



Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Republic of Indonesia



# THE STATE OF INDONESIA'S FORESTS 2020

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1. Introduction

This book was developed by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia to provide information to the global community regarding the state of Indonesia's forests and forest resources, and to highlight continuing efforts by the Indonesian Government to democratize the allocation of forest resources, to manage the nation's forests sustainably, to prevent deforestation and the degradation of forest resources, and to ensure environmental justice and equality of opportunity for all members of Indonesia's communities, including Customary Law (*Adat*) communities.

The Indonesian Government continues to demonstrate a serious commitment to sustainably manage and utilize forest resources, and has in recent years strengthened its commitment to prevent deforestation and the degradation of forests with recent positive results, such as: the implementation of a system for the certification of sustainable management of forests which is also aimed at stopping illegal logging; heightening the engagement of a specialized unit for law enforcement; and the implementation of a system to resolve conflicts and uphold the land rights and forest tenure of communities in surrounding forest areas, including

*Adat* communities. The government also continues to address climate change mitigation and adaptation through its Nationally Determined Contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and has intensified its commitment to resolve tenurial conflicts related to forest land. Those have been achieved by shifting from a corporate-oriented approach to a more community-oriented approach, aimed at improving sustainable community-level economic development by continuing to ensure more equitable access to land and forest resources, and promoting community prosperity.

This book consists of a brief introduction (Chapter 1), a portrait of Indonesia's forest areas and the role of the government in sustainable forest management (Chapter 2), a discussion on efforts to control and reduce deforestation in order to enhance global environment benefits, and Indonesia's commitment to halt the development of lands in deep peat soils, and the clearance of new areas of primary forests and peatlands (Chapter 3), a presentation of Indonesia's efforts to improve social forestry practices (Chapter 4); a portrait of efforts to strengthen biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management (Chapter 5); an explanation of sustainable forest management practices to generate income from the forestry sector for national and community welfare

(Chapter 6); and a concluding note and reflections on the way forward (Chapter 7).

## 2. An Overview of Indonesia's Forest Area

A hundred and twenty million hectares of Indonesia, or 64 percent of the nation's entire land area, is designated as the Forest Area (*Kawasan Hutan*). Most of Indonesia's remaining land area is made up of Non-Forest Area or public lands, known as Other Use Areas (*Areal Penggunaan Lain*, or APL). The Forest Area is managed in accordance with three functions. Production Forests (*Hutan Produksi*, HP) cover a total area of 68.8 million hectares. Conservation Forests (*Hutan Konservasi*, HK) cover a total area of 22.1 million hectares (with an additional 5.3 million hectares of marine conservation areas). Protection Forests (*Hutan Lindung*, HL) have watershed functions and cover the remaining 29.6 million hectares.

Blessed with a tropical climate, Indonesia 17,000+ islands are located between two continents, Asia and Australia, and between two oceans, the Pacific and the Indian Oceans. Because of its geographical location, Indonesia has an extremely high level of biodiversity, and endemism, and has a higher level of biodiversity than any other country in the world,

together with Brazil and Colombia. Wildlife species consist of such well-known fauna as the Sumatran tiger, the Sumatran elephant, the Sumatran and Javan rhinoceros, the Kalimantan and Sumatran orangutan, the new discovered Tapanuli orangutan, the anoa (dwarf buffalo), the Komodo dragon and the bird of paradise.

Indonesia's National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) for 2020 to 2024 aims to achieve a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Indonesia that reaches middle-high income status. Indonesia's RPJMN for 2020 to 2024 has seven development agendas. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry is directly involved in at least four of these agendas, namely: Strengthening economic resilience for quality and equitable growth; Developing regions to reduce inequality and ensure equal distribution of wealth; Improving the quality and competitiveness of human resources; and Environmental development and enhancing resilience in the face of unforeseen disasters and climate change.

