable Livelihoods.

Our national chapters – Susila Dharma Nationals – support our projects and, in some cases, also run their own project activities.