

Crossing Borders 2019/2020

Together with my best friend, I went to North Sulawesi, Indonesia, to teach children about the forest and the consequences of deforestation by means of a self-made game. We tested whether the knowledge and concern on the topic increased using questionnaires. The children filled in the same questionnaire before and after playing the educational game. When we compared both questionnaires, small improvements were measurable. We expect that the effect will be larger when the target group plays the game more often. Besides working on the field study assignment, we enjoyed some unforgettable excursions in the surroundings. Amongst others, we visited a waterfall, walked on a volcano, and swam with enormous turtles.



I learned a lot during my stay abroad. First of all, I gained knowledge in setting up a research and writing an academic report about it. Next to that, I learned a lot about the topic of our field study: deforestation, and the associated SDGs. What was also of interest to me, are the cultural differences I've experienced and the things I learned about myself by immersing myself into an unfamiliar context.

Another way to describe what our stay in Indonesia was like:

- I got a few sunburns, but I skipped the horrible Dutch cold winter.
- I cut seagrass by hand which felt like a really useless activity, but I had no stress during my time abroad.
- I walked for hours in the jungle wearing inappropriate outfits (flipflops, shorts, and a sunflower blouse), but I saw the most amazing views.
- I missed friends and family at home, but I met amazing new people.
- There were giant spiders in our beds, but I'm over my fear for animals with more than four legs now.
- 'Normal' toilets like we are used to were extremely rare, but I'm a pro at dealing without them now.

Everything together belongs to my most precious memories until now and is surely something I will not soon forget.