

APP, APRIL and Corruption – Buyers Beware!

Anti Forest-Mafia Coalition of NGOs

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Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) and Asia Pacific Resources International Limited (APRIL), two of the world's largest pulp & paper producers, source wood from plantations and natural forests inside concessions of 64 known wood supplier companies in Riau Province in Sumatra¹. The wood is used to produce pulp, paper and tissue products sold around the world. **Do you buy their products? Be careful, do not support corruption.**

Why? Here is the history behind APP and APRIL's corrupt practices

In February 2007, due to strong allegation of wide-spread illegal natural forest clearance by APP and APRIL's wood suppliers, the Riau Provincial Police and the National Police started a province-wide investigation into their alleged illegal logging. Some of them cleared natural forest in areas where they had obtained concession licenses from District Heads called "bupati" and/or annual cutting licenses called RKT from Riau Forestry Service Heads based on alleged corruption, in violations of Forestry Law, Environmental Law, Money Laundering Law and Corruption Law^{2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9}.

Investigations led by the Riau Police against illegal logging, forest and environmental crimes in the province have sparked huge local and national political debates. Golkar Party appointed former Minister of Law, as the lawyer to defend the Governor of Riau and four district heads who would be summoned by the police over illegal logging cases¹⁰. The Financial Times¹¹ wrote: "Two of Asia's biggest pulp and paper companies have warned they could close within two months with the loss of up to 1m jobs unless Indonesia's police and forestry department resolve a dispute over alleged illegal logging."

The Riau Police chief, Sutjiptadi - an award-winning anti-corruption advocate that is opposed to illegal logging¹² - was suddenly transferred to a new post at the National Police Academy in Central Java in June 2008¹³. In November 2008, an inter-departmental team set up by Indonesian President Yudhoyono recommended that 14 companies should be thoroughly processed by law for allegedly conducting illegal logging in off-limits forest areas, however, all cases were dropped after the Minister of Forestry intervened amidst questionable circumstance^{14, 15}.

The Indonesian Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) continued investigations of government officials under suspect of corruption for issuing concession and annual cutting licenses to APP and APRIL wood suppliers^{16, 17}. In April 2010, a coalition of civil society groups highlighted the significant scale of the issue, reporting 12 public officials, including the current Riau Governor, five bupati of Riau's Districts, an official from the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry, two police officers and three former chiefs of Riau's Forestry Service to the presidential Judicial Mafia Eradication Task Force for suspected involvement in the illegal logging case in Riau^{18, 19}. The total number of wood suppliers who were confirmed, alleged or likely to be involved in such corruption is 37 (Table 1).

As of 4 May 2012, the Government of Indonesia has:

- Sentenced four government officials to jail for corruption when issuing licenses to APP's and APRIL's wood suppliers: Tengku Azmun Jaafar (ex Pelalawan bupati)^{20, 21, 22, 23}, Asral Rachman (ex Riau Forestry Service Head)^{24, 25, 26}, Arwin AS (ex Siak bupati)^{27, 28, 29, 30} and Syuhada Tasman (ex Riau Forestry Service Head)^{31, 32, 33, 34}.
- Detained and investigated Burhanudin Husein (ex Riau Forestry Service Head and also ex Kampar bupati) for alleged corruption^{35, 36, 37, 38, 39}.

In addition, it is highly likely that there will be more suspects among those who issued logging licenses for pulpwood suppliers to APP and APRIL, including, a former district head and a current one. Syuhada Tasman also testified at his trial that Rusli Zainal (ex Indragiri Hilir bupati and current Riau Governor) issued 10 RKT logging permits^{40, 41} (Table 1).

