



WWF

FACTSHEET

2014

WWF FOREST AND CLIMATE PROGRAMME

REDD+ Inspiring Practices

CREATING COMMUNITY FORESTS IN INDONESIA

SNAPSHOT

What

The development of community conservation areas and community-based forest management in the remote villages of Indonesia's Kutai Barat district.

Who

- » Kutai Barat district forestry agency
- » Ministry of Forestry
- » BAPPEDA Kutai Barat
- » Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)
- » Legal logging companies, including Sumalindo Unit II
- » WWF

Where

Kutai Barat district, Indonesia

When

2009–2013

Project Team

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SUMMARY

This REDD+ Inspiring Practice explores the development of community conservation areas and community-based forest management in the remote villages of Indonesia's Kutai Barat district. Amid intense pressures from development and deforestation, and despite a legal framework that is unclear in its protection of customary rights to the land, these villages are working collaboratively—and successfully—to protect and secure government recognition for their traditional uses of the forest.

CONTEXT

The island of Borneo is home to one of the most biodiverse landscapes in the world. In the Heart of Borneo—a wild, remote region at the island's core that reaches into the nations of Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei—ancient tropical rainforests support a vast array of wildlife and 14 of the 20 watersheds that supply the island's major rivers. At least 11 million Borneans, including a million forest-dwelling indigenous people known as the Dayak, depend on the forest's resources for their lives and livelihoods.

“WHEN WWF BEGAN WORKING ON REDD+ IN KUTAI BARAT IN 2010, IT SET OUT NOT ONLY TO EMPOWER LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE REGION TO MAKE USE OF THE HUTAN DESA AND HUTAN TANAMAN RAKYAT FRAMEWORK, BUT TO ALSO DEVELOP COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AREAS THAT FIT WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK AND PROTECT TRADITIONAL USES OF THE LAND.”

Those resources, and the unique landscape that holds them, are rapidly disappearing. Indonesia alone is losing 1.17 million hectares of forest per year to unsustainable logging, mining, and the spread of oil palm and paper fiber plantations. The pressures driving deforestation are particularly intense in Indonesia’s Kutai Barat district, where 2.4 million hectares of contiguous tropical forest remain intact and where nearly half the land has been allocated for development through government-granted concessions.

The district’s local and indigenous communities have little recourse in the face of these pressures, as their customary rights to the land are not on equal footing with government regulations and concessions. In some communities, lands used for traditional practices, such as hunting, water catchment or gathering of wild foods and medicinal plants, overlap with concession areas. The rise of new villages and settlements with still-poorly-defined borders adds another layer of complexity. With so many overlapping uses and claims

to the land, implementing government regulations that are fair and consistent is an ongoing challenge.

Despite these difficulties, Indonesia is taking steps to find a more sustainable path for development in the Heart of Borneo. Among other initiatives, the nation has established two legally recognized categories for community-based forest management and sustainable use, known as *Hutan Desa* and *Hutan Tanaman Rakyat*. When WWF began working on REDD+ in Kutai Barat in 2010, it set out not only to empower local and indigenous communities in the region to make use of the Hutan Desa and Hutan Tanaman Rakyat framework, but to also develop community conservation areas that fit within that framework and protect traditional uses of the land.



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)
- Legal logging companies, including Sumalindo Unit II
- WWF

STRATEGIC STAKEHOLDERS

PROVIDE MATERIAL, HUMAN, AND OTHER RESOURCES.

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

INDIRECT STAKEHOLDERS

INFLUENCE PRACTICE WITHOUT BEING DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

- Civil society organizations



EXPECTED CHANGES

- Establish community-based sustainable forest management through acknowledgment and endorsement of community forests by formal Indonesian law;
- Empower communities to secure formal recognition of their traditional land uses through the designation of Community Conservation Areas (CCA);
- Build the basis for economic benefit and benefit-sharing among communities, local governments and other stakeholders

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 community limits, areas of historical and cultural importance, and potential land use conflicts with neighboring communities. As a result, four villages succeed in claiming Community Conservation Areas that can preserve their traditional uses of the forest.

