

INDONESIAN EXPERIENCE: THE EFFORTS IN PROTECTING FOREST AND FOREST PRODUCT¹

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I. INTRODUCTION

In addition to their ecological value, Forest resources play an important role in the Indonesian economy and can significantly increase incomes and lessen poverty. More than 200 million Indonesian people depend on the forest which covers about 120,35 million ha or 63 % of the land area. Since many people with different interests practice their activities in their own manners ignoring wise use of resources, some negative impacts could arise. Forest encroachment, illegal logging and illegal timber trade are only some of them. Due such situations, Sustainable Forest Management should be implemented soon. The Government of Indonesia applies Sustainable Forest Management through five priority policies: combating illegal logging, preventing forest fires, restructuring the forestry sector, promoting rehabilitation and conservation, and strengthening forestry decentralization. The end expectation of these policies is a sustainable supply of timber and the optimum operation of forest industry.

In term of combating illegal logging, the Government of Indonesia developed partnerships and networks on local, national, regional, and international levels with many stakeholders. Pre-emptive, preventive, and repressive efforts have been executed against any parties destructing the forests. Some of these efforts are law enforcement; empowering communities; and forestry sector restructuring. Other Departments and institutions are encouraged to take part on conserving the forests.

II. PROBLEMS

Main problems on the national level to combating illegal logging include:

1. The assumption that wood is a primary forest product. The commitment of local government, private sector and communities to sustainability of forest is still questioned.
2. Forestry crime's link to Organized Crime, involving official government officials, the private sector, and communities surrounding the forests.
3. There are still many illegal wood industries; or legal wood industries using illegal sources.
4. Inconsistent law enforcement practices in the field, presumably the mafia plays an important role in inhibiting justice.
5. Some local governments exploit forest resources ignoring the principal of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM).
6. Great demand of timber in the consuming countries and the accessibility of black markets locally, regionally and globally.

¹ Presented at the Meeting on Increasing International Enforcement Cooperation to Control Trans-boundary in Illegally Produced Log and Timber, Bangkok, 18 – 19 October 2004.

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III. STRATEGIC MEASURES

A. LOCAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS

1. *Strengthening the Coordination, Cooperation and Networking among stakeholders*

By improving the coordination among parties, there will be common visions and actions on the principal of Sustainable Forest Management. In turn, the roles of local government (Province and Districts) in combating illegal logging could be strengthened. The policy of local autonomy would strengthen forest management by acknowledging traditional wisdom.

Cooperation and networking has been established among the Government and International Organizations and countries, namely the UK, EU, China, Japan, Norway, WWF, TNC, Telapak, and the World Bank. The Joint Ministerial Decree between Minister of Forestry and Minister of Trade concerning "Larangan Ekspor Bantalan Rel Kereta Api dari Kayu dan kayu " has also been launched in September 2004.

2. *Revitalization of Government Regulation*

In complement to the Act No.41/1999, the Act No. 5/1990, Government Regulation No.34/2002, and Government Regulation No.35/2002, The Government of Indonesia has drafted a PERPU to annihilate forest crime. *Ad Hoc* justice will be appointed to handle field case.

Some articles in Government Regulation No.34/2002 provide further arrangement on authorization in the Central Government, Provinces and Districts. Some other articles arrange the mechanism of monitoring and evaluation activities related to sustainable forest management. Basically, Government Regulation No.34/2002 clearly eliminates the chance of doing illegal logging practices and associated trade.

3. *Awareness Campaign and Dissemination*

Campaign on combating illegal logging practices has been conducted through printed and electronic media. School modules related to forest conservation for teachers and students have been developed in many provinces and districts.

4. *Reviewing Policy on Forest Concession*

The Forestry Department is reviewing the management of forest concessions (HPH/HTI). There are 12 Independent Evaluation Bodies developed by the Forestry Department to conduct such reviews. So far, more than 200 HPHs have been reviewed and some HPH licenses have been cancelled. The target number reviews will be 350 units HPH (in 2003). Cancellation of HTI concession also happened during the year of 2002 due to disobeying the existing regulations.

To reduce illegal logging practices and to maintain forest resources, the Department of Forestry has declared at least three decrees, namely:

- ✓ The Moratorium of log exports (export log ban) in 2002.
- ✓ The Moratorium of Exploitation and trade of Ramin (through the ministerial decree No.127/Kpts-V/2001). Indonesia has signed an agreement with Malaysia and Singapore on establishment of Tri-National Task Force in combating Ramin Trade.
- ✓ The Moratorium of forest conversion.

