



Tati is a Dayak woman, living in the remote forest of West Kalimantan, Indonesia. The rainforest is deeply linked with Tati's values and culture.

Tati (pronounced tut-tee) lives in a remote village deep in the rainforest. The village is very hard to get to with poor roads, there is only a limited supply of electricity and phone service is limited.

Tati lives with her husband and two of her three children, aged 8 and 16. Her two youngest children go to school nearby while her 19 year old son lives far away, so he can be near his school.

Over 28 million Indonesians still live below the poverty line; that is more people than in all of Australia. Before Tati joined the Caritas program, she and her husband tapped rubber and raised chickens to make money.

Over the last few years, communities that depend upon the native forests have seen them shrink, along with habitats for endangered orangutans, rhinos and tigers. Tati's community is committed to protecting its rainforest for the future.

"People depend on the forest and the river for food, fish and medicine, as well as having a spiritual connection to it," village elder Yordanus says. "Other villages which have sold their land no longer have a river with clean water or their own land. Without the forest, their village is no longer cool, they're noticing environmental changes."

Caritas Australia, with its partners Caritas Indonesia
– KARINA and the Diocesan Caritas are working with local communities like Tati's to create new hope for a better future, by helping teach local people English and

eco-tourism activities.

So far, 40 people, including Tati, have been trained in areas including: identifying tourist attractions, managing accommodation, playing traditional musical instruments and making souvenirs, such as necklaces, shawls and orangutan dolls from local resources.

Since taking part in the training, Tati has increased her family income, by cooking for tourists and making souvenirs. She is able to pay for school expenses for her children and is more confident in speaking English. She loves introducing tourists to her traditions and has strengthened her own links to her culture.

Around 600 people have directly benefitted from the program already, with hopes that it can be run in other districts.

Tati is now in charge of the cooking at the eco-tourism program and has been an inspiration to other women.

"I hope to continue living with fresh air, clear water, protected forest and to be able to pay for my children's education so that my grandchildren can still enjoy the forest."

- Tati

"Thanks very much to the Australian people who have helped us and donated to this program," Tati says.

