Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Forests Dialogue

The Forests Dialogue

ENGAGE! EXPLORE! CHANGE!

Ecosystem Restoration Field Dialogue, Indonesia

EAST KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA

22-26 April 2024

Dialogue Co-Chairs' Summary

Dialogue Co-Chairs: Lyndall Bull, Aldrianto Priadjati, Nanang Qasim, Fernanda Rodrigues, Mustofa Agung Sardjono

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The Forests Dialogue, Yale University, 360 Prospect Street, New Haven, Connecticut, 06511, USA
O: +1 203 432 5966 T: @forestsdialogue W: www.theforestsdialogue.org E: info@theforestsdialogue.org

ABSTRACT

The Ecosystem Restoration field dialogue in East Kalimantan, Indonesia, held in April 22-26 2024 was hosted by Mulawarman University in collaboration with The Forests Dialogue and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI). During the course of the dialogue, 57 participants including international and Indonesian forestry stakeholders, visited seven field sites to learn about challenges, opportunities and motivations to engage in ecosystem restoration in Indonesia. In breakout discussions participants discussed and prioritized challenges for ecosystem restoration across five themes of Capacity and Knowledge; Biophysical; Financing; Social and Community; and Policy and Governance. Participants then brainstormed opportunities to address key challenges, in particular focusing on the role of the forest private sector, and developed action plans for prioritized opportunities of: Collaboration of private corporations with communities; Political will and policy; Corporate funding for restoration; Recognition of customary rights and engagement of women and customary people in decision-making. Details of the field visits, prioritized challenges and opportunities, and co-chair reflections on the Ecosystem Restoration initiative fracture lines are detailed in the Co-Chair's Summary report.

Ecosystem Restoration Indonesian field dialogue participants.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Initiative objectives

The Ecosystem Restoration dialogue in East Kalimantan, Indonesia is the first field dialogue in The Forests Dialogue's (TFD) Ecosystem Restoration Initiative (The Initiative). The Initiative seeks to understand the opportunities for the forest private sector to contribute and drive ecosystem restoration[1] efforts worldwide. The Indonesia field dialogue follows a Restoration Roundtable convened in October 2022 in collaboration with the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries (ACSFI) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to enhance the forest-based industries' engagement in ecosystem restoration. A Scoping Dialogue of the Ecosystem Restoration Initiative was convened in January 2023 to determine the focus of the initiative on the forest private sector[2] and opportunities for the forest sector to contribute and drive restoration efforts worldwide. Dialogue participants identified six fracture lines which the TFD dialogue could help to address, detailed in the Scoping Dialogue Co-Chair's Summary.[3]

1.2 Dialogue overview

The Ecosystem Restoration Indonesian field dialogue, hosted by Mulawarman University (UNMUL) in collaboration with TFD and FAO ACSFI, was held from April 22-26 2024. The dialogue was organized around the following goals:

- Clarify ecosystem restoration needs and identify stakeholders in East Kalimantan, define priorities for forest sector engagement in ecosystem restoration, and co-create paths forward to achieve positive ecosystem restoration outcomes.
- Bridge understanding and foster coordination between global goals, national commitments, local needs, and restoration actions by the many restoration stakeholders on the ground
- Build understanding of successful ecosystem restoration approaches, coalitions, and private forest sector engagement.
- Advance thinking and develop a cohesive strategy for how the forest sector can collectively contribute to restoration discussions, polices, and investments at global and national levels.

The dialogue convened a total of 57 participants including 45 Indonesia stakeholders and rightsholders, 13 international participants from ten different countries (including Australia, Brazil, Cameroon, India, Nepal). Participants included individuals from academia, research institutions, government agencies, international organizations, forest private sector, local communities, Indigneous Peoples representatives,

1 Ecosystem Restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed.

2 Scoping Dialogue participants defined the "forest private sector" within the TFD initiative as those with commercial interests in forests including forest-based industries, individuals and family forests, small and medium forest-based enterprises as well as community forest-based enterprises.

3 https://theforestsdialogue.org/sites/default/files/tplscoping_dialogue_cochairsummaryfinal.pdf

Vice Minister of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Alue Dohong, shares Indonesia's restoraiton goals and priorities with dialogue participants.

environmental non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and human-rights focused NGOs. The dialogue included a welcome reception hosted by the Governor of East Kalimantan, two days of field visits to hear directly from local participants about restoration practices and social and environmental challenges on the ground, an opening statement and discussion with Dr. Alue Dohong, the Vice Minister of the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, and two days of dialogue including plenary and small working group sessions.

1.3 Background on ecosystem restoration in Indonesia

A dialogue background paper provides foundational information on ecosystem restoration at global and national scales. Excerpts to provide an overview of global restoration trends and ecosystem restoration in Indonesia are summarized here in this document.

Ecosystem restoration has emerged as a critical component in global conservation efforts, climate change mitigation, and sustainable development,[4] with particular fous on complex and unique tropical rainforest restoration. Recent studies found that restoring 15% of converted lands in priority areas could avoid 60% of expected extinctions and sequester 299 gigatons of CO_2, which is 30% of the total CO_2 increase in the atmosphere, or equivalent to 14% of total emissions, since the Industrial Revolution.[5] International commitments and frameworks, including the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration[6] and the ten principles guiding restoration efforts,[7] provide a roadmap for action and collaboration. The private sectors, including the private forest sector, can play a significant role in advancing ecosystem restoration efforts through its diverse range of investments, partnerships with NGOs and local communities, adopting sustainable practices, innovation in restoration technologies, integrating restoration into Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) strategies, and stakeholder engagement.[8]

Zooming into Kalimantan, Indonesia, reveals a landscape rich in biodiversity but facing significant threats from land use change and development pressures. Kalimantan is endowed with one of the oldest and most biodiverse rainforests in the world, home to orangutans, clouded leopards, and pygmy elephants.

