



Community Engagement Efforts in West Sumatra

5th NOVEMBER 2019

Wilmar International (Wilmar) takes every allegation in relation to violation of human rights seriously and ensures follow up by an investigation into its cause. Wilmar is committed to No Exploitation of people and communities, and to respect, protect and uphold the human rights in every aspect within our business. Wilmar's operations are guided by a commitment to human rights which is an important principle encapsulated within our 'No Deforestation, No Peat, No Exploitation' ([NDPE](#)) policy and is applicable to our entire supply chain. Working closely with our technical and implementation partners, Wilmar strives to identify gaps while improving and strengthening existing policies and related processes.

Wilmar commissioned Earthworm Foundation¹ (EF) in September 2018 to conduct a thorough evaluation of issues raised against Wilmar's internal systems on social grievance and resolution at three of its subsidiaries in Pasaman Barat in West Sumatra - PT AMP Plantation, PT Gersindo Minang Plantation (GMP) and PT Primatama Mulia Jaya (PMJ). Wilmar also engaged EF to undertake an investigation into the alleged criminalisation case of a customary leader who was in disagreement with PMJ.

EF conducted an initial field evaluation as part of the commissioned and ongoing long-term initiative to identify and develop lasting resolutions for the conflicts in the region. This initiative involves engaging hundreds of stakeholders in Pasaman Barat, including members of the affected community, village heads, community and customary leaders, smallholder cooperative units, local non-governmental organisations (NGOs) as well as the Wilmar management.

Wilmar acknowledges that there are outstanding issues within the region and internally, there are areas for improvement, based on initial findings by EF. We have begun working on implementing the recommendations by EF to address these gaps whilst continuing engagement with the affected communities and to resolve the related conflicts in Pasaman Barat.

A full public report covering work conducted between January to June 2019 in this region is available [here](#).

In November 2018, Wilmar agreed with Forest Peoples Program (FPP) and the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) Investigation Monitoring Unit (IMU) to participate in a desktop - based risk assessment related to Wilmar in Pasaman Barat. However, in February 2019, Wilmar voluntarily offered to share summarised findings with FPP and RSPO from the investigation that EF had conducted, which identified multiple specific community-related issues as well as recommendations to address these concerns and move forward to resolutions.

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

The shared findings were comprehensive and therefore, rendering the earlier agreed-upon exercise redundant. This position was communicated to both FPP and the RSPO when the report was shared in March 2019. Subsequently, we understand that the RSPO decided not to proceed with the earlier agreed-upon assessment as Wilmar was already pursuing a process for resolution.

The [assertion from the Forest Peoples Programme](#) (FPP) on 4 November 2019, with regards to Wilmar's refusal to cooperate in the previously planned RSPO IMU assessment is therefore misleading.

Wilmar will transparently report on progress of this work bi-annually to resolve intrinsic issues within the region. We will also be providing these updates to the RSPO.

Existing RSPO Complaints Cases involving Wilmar in Pasaman Barat

Currently, there are three active RSPO complaint cases involving Wilmar in West Sumatra. Wilmar continues to engage and work closely with the RSPO, specifically with the Complaints Desk and the Investigation Monitoring Unit (IMU), to ensure that the cases are handled properly and with higher accountability.

Our Sustainability Brief detailing the progress of conflict cases in Pasaman Barat can be read in this [link](#).

Wilmar acknowledges that the resolution process is not progressing as quickly as desired. However, we continue to be fully cooperative and open to engagement with the RSPO as well as the affected stakeholders. Wilmar is committed to explore options that go beyond legal requirements in an effort to develop resolutions.