

KALIMANTAN FORESTS AND CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

FACTSHEET: December 2009

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Overview

If the global community is to solve the challenge of climate change, we are going to need to make the most of every opportunity available to us. Among these opportunities, forests rank as an important and unique way to tackle the challenge. At the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations in Bali in December 2007, countries agreed to work toward including *reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries*, or REDD, in a post-2012 global climate change agreement. Countries were also encouraged to undertake demonstration activities to develop and trial practical approaches to REDD.

Indonesia and Australia share a strong commitment on REDD and are working collaboratively to support an effective outcome under the UNFCCC. A key focus of the Indonesia - Australia Forest Carbon Partnership is taking early action to reduce emissions from forests through practical on the ground activities.

Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership

Australia has committed $30 million to support the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership, the first, large-scale REDD demonstration activity of its kind in Indonesia. Through our partnership, Indonesia and Australia are aiming to support and inform international negotiations on REDD under the UNFCCC by demonstrating how REDD can work in practice. This demonstration activity is being implemented in an area of forested and degraded tropical peatlands in Central Kalimantan on the island of Borneo.

The Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and demonstrate an equitable and effective approach to REDD by developing:

- Measures to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation;
- Approaches to forest carbon measurement, linked with Indonesia's national systems;
- Incentive based payments for forest-dependent communities in Central Kalimantan; and
- Institutional and governance arrangements for REDD activities.

Site Information:

Indonesia contains around half of the world's tropical peatlands, with large tracts in Kalimantan. Activities under the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership are initially focusing on a peat dome covering 120,000 hectares of forested and degraded peatland in Central Kalimantan. Finding ways to manage peatlands sustainably is a key challenge for climate change mitigation in Indonesia, and this practical demonstration activity is making an important contribution to this work.

Illustration: Courtesy of Renee Stephens

In the northern half of the site, intact peat swamp forest provides important environmental services, including maintaining and storing carbon in the forest and the underlying peat soil. The southern half of the project area is largely degraded peat forest, following large scale clearance of forests and drainage of peatlands through the construction of a network of canals in the 1990s to support a rice cultivation project, which was ultimately unsuccessful.



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Interventions under the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership

Measures to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation:

In the northern part of the site, interventions will focus on avoiding deforestation and conserving intact forest areas. Activities will include measures to improve forest management practices, to prevent and manage fire and to address illegal logging. Key to achieving this will be the promotion of alternative livelihood options for forest-dependant Indigenous and local communities in Central Kalimantan.

In the southern part of the site, interventions will focus on reversing processes of environmental degradation. This will be achieved by blocking drainage canals to raise the water table and re-wet the peat, and reforestation to re-establish tree cover in highly degraded areas. Rehabilitating the hydrology of the peat system will also assist in reducing the frequency of peatland fires, a major cause of Indonesia's emissions.

Forest carbon measurement:

Quantifying on-site reductions in greenhouse gas emissions is an important part of the work that will be undertaken as part of this demonstration activity. A site-specific reference emissions level will be developed, and emissions reductions will be measured and monitored through a combination of remote sensing, modelling and ground measurement. Methodologies for estimating reductions in greenhouse gas emissions on the site will be linked with Indonesia's National Carbon Accounting System as it is developed.

Peat swamp forests contain much higher quantities of carbon than forests on mineral soils. To enable robust measurement of emissions reductions from the Central Kalimantan site, an advisory panel of peat scientists has been established to develop a science-based method of estimating and monitoring greenhouse gas emissions from tropical peatlands.

Incentive based payments for local communities:

Of the approximately 10,000 people who live in the project area, the majority earn a living from forest crops, rubber and annual crops, such as rice and cassava. Local livelihoods are directly dependent on the environment, so the processes of deforestation and degradation have severe consequences for the local economy. Since local people are directly affected by the consequences of environmental degradation, they must also be at the heart of the solution.

Photo: Courtesy of Martin Hardiono

An innovative payment mechanism is being designed to provide performance-based incentives for REDD to forest-dependent communities in Central Kalimantan, encouraging sustainable land use practices and the conservation of forests. The scheme will initially be funded by the Australian Government through the Indonesia - Australia Forest Carbon Partnership. It aims to trial approaches to payments that could be used to support participation in a future REDD mechanism under the UNFCCC. Incentives will initially be tied to performance indicators, such as a reduced incidence of fire, and later to measured reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Institutional and governance arrangements for REDD activities:

As part of this demonstration activity, approaches to the management of practical REDD activities are being developed. A key objective is to integrate REDD into planning and governance at the province, district and community levels by building technical capacity and supporting the development of management institutions and legal frameworks. Relevant national, district and provincial authorities are closely involved in this process to ensure full compliance and the successful integration of activities. Consultation with key stakeholders, including forest-dependent communities, is central to this process.

For more information refer to: www.climatechange.gov.au, or email ifci@climatechange.gov.au.