



CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE | 2018-2022

# Indonesia Initiative



Climate and Land Use Alliance  
Cultivating solutions for people and the planet

## GOAL

We aim to reduce emissions from Indonesia's forests and peatlands in ways that secure indigenous peoples' land rights, enhance local livelihoods, and contribute to sustainable development.

## WHY INDONESIA?

Indonesia is among the world's largest contributor of greenhouse gases. But the vast majority of Indonesia's emissions do not come from fossil fuels—instead, they come from the clearing and burning of millions of hectares of forests and peatlands to develop monoculture plantations. Due to a lack of clarity over land rights, conflict between companies and communities threatens the millions of Indonesians in over thirty thousand rural villages that depend directly on the country's forests for their livelihoods.

The land clearing fires contribute to climate pollution and negatively affect Indonesia's economy, environment, and global reputation. The fires also have devastating consequences for people's health, both in Indonesia and in neighboring countries. Given that Indonesia is particularly vulnerable to the harmful

effects of climate change—including rising sea levels, famines, floods, and extreme weather patterns—the stakes are high.

To transition away from unsustainable land use and towards clear land rights, strong governance, and rule of law, Indonesia will need new approaches and strategies that prioritize emissions reductions alongside sustainable development goals. With international support from the public and private sector, Indonesia can be a powerful example of how economic growth, climate change mitigation, and human rights protections can go hand in hand—benefiting the nation, its people, and the planet.

# The Indonesia Initiative

After ratifying the Paris Agreement in 2016, the Government of Indonesia committed to reducing emissions by 29% by 2030. Yet political and economic dynamics threaten the future of these commitments, creating uncertainty about the implementation of regulations and targets. To date, most efforts to adopt policies and practices that would move Indonesia towards its emissions targets have been met with resistance from industry. Furthermore, international finance that

underpins Indonesia's economic growth has not been well-aligned with the nation's low-emissions development (LED) goals.

The Climate and Land Use Alliance aims to support the Government of Indonesia in its efforts to align its economic development goals with its social and environmental commitments by advancing sustainable, equitable, and profitable land use policies.

## WE SUPPORT

We support efforts in the following areas:

- 1 Low-Emissions Development Policies**  
Supporting national and sub-national land use policies that contribute to Indonesia's climate and development targets.
- 2 Secure Community Land Rights**  
Ensuring community rights to land and forest resources are extended and strengthened with increased support for low-emissions rural economies.

- 3 Sustainable Commodity Production**  
Eliminating deforestation, peatland expansion, and exploitation of communities from palm oil and pulp and paper supply chains.
- 4 Promoting Equitable, Sustainable Development**  
Encouraging discourse on the social and environmental benefits of equitable, low-emissions development that values forests and peatlands.



# 1

## WE SUPPORT

# Low-Emissions Development Policies

**F**or Indonesia to succeed in its efforts to shift toward a resilient, low-carbon economy, support is needed for aligning and effectively implementing land use policies at the national and subnational level. Indonesian leaders and policymakers need clear evidence of the benefits and incentives for pursuing low-emissions economic development.

The Alliance seeks to support Indonesian efforts to pursue low-emissions development by establishing a more robust and transparent evidence base of the benefits of such development. We also aim to encourage the participation of a wider group of stakeholders, at both the national level and in local priority jurisdictions, in informing and contributing to land use policies.

## WHERE WE FOCUS

### Low-Emissions Development Policy

Supporting the Indonesian Government's efforts to develop, implement, and demonstrate the value of low-emissions development, while expanding and enforcing regulations that limit land use with a high-emissions impact.

### Annual Data Reporting

Contributing to the Indonesian Government's efforts to increase transparency by supporting annual reports, data, and analysis of deforestation, greenhouse gas emissions, and land use change.

### Local Proof of Concepts

Building evidence of the benefits of low-emissions development by supporting specific jurisdictions and districts in demonstrating emissions reductions through improved peatland management, fire prevention, and reduced deforestation.