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4 Aronson and Alexander, 2013; Brancalion, *et al*., 2019; Edwards *et al.*, 2021

5 Strassburg *et al*., 2020

6 UNDER, 2021b. About the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. Available at: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/about-un-decade (accessed 31 March 2024).

7 UNDER, 2021. Principles for Ecosystem Restoration to Guide the United Nations Decade 2021-2030. Available at: https://www.decadeonrestoration.org/publications/principles-ecosystem-restoration-guide-united-nations-decade-2021-2030 (accessed 31 March 2024).

8 STF-UNDER, 2021; Jepson, 2022; FAO-ACSFI, 2023

They are also home to several hundred Masyarakat Adat,[9] nowadays referred to as Dayak, who have been in Borneo for several thousand years and remain the majority population in many areas.[10] A recent development is the construction of the New Capital City, *Ibu Kota Nusantara* (IKN) which is planned to cover approximately 250,000 hectares in East Kalimantan. Indonesian policy context includes the Forestry and Other Land Use Net Carbon Sink by 2030, referred to as FOLU Net Sink 2030. It is a set of strategic measures to reduce around 140 million tons of CO_2e by 2030 from the FOLU sector that have been successfully prepared and are now being implemented on the ground (MoEF, 2022).[11] The policy includes avoiding deforestation and degradation, conservation and sustainable forest management, protection and restoration of peatlands, mangrove rehabilitation, social forestry and sink enhancement of severely degraded land inside and outside state forest areas.

Despite challenges posed by infrastructure projects, energy transitions, and land tenure issues, there are opportunities for inclusive governance and public-private partnerships to drive ecosystem conservation

Depi Susiliawti, author of the Background Paper, raises a question while visiting Nusantara.

9 "Masyarakat adat" translates literally to "customary people" or people who adhere to customary ways in English and is used to indicate Indigenous Peoples of Indonesia in international settings.

10 UNEP, 2024

11 MoEF, 2022. The State of Indonesia's Forests 2022: Towards FOLU Net Sink 2030. Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Republic of Indonesia. Available at: https://phl.menlhk.go.id/publikasi/the-state-of-indonesias-forests-2022-towards-folu-net-sink- 2030/ (accessed 6 April 2024).

and restoration efforts forward. Examining the policy context and the interests of forest and non-forest private sector entities in Indonesian Borneo unveils a spectrum of potential contributions and constraints. From sustainable wood supply initiatives to broader ecosystem restoration models, private sector engagement holds promise for achieving conservation goals while meeting economic objectives. The background paper provides an overview of policy initiatives and incentives for private sector engagement in restoration in Indonesia including ecosystem restoration concession licenses, REDD+ initiatives, tax deductions to invest in rehabilitating degraded lands in the new capital city of Nusantara, legal obligations to rehabilitate mining concessions and surrounding landscapes, and private-public partnerships.

Participants engage in a discussion at Hutan Hujan Tropis Nusantara.

II. DIALOGUE SUMMARY

2.1 Field visit learnings and reflections

Over two days, participants visited seven field visits sites to understand ecosystem restoration practices and the role of the private forest sector in East Kalimantan. At each field site, participants explored questions related motivations to restore, financing, rights and responsibilities, enabling factors, opportunities and barriers to replicating or scaling up, and social and environmental challenges. The field visits feature the engagement of a range of actors in ecosystem restoration including civil society, small and medium scale enterprises, private-sector companies, government, academia, funders, Indigenous peoples and local communities. Further, sites were selected to highlight various restoration activities or techniques including assisted natural regeneration, mixed species planting with native tree species, planting with native and exotic species, and agroforestry systems.

FIELD VISIT SUMMARIES

Dialogue participants learn about post-mining land reclamation

POST-COAL MINING LAND REHABILITATION BY INDOMINCO MANDIRI

1. **Restoration activities:** Planting of 60% native, 40% non-native pioneer species.
2. **Degradation:** Land deforested, top-soil removed, mined.
3. **Goals:** Stabilize soil after coal mining; comply with government regulations.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** Government regulation for coal mining concession.
5. **Funding:** Self-funded; technical support from local organizations such as UNMUL.
6. **Challenges:** Topsoil stabilization can be tricky, erosion management; view that there is no community within the concession area.
7. **Insights:** Desire for examples of compensation and inclusion mechanisms between company and community; desire for government to review restoration standards; use of native rapid grown species to land cover instead of exotic species if the restoration objective is ecosystem restoration; land conversion is threatening wildlife and driving into surrounding areas closer to people.

Dialogue participants learn about the Indonesian Community Forestry, Hutan Kemasyarakatan (HKm), model.

AGROFORESTRY AT COMMUNITY FOREST, HUTAN KEMASYARAKATAN (HKm)

1. **Restoration activities:** Agroforestry.
2. **Degradation:** Logging concession, 97/8 El Nino fires.
3. **Goals:** Follow collective management plan of HKm members assessed by government, prevent fire and illegal logging.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** Economic income for family; care about nature and where they live
5. **Funding:** Selling coffee, honey, agroforestry products; Training from Production Forest Management Unit KPHP Santan.
6. **Challenges:** Roads/access; electricity; orangutans destroy crops; knowledge for species selection at the beginning; more land for future generations; other communities struggle to secure land tenure.
7. **Insights:** Orangutan and human conflict illustrates a wider landscape picture- land conversion is driving closer to people and desire for example of farmer compensation for wildlife damage; possibility of marketing mechanisms to improve the revenues.

