

A monthly digital magazine

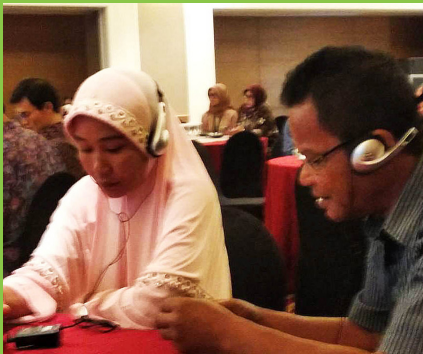
HUTAN HARAPAN

NEWSLETTER



BATIN SEMBILAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND HUTAN HARAPAN

"If the forests disappear, where else will live?" She went on to note that Batin Sembilan threatened by the swift flux of migrants penetrating and converting Hutan Harapan's forests in oil palm. The poignant words of Bi Teguh, representative from the



Batin Sembilan Indigenous Peoples living in Hutan Harapan, were conveyed to the audience of the seminar entitled "Addressing Encroachment: Lessons Learned from Ecosystem Restoration Concession" that took place at the JS Luwarsa Hotel Jakarta, on Thursday September 13, 2018.

The international seminar was sponsored by the Danish-Indonesian Environmental Support Programme (ESP3) and the Danish Embassy and was attended by Danish Ambassador to Indonesia Rasmus A. Kristensen.

For Bi Teguh and about 228 Batin Sembilan families, the 98,555 hectare Hutan Harapan is their last hope. The Batin Sembilan, which are partly nomadic and semi-nomadic, are dependent on the forests as the main source of income from collecting non-timber forest products such as rattan, resin, dragon's blood and honey.

"If possible, the encroachers are expelled, sir," she declared, in front of participants, including the Ministry of Forestry and the Environment officials. She urged all parties to support Hutan Harapan, one of the last remaining lowland forests in Sumatra. Encroachment in Hutan Harapan has reached 18,882 hectares. An area of 10,508 hectares or 61 percent of the area encroached is has been converted into oil palm plantations.***

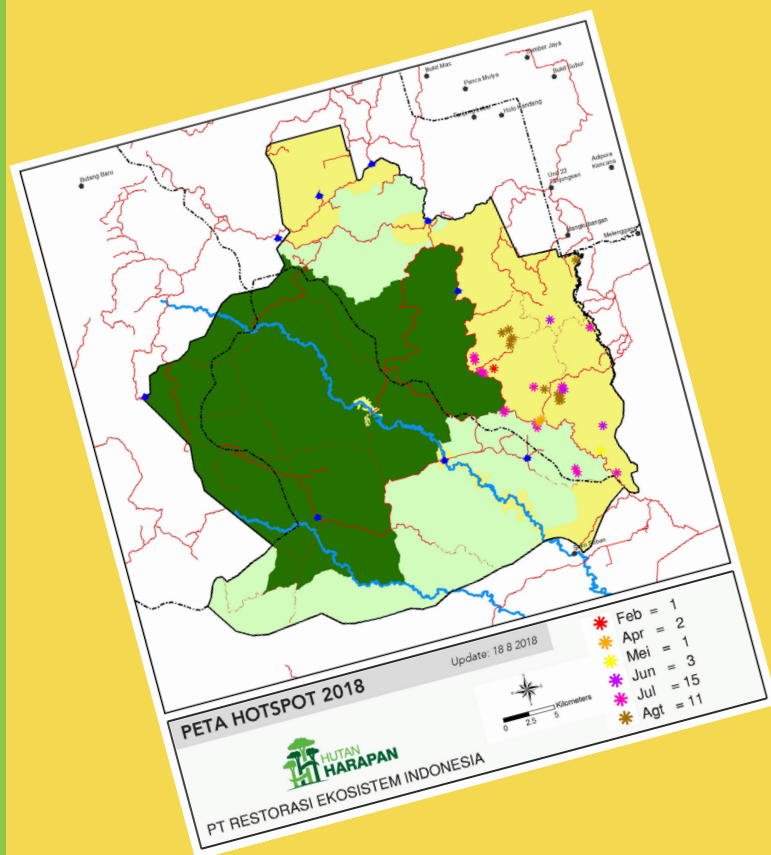
FIRE FIGHTING IN HUTAN HARAPAN

With the arrival of the dry season, the threat of forest fires in Hutan Harapan increases dramatically. Hutan Harapan's firefighting team goes into a heightened state of preparedness in anticipation of fire outbreaks. Fortunately, thus far, the weather has cooperated in 2018 and only 33 hotspots have been reported.

The hotspots are detected by satellite imagery, forest patrols and reports from communities. "This figure has declined compared to previous years," according to the Director of PT Reki Lisman Sumardjani to journalists who took part in the media trip to Hutan Harapan on September 5-6, 2018.

Six national and local media journalists from *Kompas*, *The Jakarta Post*, *Kompas TV*, *Tempo*, *Mongabay Indonesia*, and *Tribun Jambi* took part in the visit which was facilitated by the Danish-Indonesian Environmental Support Programme (ESP3) and the Danish International Development Agency (Danida).

The majority of the fires are started by individuals clearing land in the encroached area of Hutan Harapan to plant either oil palm or for agricultural purposes. Journalists witnessed firsthand the actions of certain groups that prevented the forest fire team from extinguishing fires in the eastern section of Hutan Harapan known as Masai Rusa. Lisman Sumardjani called on all groups not to burn forest land.***



HUTAN HARAPAN'S TREE INVENTORY CONTINUES TO EXPAND

Hutan Harapan's rich plant biodiversity was already well known, but it appears that there is still more to discover and understand. Currently, 1,311 tree species have been identified, up from 709 in 2013. The identification and inventory work has been conducted with the support of national and international universities as well as the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).

