



WWF

FACTSHEET

2014

WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

REDD+ Inspiring Practices

BUILDING REDD+ READINESS THROUGH PARTICIPATORY LAND USE MAPPING AND PLANNING IN INDONESIA

SNAPSHOT

What

- » Participatory land use planning and mapping is building REDD+ readiness and strengthening land tenure among local and indigenous communities in Indonesia's Kutai Barat district.

Who

- » Kutai Barat district forestry agency
- » Ministry of Forestry
- » BAPPEDA Kutai Barat
- » Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)
- » WWF

Where

Kutai Barat district, Indonesia

When

2009–2012

Project Team

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SUMMARY

This REDD+ Inspiring Practice highlights the participatory land use planning and mapping that is building REDD+ readiness and strengthening land tenure among local and indigenous communities in Indonesia's Kutai Barat district. Through this work, community members were able to identify their lands and their current uses, build their knowledge of land use issues, bridge their differences, and share their priorities for the future use of village lands and natural resources. This process served to prepare local and indigenous communities for REDD+ implementation and its potential impacts on land use, and it empowered community groups to codify their plans and vision for the future.

CONTEXT

Indonesia's Kutai Barat district boasts some of the richest biological and cultural diversity in the world. Situated in the wild and remote Heart of Borneo, along the winding upper stretches of the Mahakam River, this area holds 2.4 million hectares of tropical forest, a vibrant mix of plants and wildlife, and approximately 167,000 people living in sparsely scattered villages.

Among these are indigenous peoples, known as the Dayak, who have depended on the forest's resources for generations. The Dayak represent several different ethnic groups, speak different languages, and have different systems of land ownership. The Tunjung and Benuaq people, for example, have a system of private land

WHEN WWF BEGAN WORKING ON REDD+ IN KUTAI BARAT IN 2010, IT TURNED TO PARTICIPATORY LAND USE PLANNING AND MAPPING AS A MEANS TO BUILD REDD+ READINESS AND SECURE A VOICE FOR LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PLANS ON THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL LEVELS.

ownership known as Lembo, while other tribes, such as the Kenyah, have communal systems of land ownership. Despite these differences, Kutai Barat's local and indigenous communities share a heritage of sustainable land management by adat, or customary institutions, that center around traditional uses of the land, such as water catchment, hunting, and gathering of wild foods and medicinal plants.

These traditions face many challenges as the land to which they are tied changes. Indonesia is losing 1.17 million hectares of forest per year to unsustainable logging, mining, and the spread of oil palm and paper fiber plantations. In Kutai Barat, nearly half the land has been allocated for development through government-granted concessions, which often overlap with traditional use areas. Few protections exist for these areas, because customary rights to the land are not on equal footing with government regulations and concessions. Amid rapid change and intense development pressure, and with limited legal recourse, local and indigenous communities find themselves with conflicting visions for and little say in the forest's future.

When WWF began working on REDD+ in Kutai Barat in 2010, it turned to participatory land use planning and mapping as a means to build REDD+ readiness and secure a voice for local and indigenous communities in development policies and plans on the regional and national levels. The goal was to help communities gain awareness of the legal, environmental and economic issues surrounding their land use, skills and capacities for sustainable development and planning, and recognition of their traditional knowledge and customary rights.

EXPECTED CHANGES

- Build awareness of different types and uses of land in Kutai Barat's indigenous and local communities
- Improve local communities' knowledge of their land's economic, ecological and socio-cultural values, and their ability to balance and make use of those values
- Develop accurate inventories and maps of customary land areas and their resources, and collaboratively craft plans for their future use
- Create a basis for benefit-sharing through payment for ecosystem services and for government recognition and support of customary rights to the land



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STAKEHOLDERS

DIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INVOLVED IN PROJECT DESIGN, MAKE DECISIONS, AND RECEIVE BENEFITS

- Kutai Barat district forestry agency
- Ministry of Forestry
- BAPPEDA Kutai Barat
- Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)
- WWF

STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS

PROVIDE MATERIAL, HUMAN, AND OTHER RESOURCES

- Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation (NORAD)
- Forest Investment Programme (FIP)
- Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

INDIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INFLUENCE PRACTICE WITHOUT BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED

- Civil society organizations





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PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE

2009: Indonesia develops a National Action Plan to Address Climate Change, engaging the nation in REDD+ and establishing the Heart of Borneo—and, with it, Kutai Barat—as a national strategic area.

2010: Community capacity-building, mapping and forest inventory begin with the establishment of a Kutai Barat WWF office.

2011: Indonesian and U.S. governments sign debt-for-nature swap agreement resulting in US\$28.5 million investment to help protect Borneo's forests, with Kutai Barat as one of the three priority districts.

2011: Over several months, participatory community zoning and land use planning takes hold in Kutai Barat through meetings, workshops and trainings on the ground. Armed with new tools and knowledge, villagers begin to identify and map current land-use zones and categories (protected areas, areas of historical and cultural importance, settlements, agricultural areas, plantation areas, etc.) and their economic value, define community limits and discuss potential land use conflicts with neighboring communities. Community members also engage in simulations that explore future land values and uses under different REDD+ scenarios.