As part of a global effort, the Indonesian Government is committed to do its part under the Paris Agreement and shows progress in the implementation of its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC), including aspects of both mitigation and adaptation. The Ministry is

in the process of reviewing and updating Indonesia's NDC. Currently, Indonesia's 2030 NDC targets for reducing emissions are 29 percent through its own efforts, and up to 41 percent depending upon levels of international cooperation. Indonesia also complies with the Katowice Package as part of its UNFCCC commitments. The package sets out the essential procedures and mechanisms that will operationalize the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement.

Indonesia has over 15 million hectares of environmentally-sensitive peatlands, which cover 12 percent of its forest land and are found across Indonesia's four major Outer Islands - Sumatra, Kalimantan, Sulawesi and Papua. These peatlands, together with another 9.67 million hectares in associated landscapes, are managed under an area of land administratively designated as the Peat Hydrological Unit (*Kesatuan Hidrologis Gambut*, KHG), which covers 24.67 million hectares.

Protection Forests play a major strategic role in protecting environmental life-support systems by: regulating water supplies; preventing floods; controlling erosion; preventing sea water intrusion; maintaining soil fertility; providing adequate food and energy supplies for human life; and serving as a storehouse of germplasm (living genetic resources such as seeds or tissues that are maintained for the purpose of animal and plant breeding, preservation, and other research uses). In recognition of this vital role, the management of these forests by dedicated Protection

Forest Management Units (*Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan Lindung*, or KPHL) is being undertaken at the ground level. Indonesia continues managing its protection forests to ensure their protection functions, but also their benefits to communities.

For more than five decades, forest resources have played a significant role in facilitating Indonesia's economic development. The Government introduced a number of new measures to increase the sustainability of the nation's forests, including systems for the certification of forests and chains of custody to ensure the legality of timber.

Starting from 2020 the government has strengthened the national economy, including facilitation of investment in and promotion of wood-based exports, all through the restructuring of regulations, introduction of new innovations, improvements in business support, and strengthening of good business governance for legal certainty.

### 3. Addressing Deforestation and Forest Degradation

The monitoring of forest resources was conducted periodically, at three-year intervals, between 2000 and 2009. With advances in remote sensing technologies, since 2011, the monitoring of forest resources has been conducted on a yearly basis, with the process involving the preparation of land cover maps derived from the

interpretation of medium resolution satellite images (Landsat 7 ETM+, Landsat 8 OLI) and high-resolution satellite images (SPOT-6, SPOT-7). For each one-year period, the process identifies increases or decreases to the level of deforestation.

The Thematic Geospatial Information System for Forestry, which is fully integrated with the National Geospatial Information Network (*Jaringan Informasi Geospasial Nasional*, JIGN), is intended to facilitate the implementation of Indonesia's One Map Policy (*Kebijakan Satu Peta*). The objective of this policy is to create a single 1: 50,000 scale map that can serve as a geospatial reference, based on a single standard, a single database, and a single geoportals.

To ensure greater legal certainty in the management of Forest Areas, measures are being undertaken to clarify the boundaries and administrative designations of Forest Areas in order to show the actual location and legal status of the Forest Area; and to legitimate public recognition regarding community rights on the use of land inside and surrounding the Forest Area.

The Moratorium on the utilization of primary natural forest and peatlands is an extremely significant policy formulated by the Indonesian Government. To implement this policy, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry issued a Ministerial Decree with an Indicative Map for the Suspension of the Issuance of New Licenses for the Utilization of Forest Resources and Forest Areas and Revisions to the

Designation of Forest Areas and Other Use Areas (known by the acronym PIPPIB, but more commonly referred to as the moratorium map). The map covers more than 66 million hectares of mostly primary forests and peatlands. Within the 66 million hectares, new concession licenses may no longer be awarded, with exceptions granted for certain licenses that were in the process of being awarded when the moratorium was initially declared. The moratorium was put into force in 2011 with the issuance of Presidential Instruction (Inpres) Number 10, and was extended by President Joko Widodo in July 2017. In 2019, it was finalized with the issuance of Presidential Instruction Number 5 regarding the permanent cessation of the issuance of new licenses in primary forests and peatlands.