Riau NGOs and Indonesian Corruption Watch have frequently called for law enforcement to bring companies' executives who allegedly involved in the forestry corruption cases to justice, including a General Manager of PT. Riau Andalan Pulp & Paper (APRIL's subsidiary), Rosman, who was reported to have bribed Tengku Azmun Jaafar and Asral Rachman but still is at large^{42, 43}. During a recent trial at anti-corruption court in Pekanbaru, accounts by witnesses have shown how corrupt the operations of pulp industry were as government officials were bribed by companies to obtain licenses⁴⁴.

Ministry of Environment plans to sue 14 pulpwood companies in Riau that allegedly conducted environmental destruction through civil case lawsuit. This is a part of response to recommendations by the Justice Mafia Eradication Task Force to continue to follow up the ecological destruction and illegal logging cases originally investigated by the Riau Police in 2007-2008.^{45 46}

The Table 1 shows 37 wood suppliers to APP and APRIL who obtained concession licenses or annual cutting permits (RKT) from each of them. Under Indonesian law, licenses acquired through corruption and bribery are considered valid even after the license-signer goes to jail, so none of these licenses has been revoked and companies have continued until today to clear the natural forests.

In conclusion, ten and twenty-five wood supply companies for APP and APRIL have been either confirmed, alleged or indicated to have provided bribes to government officials to be able to harvest natural forest and develop plantations in areas where they were not supposed to do so. In 2011, two and three companies were still clearing natural forest in these areas for APP and APRIL, respectively. Nine companies who received licenses from bupati are among the 14 companies whom the Ministry of Environment plans to sue (Table 1).

Their products you purchase continue to be tainted with corruption because none of these wood suppliers has been convicted, nor barred from operating in these areas continue to supply APP and APRIL with big quantity of tainted natural forest wood and plantation wood. These tainted wood contaminate their products, as they do not have credibly certified chain of custody system to separate them from clean wood. By knowingly dealing with these companies, you are supporting corruption.

The NGOs in the coalition warn global buyers and investors not to deal with these companies!

Table 1 - APP and APRIL wood suppliers and corruption – Five former and current District Heads (called "bupati" in Bahasa Indonesia) in Riau Province issued in total 37 licenses without having authority to do so and four consecutive heads of Riau Forestry Service issued Annual Cutting Licenses (RKT) to some of these companies to clear natural forest. Some of these companies were proven by court to have provided bribes to receive these licenses and they are listed as "YES" in this table. Companies which were alleged to have provided bribery to receive licenses and publicly mentioned are listed as "alleged". Companies who are likely to have bribed one of the four District head for receiving licenses are listed as "likely". There is no public information on companies related to Burhannudin, but he issued RKTs to some of these companies in 2006. Nine companies who received licenses from bupati are among the 14 companies whom the Ministry of Environment plans to sue for environmental damages and their names are written by bold font.