2011: From October through December, WWF works with villagers in Long Pahangai I & II, Linggang Melapeh, Long Tuyo and Long Isun to draft regulations seeking legal recognition of their land use plans, designated Community Conservation Areas for traditional uses, and community-based management activities; six draft regulations are approved and adopted.

2012: In December, the Indonesian government approves a proposal to split the Kutai Barat district, creating the new district of Mahakam Ulu.

2012: Participatory community-based land use planning in the villages of Batu Majang and Penarung yields 3D maps of customary uses and five- to ten-year plans for future land use based on simulations and analyses of REDD+ impacts.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Villagers engaged in a truly participatory mapping and planning process. Community members from different interest groups, age groups and genders—who have differing perspectives on the land's values and uses—exchanged stories and ideas and found common ground to help them define their vision for future land use. In the process, community members also gained new knowledge about the policy, legal, environmental, economic and socio-cultural issues that surround their use of the land and how REDD+ implementation would affect these issues.
- Three villages (Batu Majang, Penarung and Linggang Melapeh) developed three-dimensional maps of their land use that recorded and reinforced traditional knowledge and practices. Using simple materials—including newspapers, wood and glue—and, when available, satellite images, villagers crafted visual representations of their land and its uses. These then served as a valuable inventory of the community's natural resources, and as a locus of dialogue about the land, its past, and plans and concerns for its future.



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- Community members developed land use plans based on their own values, priorities and projections. Their participatory mapping exercises were coupled with a discussion of the economic value of different land use categories (under a payment for ecosystem services (PES) scheme, for example) and a series of simulations that enabled communities to explore the value and use of their land under different REDD+ and village planning scenarios. Villagers then drew and projected from these processes to create community land use plans for five to ten years into the future.

CHALLENGES

- **The participatory mapping and planning process is not yet fully inclusive.** Although these processes did bridge many divides—drawing together community members of different ages and some women—they did not adequately represent all groups. Elders were still underrepresented, as were women. These marginalized groups must be integrated into community-based mapping and planning processes in order for these to have greater legitimacy and reach.
- **WWF efforts to build capacities and facilitate participatory village planning processes in Kutai Barat are very limited—only three of more than 200 villages have taken part.** Many villages have not yet engaged in these processes, and they are geographically remote and difficult to reach. Without enough trained facilitators to engage villagers in participatory land use planning and mapping, it will be difficult to bring these processes to all the communities that stand to benefit from them.
- **A legal framework that offers inadequate recognition or protection for customary rights and traditional land uses limits the effectiveness of participatory land use mapping and planning.** The decision to divide the Kutai Barat district in two and the political change that comes with it will compound this problem.

VILLAGERS ENGAGED IN A TRULY PARTICIPATORY MAPPING AND PLANNING PROCESS. COMMUNITY MEMBERS FROM DIFFERENT INTEREST GROUPS, AGE GROUPS AND GENDERS—WHO HAVE DIFFERING PERSPECTIVES ON THE LAND'S VALUES AND USES—EXCHANGED STORIES AND IDEAS AND FOUND COMMON GROUND TO HELP THEM DEFINE THEIR VISION FOR FUTURE LAND USE.

100%
RECYCLED



OUR VISION

WWF's Forest and Climate Programme works to ensure that the conservation of tropical forests as carbon stores is secured by green economic development that benefits people, the climate and biodiversity in transformational ways.

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Why we are here
To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.
www.panda.org/forestclimate

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LESSONS LEARNED

- **Successful participatory processes require time and trust.** To support and participate in efforts to sustainably manage their lands, Kutai Barat's local and indigenous communities first had to come to trust the process and its facilitators. Dedicated time, commitment and specialized attention built that trust, which in turn eased the communication and acceptance of ideas about REDD+ and conservation. This happened in engagement with local governments and local communities and villages, such as Linggang Melapeh and Long Pahangai. Taking time to build trust with local governments and in district villages was critical to the successes of WWF's efforts in Kutai Barat.

- **Participatory tools put local communities in charge of their own livelihoods.**

Community-based land use planning and mapping didn't just equip communities with visual models of their forests—it illuminated the connection between the community's landscape and its livelihood, and created a forum where community members could discuss that connection and create plans for its development over time. Villagers emerged from the resulting dialogues with strengthened community pride, shared understanding, and a greater sense of ownership and vision for the future.

- **REDD+ cannot work without the expertise and buy-in of local communities and indigenous peoples.** Those who live in and depend on the forest's resources know it best. During participatory mapping and planning activities, community members provided a wealth of traditional knowledge and produced expertly detailed baselines of past and present land use, particularly through three-dimensional maps. Integrating their concerns, needs, visions and knowledge into higher-level land use plans and REDD+ strategies will enhance their legitimacy and their power to effect lasting change.



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