



# PRESS RELEASE

## President selected Kalimantan Tengah as pilot province

Jakarta, 30 December 2010

President Yudhoyono announced the selection of Central Kalimantan as a pilot province to carry out pilot testing of the initial stage of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) in Indonesia.

The selection by the President was conducted during the Cabinet meeting on 23 December 2010, where the President selected Kalimantan Tengah out of nine forested provinces, upon receiving a report by Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head of the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight (UKP4), who also assigned by the President as the Chairman of the Task Force for the Preparation of REDD+ Institutional Establishment (REDD+ Task Force).

The REDD+ Task Force was established in September 2010, based on Presidential Decree No. 19/2010, as part of the Partnership program between the governments of Indonesia and Norway. The Task Force will work with local governments to improve the institutions, systems and capacities that are at the front lines of forest protection.

Dr. Kuntoro stated, President selected Central Kalimantan based on a combination of quantitative and qualitative evaluation. "The assessment showed that Central Kalimantan is a province with large forest cover and peat land and faces a real threat of deforestation. The level of readiness and commitment of the Governor to implement REDD+ was also considered promising for Central Kalimantan to be successful partner," said Dr. Kuntoro. Kalimantan Tengah has the third largest forest cover and the third largest amount of peat land in Indonesia.

According to Dr. Kuntoro, it requires a special laboratory to implement the REDD+ strategy throughout Indonesia. The strategies and programs that have been composed to combat deforestation on the ground will be tested in this pilot province.

Being selected as a pilot province carries with it heavy implications as the test site for a trial and error approach. Kalimantan Tengah must be able to manage the complexity of implementation which include bureaucracy reform to ensure transparency and anti-corruption, law enforcement against illegal logging, re-examination of the land and forest boundaries, and the integration of data in forestry, agriculture, plantation and mining down to the district level.

"We recognize and fully understand this heavy task, and are prepared to take this on. The current programs, such as low-emissions economic growth, green and clean province, as well as assistance from various NGOs, donor countries and the central government will continue. Kalimantan Tengah is ready to carry out this assignment as instructed by the President," said Teras Narang, Governor of Central Kalimantan.



Teras Narang further explained that Kalimantan Tengah will continue the ongoing programs, such as rehabilitation in the Ex-Mega Rice land, in accordance with Presidential Instruction No. 2 of 2007, the Master Plan for which was completed with the support of the Dutch government. The Master Plan can be used as reference to avoid repeating past oversight.

Through the partnership between Indonesia-Norway, the Government of Norway will support the institutional transformation and capability enhancement to strengthen the government of Kalimantan Tengah's efforts on the ground. While Central Kalimantan will receive full support, and all other forested provinces will also be provided technical support to achieve important REDD+ objectives. The remaining forested provinces are Aceh, Jambi, Riau, South Sumatra, West Kalimantan, East Kalimantan, Papua, and West Papua.

The Task Force expressed their commitment to support all nine provinces as partners in managing forests sustainably. "REDD+ gives Indonesia an opportunity to improve forest governance and management. The challenge to overcome the reality on the ground is big. One pilot province will not have a big impact. All forested provinces must work hard so that Indonesia can reduce emissions significantly," remarked Dr. Kuntoro.

In May of this year, Indonesia and Norway signed a Letter of Intent in Oslo outlining the framework for a USD 1 billion partnership to combat deforestation and forest degradation. The implementation of Phase 2 of the partnership, beginning next year, will include the establishment of a national REDD+ agency, continuation of the development of a comprehensive national REDD+ strategy, creation of financing instrument, development of a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework, and the implementation of a pilot province and a two-year suspension for new concessions on forests and peat lands.

The REDD+ Task Force has oversight over the preparation of the national REDD+ strategy and is responsible for designing the REDD+ agency and the funding instrument for REDD+ activities. The formation of the Task Force is expected to largely drive Indonesia's efforts in putting in place the infrastructure to reduce emissions through breakthrough REDD+ transformation while improving economic prospects of their people and ensuring sustainability of its economy through a low carbon growth strategy. The REDD+ Task Force reports directly to the President.

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