

Statement of Findings: 001-OxC Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Project at the Villages of Pulau Kampai, Langkalan Siata, Salahaji, Halaban: Impacts for the SDGs.

Global Mangrove Trust Limited (GMT) - 11 September 2023

1. ASSESSMENT OF IMPACTS AND OUTCOMES ALIGNED WITH THE UN SDGs

GMT has worked together with the local implementing partner - Yayasan Gajah Sumatera (YAGASU), to document the impacts, observations, and outcomes of the conservation and restoration work of the 001-OxC project within the villages and local mangrove forests at Pangkalan Siata, Halaban, Salahaji, and Pulau Kampai (the Project Site). Key interactions include meetings, livelihood workshops, active patrols, and the development of village level conservation sanctions with leaders and civic stakeholders, as well as educational sessions with local youth, forestry groups, and the local forest department.

FINDING 1 - FAVORABLE FOUNDATION: Having completed the first year of operational management and assessment for the 001-OxC project, GMT has assessed the following elements of the project in line with at least 12 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s.

(SDG) 13 - Climate Action.

Despite the loss of over 35% of their global mass since 1980, mangroves remain essential carbon stores, holding between 4.2 to 6.4 billion tons of carbon. Their effective conservation and restoration serve as significant vectors for achieving positive, and scientifically quantified, validated, and verified outcomes of avoided emissions and active carbon capture in direct alignment with UN SDG 13 - Climate Action. Over the project lifetime, 001-OxC is expected to generate a total quantum of avoided emissions and new carbon sequestration equivalent to 2,594,027 tCO_{2e}.

(SDG) 14 - Life Below Water.

Mangroves provide a nurturing environment for a diverse array of species. Over 4,000 fish species and more than 800 other marine species rely on mangroves for habitat and sustenance.

Our field teams and the villages readily report instances of loss in aquatic richness where mangroves are cut, and a key element of the field work in capacity building with the local communities involves explaining and detailing, with adults and children both, how the expansion of mangrove forests enhances aquatic ecosystems and their fisheries, contributing positively to UN SDG 14 - Life Below Water.

(SDG) 15 - Life on Land

Mangrove conservation and restoration also yield immediate benefits for terrestrial biodiversity. The 001-OxC project enriches food chains and supports a variety of species from small herbivores to apex predators. Villages and field teams have reported sightings of multiple endangered species in the project area, including Proboscis Monkeys (*Nasalis larvatus*), Saltwater Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*), Smooth-coated Otters (*Lutrogale perspicillata*), and Dugongs (*Dugong dugon*). Mangrove forests also act as natural barriers, mitigating king tides, tsunamis, and hurricanes while enhancing both the adaptive capacity and resilience of the local ecosystems. This aligns with UN SDG 15 - Life on Land.

(SDG) 5 - Gender Equality

Mangrove conservation directly empowers women through economic opportunities and participation in decision-making, and it indirectly supports various other SDGs by enhancing the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems as detailed above. By recognizing and promoting the role of women in mangrove conservation, GMT and Yayasan Gajah Sumatera work to make significant progress toward gender equality (SDG 5) in each village, while advancing broader sustainable development objectives. GMT's commitment to gender equality is evident in its historical records. GMT ensures female representation results in over 60% of employees on the project being women. Thus significant portions of livelihood funds and forestry wages in the 001-OxC project flow to women. Each vector of our project produces positive localized outcomes in line with UN SDG 5 - Gender Equality.

(SDG) 10 - Reduced Inequalities:

Mangrove conservation helps reduce inequalities by ensuring equitable access to resources and benefits for all community members, including women and children. In particular, active conservation patrols within our project directly mitigate a pattern where higher-income men with access to boats and tools steal mangrove wood from village protection forest for cash sale in charcoal markets. This small group of men with access to capital goods degrade the ecosystem and the fishery upon which all families depend in exchange for short term cash gains, and the project's patrols and empowered village sanctions mitigate this dynamic.

(SDG) 17 - Partnerships for the Goals

The 001-OxC project generates increased collaboration between local forest departments and forest police and the local communities, with the implementing partner (YAGASU), and with international organizations. International supporters include not only GMT, but also UBS Optimus Foundation Climate Collective, UN Seed, the Climate Lab for Policy Innovation, and Hogan Lovells international pro-bono legal teams. Each of these organizations has supported capacity building and upskilling with Yayasan Gajah Sumatera and the local communities. We believe such partnerships are essential for achieving the SDGs and an invaluable aid for inclusive decision-making and better resource management.

(SDG) 1 - No Poverty

Mangrove forestry provides local communities with jobs planting and maintaining the forests while supporting the local ecosystems to increase fish stocks and provide livelihoods for fishermen and villagers who cultivate mangrove honey, farm clams, and derive artisanal medicines and dyes from the forest bounty. The 001-OxC project's education, employment and sustainable livelihood support activities all contribute to the SDG 1 priority actions on poverty eradication.

(SDG) 2 - Zero Hunger

Mangroves support regeneration of wild game for subsistence hunting and lower the salinity of coastal waters. Marked improvements in local fish stocks can significantly alleviate hunger

among nursery communities located in poverty-stricken locations, and the green shields protect rice paddy fields from salt water intrusion, preventing the most catastrophic impacts of storms. The 001-OxCs protection and restoration activities contribute to supporting the SDG 2 - Zero Hunger objectives.

(SDG) 4 - Quality Education

A key element of the 001-OxC project is to provide continued education and technical skill building opportunities for local communities. The project trains people in forestry management and sustainable use of forest resources, skills that can support increased employment and entrepreneurship opportunities.

(SDG) 8 - Decent work and Economic Growth

The 001 - OxC project directly supports and generates employment opportunities for local community members through its nurseries, monitoring and forest patrol activities. People working at the nurseries and as forest rangers are well paid, which supports local economic development.

(SDG) 11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Beyond carbon storage, social, and biodiversity benefits, mangroves also play a vital role in coastal protections, acting as natural barriers and mitigating the impacts of extreme storms, while also filtering pollution and helping maintain water quality. By protecting and restoring 2305.6 hectares of intact and partially degraded mangrove forest, as well as providing livelihood support activities, the 001 - OxC project contributes to creating resilient local communities in line with SDG 11.

(SDG) 12 - Responsible Consumption and Production

A key objective of the 001-OxC project is to incentivise the sustainable use of the mangrove resources and increase the participation of local communities in conservation efforts. Through its education, capacity building, and training activities, the 001- OxC project supports local community groups, particularly women, in taking an active role in the long term sustainable



management of the mangrove forests. Fair agreements are in place with the communities and the village chiefs to ensure they reap financial rewards of taking care of the forest.

2 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

2.1 GMT hereby acknowledges and agrees that the following persons may rely on and act on the terms of this Statement of Findings:

- (a) coordinators and assessors of international carbon standards;
- (b) each person who is an account holder holding carbon credits relating to the Project at any given future time;
- (c) each person on whose behalf carbon credits relating to the Project are to be retired by an account holder; and
- (d) grant-givers and other financial partners of Global Mangrove Trust Limited.

2.2 GMT hereby acknowledges and agrees that this Statement of Findings is delivered on the date written at the start of the Statement of Findings.

EXECUTED by the Global Mangrove Trust Limited as a Statement of Findings.



Signed

Dr. Simon Schillebeeckx

Name of Director