Dialogue participants learn about mangrove restoration and enterprises at the Mangrove Center in Bontang.

COMMUNITY-LED MANGROVE NURSERY AT MANGROVE CENTER, BONTANG

1. **Restoration activities:** Growing mangrove propogules, planting with native mangrove species.
2. **Degradation:** Urban development, rapid population growth following industrial development.
3. **Goals:** Re-establish mangrove, support restoration activities by companies and government.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** The center was initiated by an individual farmer for conservation and economic purposes including development of an NTFP business.
5. **Funding:** Initial support from company fund to start nursery, success of business allowed to scale up.
6. **Challenges:** Figuring out the best planting strategy.
7. **Insights:** Supplies mangrove propagules and hired to implement restoration activities for surrounding restoration areas by companies and government. Consider how to scale up/replicate approach elsewhere.

Agus Bei, founder of the Mangrove Center in Balikpapan, presents on the Center's mangrove restoration process and impact.

COMMUNITY-LED MANGROVE RESTORATION AND ECO-TOURISM AT MANGROVE CENTER, BALIKPAPAN

1. **Restoration activities:** Planting with native mangrove species.
2. **Degradation:** Fish ponds, urban expansion.
3. **Goals:** Re-establish mangrove.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** Conservation; economic; social impact in the community; climate resilience.
5. **Funding:** Started independently, currently ecotourism.
6. **Challenges:** Continued drivers of degradation like coastal development; hoping to continue to grow.
7. **Insights:** Demonstrated that a big movement can be started from community actions – how can this be replicated elsewhere?

Cécile Ndjebet asks a question at Nusantara.

FOREST RESTORATION AT NEW CAPITAL CITY, NUSANTARA, IKN

1. **Restoration activities:** Restoration pilots: mixed species planting with native tree species understory of eucalyptus plantation.
2. **Degradation:** Commercial eucalyptus plantation.
3. **Goals:** Restoration of eucalyptus plantation to native forest in 65% of capital city area.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** To create the new capital as a "forest city" emphasizing Indonesia's tropical forest and biodiversity requires demonstrating tropical forest restoration of the proposed area; improve water quality.
5. **Funding:** Government and private investors who are interested in carbon credits and tax reduction.
6. **Challenges:** Relationships with local communities, particularly customary communities; lack of research on best practices (especially later treatments required to transition from a eucalyptus plantation to a native forest); availability of water and application of Free, Prior and Informed Consent.
7. **Insights:** Communities have faced several displacements from forest management unit, palm oil program, industrial forests, now IKN: they are the customary owners of the land. When we talk about restoration of forests, customary people should be involved in protecting the forests; local people should be a part of IKN and benefit from it and not be removed.

MULAWARMAN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION FOREST AT BUKIT SOEHARTO

1. **Restoration activities:** Primarily tree planting with mixed native and multi-purpose tree species, also introduced tree species.
2. **Degradation:** 1997/1998 El Nino Fire, illegal mining, and land encroachments.
3. **Goals:** Research and Education; conservation, and re-establish tropical rain forest.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** Research, demonstration: advise best practices in surrounding landscape; future part of IKN management.
5. **Funding:** Grants from mining companies to meet government rehabilitation requirements outside of concession areas.
6. **Challenges:** Funding limitations; forest encroachment, potential difficulties with IKN and future urbanization.

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION AT BORNEO ORANGUTAN SURVIVAL FOUNDATION SAMBOJA LESTARI

1. **Restoration activities:** Mixed native species planting, assisted natural regeneration.
2. **Degradation:** Grassland (*alang-alang*) following repeated fires.
3. **Goals:** Suitable habitat for wildlife conservation.
4. **Motivations for restoration:** Orangutan conservation; sustainable development.
5. **Funding:** Donors.
6. **Challenges:** Encroachment, especially related to IKN and rising land values, continued loss of orangutan habitat from fires and land conversion.
7. **Insights:** Example highlights how the landscape and habitats are connected. There is a risk of conflicting priorities. How can IKN promote and help increase the impact of the current successes in the landscape such as Samboja Lestari? How can IKN activities ensure protection of remaining forests?

2.2 Priority challenges related to ecosystem restoration

The first day of dialogue focused on digging deeper into stakeholder perspectives on the challenges and concerns related to ecosystem restoration in Indonesia. Participants considered challenges and barriers for private forest sector engagement in ecosystem restoration in the context of the roles, rights and restoration priorities of other actors. Additionally, participants considered challenges and concerns related to the potential negative impacts and consequences of restoration actions taken by private forest sector actors as well as other actors. Through breakout discussions participants discussed challenges which were then grouped into five themes of Capacity and knowledge; Biophysical challenges; Financing; Social and community; and Policy and governance. Challenges within each theme were then prioritized through a voting exercise; a full list of identified challenges can be found in Annex A.

Overall, participants emphasized that restoration is context specific to the social, biophysical and historical context and needs of the location it is taking place in. For complex tropical rain forest there are a diversity of restoration approaches required across the landscape and practices or approaches shouldn't be generalized into a "one size fits all approach." Instead, it is possible to identify enabling factors for successful restoration, motivations to engage in restoration, as well as processes that could be adapted to different contexts to act as a multiplier effect to increase restoration efforts.

