

July 2026 — Update

Papua, Indonesia

Field Partner: YAPPENDA

I wanted to give you a quick update and express our thanks for your support. A reminder that this project operates in two locations: the Highlands and Cyclops mountain range along the coast.

The first six-months of 2026

Work in the Highlands has been scaled back due to local insecurity. Although the tree nursery work continues (trees were planted in project areas and at five of eight schools visited), movement around the highlands has ground to a halt. Unrest has flared, making planning and logistics difficult. Yet, despite these challenges, the resilience and determination of the YAPPENDA team shine through. While we wait for the situation to settle, we've pivoted our attention the Cyclops mountains.

The Cyclops mountains are a coastal range that shield the province's capital, Jayapura, from the Pacific Ocean. The area is predominately a protected area (the Cyclops Mountains Nature Reserve) managed by the national government agency BBKSDA. It is this agency that has formed an agreement with YAPPENDA to allow for conservation work and research without the cost and paperwork of individual additional permits. This important step will accelerate the development of YAPPENDA-facilitated research programs, such as the re-discovery of Attenborough's long-beaked echidna (named after Sir David Attenborough).

An important development in April was a spatial analysis of deforestation surrounding the Cyclops Mountains Nature Reserve. This analysis is important for two reasons. First, it serves as a deforestation baseline. YAPPENDA has tree nurseries and a dedicated team. Knowing deforestation hotspots is the first step to optimize restoration intervention. Second, the analysis was developed and delivered by Yolanda Duwiri and Zaani Inaury—two local researchers!

YAPPENDA continues biodiversity monitoring in the Cyclops Mountains through camera trapping and complementary field surveys. While improving understanding of Attenborough's Long-beaked Echidna remains a key objective, the program is also generating important data on the reserve's wider biodiversity and contributing to conservation planning in partnership with BBKSDA Papua.



Looking forward

Indigenous Land Rights/ *Hutan Adat* (Customary Forests)

YAPPENDA continues developing plans to integrate biodiversity research, Indigenous ecological knowledge, and customary land recognition processes in the Papua Highlands, laying the groundwork for future conservation initiatives led by Indigenous communities.

Local Capacity Development

YAPPENDA continues to invest in Indigenous Papuan leadership through advanced training, research participation, conference presentations, and increasing responsibility for field-based conservation activities. YAPPENDA's long-term strategy is to develop Indigenous Papuan conservation leaders capable of leading research, conservation planning, and environmental governance within their own communities.

Thank you for standing with us.

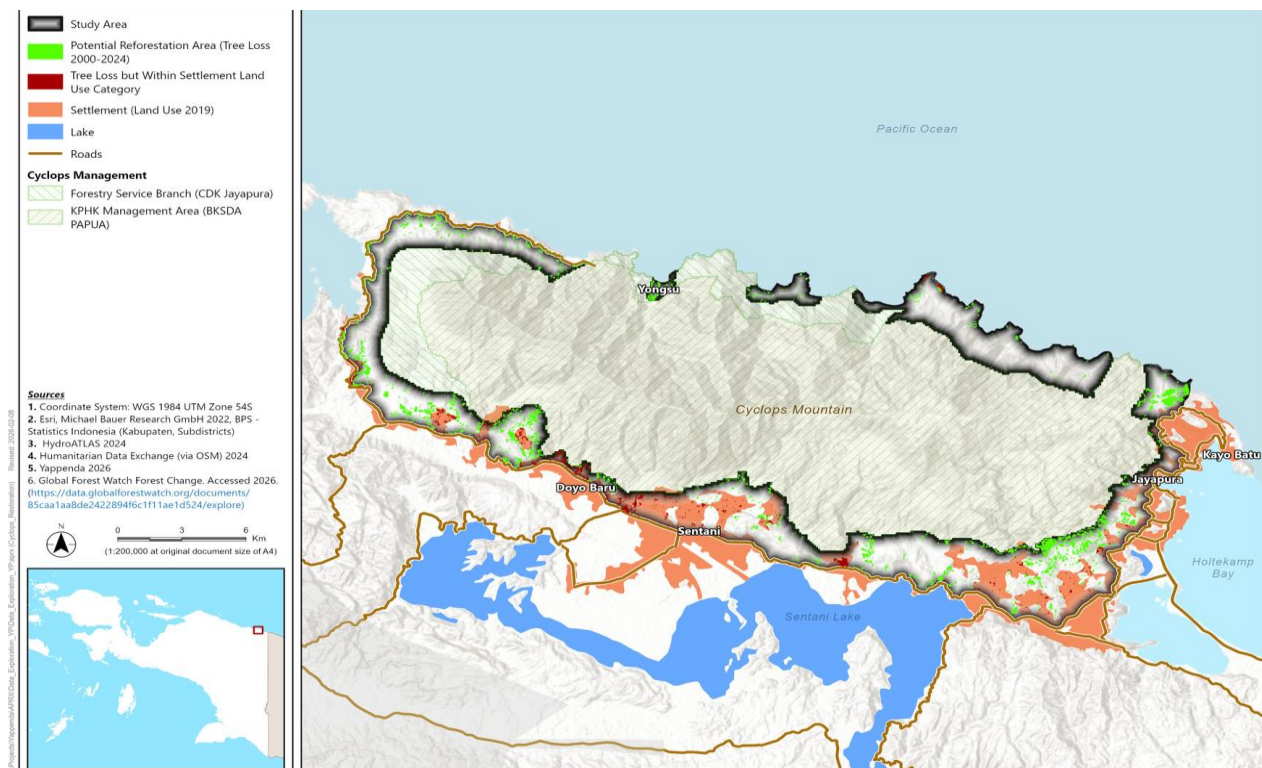
Please don't hesitate to reach out if you'd like more details or updates.

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to chat about this project.

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The deforestation study concludes:

"The core mountainous region remains relatively intact, but pressure is increasing due to population growth and urban expansion. Deforestation in the Cyclops area is concentrated along forest edges near settlements and roads, with peak forest loss occurring in 2020. Community- and indigenous-based reforestation is key to maintaining the ecological, hydrological, and biodiversity functions of this area."