

Kalimantan Forest Monitoring NGOs: APP suppliers' continued natural forest clearance and peat canal development shed doubt on APP's forest conservation commitment

PONTIANAK, West Kalimantan – A consortium of “Kalimantan Forest Monitoring NGOs (RPHK)” in West Kalimantan lodged their protest over the Forest Conservation Policy (FCP) announced by Asia Pulp & Paper (APP) in February. RPHK members found two independent suppliers of APP in West Kalimantan, PT Asia Tani Persada (ATP) and PT Daya Tani Kalbar (DTK), to be still logging natural forest, clearing the land and digging deep peat canals after the 1 February, clearance moratorium date initiated by APP.

Point 1 of APP's Moratorium Clearance Protocol Document stated *“Logging and land clearing was discontinued after January 31, 2013. Either in areas of natural forest stands, areas of Open Land (LT) and Young Scrub (BM) until there is verification”*. On peatland management, APP's FCP stated *“no further canal or other infrastructure activities will take place within undeveloped suppliers' concessions on non-forested peatland until independent HCVF assessments including input from peat experts has been completed”*. Meanwhile, Point 2 of the document stated that *“All heavy equipment (A2B) which are used for logging activities, land clearing, road and canal development (corresponding to the list that has been submitted) will be stored in pre-determined areas”*.

In March 2013, RPHK conducted monitoring on three of APP's supplier companies in West Kalimantan and found two of them to be still cutting down the natural forest and digging new canals in peatland. These findings are well recorded on videos and photos on how those heavy machineries are still operating in these concession areas.

“We are really concerned to see how heavy equipments are still actively clearing natural forest, digging peat canals in two suppliers' concessions,” said Baruni Hendri, spokesperson of RPHK consortium.

“Our findings showed that APP is not serious to implement their conservation policy, thus RPHK – as a part of the civil society – doubts APP's sincerity in the implementation of their commitment”, Hendri added.

“We call on global buyers of pulp and paper to remain skeptical and await independent verification by independent NGOs of the field implementation of APP's FCP before making any new purchasing decision. Continued forest clearance and peat canal development by APP suppliers without any HCV, HCS and peat study sends a bad signal about the implementation of APP's commitment to conservation that has been broadcasted around the world, ” Anton P. Wijaya, Director Executive of WALHI (Friends of Earth Indonesia) chapter West Kalimantan.

RPHK commits to keep monitoring APP's performance closely and to continue to provide the latest updates to the public



Photo 1 (left) : A heavy equipment is clearing land in concession of APP's supplier PT Asia Tani Persada. Location: S0°15'47.16" E109°58'32.74", 5 March 2013. Photo 2 (right) A new peat canal is drained in concession of PT Asia Tani Persada. Location: S0°34'47.58" E109°59'50.01", 16 March 2013.



Photo 3 Natural forest clearing by APP's supplier in West Kalimantan, PT Daya Tani Kalbar. Location: S0°45'37.80" E109°48'52.21", 18 March 2013.

Notes to Editors:

For photos and videos of this issue can be accessed through:

www.linkarborneo.com and <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o54C3jf6PLY>

Consortium of Kalimantan Forest Monitoring Volunteers (RPHK) are:

- AKAR, an illegal wildlife crime monitoring network in Borneo, actively raise public awareness about the importance of wildlife protection and their habitat.
- JPIK Kalimantan Barat, a civil society network that focus on monitoring effort of the sustainable forest management for Forest Plantation Wood Production Permit.
Contact Person: Rangga Irawan, +6281352500083
- Link-AR Borneo (Lingkaran Advokasi dan Riset), a civil society organization focus on advocacy based on research or investigation related to land plunder and biodiversity degradation, as well as community empowerment. More info: www.linkarborneo.com.
Contact person: Ahmad Asmungin, +6285245547486, linkarborneoa@gmail.com
- SAMPAN (Sahabat Masyarakat Pantai), a civil society organization focus on advocacy for costal and watershed communities. More info: www.sampankalimantan.org.
Contact person: Baruni Hendri, +6285252130044, perkumpulansampan@gmail.com

- LEMBAH, an active institute in Bengkayang District for social and economic empowerment based on environment.
Contact person: Sumantri, Director, +6281345043059
- TITIAN, an active biodiversity conservation institute for local community sustainable benefits in West Kalimantan.
Contact person: Sulhani, Director, +62561-6589198
- WWF-Indonesia, one of the independence conservation organizations, supported by 5 million people and networking in more than 100 countries. The mission of WWF is to stop environmental degradation in Earth and build a future where humans and nature could live in harmony by conserving world's biodiversity and ensuring the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, as well as promoting pollution reduction and wasteful consumption. WWF celebrates its 50 years of conservation work in Indonesia. For more info, please visit www.wwf.or.id.
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