2.2.1 Capacity and knowledge

Discussions around capacity and knowledge included reflections of the type of knowledge used for restoration as well as capacity gaps within communities, government, and restoration practitioners. In general there is a need for learning from past experiences with restoration and a lack of detailed and accurate data related to past restoration initiatives. There is restoration knowledge from diverse knowledge systems including rich local knowledge that should be used to design restoration approaches and to develop training suited to the local ecological and social context. Often there is communication to the target audience which can be overly technical and therefore hard for recipients to fully understand. More attention should be given to how to communicate restoration vision, approaches and implementation suited to the appropriate audiences.

Participants discussed that some community members lack capacity and knowledge about aspects of restoration projects including, but not limited to, technical, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills. Restoration practitioners and companies also have limited skills and capacity to comply with restoration requirements which requires capacity building. Restoration programs can have insufficient understanding of social dynamics and diverse knoweldge systems.

Priority ecosystem restoration capacity and knowledge challenges identified by participants

1. Lack of community member capacity and knowledge
2. Need to integrate a diversity of knowledge systems
3. Inappropriate communication for audience.

2.2.2 Biophysical

Discussions of biophysical challenges focused on how to understand biophysical needs for ecosystem restoration and how to implement shared definitions and indicators of success while acknowledging that restoration should be context specific. Participants reflected that restoration commitments and target areas are rarely realistic to the biophysical needs of the landscape and ecosystems. This results in restoration target areas that lack understanding of natural cycles such as natural regeneration and history of fire.

Participants identified the needs for a shared definition of restoration success with clear guidelines and science-based indicators for monitoring and evaluation. This definition should acknowledge that future states are different from past states. Participants suggested that identifying areas of ecosystem degradation requires a multi-dimensional approach considering social and ecological factors as part of the ecosystem. At the same time, participants emphasized that the appropriate restoration strategy is context specific and recommendations should not be generalized to a "one size fits all" approach. Also, good restoration practice should draw on traditional knowledge as well as local wisdom by involving communities at all stages of design and implementation. Traditional knowledge is often exchanged orally which further emphasizes the need to engage the community in all stages of restoration.

Priority ecosystem restoration biophysical challenges identified by participants

1. Challenges to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge
2. Lack of shared definition of successful restoration
3. Unclear indicators of restoration success.

2.2.3 Financing

Dialogue participants reflected on limited access to adequate and reliable long-term funding to unlock and incentivize restoration. This is based on a lack of capital and sustainable finance mechanisms and limited capacity to unlock the capital that does exist. For example, the market and processes for public goods and services are not well understood. Specifically, there are various complexities and uncertainties in the forest carbon and biodiversity markets. Furthermore there is a lack of incentives for private sector actors to contribute to ecosystem restoration, for example through corporate social responsibility programs.

Participants discussed current risks and barriers to investment in restoration. Certain identified barriers are inherent to restoration, such as long-term returns on investment. Other risks and barriers are specific to the restoration context in Indonesia including carbon market uncertainties and a need for further clarification of restoration responsibilities.

Priority ecosystem restoration financing challenges identified by participants

1. Complexity around forest carbon and biodiversity markets
2. Limited access to adequate and reliable long term funding
3. Few benefit-sharing mechanisms.

2.2.4 Social and community

Participants discussed numerous challenges and concerns related to communities engaging in and benefiting from restoration, as well as the impact of restoration on Indigenous peoples and local communities. Participants reflected that decision making processes are not always inclusive of all stakeholders. Ensuring there are adequate levels of trust between stakeholders and a shared restoration vision was considered essential for successful restoration projects.

Participants highlighted the range of challenges related to the need for Indigenous peoples and local community rights. They emphasized the importance of conducting Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in a robust and ongoing manner. Participants reflected that some restoration projects lack social mapping or rehabilitation planning and communities don't always benefit from restoration projects. Community development needs may limit their engagement in restoration. Additionally, companies don't always have social sensitivity or knowledge of the local community.

Student representatives from the International Forestry Students Association.

The driver of restoration projects often comes from outside the community. As a result, the project or strategy does not always integrate or take advantage of the wisdom of local communities and Indigenous Peoples. Participants discussed how to engage all elements of the community, particularly women and youth.

Priority ecosystem restoration social and community challenges identified by participants

1. Lack of trust between stakeholders
2. FPIC not being implemented in a robust and ongoing manner
3. Lack of recognition of Indigenous and community rights.

2.2.5 Policy and governance

When discussing roadblocks to increasing private sector engagement in ecosystem restoration and engaging Indigenous Peoples and local communities, a primary concern is the lack of clarity on land ownership, including overlapping concessions and community rights. Participants would like to see conservation, restoration and community land rights prioritized in land use planning and allocation of concessions. Participants described that various demands on land and associated resources potentially limits the availability of land to be restored. Further there is ongoing conversion of land for other land uses and road development.

Participants discussed potential disconnects between top-down and bottom up restoration approaches. Participants described that traditional knowledge and restoration practices are based on specific customary tenure systems. There can be a mismatch between formal land tenure systems which are often fixed and at the level of an individual land parcel, and customary land tenure systems which can be flexible and include multiple user groups or communal rights. Additionally, participants described how some private sector actors and communities wishing to carry out restoration activities can lack resources and capacity to overcome certain bureaucratic burdens, such as lengthy steps for approval or multiple forms to fill out. Furthermore, when restoration projects are overly focused on inputs (such as the number of trees planted) rather than long-term management needs, it can limit long term benefits and outcomes of a restoration activity.