No	Concession Company	Associated Pulp Mill	License Number	Concession Total Area (hectare on map)	Former Bupati who issued concession license				Cleared natural forest? (During the police investigation between 2007 and 2008, natural forest clearance slowed down)									
					Tengku Azmun Jaafar (Pelalawan District) Jailed by Supreme Court	Arwin AS (Siak District) Jailed by Corruption Court in Pekanbaru	R. Thamsir Rahman (Indragiri Hulu District) Indicated to have issued concession licenses without authority	Rusli Zainal and Indra Mukhlis Adnan (Indragiri Hilir District) Indicated to have issued concession licenses without authority	Based on RKT issued by ex Riau Forestry Service Chief (year of issuance)				Based on RKT issued by the Ministry of Forestry or satellite images analysis (year of clearance)					
									Syuhada Tasman (2003) Jailed by Corruption Court in Pekanbaru. Issued RKTs in Pelalawan, so linked to Azmun case.	Rusli Zainal (2004) Indicated to have issued RKTs in Pelalawan, so linked to Azmun case.	Asral Rachman (2005) Jailed by Corruption Court in Pekanbaru. Issued RKTs in Siak, so linked to Arwin case.	Burhanuddin Husin (2006) (he was also ex Kampar District Head) Detained by KPK No information on which companies received RKTs.	RKT issued by MoF (2009)	RKT issued by MoF and/or observed by satellite images (2010)	Observed by satellite images (2011)			
Companies who received licenses from former district head of Pelalawan, Tengku Azmun Jaafar																		
1	CV. Putri Lindung Bulan	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/005_25-01-2003	2,138	YES				YES	Alleged								
2	PT. Rimba Mutiara Permai	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/008_27-01-2003	8,111	YES				YES	Alleged								
3	PT. Mitra Taninusa Seiatl	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/009_27-01-2003	6,173	YES				YES	Alleged								
4	PT. Putra Riau Perkasa	APP	522.21/IUPHHKHT/V/2002/002_08-05-2002	16,462	Likely													
5	PT. Nusa Prima Manunggal	APRIL	522.1/Dishut/XI/2002/002_12-11-2002	4,409	Likely													
6	PT. Bukit Raya Pelalawan	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/XII/2002/003_16-12-2002	2,635	Likely													
7	CV. Tuah Negeri	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/006_25-01-2003	1,653	YES				YES	Alleged								
8	CV. Mutiara Lestari	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/007_25-01-2003	4,072	YES					Alleged								
9	PT. Satria Perkasa Agung - Serapung	APP	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/013_29-01-2003	11,379	YES					Alleged			Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
10	PT. Selaras Abadi Utama	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/XII/2002/005_30-12-2002	16,939	YES				YES	Alleged			Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
11	PT. Mitra Hutani Jaya	APP	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/014_29-01-2003	8,218	YES					Alleged								
12	PT. Madukoro	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/017_31-01-2003	14,678	YES													
13	CV. Harapan Jaya	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/016_31-01-2003	4,886	YES													
14	KUD Bina Jaya Lanqqam	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/004_24-01-2003	1,810	Likely													
15	CV. Riau Bina Insani	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/VI/2002/001_01-06-2002	5,000	Likely													
16	CV. Bhakti Praja Mulla	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/011_28-01-2003	6,247	YES				YES	Alleged								
17	PT. Riau Bina Insani	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/VI/2002/001.A_01-06-2002	4,256	Likely													
18	PT. Merbau Pelalawan Lestari	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/XII/2002/004_17-12-2002	5,365	YES					Alleged								
19	CV. Alam Lestari	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/015_30-01-2003	4,729	YES													
20	PT. Triomas FDI	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/012_29-01-2003	9,711	YES													
21	CV. Riau Jambi Selahtera	Not Known	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/003_23-01-2003	1,684	Likely													
22	PT. Sinar Deli Pratama	Not Known	522.21/IUPHHKHT/I/2003/002_21-01-2003	1,066	Likely													
23	PT. Uni Serava	APRIL	522.21/IUPHHKHT/XII/2002/006_30-12-2002	34,838	YES								Yes, for APRIL	Yes, for APRIL				
	Subtotal			176,460														
Companies who received licenses from former district head of Siak, Arwin AS																		
24	PT. Balai Kayang Mandiri	APP	04/IUPHHKHT/II/2003_03-02-2003	21,484	YES								Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
25	PT. Seraya Sumber Lestari	APRIL	03/IUPHHKHT/II/2003_27-01-2003	20,320	YES					YES			Yes, for APRIL	Yes, for APRIL				
26	PT. Rimba Mandau Lestari	APP	05/IUPHHKHT/II/2003_03-02-2003	5,396	YES					YES			Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
27	PT. Bina Daya Bintara	APRIL	02/IUPHHKHT/II/2003_18-01-2003	26,113	YES					YES			Yes, for APRIL	Yes, for APRIL				
28	PT. Rimba Rokan Perkasa	APP	01/IUPHHKHT/II/2003_16-01-2003	22,564	Likely													
29	PT. National Timber & Forest Products	APRIL	06/IUPHHK/II/2003_03-02-2003	9,187	YES					YES								
	Subtotal			105,064														
Companies who received licenses from former district head of Indragiri Hulu, R. Thamsir Rahman																		
30	PT. Sumber Maswana Lestari	APRIL	Kpts.18 tahun 2003_19-01-2003	9,255				Alleged										
31	PT. Citra Sumber Selahtera	APRIL	Kpts.330/XI/2002_05-11-2002	16,489				Alleged					Yes, for APRIL	Yes, for APRIL				
32	PT. Bukit Batabuh Sei. Indah	APRIL	Kpts.331/XI/2002_06-11-2002	13,718				Alleged					Yes, for APRIL	Yes, for APRIL				
33	PT. Artelindo Wiratama	APP	Kpts.74/IV/2002_11-04-2002	15,719				Alleged					Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
34	PT. Mitra Kembang Selaras	APRIL	Kpts.352/XI/2002_21-11-2002	15,080				Alleged					Yes, for APRIL	Yes, for APRIL				
	Subtotal			70,262														
Companies who received licenses from current district head of Indragiri Hilir, Indra Mukhlis Adnan and former head, Rusli Zainal																		
35	PT. Bina Duta Laksana	APP	17.A/TP/VI/2002_03-06-2002	31,264				Likely					Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
36	PT. Riau Indo Agropalma	APP	17.b/TP/VI/2002_03-06-2002	8,885				Likely					Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
37	PT. Inhil Hutani Pratama	APP	188.342/HK/0432001/2006_20-01-2006	11,571				Likely					Yes, for APP	Yes, for APP				
	Subtotal			51,720														
	Total			403,506		176,460	105,064	70,262	51,720	41,261	70,294	82,500	?	220,685	194,572	91,911		

