



THE FORESTS DIALOGUE

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Field Dialogue on Understanding 'Deforestation-Free' (UDF)

29 April - 2 May 2015 | Pekanbaru, Riau, Indonesia

About the Initiative

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) launched the Understanding 'Deforestation-Free' (UDF) Initiative in the summer of 2014. The Initiative aims to develop a commonly-held view on the meaning of 'deforestation-free' and to generate knowledge and share experience on how to effectively design and implement pledges to eradicate deforestation from supply chains, investments, and jurisdictions. To help develop and implement the UDF Initiative, TFD has brought together a committee of advisors composed of representatives from a range of actors in the forest sector, including multinational organizations, transnational corporations, NGOs, and civil society groups.

Why UDF? Why Indonesia?

In 2014, a study published in *Nature Climate Change* reported that Indonesia had surpassed Brazil as the country with the highest rate of deforestation in the world. Deforestation, peatland degradation, and forest fires now account for the majority of Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions, and the resulting smoke endangers local and regional health. As Indonesia strives to feed and meet the needs of a population of more than 240 million people, rising global demand for palm oil and paper and pulp is furthering the country's economic development, while also compounding pressures on its forests and the millions of its citizens whose livelihoods depend on them.

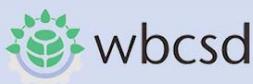
The recent 'deforestation-free' interest centers on Indonesia, both as a trendsetter in making deforestation-free commitments and as one of their primary targets. Some of the largest agribusinesses operating in Indonesia are leaders in this space: Golden Agri Resources was one of the first companies in the world to commit to eradicating deforestation from its supply chain, and Wilmar is the largest palm oil company to have pledged zero deforestation. Meanwhile, as the world's largest producer of palm oil, the bulk of the corporate deforestation-free pledges that have been made to date are premised on the ability of Indonesian growers to adhere to new standards.

Indonesia has also emerged as a critical trial ground for tools that may be useful in implementing deforestation-free commitments, including voluntary forest and palm oil certification, and the high carbon stock (HCS) and high conservation value (HCV) methodologies. In particular, Indonesian companies are at the center of a debate over how the HCS method should be applied, and discussions around how best to engage local communities in applying it are most advanced in the Indonesian context.

Forest sector stakeholders acknowledge that companies and communities cannot bring about a deforestation-free reality without government involvement. Here, too, Indonesia provides rich experience from which to learn. President Widodo has expanded the scope of the 2011 moratorium on conversion of primary forests and peatlands to cover all forests. The administration, together with the newly restructured Environment and Forestry Ministry, has acknowledged the importance of the deforestation-free issue, committed to increased fire prevention efforts, and heightened transparency in addressing forest crimes. The Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (KADIN) has attempted to maintain pressure on the government by joining with leading palm oil producers in calling for improved forest governance, as well as for additional deforestation-free pledges from the private sector.

The Forests Dialogue, 360 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut, 06511, USA
O: +1 203 432 5966; F: +1 203 432 3809; W: theforestdialogue.org; E: Info@theforestdialogue.org

Partners



Collaborators



What does TFD bring to the topic of 'deforestation-free'?

TFD provides a unique and neutral platform in which to weave together these various strands. As no single organization dominates the dialogue process, diverse stakeholders feel welcome and empowered, leading to outcomes that are made durable by the sense of ownership shared by all participants. A dialogue is only as valuable as the breadth and depth of those actors who participate, and TFD's process ensures broad participation that enables strong uptake of dialogue outcomes. TFD's unique convening power draws together local and national companies, NGOs, and civil society organizations that are affected by deforestation-free policies, including those which have not yet committed to or directly engaged with them.

By interfacing with key actors across different sectors in Indonesia in a multi-stakeholder process, TFD's participants are well-poised to help identify the critical challenges that stakeholders face in implementing and living with deforestation-free policies, as well as to motivate robust political support for implementing potential solutions. In addition, TFD has held five dialogues in Indonesia in the past, which have produced strong relationships with local actors that it has drawn on in developing the Riau UDF field dialogue. Past local partners have included CIFOR, Daemeter, the Forest Peoples Programme, The Forest Trust, Kemitraan, Scale-Up, Telapak, the University of Palangkaraya, and WWF Indonesia. The TFD website provides information on past dialogues (<http://theforestsdialogue.org>).

What is the focus of the Riau Dialogue? How does it fit into the bigger picture?