Participants identified a lack of engagement processes, collaboration and multi-stakeholder approaches to restoration. Without a shared vision for restoration in a particular place, different groups and individuals can hold different values for what restoration is. This can result in a lack of trust and varied expectations for decision making, roles and responsibilities, potential benefits, and how benefits will be distributed. Participants identified the need for processes to support understanding, build trust, and resolve conflicts. Dialogue participants discussed the role of effective coordination between governmental departments.

Priority ecosystem restoration policy and governance challenges identified by participants

1. Lack of clarity regarding ownership of land
2. Lack of multi-stakeholder approaches
3. Tensions around top-down and bottom-up approaches.

2.3 Opportunities to address challenges

The second day of dialogue focused on exploring ways to address the challenges identified, prioritizing the proposed opportunities, and developing necessary actions to support each priority opportunity. The group specifically considered the role for the forest private sector, which is understood broadly to include corporations, smallholders, small and medium scale enterprises, consultants, financers, and more. Dialogue participants brainstormed opportunities to address priority challenges, including at varying scales, e.g. new capital city IKN and carbon markets. This allowed participants to contribute their own experience, ideas and scale of focus. Additionally, participants considered opportunities already being developed which could be replicated or scaled up.

Dialogue participants identified the following priority opportunities for ecosystem restoration in Indonesia:

1. Collaboration of private corporations with communities
2. Political will and policy
3. Corporate funding for restoration
4. Recognition of customary rights and engagement of women and customary communities in decision-making.

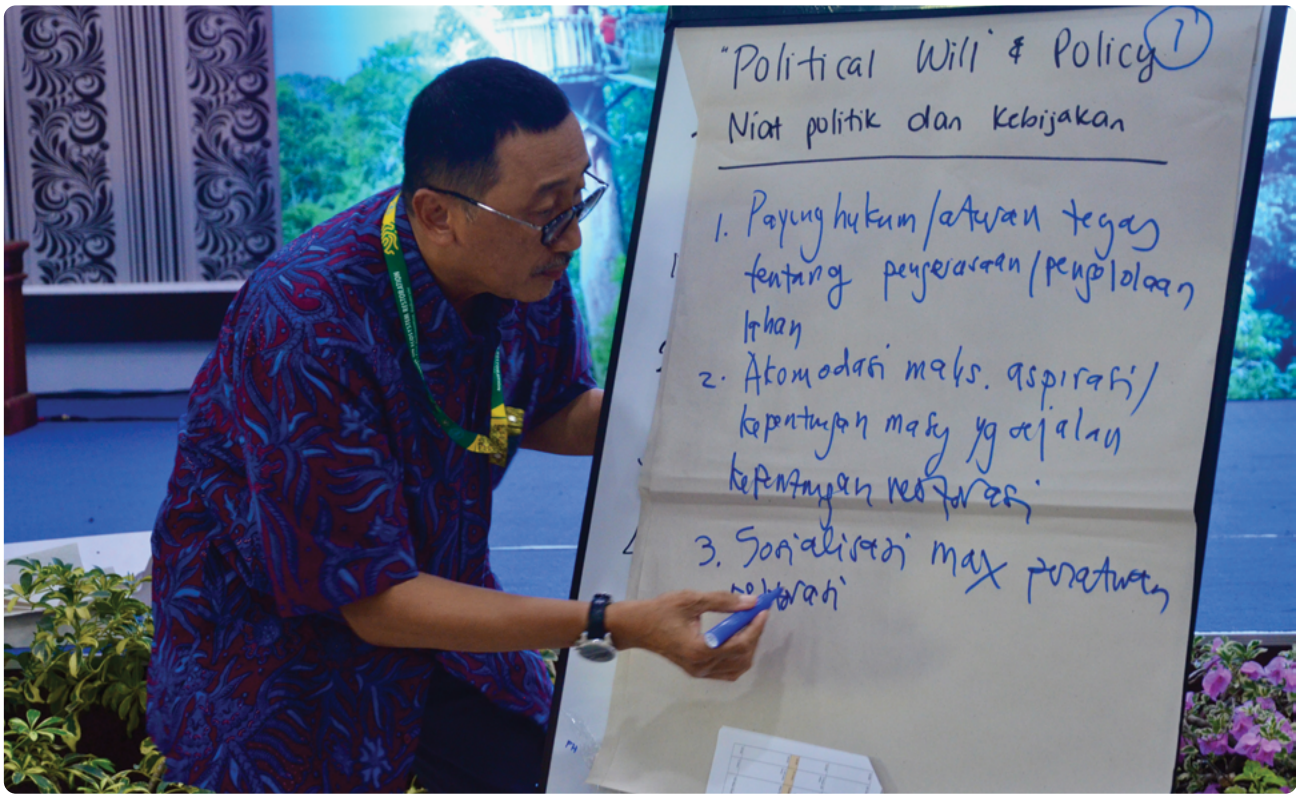
2.3.1 Collaboration of private corporations with communities

Increased collaboration between private corporations and communities is a promising opportunity for ecosystem restoration in Indonesia. Participants proposed the establishment of new mechanisms for collaborative restoration management between communities and companies including the planning, execution and monitoring of restoration projects. This should include a long-term plan agreed to by both parties, with outside legal advice and third party participation, and further elaboration in line with government plans. Participants emphasized the importance for all restoration activities and collaborations to follow Free Prior and Informed Consent; clarify and agree on benefit sharing; and ensure Indigenous peoples and local communities have access to information and independent legal advice. Participants described that successful ecosystem restoration collaborations require resolving existing conflicts, through grievance resolution mechanisms, and building trust. Successful examples were shared based on multi-stakeholder processes and companies learning about and respecting community decision-making practices.