The pressure placed on forested land by economic activities has resulted in disturbance to forest security in the forms of encroachment, illegal logging, forest and land fires, and illegal trade in plants and wildlife. The Indonesian Government is equipped with a number of legal instruments to address these issues and uses both preventative and repressive measures. Work continues to clarify the boundaries between different administrative classifications of Forest Areas; to clarify the legal status of certain Forest Areas; to ensure public legitimacy and recognition; and to provide greater certainty regarding land rights for communities living adjacent to or inside the Forest Area.

Significant forest and land fires occurred again in 2007, 2012 and

2015, causing transboundary haze pollution in the ASEAN region and attracting global attention. In 2014, as one of Indonesia's commitments to mitigate transboundary haze pollution, Indonesia ratified the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution (AATHP), which provides a framework for the control of forest and land fires at the regional level.

Since then, programs and activities have been conducted, which include: more effective management of peatland areas, focusing on areas that are particularly prone to forest and land fires; mainstreaming forest and land fire control programs; promoting active participation of all stakeholders; developing early warning systems that provide sufficient lead time to conduct control measures; eliminating and prohibiting the practice of burning to clear lands in high-risk areas, particularly peatlands; continuously monitoring forests and land fires with improved technologies such as satellites and CCTV.

The 2019 forest and land fires in Indonesia were not as devastating as the 2015 forest and land fires. Learning hard lessons from many years of recurring fires, Indonesia, starting in 2020, has begun to undertake newer measures to prevent and control forest and land fires. Among these measures are cloud seeding operations conducted before the peak of the dry season. Weather modification technology using cloud seeding is mainly carried out in areas that have peatlands or areas that have been predicted to experience



**Traveling along the river using a traditional boat to enjoy the riparian forest and habitat of orangutans**

**LOCATION**  
Tanjung Puting National Park,  
Central Kalimantan

**PHOTO BY**  
Iskandar Kamaruddin (2019)

severe drought. The Community Fire Awareness Group (MPA) Paralegal is another measure started in early 2020. It is a community involvement and strengthening program based on training in legal aspects of forest and land fires, fire prevention and control, integrated patrol activities, and the empowerment of communities to diversify their livelihoods. A fire prevention campaign has also been intensified with continuous improvement of integrated patrols and fire management.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made this year's preparation for forest and land fire mitigation even harder. Nevertheless, with an



optimistic attitude, the Forest and Land Fire Brigades (Manggala Agni), hand in hand with stakeholders including communities, keep tackling the challenges that arise, through the rearrangement of teams and adaptations in work-shifts, all while involving task forces for the COVID-19 pandemic, and while complying with health and safety protocols.

The Indonesian Government has developed an independent system to monitor its forests at a national scale, called Simontana or the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). The NFMS has supported the national Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for climate change

adaptation and mitigation, all part of a commitment to promote information transparency. The Indonesian National Accounting Carbon System (INCAS) is an innovation providing information on carbon emissions at the sub-national level (provinces). INCAS collects data on emissions and biological oxidation from land fires, both in mineral and peat lands, as well as data and information about fires.

The 1<sup>st</sup> National Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) was submitted to the UNFCCC in 2016, with a validity period of 2013-2020. In early 2020 the Ministry of Environment and Forestry began to compile the 2nd National FREL and plans to submit it to the UNFCCC for the period of 2021-2030.

With respect to emissions from the forestry sector and peatlands, for the period from 2000 to 2018, the average annual level of emissions stood at 439.8 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. If emissions from peat fires were excluded, the average annual level of emissions would be 213.95 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e.

The implementation of mitigation measures has resulted in a reduction in the level of emissions, particularly emissions from peat fires. Post El-Nino in 2016, the level of emissions from peat fires declined to 90.27 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e from the figure of 822.7 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e recorded in 2015. In 2017, the level of emissions from peat fires declined further, to 12.5 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e. Based on the 2018 GHG inventory, forestry sector GHG emissions amounted to 724 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e, while the baseline NDC (BAU) emissions of the forestry sector for 2018 was 761 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e. The

achievement of 2018 GHG emissions reduction for the forestry sector was 37 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e or 1.29 percent of the 2030 NDC emissions reduction target of 17.2 percent. Meanwhile, the level of emissions from peat fires in that year increased again to 121.32 Mton CO<sub>2</sub>e.