Data sources for the Table 1

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* Related to Arwin AS	http://pekanbaru.tribunnews.com/2011/12/22/mantan-bupati-siak-arwin-as-divonis-4-tahun-penjara http://www.riapos.co/berita.php?act=full&id=9521&kat=5 http://id.berita.yahoo.com/icw-kawal-persidangan-arwin-080822224.html
* Related to R. Thamsir Rahman	http://www.arsip.net/blogmeter/id/link.php?lh=UwJWVINQVVtS http://www.infoanda.com/linksfollow.php?lh=UwJWVINQVVtS
* Related to Syuhada Tasman	http://www.riaplus.com/hukum/2849-mantan-bupati-pelalawan-jadi-saksi-suhada-tasman.html http://www.riautoday.com/konten/6900/diakui-rkt-diteken-suhada-tasman.html http://eyesontheforest.or.id/?page=news&action=view&id=539
* Related to Rusli Zainal	http://www.kabarindonesia.com/berita.php?pil=14&jd=Gubernur+Riau+Rusli+Zaenal+Mangkir+dari+Panggilan+Pengadilan&dn=20080705011712
* Related to Asral Rachman	http://www.javanewsonline.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=3725:divonis-kpk-lima-tahun-asral-rahman-pikir-pikir&catid=11:berita-terkini&Itemid=12 http://news.okezone.com/read/2010/10/18/339/383787/rugikan-negara-rp889-m-asral-dituntut-5-tahun-penjara http://www.riauterkini.com/hukum.php?arr=32621
* Related to Indra Mukhlis Adnan	http://www.eyesontheforest.or.id/?page=news&action=view&id=213 http://www.riauterkini.com/hukum.php?arr=13375 http://www.riauterkini.com/hukum.php?arr=15068
* Related to Burhanuddin Husin	http://www.pendidikanriau.com/news/225/kpk-tahan-mantan-bupati-kampar-burhanudin-husin/ http://metrotvnews.com/read/news/2012/01/24/79639/KPK-Menahan-Bupati-Kampar/1 http://nasional.vivanews.com/news/read/282554-korupsi-hutan--kpk-tahan-mantan-kadishut-riau
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