Some important tree species in the Hutan Harapan belong to the *Lauraceae* family, such as Bulian (*Eusideroxylon zwageri*) and various types of medang (*Litsea sp.*). Other types belong to Meranti-Merantian families (*Dipterocarpaceae*), such as Merawan (*Hopea hardens*), Meranti sapat / Cengal (*Hopea sangal*) and various types of *Shorea*.

The flora and fauna richness of Hutan Harapan make it a site of important conservation value as it includes 64 types of mammals, 126 reptiles, 307 birds, 123 fish, and 1,311 plants. Based on the IUCN Red List, a total of 117 animals and plants in the Hutan Harapan are categorized as vulnerable and threatened, 31 near critical and critical. Of the 1,931 types identified, 98 are included in the protected category. ***

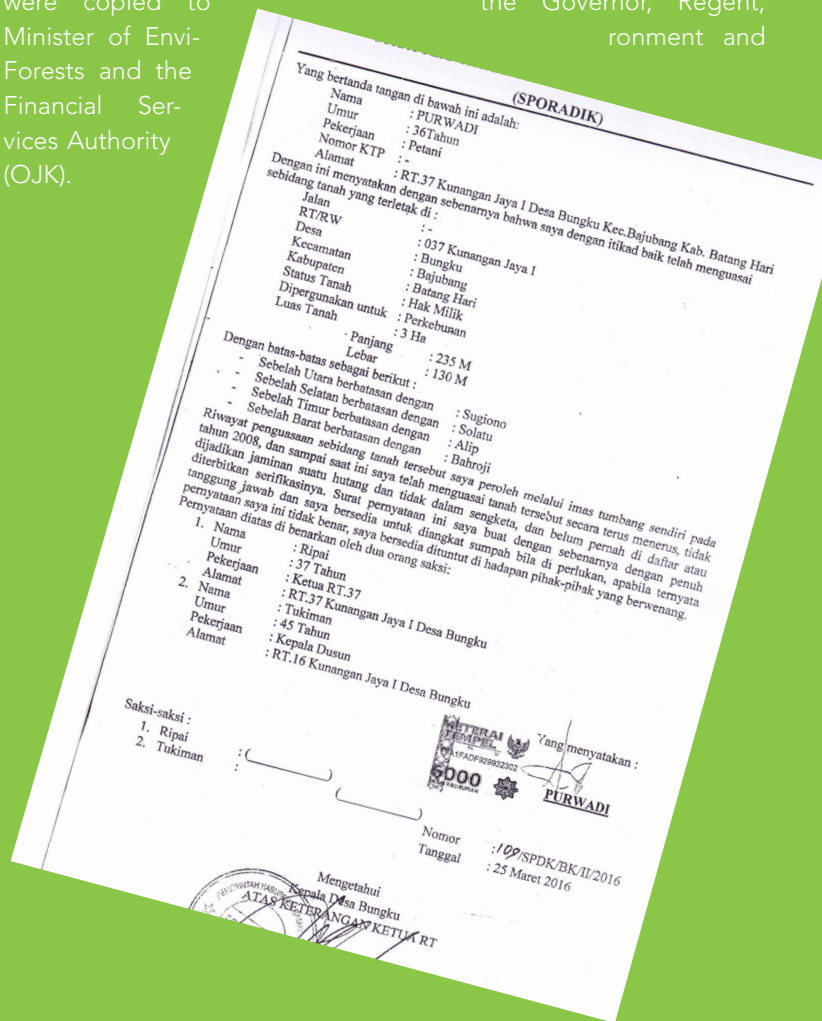


PT REKI REGISTERS COMPLAINT WITH FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS OVER ILLEGAL LAND TENURE DOCUMENTS

In August 2018 PT Reki registered a complaint with financial institutions concerning the use of illegal land tenure documents for collateral. Based on an investigation in June 2018 by PT REKI staff, journalists from the Jambi based newspaper, *Tribun Jambi* and the Antara National News Agency, letters of land occupation (Sporadik) were issued by a village head stating occupation and tenure of land that is located within Hutan Harapan. These documents were used to obtain a line of credit from banks.

Yet, local government institutions at the village and sub-district level are prohibited by law from issuing documents that allow the opening of land in forested areas. According to legal observer Dr Helmi, of Jambi University, village and sub-district officials can be punished under the law for issuing land tenure documents on state forest land.

The two financial institutions, Bank Rakyat Indonesia and Swamitra, which is affiliated to Bank Bukopin, provided a line of credit of approximately USD 1,600 for each document. In August 2018 PT Reki sent letters to the BRI and Bank Bukopin, which were copied to the Governor, Regent, Minister of Environment and the Financial Services Authority (OJK).



Hutan Harapan is the first ecosystem restoration concession in Indonesia managed by PT Reki as a result of joint initiative of Burung Indonesia, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and BirdLife International. Of total 98,000 ha, 52,000 ha lies in South Sumatera and 46,000 ha in Jambi. Hutan Harapan is aimed to conserve natural habitat of globally threatened species, the critically endangered lowland rainforest, and collaborate with local communities in managing Hutan Harapan as a productive landscape. www.hutanharapan.id



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