To avoid the degradation of peatlands and to improve for a better quality of their management, the Government passed the Regulation on the Protection and Management of the Peat Ecosystem in 2014, which was further amended in 2016. The amended regulation increases protections for the peat ecosystem, based on the importance in preserving water balances, storing carbon, and conserving biodiversity, and strengthens these protections by permanently stopping the issuance of new license on selected areas of peatland in 2019 through the Permanent Moratorium Policy. To guide stakeholders involved in peatland ecosystem protection and management, the National Peatland and Ecosystem Protection and Management Plan (RPPEG) was issued in June 2020.

Indonesia has a greater expanse of tropical peatland than any nation in the world. An inventory of Indonesia's peat ecosystem has been completed, resulting in a national Peat Hydrological Unit. The total extent of Indonesia's peat ecosystem stands at 24.67 million hectares, of which around 9.60 million hectares are located in Sumatra, 8.40 million hectares in Kalimantan, 63.29 thousand hectares in Sulawesi, and 6.59 million hectares in Papua.

The Regulation on the Protection and Management of the Peat Ecosystem mandates the retroactive restoration of certain deep peat areas converted in the past by industrial timber and oil palm plantations. Restoration activities are also being conducted in logged-over areas of natural forests under the auspices of ecosystem restoration concessions (IUPHHK-RE). The basic principles of ecosystem restoration concessions are to maintain forest functions (including the existing administrative status of Forest Area); to ensure forest protection and maintenance (conservation); to restore levels of biodiversity and non-biological diversity (restoration), to optimize the utilization of non-timber forest products and environmental services, to achieve sustainability, and to facilitate rehabilitation, including biodiversity and ecosystem services from mangroves.

As a country with vast peatlands and mangroves ecosystems, Indonesia plays a significant role in conserving these vulnerable ecosystems globally. Its role has been carried out by maintaining its commitments and strengthening global collaboration in relation to conservation and sustainable management of tropical peatlands and mangroves. These have been manifested through the establishment of the International Tropical Peatlands Center (ITPC) in October 2018 and an initiative to establish a World Mangroves Center (WMC). ITPC was established jointly with the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Republic of Congo

and Peru, and supported by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), the United States Environment Programme (UNEP) and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Meanwhile, it is expected that an international cooperation hub that promotes sustainable mangrove management will be achieved through a WMC.

#### 4. Roles of Communities in Sustainable Forest Management

The 2015 to 2019 target set by the National Medium-Term Development Plan (RPJMN) for the awarding of Social Forestry licenses was 12.7 million hectares. As of May 2020, the distribution of 4,147,875 hectares of social forestry access to 6,620 forest farmer groups was assisted by 1,250 extension workers. This distribution of forest access has enabled the creation of 7,311 social forestry business groups, which are successfully increasing the productivity and value of on-farm and off-farm commodities, and of village small-scale industries.

*Adat* Forests (*Hutan Adat*) are a Social Forestry program prioritized by the President. *Adat* Forests are defined as forests located within territories over which *Adat* communities hold traditional rights (*Adat*). In order to bring the nation's forest regulation in line with a high-profile decision by Indonesia's Constitutional Court in 2013 concerning *Adat* forests, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry issued a new regulation on

Rights Forest in 2015. In 2019, this regulation was repealed and replaced by Ministerial Regulation on *Adat* Forests and Rights Forest. President Joko Widodo has given recognition to 66 *Adat* forests covering of 44,629.34 hectares, spread through the provinces of West Sumatra, South Sumatra, Riau, Jambi, Central Sulawesi, South Sulawesi, Central Sulawesi, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Central Kalimantan, Banten, West Java, Central Java and Bali.