2011: In early October, the Ministry of Forestry recommends 41,125 hectares of forest, distributed among 14 villages, as Hutan Desa areas.

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 protection for Community Conservation Areas and management activities; six draft regulations are approved and adopted.

2011: In November, the village of Long Pahangai takes part in trainings to enhance its Community Conservation Area management capacities, exploring topics that include how to establish community-based micro-hydropower, set up mechanisms for payment and service delivery, and maintain the power plant.

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

2013: The Kutai Barat district recognizes 96 hectares for Community Conservation Area in the indigenous Linggang Melapeh village.

2013: The Sumalindo Unit II logging company concession releases 450,000 hectares for a Batu Majang Community Conservation Area not designated through Hutan Desa.



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ACHIEVEMENTS

- WWF worked with local governments to propose designation of 41,125 hectares of tropical forest as Hutan Desa, and approximately 10,000 additional hectares as Hutan Tanaman Rakyat.
- At least four communities have identified and proposed Community Conservation Areas (CCA) that reflect and protect their traditional uses of the land. Villagers were empowered to designate areas for community management and conservation and, in some cases, to forge new agreements with concession-holding companies to ensure continued access to these areas.
- Five communities have drafted regulations to assert and gain government recognition for their own CCAs. These regulations represent a key first step in securing legal status for CCAs.

“COMMUNITIES ARE CRUCIAL TO FOREST CONSERVATION. PROTECTING THE FOREST AND ITS TRADITIONAL USES AMONG LOCAL AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES REQUIRES THAT COMMUNITY MEMBERS WORK TOGETHER, AND THAT THEY SEEK HELP FROM OTHERS WHO HAVE A STAKE IN THE FOREST’S FUTURE.”



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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CHALLENGES

- Land tenure and recognition of customary rights remain problematic in Kutai Barat due to political conflicts, weak governance, and the limitations of existing legal frameworks. Attempts to secure licenses and approvals for community forests are often delayed, or even unsuccessful, because the Ministry of Forestry does not yet see community forest management as an effective approach to increasing sustainability in the forestry sector. Gaining support and recognition for CCAs has proven particularly challenging, especially where they overlap with timber concessions or non-state forest lands, because of the lack of legal recognition for these areas.
- Political change, such as the region's approved split into the Kutai Barat and Mahakam Ulu districts, has hindered progress. The split has slowed permit reviews and approvals and left the new district—a critical region, due to its location within the Heart of Borneo strategic area—temporarily without the infrastructure or regulations for governance that supports sustainable use of the forest. The approval of new concessions within the region also threatens efforts to designate community forests and CCAs.
- Certain elements and tools of REDD+, such as Free, Prior and Informed Consent and a benefit distribution mechanism, are new for Indonesia and Indonesia's legal system, and skepticism about them remains strong.

LESSONS LEARNED

- **Communities are crucial to forest conservation.** Protecting the forest and its traditional uses among local and indigenous communities requires that community members work together, and that they seek help from others who have a stake in the forest's future. When community members found limited support for proposed Community Conservation Areas (CCAs)—because these have no legal recognition—they sought partnerships with local government agencies and concession-holding companies in order to back the CCA concept in alternative ways.
- **Building on existing legal frameworks, key partnerships and higher-level government guidelines makes community-based initiatives more effective.** Kutai Barat's indigenous peoples and local communities found greater recognition and support when they used the accepted community forestry models of Hutan Desa and Hutan Tanaman Rakyat to define, protect and manage their lands. They were also successful in asserting their rights through the use of village regulations, which are powerful and binding tools at the district level.
- **Community-based forest management paves the way for equitable benefit-sharing.** The processes involved in designating and claiming CCAs can serve as a basis for benefit-sharing mechanisms that will improve livelihoods among Kutai Barat's local and indigenous communities. CCAs emerged from dialogues between community members about their land's history and traditional value and their visions for its future, and these dialogues helped community members find common ground and community pride. Building a shared understanding and vision empowered communities to engage more effectively with the government and private sector, which can in turn reduce marginalization and stop forest encroachment.