Specific actions to better enable ecosystem restoration collaboration in Indonesia include: 1) clarify the business case identified by participants for company engagement with communities in ecosystem restoration; 2) analyze lessons learned from existing Ecosystem Restoration Concessions in Indonesia and; 3) develop a guide for collaboration and participatory Monitoring Evaluation and Learning of ecosystem restoration.

Companies could support community capacities to support ecosystem restoration and develop accountability mechanisms. Some companies also require capacity development for collaborating with communities in

ecosystem restoration and respecting community rights and traditional knowledge. Participants identified ways that companies can support communities through enhancing livelihoods, facilitating financial independence, conducting market analysis for community-led enterprises, and funding programs for community businesses and small grants programs.



Dialogue Co-Chair Mustofa Agung Sardjono leads a breakout discussion on political will and policy.

2.3.2 Political will and policy

Participants identified political will in Indonesia, evidenced in restoration commitments and priorities that can be mobilized to increase restoration actions. Participants also identified the need for a more comprehensive road-map action plan for ecosystem restoration in Indonesia to ensure all stakeholders understand the rights, responsibilities, opportunities, and potential impact of restoration plans. Additionally, an audit of restoration outcomes to date should inform the road map moving forward. Participants emphasized the importance of all parties having a good understanding about existing national and regional policies. This requires maximum socialization of restoration arrangements to all parties, and legal assistance to weak parties who are disadvantaged. Policy can be better understood through translating rules into implementable guidelines and developing explanations specifically designed for understanding by Indigenous Peoples or local communities.

Some participants expressed concern that a framing around "political will" does not reflect the reality of competing priorities, weak law enforcement, and the policy making process. Participants discussed the need for certainty on regulations around land use including consistent application of laws for land

tenure and management, such as land-based business licenses. Participants also discussed the need for regulations to be harmonized from the central government down to the village level.

Participants discussed the opportunity to develop restoration regulations and commitments in a participatory manner, led by local stakeholders. A participatory process can enable co-production of restoration knowledge, all interests to be taken into account, and accommodation for the aspirations and interests of the community. Further, it is a way to build trust and accountability.

2.3.3 Corporate funding for restoration

Dialogue Co-Chair Aldrianto Priadjati.

Many look to corporate actors for funding and technical capacity to accelerate the implementation of ecosystem restoration globally and specifically in Indonesia. Participants discussed Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programs and the ecosystem restoration licenses in Indonesia as opportunities for enhanced private sector engagement. There are currently 16 ecosystem restoration licenses in Indonesia covering a large area of land, reflecting the commitment of some companies in Indonesia to engage in ecosystem restoration. Participants reflected that they would like to see more companies engaging and more licenses issued. Participants discussed how to reduce risks to investors and increase the motivation of the private sector and investors to support restoration programs. Participants also highlighted the need to make sure investments don't negatively impact communities, FPIC is followed, there is benefit sharing, and appropriate monitoring and assessment of restoration projects.

Dialogue participants discussed current barriers and opportunities to unlock funding and investment in ecosystem restoration. Unlocking funding is dependent on clear, coherent and stable governmental policies and decisions. This includes stabilizing policies around carbon markets, land use designations, and land tenure. For example, ecosystem restoration concession licenses need to be long enough to warrant investment in restoration. Biodiversity and carbon schemes offer opportunities for funding restoration but increasing ecosystem restoration through market-based incentives require the management and reduction of current risks. Participants described uncertainty and lack of clarity related to how to engage in the carbon market, and the direction of future decisions and regulations. Participants called for clear and logical guidelines for engaging in the carbon market, such as what can and cannot be sold on the Indonesian carbon markets and global voluntary carbon market. Many questions were raised by

participants in this regard. For example, if restoration is obligatory (such as for coal mining companies), does this negate additionality in carbon credits? Further, participants recommended easing taxes and reducing the number of steps to acquire restoration licenses.

Participants discussed requiring land-based companies active in Indonesia, including agriculture and forestry companies, to contribute to ecosystem restoration. This could include linking restoration funding with the scale of company production or restoration requirements aligned with the size of a company's land concession (as is done for coal mining companies, but applied to other corporate actors).

Dialogue participants also discussed the opportunity to connect to impact investing and the benefits that sustainable investment guidelines would deliver. They suggested that these could be developed by a range of stakeholders, potentially in collaboration with Indonesia's Ministry of Investment (BKPM). There is also a need to develop innovative financial approaches and educate relevant actors about existing ones, such as blended and layered financing and sustainability-linked loans. Participants highlighted the need to identify risk exposure, ensure all relevant stakeholders are involved in identifying material risks, and to clarify risk accountability.

Suggestions for enabling and enhancing corporate funding for restoration include: 1) develop business case/s with examples of "bankable projects" and education for banks on sustainable investment and reputation risks; 2) develop options/models for public-private-people partnership projects (for example social forestry cooperations between communities and corporations); 3) mobilize consultants to educate corporations about the need to balance between profit and prosperity; 4) build capacity of the private sector on restoration inclusive of justice, people, benefit sharing including clear guidelines and tools and; 5) consumer awareness campaign to increase understanding of restoration, which would lead to ensuring the recognition of restoration. Participants suggested how working groups (specific to the private sector) and multi-stakeholder forums can support these actions.