The Ministry of Environment and Forestry manages the forests through Forest Management Units (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan, or KPH). KPH take three forms, one of which is the Protection Forest Management Unit (*Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan Lindung*, KPHL). KPHL focus not only on managing the nation's Protection Forests, but also facilitating community participation in programs related to the collection and utilization of non-timber forest products and the provision of environmental services. At the site level, Protection Forest management activities involve facilitation of and assistance to communities to utilize these areas to support their welfare, and protect the functions of these forests.

A number of research and development activities have been conducted. Among others are those related to NTFP, HKm (or *Hutan Kemasyarakatan* a type of social forestry license), agroforestry, and community capacity building.

## 5. Strengthening Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Management

Indonesia has 554 designated conservation areas spread throughout all provinces of the country, covering a total area of 27.4 million hectares, of which 5.3 million hectares are marine conservation areas. Conservation areas face significant and complex pressures, many of which have the potential to result in the degradation and fragmentation of habitat, leading to so-called “Ecological Islands.”

For 25 endangered species found in Indonesia and listed on the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species, Indonesia has established a target to increase the populations of these 25 threatened species. Because of recorded births amongst the populations of nine of these endangered wildlife species in 2017 (see The State of Indonesia's Forests 2018 for reference), an average increase in population of 0.82 percent took place among all 25. This more than quadrupled to 3.67 percent in 2018 due to recorded births that year amongst populations of 19 of these endangered species. Those born in 2018 included a Proboscis Monkey in Yokohama Zoo as a part of a breeding loans collaboration program between Indonesia and Japan. Births like this of priority species in conservation institutions (*ex situ*) is expected to supplement efforts to increase protected animal populations in nature (*in situ*). As for 2019, protected

animals born included two Sumatran elephants in Way Kambas National Park, four Javan rhinos in Ujung Kulon National Park, four banteng bulls in Meru Betiri National Park, Baluran National Park, and Kayan Mentarang National Park, one Javan eagle in Gunung Gede Pangrango National Park, and seven orangutans in Sumatra and Kalimantan. Based on the results of population monitoring that is routinely carried out in Komodo National Park, the population of Komodo dragons increased from 2,897 individuals in 2018 to become 3,022 individuals by the end of 2019, or there was an increase of 125 individuals (4.31 percent) in the population. In 2020, the good news is the birth of 2 individuals of Javan rhinos. Thus, until August this year, the Javan Rhino population is 74 individuals, consisting of 40 males and 34 females, with an age composition consisting of 15 juveniles and 59 adults.

Since 2015, Indonesia has accepted repatriation from Thailand and Kuwait of 19 orangutan that were victims of the illegal wildlife trade. From 2015 to 2019, a total of 1,795 wild animals were repatriated to Indonesia. In addition, during those same years, 917 wild animals were rescued, and a total of 101,061 wild animals were released into the wild. These latter two activities involved 29 special conservation institutions, consisting of nine Animal Rescue Centers, 12 Animal Rehabilitation Centers and eight Special Wildlife Animal Training Centers.

Much of Indonesia's population

A photograph showing two cavers in a cave system. One caver is in the upper left, wearing a yellow suit and a red helmet, climbing a rock face. The other caver is in the lower right, wearing a red and black suit and a red helmet, also climbing. The cave walls are dark and textured, with some light reflecting off the rock surfaces.

## Caving: One of the many special tourism activities that can be pursued in Indonesia's conservation areas

LOCATION  
Bantimurung Bulusaraung National Park,  
South Sulawesi

PHOTO BY  
Dissy Ekapramudita (2013)

continues to depend upon forest resources. Of the 74,954 villages in Indonesia, about 25,800 villages, or 34.1 percent of the total, are located at the fringes of, or inside, the Forest Areas. As many as 6,381 villages are on the fringes of or inside the 22 million hectares of Conservation Forest, with a significant proportion of the population of these villages relying on forest resources for their livelihoods.

From 2015 to 2019, conservation programs have been conducted to enable communities to access and utilize non-timber forest products in up to 579,208 hectares of designated traditional zones, in national parks. These zones may be utilized for the benefit of communities that have traditionally been dependent on certain non-timber forest products found in these zones. Through these partnership arrangements, conservation areas have contributed

to improving the welfare of 8,103 households in 192 villages living in or at the fringes of 54 national parks.

