

# APP Stakeholder Advisory Forum

May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016

## Meeting Minutes

### **APP Presentation of Progress over Six Months (October 2015 – May 2016)**

Aida Greenbury (AG), Managing Director, Sustainability provided a brief introduction outlining the evolution of stakeholder engagement over the course of the Forest Conservation Policy (FCP) implementation. APP has aimed to include stakeholders – international NGOs, Indonesian NGOs, research centres, local communities directly impacted by APP activities, suppliers and other business partners - at each step of the processes undertaken to properly implement the FCP. Aida Greenbury highlighted how APP thanks these stakeholders for all of the input and support provided.

### **Presentation of Stakeholder Perception Survey**

Prior to the SAF, a stakeholder perception survey was conducted regarding the general perception of the FCP; FCP implementation progress; FCP monitoring; and stakeholder engagement. Results from the 18 responses received were presented, indicating that general perceptions of the FCP overall were 46% fair, with more positive responses from non-NGOs. The main progresses perceived thus far were on fire prevention and peatland management, with the main weaknesses around transparency on supply chain and reporting on progress made to date. Almost all respondents highlight the need for more progress in achieving zero deforestation beyond concession managed by APP and its suppliers, while acknowledging the fact that achieving this objective requires a broader mobilisation far beyond APP lone engagement. On this point, respondents supported APP's commitment to invest in developing the landscape approach on 10 pilots through the Belantara Foundation.

On the FCP Monitoring and Reporting, suggested improvements included greater transparency and more information on APP planning overall on how it will meet its commitments over the long-term. Stakeholders raised some questions about the survey and the difference of perception between local and international NGO perceptions, the latter being more positive in their perception of progress made. This difference seems to be linked with the higher sensitivity from local NGOs on social conflict resolution, which they perceive as progressing too slowly and on support to forest community where they expect more progress. In general, participants welcome the survey as an interesting tool to further improve stakeholder engagement.

### **FCP progress report**

The APP team then presented key achievements over the last six months (see presentations and videos), including:

- **Integrated Sustainable Forest Management Plans** - APP did not have a blueprint on how to go about this process, but has now progressed to the stage where all regions have finished the dissemination of the new land use planning and zoning which was developed through a multi-stakeholder participatory process;
- **Completion of the Digital Terrain Model based on the LiDAR mapping** data to establish a detailed description of peat topography for the eastern coast of Sumatra and West Kalimantan. Such data is essential to define the most appropriate peat management strategy required for peat rehabilitation or restoration. This set of data is unique in Indonesia and is a

major asset for APP in its efforts to develop its Peatland best practice management plan and to support the Indonesian Government on peat conservation;

- **Retirement of 7000 hectares of plantation** for peat restoration in most critical areas to contribute to wetland habitats protection.
- **Construction of over 5,000 perimeter canal blocks**, where water levels in high risk areas are raised to prevent fires from starting in the first place and establish water reservoirs to help fighting fires.
- **Integrated Fire Management strategy** has been effective so far in our operations in Riau that APP managed to mitigate risks which plagued its operations in previous years;
- APP has completed the planning of the **Integrated Forest and Farming System** in 30 villages with another 50 villages to be completed this year. This programme aims to improve community welfare and reduce dependency on forests for income and livelihoods. The overall programme aims at supporting 500 villages in the course of 5 years with an overall budget of US\$10 Millions.
- **Launch of the Belantara Foundation** in order to provide independent support on achieving APP's 1 million hectare conservation commitment. Belantara Foundation has also hired new people for its management roles, which will increase the Foundation's competency in its effort to achieve its goals.
- Major progress were also made on further developing the **landscape approach** with MoUs signed with key partners in various landscape (Kubu, Berbak Sembilang, Dangku) and other technical partnerships developed in most of the ten landscapes targeted. Most recently, on 6 May, APP signed a partnership agreement with the Global Environment Center on community based multi-stakeholder landscape management, including peat protection and restoration, in the Kerumutan landscape in Riau. This partnership will help to support the MoEF peat conservation program funded by the Global Environment Facility over the next four years.

### **Feedback from Stakeholders**

Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide comments and ask questions based on the presentations. Some concerns were raised on planting acacia on peatland requiring significant drainage efforts. Observers stress the need to move more quickly with the use of alternative varieties that may grow better in rewetted peat areas. APP agreed and highlighted research under development to explore new options that will help combining peat conservation and pulpwood production. In her answer AG stressed the importance of building strategies on reliable data to define long term solution that help achieving sustainable forest management while maintaining the supply chain and preserving labour opportunities.

On the question of the level of transparency for information shared among stakeholders, APP highlighted that they are interested in working with stakeholders on ensuring transparency while being cautious to safeguard themselves against the potential harmful misuse of information. Stakeholder engagement requires common trust. APP is willing to explore new options to further improve stakeholder engagement but also call on stakeholders to understand the sensitivity of some information and the necessity of joining effort to finding solutions together.

## Working Groups

Participants were then separated into two working groups, discussed key challenges and eventually agreed on the following recommendations:

### Group One: Growing Together – Forests & Communities

- Mainstreaming Human Rights into Forest Protection Strategy
  - Moving forward, APP can refer to both global and national guiding principles of human rights to implement into standard FCP processes, at both the local and administrative level. Stakeholders offer to develop more collaboration on conflict resolution.
- Addressing the Complexities of Land Governance in Indonesia
  - Cultivating local champions across concession areas to support local initiatives covering various aspects of reforestation and conservation can increase awareness on land governance issues.
  - The creation of strong dispute mechanisms and monitoring strategies which are recognized by the government will help enforce existing land tenure and governance agreements.
- Strategy to Encourage Local Stakeholder Involvement
  - The private sector should facilitate forums bringing together local government officials, CSO, the private sector, and local communities to provide recommendations to the central government and effect change on the ground
  - Training communities in advanced agroforestry methods, and providing means of short, medium, and long-term income through planting mixed crops will help to provide sustainable solutions for the entire community.
  - The use of local and interactive media can help developing stakeholders and local communities involvement in developing new practices.

### Group Two: Peatland Management

- APP should benefit from developing a platform to develop cases studies and assess results achieved in peat management, fire prevention and community development. Interconnections between these three components of long term sustainable forest management need to be highlighted. This platform could then be used to share learnings and provide input to regulators on issues that may hamper efforts to promote sustainable management of the forest (land tenure management, corruption, etc.)
- This platform should then propose NGOs, research institutions, academic institutions to review existing regulation and their effectiveness and identify gaps to peatland management, forest protection and landscape approach.
- APP should connect more with local government in sharing information on peatland in order to further progress policy recommendations at national level.
- Address peat management issue through existing platforms like Fire Free Alliance and/or standards such as SVLK, HCS, PHPL, IFCC, PEFC, FSC, HCS in order for these standard to better integrate the challenges of sustainable management of peat.
- Working with the community to change conflict into positive collaboration through the Integrated Forestry and Farming System, transferring community to mineral soil, instead of on peat soil.



**Concluding Remarks:**

APP thanked all stakeholders for their constructive feedback and continued engagement, and encouraged stakeholders to be in touch, with continued participation as APP makes progress in FCP activities. Feedback provided at the forum will be taken into consideration, and where appropriate, incorporated into future processes.

**Additional Note:**

The FCP Monitoring Dashboard ([www.fcpmonitoring.com](http://www.fcpmonitoring.com)) is now accessible to public without requiring visitors to log in. APP hopes this ease of access would encourage its stakeholders to participate further in the FCP implementation from now onwards.