



Wilmar Commits to Addressing Deforestation Challenge in Important Landscapes

---- Prioritising Leuser Ecosystem and East Riau through Collaborative Landscape Approach

Singapore, 15 December 2016 -- Wilmar International Limited (Wilmar) supports the protection of ecologically and socio-culturally important landscapes, including the Leuser Ecosystem in Sumatra, Indonesia, a biologically diverse and rich landscape which hosts a number of critically endangered species.

This commitment aligns with our No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation (NDPE) policy which is applicable to all our operations and third-party supply chain.

Wilmar firmly believes that combating deforestation should not have to come at the expense of the livelihood of the local communities living in those landscapes. Concerned stakeholders agree that a coordinated landscape approach through concerted multi-stakeholder efforts holds the best potential to holistically address the trade-off dilemma between the desire for economic growth and the imperative to protect the natural environment and safeguard the interests of the local population.

Governments are very important and necessary in such landscape approaches to lead and steer the multi-stakeholder processes; and Wilmar is committed and determined to support and play our part.

To that end, Wilmar, in a number of dialogues with concerned stakeholders including The Forest Trust (TFT) and Rainforest Action Network (RAN), have earmarked Aceh Singkil and Aceh Tamiang of the Leuser Ecosystem as the area of first priority for the landscape approach "Areal Prioritas Transformasi (APT)". Our support for this landscape work also aligns with the government's moratorium on forest clearance. Outside of the Leuser Ecosystem landscape, East Riau has also been identified as part of APT.

Wilmar fully supports and has committed to contributing to TFT's efforts to use their newest technology "[Starling](#)", jointly developed by TFT, Airbus Defence and Space and SarVision, to add to our deforestation monitoring intelligence and expedite ground-truthing in critical landscapes, including the three APT target areas. We aim to use the baseline maps and forest loss monitoring analysis developed through Starling to collaborate with the local governments and interested key stakeholders to address the deforestation challenge in those landscapes. More information on how Starling will be used in these target landscapes can be found [here](#).

Ms Perpetua George, Assistant General Manager of Group Sustainability at Wilmar, stressed the importance of a collaborative action with other stakeholders including the industry, civil society organisations and the government to save critical landscapes like the Leuser Ecosystem from further deforestation and degradation. She further added, "While major palm oil players have played a role in transforming the industry, including suspending trade relationships with recalcitrant suppliers who have persistently refused to take remedial actions on deforestation and exploitation, these efforts are being undermined by the fact that there exists a market which is less discriminatory in their purchasing practices. In yesterday's [Jakarta Post](#) there was a big article about one of such companies making inroads into new markets. If civil society organisations continue to focus on individual trading relationships as the strategy for saving landscapes like Leuser, we have no chance of achieving the desired results. We need to scale up efforts to have the highest possibility of achieving our common goal of saving these critical ecosystems"