

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

5 November 2015

Number: S.661/Menlhk-Setjen/Rokum/2015

Attachment:

Re.: Instructions in Relation to Peatlands

To:

1. Heads of Companies Holding IUPHHK-HTI/HA/RE
2. Heads of Companies Holding Plantation Business Licenses

In: Indonesia

Based on the directions of the Hon. President of the Republic of Indonesia and as a result of the Limited Meeting of the Cabinet dated 4 November 2015, we respectfully convey the following matters:

1. The Central Government and Regional Governments shall no longer issue licenses for areas in peatlands for any reason except in the public interest and under the control of the Government.
2. There is a prohibition to clear land for new plantations including in areas already provided with concession licenses.
3. There is a prohibition to conduct plantation activities on land and forest areas that have experienced fires, as such areas are undergoing law enforcement processes as well as being considered for restoration plans.
4. There shall be an organization of canals existing on peatlands in a holistic fashion. Canals on Deep Peat (*Gambut Dalam*) or Peat Domes (*Kubah Gambut*) in private concession areas shall be closed to protect Peat Domes from ecosystemic damages. Canals in peat cultivation areas or plantation areas shall be organized using channel/canal blocks (*sekat kanal*) to preserve peat water systems. PP No. 71 of 2014 shall be the prevailing regulation in regards water system regulation.
5. New land clearing of peatlands for plantation purposes by communities is not authorized. Clearing land by burning is not authorized. In relation to such activities with regards to subsistence of communities, the Central or Regional Government shall provide supervision and shall have control.
6. Going forward, license holders shall reorganize their RKU (business work plan) and RKT (annual work plan) as well as report such documents to the Central and/or Regional Government.
7. The Government is preparing zoning of conservation (*lindung*) and peatland cultivation areas including technical regulations, which will be ready shortly. As such, initial work on the

fields must be started by companies and Regional Governments in relation to community fields.

8. Steps taken on the field shall be reported to the Minister of Environment and Forestry.
9. [Previous] Circular Letters of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry on similar subjects shall be harmonized with this Circular Letter.
10. Technical matters in relation with this subject shall be consulted with the Ministry of Environment and Forestry cq. the Director General of Sustainable Forests (*Hutan Produksi Lestari*) and the Director General of Controlling Environmental Pollution and Damage.

We have thus conveyed the above matters to be implemented as instructed.

On behalf of the Minister of Environment and Forestry;

Secretary General

Ir. Bambang Hendroyono, MM

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CC.:

1. President of the Republic of Indonesia
2. Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia
3. Coordinating Minister of Economic Affairs
4. Coordinating Minister of Political, Legal, and Security Affairs
5. Minister of Home Affairs
6. Minister of Public Works and People's Housing
7. Minister of Agriculture
8. Minister of Agrarian and Spatial Affairs
9. Cabinet Secretary