

Executive Summary: Support for Transformation Project with Mopoli Raya

Background

In 2015, several NGOs reported deforestation activities at Mopoli Raya Group's plantation, PT Aloer Timur, located in Leuser Ecosystem Area. As part of Wilmar's grievance handling procedure, the case was registered on Wilmar's Grievance List since 2015. Since then, Wilmar has been in dialogue with PT Aloer Timur in guiding them to be in compliance with Wilmar's NDPE policy. As a first step, PT Aloer Timur committed to a moratorium on land clearing and undertook HCS preliminary study with Ata Marie and HCV pre-identification study with Ekologika in 2015 as per Wilmar's recommendation. Ata Marie identified a total area of 1,202 ha as HCS areas, which PT Aloer Timur committed to conserve. However, based on Wilmar's ongoing desktop monitoring, land clearing was detected in the HCS areas. PT Aloer Timur clarified that the land clearing was a result of illegal encroachment. Together with Earthworm Foundation¹ (EF), Wilmar conducted two field visits to PT Aloer Timur in December 2017 and April 2018 to verify the situation on the ground.

Verification Results

Based on the visits result, it was confirmed that deforestation since 2015 was carried out by external parties who were not part of the local community and had illegally occupied PT Aloer Timur's land permit area and undertaken illegal logging. Although PT Aloer Timur had upheld their commitment of moratorium by not clearing land, Wilmar has agreed to provide further assistance to PT Aloer Timur to address the issues of illegal occupation. During the field assessment, Wilmar and EF found that a total of 359 ha within PT Aloer Timur land permit area was occupied by four different groups. The illegal occupation has made it more challenging for PT Aloer Timur to conserve the HCS and HCV areas.

Wilmar and EF then proposed the following recommendations to PT Aloer Timur to resolve the land occupation and conserve the HCV and HCS areas:

1. Collect the information of all individuals who occupy PT Aloer Timur HGU area, including identity, basis of claim, location and total occupied areas;
2. Engage the occupants in order to stop land clearing activity in PT Aloer Timur's HGU area and illegal logging activity in HCS area;

¹ Earthworm Foundation is formerly known as The Forest Trust (TFT).



Image 1. Logging in HCS area

3. Manage the HCS and HCV areas by improving the capacity of the entire PT Aloer Timur plantation management units and implementing the conservation and monitoring activity in HCS and HCV areas;
4. Undertake participative mapping with Sri Mulya and Rantau Panjang communities in order to clear out the boundaries between the villages and HGU;
5. Cooperate with Sri Mulya and Rantau Panjang village governments related to local community empowerment through CD-CSR activities;
6. Start a dialogue with the relevant parties (BKSDA, BPN, Regency Government, and Police).

Development of Support of Transformation (SFT) Programme for PT Aloer Timur

To further assist PT Aloer Timur in implementing the above recommendations designed to resolve land occupation and stop deforestation, Wilmar and EF carry out a facilitation program at PT Aloer Timur. Through this program, which has commenced since November 2018, Wilmar and EF will visit PT Aloer Timur four times over nine months and at each visit, Wilmar and EF will carry out work to help improving PT Aloer Timur's capacity and provide strategic guidance to implement the action plan. Overall, PT Aloer Timur's management has been supportive and committed to this program to conserve the remaining forest.

Although Mopoli Raya has demonstrated a strong commitment to implementation of the facilitation programme, Wilmar and EF anticipate some key challenges, which is linked to the local community's perception and participation in participatory mapping. Participatory mapping is undertaken based on free, prior, informed and consent (FPIC) principles and the local community is the main stakeholder. Quite often, the local community perceives participatory mapping negatively and refuses to participate. FPIC principles prevent coercion of the local community to enforce participation. Therefore, PT Aloer Timur must engage the local community and convince them that such activity will bring benefit for them and the village government. Illegal logging activity carried out by the illegal occupants is another challenge we potentially faced. It is highly likely there are external parties supporting the illegal logging activity. As such, it is crucial for PT Aloer Timur to collect comprehensive data of all occupants and put emphasis on multi-stakeholder engagement to resolve the illegal occupying issue.

The first facilitation visit was undertaken on November 27th, 2018 to December 3rd, 2018. During this visit, Wilmar and EF carried out the following activities:

1. Held workshops and developed SOPs on Conflict Resolution, SIA (Social Impact Assessment) and CD-CSR (Community Development-Corporate Social Responsibility), FPIC (Free, Prior, Informed, and Consent), HCV (High Conservation Value) and HCS (High Carbon Stock) Identification, as well as HCV and HCS Management and Monitoring to increase PT Aloer Timur's capacity on the aforementioned topics.



Image 2. FGD with local communities in Bedari sub-village, Rantau Panjang Village

2. Conducted sample ground check on the HCV and HCS areas as identified by a preliminary HCS study and a HCV pre-identification report.
3. Developed a five-year HCV and HCS management and monitoring plan as well as HCV and HCS 2019 Operational Plan. This covers a total HCS conservation area of around 1,200 ha as per Ata Marie's recommendations.
4. Commenced collecting the occupants' data aiming to map the total number of occupants and their land claim information. This data will enable PT Aloer Timur to seek suitable solutions for each occupant.



Image 3. One of occupied area in Rantau Panjang Village (*left*) and Elephant footprint in HCS area (*right*)

After the first facilitation visit was completed, *Forum Konservasi Leuser* (Leuser Conservation Forum) invited Mopoli Raya to collaborate in the establishment of breeding area for Sumatran rhinos within PT Aloer Timur's concession area. Mopoli Raya agreed to participate in this initiative because it could support PT Aloer Timur's HCV conservation efforts. On December 18th, 2018, *Forum Konservasi Leuser*, Aceh Province's *Balai Konservasi Sumber Daya Alam* (Natural Resources Conservation Agency), Mopoli Raya, and EF held a discussion to further discuss this initiative. FKL and BKSDA agreed to share the rhinos breeding proposal with Mopoli Raya.

The next facilitation visit is tentatively scheduled to be carried out in the second week of March 2019. Before the second visit, PT Aloer Timur is expected to complete collation of the occupants' data; where Wilmar and EF will review the information to develop possible options for the resolution of the case. It is essential to have the occupants' data as complete as possible because the illegal occupation is the most substantial challenge for PT Aloer Timur to conserve the HCS areas. PT Aloer Timur is expected to balance its conservation efforts whilst respecting the local stakeholders through a non-litigative approach.

The second visit will be focusing on the following activities:

1. Commence the implementation of HCV and HCS 2019 Operational Plan.
2. Undertake participatory mapping with the local communities to have a common understanding on PT Aloer Timur's boundary areas. This is one of the steps in conflict resolution.



Image 4. Riparian Area in PT Aloer Timur