2.3.4 Recognition of customary rights and engagement of women and customary communities in decision-making

Ongoing and increased recognition of the rights of customary communities offers benefits for both the area and integrity of ecosystem restoration in Indonesia. Dialogue participants discussed how customary communities in Indonesia know where and how to restore forests, they know how to protect and value the forests. Participants discussed supporting ecosystem restoration through Customary Forests which is one of the schemes in the Government of Indonesia's Social Forestry Program that involves customary communities in forest management. Participant recommendations for recognizing the rights of customary communities to further ecosystem restoration include: 1) accelerating the recognition of customary communities' rights (*Masyarakat Hukum adat*, *MHA*) to customary forests (Indonesian constitutional court decision 35 from 2013); 2) strengthening and simplifying social forestry schemes and; 3) restituting customary communities' land. There is a role for the private sector and other actors to support the communities' technical capacity for long-term stewardship. Participants emphasized the need to differentiate between customary communities who depend on ecosystem

for their livelihoods from other communities that are motivated by economic activities. Participants emphasized that it is important to differentiate between these two groups so that customary communities are not negatively impacted.

Dialogue participants share and listen during dialogue plenary.

Furthermore, ecosystem restoration activities should recognize customary communities' rights to their lands. This includes mapping community rights and claims, implementing FPIC, and enclaving their land from restoration concessions. The new national capital city (IKN) could be an example of how to do socially inclusive and just restoration, with full social mapping and FPIC process.

Participants also prioritized engaging women and customary communities in decision making to help enable successful ecosystem restoration and overcome current challenges. Dialogue participants suggested promoting women and Masyarakat Adat's caucus in provincial parliament and establishing a communication forum for women, customary and local communities to engage in decision making. Participants identified the need to build ecosystem restoration capacities and awareness not only for customary communities (MHA) and women but also for media and forestry management units (*Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan*, *KPH*) so that they are aware of community rights and how they can support them.

III. CONCLUSIONS

3.1 Reflections on initiative fracture lines

During the Scoping Dialogue on Ecosystem Restoration, participants identified key fracture lines in which dialogue could play a role in building trust and improve options for effective ecosystem restoration. In the following section the co-chairs share insights from the Indonesian field dialogue for each fracture line in order to reflect on their relevance to the Indonesian context.

3.1.1 The role and contribution of economically driven reforestation and related restoration activities in meeting restoration goal and expectations

During the dialogue, participants explored two cases to assess this fractureline: agroforestry systems within community lands and customary community territories and post-coal mining restoration. Some saw the HKm social forestry scheme as a good example and framework for how to overcome this fracture line. Economic values can drive restoration and provide a clear business case and model for funding restoration and, in the case of social forestry schemes, also sustainable development. Participants emphasized the opportunity of seeing forests as value chains with restoration financing opportunities through development of community-based enterprises for NTFP and agroforestry products. Coal mining regulations in Indonesia provide an example of restoration requirements built into the economic equation of resource extraction. But there is a risk of it being out of balance with ecological or social/livelihood needs. Participants expressed concern that land use and land management that is economically driven or required by regulations can be considered restoration. Participants asked, if so, what incentivizes land users to undertake ecosystem restoration in a voluntary manner? During the dialogue, it was clear that there is no single restoration goal and expectation. Participants emphasized the need for an overarching definition of ecosystem restoration success in the country.

3.1.2 The challenges and opportunities of climate/carbon focused financing

Participants identified complexity around forest carbon and biodiversity markets as the top challenge to financing ecosystem restoration. Complexities to be resolved include: who owns the carbon, who is going to pay for it, and what's the approach to benefit sharing? Participants highlighted that currently private investment is not going into restoration in Indonesia because they're not sure they will get that capital back without a functioning biodiversity or carbon market. A key question concerned how communities could benefit or access benefits from the carbon market. Some participants shared concerns that they don't see how money would flow to bottom-up restoration initiatives by communities. Others shared their experiences with the challenges of communicating benefit sharing mechanisms when conducting carbon feasibility assessments – because the price of carbon is volatile so it can be difficult to say how much they will be paid and how much of the benefits they will receive. Lack of clarity and stability around land rights, licenses, commitments and policies all impact the ability for carbon financing to deliver real climate benefits. Furthermore, participants expressed concern that carbon financing might bring a narrow view of restoration success and not take into account a range of other ecological and social values that are important for ecosystems.

3.1.3 The pitfalls of incentivizing restoration at the expense of conservation / halting deforestation and conversion

Dialogue participants reflected that there is a risk of losing the focus on ecosystems, and concentrating only on restoration activities, specifically only focusing on planting trees on a piece of land. Focusing only on specific restoration activities and not the management and needs of the full ecosystem risks missing the ultimate goal of restoring ecosystem functions. Ecosystems should not be left as an abstract concept: Ecosystems should be delineated on the ground, to show the relationships between land use and ecosystem functions across a landscape. Restoring ecosystems should include assessing and addressing major threats on ecosystem functions. The field visits illustrated relationships across the landscape, for example where the conversion of forest in one area drives wildlife to community lands risking human-wildlife conflict and crop loss or development risks pushing displaced people to encroach on existing forests. The IKN example emphasized how conserving existing forests and maintaining ecosystem function should be a priority alongside forest restoration.