5. Policy on Conservation Areas

So far, there are 490 Conservation Areas (26 million ha), which consists of 45 units of National Parks (covering the areas for about 15 million ha), 69 units of Wildlife Sanctuaries (5 million ha), 223 units of Strict Nature Reserves (4,5 million ha), 14 units of Hunting Park (225 ha), 17 units of Grand Forest Park (334 ha), and 122 units of Recreation Park (1,2 million ha). Forestry Programmes were developed based on Conservation Areas Management. By time to time, the management of Conservation Areas were improved to optimise their function to the communities and environment.

B. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Initiatives and applications of multilateral and bilateral commitments in combating illegal logging have been promoted by the signing of memoranda of understandings or by participating in fora. Among others are:

- ✓ MoU between Indonesia and the United Kingdom concerning combating illegal logging and international trade of illegally logged timber and wood products.
- ✓ MoU between Indonesia and China to combat illegal trade of forest products.
- ✓ MoU between Indonesia and Japan to combat illegal logs and the trade of illegally logged timber and wood products.
- ✓ MoU between Indonesia and EU on combating illegal logs and its associated trade (underway within the FLEGT programs).
- ✓ MOU between Indonesia and East Asia Pacific Countries through FLEG. Regional task force on forest law enforcement and governance including advisory group that consist of NGOs, private sector, academia, research, association group on timber and donor agencies was initiated.
- ✓ A founding partner of Asia Forest Partnership, which is also focusing on combating illegal logging and the trade of illegally cut timber and wood products.

Outline of Issues for the FLEG Regional Task Force

The Agenda 21 objective for the Worlds Forests specifies that for the forests to exist in the future, the world must adopt sustainable forest management systems. Our Objective therefore is to practice *Sustainable Forest Management*.

To achieve this there are seven action points associated with the objective. FLEG is one initiative to reduce *Illegal Logging and the Associated Illegal Trades*.

The FLEG initiative divides the illegal logging problem into three different measures that target the overall producer countries such as Indonesia differently from consuming countries such as Japan and the US. These problems, however, are not confined within borders; they are regional problems.

The measures to reduce illegal forest activities in *producing countries* under the FLEG initiative are to Improve Governance; Rationalise Forest and Natural Resource Policy; Improve Forest Management; and Strengthen Forest Law Enforcement Operations.

The measures to combat illegal logging in *consuming countries* target the trade aspects of the countries by Improving Identification of Legal Timber; producing Incentives for Legal Timber/Products and Closing Markets to Illegal Timber.

The *regional measures* developed by FLEG are Action Points that will be implemented through cooperative action between the countries of the region. These measures include Information/Expertise Sharing; Trade and Customs; Bilateral Actions and Research.

C. LAW ENFORCEMENT

Law enforcement on forestry crime was conducted through regular patrols, including joint patrols with the POLICE, joint patrols with the ARMY and joint patrols with the NAVY.

Some cases in 2002 include:

- a). 5 boats loading woods without legal documents were arrested during a joint patrol with the NAVY;
- b). Joint patrols with the POLICE resulted in 971 cases with 1.075 people and 36,463 m³ of logs;
- c). Regular patrols have caught 7 Orangutans, 14 Cendrawasih (paradise birds), 10 Jalak Bali (Bali Mynah), and 2.655 Kg of sisik Trenggiling which is equal to US\$ 173,000.
- d). Joint patrols with the ARMY have successfully moved hundreds people away from illegal occupations in Cikepuh Strict Nature Reserve.

Some efforts conducted in 2003 included:

- a) During a month patrols along the north sea, the team caught 13 boats carrying logs without documents.
- b) Joint patrols with the POLICE were conducted in Tanjung Puting National Park (Central Kalimantan), the border area of West Kalimantan and also in Kalimantan Timur. These patrols found many cases related to forest crime, including illegal logging practices, boat loading illegal log and forest encroachment.

IV. ACTION PLAN FOR 2004/2005

The 2004/2005 action plan to combat illegal logging includes goals to maximize existing cooperation and to grant projects related to illegal logging. Other goals are:

1. Strengthening the roles of local government in conserving the forest resources.
2. Improving law enforcement practices through coordination and networking.
3. Promoting community empowerment, especially around the forest.
4. Operationalizing the regional task force on forest law enforcement and governance and producing the regional action plan.
5. Encouraging participation and support from both timber producing and consuming countries.

V. CONCLUSION

1. Concrete cooperation with a detailed action plan is needed to combat illegal logging and associated trade.
2. Information sharing between timber producing as well as consuming countries is important to figure out tropical timber flows.