May the forest be with us

SEPTEMBER 2012
In this year’s 2nd newsletter, The Borneo Initiative presents its results between April and August, achieved in close coordination with APHI, the Indonesian Association of Forest concessionaires. Being a platform organization, The Borneo Initiative extends its appreciation to all other donors, partner organisations, and forest concessions that have dedicated their time and resources to the activities presented in this newsletter, working towards a common goal: the sustainable management of Indonesia’s production forests. With FSC certification as proof that the productive, ecological and social values of these forests remain intact for present and future generations.

A new frontier: Papua
Papua Province is rich in forests, but lacks in industrial processing capacity, limiting local revenues or employment opportunities. With funds from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, The Borneo Initiative facilitated a visit of leading European traders to Papua from March 11-17, 2012. The traders identified the measures needed to capture more market benefits for industries, forest concessions and communities alike. The Borneo Initiative will build on these recommendations for scaling up FSC certification in Papua.

More FSC certificates
In year 2011, three forest concessions with 430,000 ha achieved FSC certification with help from The Borneo Initiative. Thus far in 2012, another three forest concessions with 250,000 ha earned their FSC certifications, bringing the total to 6 companies with around 680,000 ha. Our congratulations to:
• PT. Belayan River Timber – 97,500 ha, East-Kalimantan
• PT. Roda Mas Timber – 69,330 ha, East-Kalimantan
• PT. Kemakmuran Berkah Timber – 82,810 ha, East-Kalimantan

A growing interest in FSC certification
In June, another 5 forest enterprises signed a support agreement with The Borneo Initiative. This brings the scope of our forest certification programme to a total of 31 forest companies with 3.4 million. We are glad to extend our support to the following companies:
1. PT. Bina Balantak Utama – 298,710 ha, Papua Province
2. PT. Telaga Bakti Persada – 63,405 ha, Moluccas
3. PT. Mitra Pembangunan Global – 83,950 ha, West-Papua
4. PT. Manokwari Mandiri Lestari – 83,240 ha, West-Papua
5. PT. Perum Perhutani KPH Banten – 80,162 ha, West-Java

New applications are welcome before November 15 via buhari@theborneoinitiative.org.
Sector reform: legal and sustainable
The Indonesian forestry sector is in a quick process of reform, to demonstrate the legal and sustainable origin of its wood products. GoI has developed new standards for legality and sustainability (SVLK and PHPL). The Borneo Initiative supports these standards since FSC certification requires compliance with all national laws and regulations. Out of the 31 forest companies we support, already 12 comply with PHPL and SVLK. All other forest companies will include measures for achieving SVLK and PHPL too in their FSC certification action plans.

Boosting the trade in FSC wood products
Given this growing number in forest companies aiming for FLEGT and FSC certification, it is timely to raise the awareness in responsible markets about the growing supply in FSC wood products from Indonesia. In June, we invited more than 20 foreign companies to Jakarta to meet with Indonesian forest concessions and industries that can offer FSC products. Around 150 encounters were facilitated over the course of two days. Responses were overwhelmingly positive, and the report will be available soon.

New Donor
We thank Adessium Foundation for extending its donor contract with The Borneo Initiative for the period June 2012 till May 2015.

About us
The Borneo Initiative is a foundation established in the Netherlands in 2008. Our mission is to prevent the loss of tropical forests due to deforestation or over-exploitation. We promote FSC forest certification as a recognition of sustainable management of production forests. We support forest enterprises forest concessions with funding technical advice and market links. We act as a platform we work in partnership with government agencies other donor initiatives and NGO field programmes. Our focus is on Kalimantan but we also support sustainable forest management elsewhere in Indonesia.