# 2

## WE SUPPORT

# Secure Community Land Rights

Securing community rights to land and forest resources is a proven strategy for reducing deforestation and associated greenhouse gas emissions while yielding substantial social and environmental gains. Under its social forestry program, the Indonesian Government set a target of recognizing 12.7 million hectares of community land by 2019. But overlapping land claims between government, the private sector, and local communities continue to spark conflict and undermine efforts to develop thriving low-emissions rural economies. While 14.8 million hectares of indigenous land have already been mapped, these regions have not yet been integrated into government spatial databases. Consequently, the land rights of those communities are not yet fully recognized. Securing land rights and community managed forests represents a tremendous opportunity in Indonesia to enhance local livelihoods and economies, and contribute to a more sustainable and prosperous future.

The Alliance supports efforts to increase the recognition and protection of community rights while advancing local-level sustainable community forestry enterprises. We also support improvements to the processes for subnational spatial planning and mapping, and for fairly resolving land conflicts.

## WHERE WE FOCUS

### Mapping and Recognizing Community Lands

Supporting the mapping and integration of indigenous and local community areas into official government maps and planning systems, to formally recognize communities' rights to land.

### Community Forestry Benefits

Building awareness of community-managed forests' and peatlands' contribution to emissions and development targets, and the economic and social benefits of sustainable community enterprises in the national 'social forestry' program.

### Supportive Legal Frameworks

Empowering communities to assert their legal claims and secure access to land and forests within plantation concessions for agro-forestry and other appropriate activities.

### Equitably Resolving Land Conflicts

Contributing to the establishment of a functional and equitable national approach to resolving land conflicts to ensure the sustainable management of large tracts of land currently experiencing conflict.



3

## WE SUPPORT

# Sustainable Commodity Production

Converting natural forests and draining peatlands for palm oil and pulp-paper plantations in Indonesia has a significant climate impact. Many palm oil and pulp-paper companies have committed to removing deforestation, peatland expansion, and community exploitation from their operations and supply chains. These commitments have the potential to result in significant emissions reductions, but thus far, implementation has fallen short and has been difficult to independently monitor.

The Alliance supports efforts to ensure companies successfully remove deforestation, peatland expansion, and conflict from their supply chains while continuing to prosper. We work to strengthen the public policy mechanisms necessary for long-term sustainable practices in the private sector. To provide further incentives for sustainable development, we also support efforts to encourage domestic and international banks to adopt strong policies of exclusively financing projects that do not increase deforestation, expansion onto peat, or conflict with communities.

## WHERE WE FOCUS

### **Traceable, Sustainable Palm Oil**

Supporting the implementation of palm oil sustainability commitments, the traceability of products and enforcement of public sector policies, and the financing of only palm oil production that is free of deforestation, peatland expansion, and exploitation of communities.

### **Low-Carbon Pulp and Paper Production**

Ensuring corporate actors with large areas of peat in their land banks demonstrate increased accountability for pursuing low-carbon management and reducing fire risk in accordance with government regulations and credible science.

### **Credible, Transparent Forest Monitoring Systems**

Supporting systems for real-time forest monitoring and tracking logs from the site of production to the mill to mitigate unlicensed forest conversion and illegal wood production in the pulp and paper industry.

# 4

## WE SUPPORT

# Promoting Equitable, Sustainable Development

In Indonesia, industrial plantations are often promoted as a source of employment and economic growth with little attention devoted to the negative impacts on the nation's natural resources, climate, and people's rights and livelihoods. Alternative models of low-emissions development are rarely discussed by decision-makers or incorporated into development planning.

The Alliance supports a shift in the discourse about development to focus on valuing forests and peatlands, reducing the risks of devastating fires, and supporting local livelihoods. By communicating the benefits of low-emissions development through both mainstream and social media, we seek to increase awareness and build support amongst Indonesian citizens and politicians for development that benefits both people and the environment—helping to dispel the notion that economic development and sustainability are mutually exclusive.

## WHERE WE FOCUS

### Effective Communications

Supporting collaboration amongst individuals and organizations seeking to establish and promote a path toward sustainable, equitable development in Indonesia.

### Increased Discourse

Enabling increased public dialogue about development options that value Indonesia's natural resources and support people's livelihoods by increasing mainstream and social media coverage of low-emissions development.



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