To avoid biodiversity loss and ecosystem deterioration, the government will focus from the year 2020 forward on strengthening the conservation of plant and wild animal biodiversity and ecosystems, including through establishment of Essential Ecosystem Areas (*Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial*, KEE) outside of the Forest Area, in collaboration with local governments, private sector stakeholders, and local communities.

Indonesia is recognized as being one of the most important countries in the world for the preservation of biodiversity. As such, Indonesia has ratified a number of international agreements and conventions related to biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the UNESCO Man and Biosphere Program

(MAB), the World Heritage Convention, the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Ramsar Convention (the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance as Waterfowl Habitat).

## 6. Forests for the National Economy and the Role of Private Sector

Indonesia's Production Forests cover an area of 68.8 million hectares, of which concessions currently occupy 34.18 million hectares, while the remaining 34.62 million hectares are without such concessions. Of the area granted in concessions about 55 percent (about 18.8 million hectares) are for the selective felling of natural forest timber (IUPHHK-HA) while about 33 percent (about 11.27 million hectares) are for the planting of industrial timber (IUPHHK-HT), 2 percent (about 0.62 million hectares) are allocated for ecosystem restoration (IUPHHK-RE), and 10 percent or 3.49 million hectares are allocated for other forest uses, such as collecting non-timber forest products (IUPHHBK), environmental services business (IUPJL), and social forestry schemes. The first two types of concessions are the main producers of logs for Indonesia's pulp and paper, plywood, and sawn timber sectors. Upstream and downstream, all these activities together amount to about 5 percent of the national economy.

Meanwhile, of the 34.62 million

hectares of Production Forest that are not licensed, 9.88 million hectares of primary forests in this classification is now permanently protected by the PIPPIB moratorium map, 7.69 million hectares is classified as 'Specific Areas' (*Wilayah Tertentu*, WT) managed by the subset of 167 Production Forest Management Units (KPHP) which have obtained approval of their Long-Term Forest Management Plans, 10.04 million hectares is Convertible Production Forest (HPK), 3.55 million hectares is reserved for future allocation for social forestry schemes, and 3.46 million hectares is reserved for future allocation for forest utilization business licenses (IUPHHK-HA/HT/RE).

From 2011 to 2019, fees and royalties from the forestry sector alone amounted to USD 2.18 billion. Major forest-related fees and royalties include payments into the Reforestation Fund, the Forest Resource Royalty, the Forest Product Utilization Business License Fee, the Environmental Services Utilization Business License Fee, and Forest Exploitation Violation Fines and Stumpage Compensation - a requirement that trees felled illegally by timber concessionaires will be charged royalties ten times higher than normal regulated levels. Forest products exports between 2013 and 2019 averaged USD 9.5 billion per year.

The Government has taken a number of far-reaching measures to minimize unsustainable and illegal forest production practices. Indonesia has a mandatory national system for

the certification of forest sustainability known as PHPL. It also has a national chain of custody system which ensures the legality of timber (SVLK) which in turn has allowed Indonesia to be the first nation in the world to successfully complete a legal timber trade agreement with the EU. Detail regarding SVLK may be seen in the SIPUHH-online system. There is also an internet-based system to facilitate improvements in non-tax revenue collection (SIPNBP).

In order to increase the economic value of Production Forests, a paradigm shift is underway from timber management to forest landscapes management. This transformation is resulting in the more holistic management of forest landscapes. Forest management is oriented toward multiple uses of the nation's forests, both timber and non-timber forest products as well as environmental services. Going forward, the government will allow natural forest timber concessions (IUPHHK-HA) and industrial timber plantations (IUPHHK-HT) to pursue multiple business opportunities, including agroforestry, and no longer require that they limit their efforts to timber production.

