PT Gema Hutani Lestari achieves FSC certification

The Borneo Initiative is proud to announce that another forest concession in Indonesia, PT Gema Hutani Lestari (148,450 ha) in Maluku Province, has achieved the prestigious FSC certificate for responsible forest management on 19th November 2013. This achievement brings the total acreage of FSC-certified forest in Indonesia to 2.4 million hectares, of which 1.25 million ha received the financial support of The Borneo Initiative.

PT Gema Hutani Lestari achieved its FSC-certification under the coaching of TFF (the Tropical Forest Foundation). PT Gema Hutani Lestari is a producer of Meranti timber (95%). Its logs supply mostly PT Katingan Timber Celebes. The main product of PT Katingan is plywood. Feel free to contact us or click here to find more information about PT Gema Hutani Lestari and its products.

APHI – TBI Signing Event Group 7

In a seminar hosted by APHI and TBI on 20th November 2013, a seventh group of forest concessions signed up for support from The Borneo Initiative:

- PT Bintuni Utama Murni Wood Industry (West Papua) – 82,120 ha
- PT Asco Prima Nusantara (West Papua) – 171,270 ha
- PT Wijaya Sentosa (West Papua) – 130,755 ha
- PT Karya Lestari (East Kalimantan) – 49,123 ha
- PT Utama Damai Indah Timber (East Kalimantan) – 49,250 ha
- PT Multi Wahana Wijaya (West Papua) – 107,740 ha

The seminar included several presentations on the trade environment for FSC-certified wood products, plus some technical contributions, i.e. outline for social impact study, and using DNA technology in chain of custody. The seminar was attended by two guests of honour, i.e. Her Excellency Mrs. Sharon Dijksma, Minister for Agriculture of Royal Kingdom of The Netherlands and Mr. Colin Crooks, the EU Delegation.

In her speech, Minister Dijksma emphasised the ambition of both private companies and governments to increase the share of legally and sustainably sourced timber in Europe, and with that to promote sustainable forest
management at source. Minister Dijksma congratulated Indonesia for its SVLK policy and VPA signing European Union last September as an example of 'practice what you preach'. The Netherlands believes legality and sustainability are complementary, and without legality there is no sustainability.

Mr. Colin Crooks presented the status of the VPA-FLEGT agreement i.e. after signing the VPA in September; now a process of ratification is taking place. It is meant as a system that can align itself easily to other sets of legislation e.g. the US Lacey Act. It has been developed in broad consultation with government agencies, private sector and civil society. NGOs can play a supporting role by contributing in building general awareness and with monitoring and verification.

Market links

Last November, TBI facilitated Jongeneel B.V, a woodworking industry from the Netherlands to meet a number of Indonesian industries. Later, in December 2013, TBI also facilitated a UK based plywood industry, International Plywood (IP) to meet three other suppliers from Indonesia. Both these buying companies look forward to further engagement with these suppliers in the coming months, not only on FSC products, but also SVLK products. As stated by IP, the meeting was also showing that Indonesia is well and truly back on the map as a major supplier to Europe of plywood and other wood based products. From their side, the suppliers also see this meeting as beneficial to expand their market to Europe and US.

Enrolment for group 8 certification

The enrolment of new applicants for group 8 is opened until June 2014. We can support a total of 750,000 ha in group 8. Please don’t hesitate to contact us at sekretariat@theborneoinitiative.org for more information.

The Borneo Initiative – FSC Netherlands partnership

The Borneo Initiative set up a formal partnership with FSC Netherlands in October 2013. FSC Netherlands will help The Borneo Initiative in raising market awareness, in order to increase FSC-certified wood trading between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2014

The Borneo Initiative

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In warm appreciation of our collaboration during the past year, we extend our very best wishes for a happy holiday season

The Borneo Initiative Team