The Riau Dialogue is the first in a series of field dialogues that will apply the learnings from an initial [Scoping Dialogue](#)—held in October, 2014 in New Haven, Connecticut—to particular geographic contexts. The outcomes from the field dialogues will inform the creation of guidelines for developing and implementing effective and impactful deforestation-free policies. The Riau Dialogue builds on workshops organized in late 2014 by KADIN and the Indonesian Business Council for Sustainable Development in an effort to:

- ➔ Illuminate the challenges that land managers face in implementing deforestation-free policies;
- ➔ Examine the challenges associated with monitoring and verifying progress made toward meeting deforestation-free commitments on the ground;
- ➔ Shed light on both the impacts that large corporations' deforestation-free policies have on local stakeholders, and the role that local stakeholders have in providing deforestation-free commodities to local and global markets;
- ➔ Explore the impact of land tenure (in)security and conflict—recognized by the Indonesian government as priorities for reform—on the success of deforestation-free initiatives, and explore new tenure and governance options for indigenous peoples, local communities, and smallholders;
- ➔ Explore how deforestation-free policies are being communicated to upstream suppliers;
- ➔ Capture insights on key challenges, and potential solutions, to ensure deforestation-free initiatives deliver positive social and environmental outcomes in Indonesia;
- ➔ Provide knowledge and experience to the UDF Initiative and the international community on how to move forward concerning the design and implementation of deforestation-free commitments at the global scale.

Process, Dates, and Location

This multi-stakeholder field dialogue will convene approximately 30 international and 30 Indonesian experts from **29 April – 2 May in Pekanbaru, Riau Province, Indonesia**. Participants will spend two days at field sites in Riau where deforestation-free policies are being implemented, at which they will encounter three sets of dynamics:

- (1) *national, provincial, and district government planning processes* for curbing deforestation, including landscape-level planning, as well as the challenges to putting these plans into effect;
- (2) *community efforts at land-use planning and forest management*, and the challenges associated with obtaining official recognition for these efforts; and
- (3) *corporate efforts to translate deforestation-free pledges into action on the ground* using methods such as HCS and HCV set-asides, and the challenges to doing so.

Field sites will include land that is being managed by various commodity-producing companies, by traditional communities, and by settlers from elsewhere in Indonesia who are planting oil palm inside national parks.

Building on the site visits and on a background paper (described below), participants will take part in a two-day facilitated multi-stakeholder dialogue, using both plenary and small working group formats to work through the challenges and opportunities facing deforestation-free policies in Indonesia and internationally.

Our Partners

The Indonesian Business Council on Sustainable Development (IBCSD) is the primary partner and local host for the Riau Dialogue. Other partners and collaborators include: Apremavi, Environmental Defense Fund, Forest Peoples Programme, IDH, KADIN Indonesia, PROFOR, Rainforest Alliance, Scale Up, TFA2020, the World Business Council on Sustainable Development, World Resources Institute, and WWF.

Outputs

1. A background paper has been commissioned to provide participants with a baseline understanding of the concept and context of ‘deforestation-free’ in Indonesia prior to their arrival, and to present ideas to stimulate discussion. It will give an overview of existing deforestation-free commitments relevant to Indonesia, as well as pertinent government policies, and will discuss the main challenges confronting the effective implementation of deforestation-free pledges. The paper will be finalized and made publicly available after the dialogue.
2. The dialogue co-chairs will prepare an official report summarizing participants’ experiences during the site visits and the discussions during the dialogue. The summary report will be distributed widely, and key findings will be presented to priority stakeholders in Indonesia.
3. Other communications-related outputs may include press conferences before and after the dialogue coordinated with local media outlets, targeted outreach via social media to opinion-shapers, one or more news articles to be published online immediately following the dialogue in regional and international outlets that will report out on key messages, an edited video to be posted on TFD’s website, and a webinar to familiarize actors who could not participate in the dialogue with the subject of UDF and with the dialogue concept.

Looking Ahead

At the national level, the field dialogue will create a strong stakeholder network that can support policy initiatives around deforestation-free objectives, comprising key leaders from government, the agriculture and forest sectors, and civil society. Local communities, in particular, will be empowered to play an active, leading role.

Internationally, findings from the Indonesia field dialogue will provide case information that can inform the design and implementation of deforestation-free commitments elsewhere. This field dialogue will be the first in a planned series under TFD’s multi-year UDF Initiative. Findings from the dialogue will help frame field dialogues being planned in Africa and Latin America. A final wrap-up workshop will synthesize learnings, create consensus recommendations, and develop a concrete action plan with partners.