## 7. Concluding Note and the Way Forward

Fundamental changes undertaken through corrective measures aimed at improving the overall forest ecosystem should be manifested in improvements in: (a) the quality of forest cover and ecosystems to support human life, pollution control, watershed management, biodiversity, and the mitigation of climate change; (b) the functions of forests in supporting human life, producing goods and services and conserving biodiversity; and (c) the balance between the ecosystem and natural resources within a landscape.

In 2020, the early phase of President Jokowi's second term, the COVID-19 pandemic has eroded the quality of all virtually aspects of life in Indonesia, including the forestry sector. This difficult situation has impeded the Ministry of Environment and Forestry's efforts as well as threatened what has been achieved over the last several years. The national budgetary allocation for managing forests and the environment has been halved to cope with the urgency of the pandemic.

Nevertheless, the Government is still confident that by prioritizing activities and being consistent in undertaking corrective measures, Indonesia can always progress towards sustainable forestry and achieving all targets under the Sustainable Development Goals.

Indonesia aims to keep the forestry sector stable by ensuring continuity

in forestry businesses through: relaxing some procedures, delaying loan repayments, extending grace periods, optimizing state budgets and prioritizing labour-intensive activities through social forestry programs.

To improve the quality of its social forestry programs, the government has introduced e-learning, especially for smallholders. The government also provides incentives for forest farmers, such as for seeds, fertilizers, and pesticides. Other measures to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic include ensuring that wildlife in ex-situ conservation areas has sufficient supplies of food, improving non-timber forest products marketing, enriching law enforcement efforts through taking a restorative justice approach, and Initiating a 'forest healing' program to use the forest for health purposes (physical and mental health recovery).

With the vision of President Joko Widodo in ensuring the provision of a healthy environment for all citizens, consistent policies and corrective measures have been adopted. These include: (1) permanently ceasing the issuance of new licenses in primary forests and some peatlands; (2) enhancing restoration of forest landscapes, social forestry, forest fire control, as well as, improving the effectiveness of conservation management; (3) increasing the participation of business communities in land rehabilitation; (4) rehabilitating 637,000 hectares of severely degraded mangrove forest by 2024; (5) developing corridors

connecting fragmented habitats to promote sustainable biodiversity; (6) maintaining conservation areas that have been recognized by World Heritage, Ramsar, and others; and (7) scaling up best practices in research and education forests, as well as community forests; (8) establishment of 1.02 million hectares (so far) of new High Conservation Value Forest outside of the Forest Area.

These and other policies allow the Government to continue to uphold its commitment to reduce the rate of deforestation, controlling forest and land fires, make progress in REDD+ and NDC implementation, enhance conservation of natural forests, scenic beauty and biodiversity, provide more forest access to communities for their livelihoods, advance social forestry, maintain law enforcement and contribute to the national economy and workforce.

Good environmental governance is the core concept used to manage Indonesia's forests at the level of the ecosystem. With reference to the vision agreed upon at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the concept of sustainable development has also been adopted into Indonesia's long-term economic management, is implemented with available technology, and is consistent with the highest forms of human civilization.

Good environmental governance guides the formulation and implementation of Indonesia's forest policy and is driven by: (1) scientific development and improved understandings; (2) an evolving

conceptual framework; (3) work results that provide solutions; (4) social relevance; (5) linkage with the planning process; and (6) efforts to influence policy makers.

Good environmental governance takes into account the important roles of actors who influence the environment, such as NGOs, civil society, business and government. Cooperation and synergy are critical steps to achieve effective governance towards a sustainable future.

By strengthening collaborative and concerted action amongst the global community, Indonesia believes that the world will be able to build back better and that forests will continue to flourish and provide ecosystem services for the country and for the people's welfare.

A wooden boat with a green canopy is on a river, surrounded by dense green forest. The boat has a blue hull and a wooden deck. The water is dark and rippled, with white foam from the boat's wake visible in the foreground. The background is a thick wall of green trees under a clear blue sky.

## Park rangers patrol the Sekonyer River

LOCATION  
Tanjung Puting National Park,  
Central Kalimantan

PHOTO BY  
Iskandar Kamaruddin (2019)

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**Ministry of Environment and Forestry  
Republic of Indonesia**