Dialogue Co-chair Fernanda Rodriguez in the mangrove forest restoration area.

3.1.4 Tension around top-down vs. bottom-up approaches to scaling restoration

The dialogue demonstrated the potential disconnect, lack of communication, and lack of trust between different stakeholder groups engaged in or impacted by restoration activities. Identified opportunities to address restoration challenges emphasized the role of multi-stakeholder approaches and participatory decision making in restoration policy, regulations, and project plans. Developing trust and a shared vision for what restoration is trying to achieve were identified as key to restoration success. Dialogue participants agreed that restoration activities should respect rights, work with local stakeholders, and attune to local

needs. Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation (BOSF) offered an inspiring example of working with local community members to meet their needs as a pre-requisite for successful restoration. The dialogue learned from cases of community-led restoration highlighting the ways that these "bottom up" approaches enabled long-term success and sustainable development. These cases offered insight for the potential roles of government and private-sector companies to support and promote community-led restoration approaches for example through recognition of community rights and grants for small and medium scale enterprises.

3.1.5 Meeting restoration targets while also meeting the needs of people

Participants reflected that restoration may have the strongest basis when it can be materialized as part of the needs. This includes needs for better livelihood quality, improving business performance, maximizing organizational performance, accomplishing organization missions, academic accreditation, etc. The dialogue explored numerous cases where restoration approaches were integrated with and motivated by meeting the needs of local people including social forestry schemes, agroforestry, small and medium restoration enterprises, and climate resilience. Yet, participants cautioned that restoration is not always a win-win (such as in peatlands), emphasizing the need to consider benefit sharing for global goods such as carbon and biodiversity reaches the community. The dialogue also learned from cases where ecological restoration did not include restoration of social harms or where the restoration activity had potential negative impacts on local people. There was discussion around the need to balance and manage trade-offs between ecological needs for restoration and livelihood needs and how these decisions should be made. There was agreement that restoration initiatives should be mutually agreed and not imposed on communities. How to engage local communities in the restoration programs? What are their rights and obligations? Dialogue participants emphasized the critical role of FPIC in all restoration activities, partnerships, and fair benefit sharing.

3.1.6 Credible verification of performance

Dialogue participants emphasized the importance of having a shared understanding of ecosystem restoration including clear restoration targets, indicators of success, and baselines of ecosystems that need to be restored. Restoration goes beyond planting trees – what is the long-term goal, how is social and livelihood restoration included, what are the ongoing management needs, and monitoring and evaluation instruments?

3.2 Co-chair reflections

The dialogue emphasized both the need for a shared definition for ecosystem restoration and restoration success on one hand and context specific restoration practices and approaches on the other hand. Ecosystem restoration is a long-term commitment that goes far beyond merely planting trees. It is also a complex task with a lot of considerations, revealing the need for exchange of learnings and experiences. While there are many factors to consider within the complex task of ecosystem restoration, we should be careful to not let perfect be the enemy of the good.

The field visits revealed the ways in which ecosystem restoration is driven by stakeholder interests and values. We observed interests and motivations for restoration including: biodiversity conservation, watershed function, reclaiming land after large-scale disturbances such as fire, complying to governmental regulations, improving business reputation, maintaining or improving livelihoods, adapting to climate change, and pursuing government targets. We explored a wide range of ecosystems targeted for restoration, emphasizing the importance of mangroves and peatlands (which we were not able to see during the field visits).

Sustainable financing will be important for improved and expanded restoration efforts. There are a range of new and innovative funding models including bonds and carbon markets that should continue to be shared and better understood. While complexities in carbon markets exist, it is expected that they will play an important role in supporting restoration activities into the future. Questions remain as to how all relevant stakeholders can access and take advantage of available funding and benefits, in particular actors at local levels. Managing the complexities around sustainable livelihoods and ecological restoration will remain an ongoing challenge. Developing sustainable value chains to complement restored areas with high conservation value might form a key part of the strategy.

Dialogue Co-Chair Nanang Qasim.

Participants emphasized the need to consider multiple types of justice in ecosystem restoration including distributive justice, who receives the benefits from restoration actions; epistemic justice, whose knowledge counts and is used to inform restoration priorities and actions; restorative justice, including remedying prior harms. The dialogue also highlighted the critical role of developing trust to support ecosystem restoration. Equitable partnerships, multi-stakeholder dialogue, and participatory processes that involve all stakeholders are essential for local stakeholders to have an increasingly equal say under top-down mechanisms. Dialogue learnings in particular emphasized the importance of recognizing the rights of customary communities and utilizing both science and traditional knowledge for optimal restoration outcomes.

The dialogue highlighted the political support for ecosystem restoration in Indonesia, enabled through a range of mechanisms including but not limited to, restoration and multi-use concessions, NDC reduction goals (17.4% provided by forestry), and IKN restoration goals. Clear and consistent policy and regulations

as well as manageable bureaucracy would benefit the outcome of all identified fracture lines. The new capital city, IKN, is set to transform the surrounding landscape through restoring native forest and developing infrastructure to support the city. Forest restoration pilots highlight the innovative collaborations and restoration strategies being mobilized to develop IKN as a "forest city". We also learned about the need to center the rights of Indigenous Peoples, local community benefits, and conservation of ecosystem services and existing forests. IKN provides an opportunity to implement best practices of ecosystem restoration considering a holistic approach, social engagement, free, prior and informed consent as well as environmental values and economic benefit for the range of affected stakeholders.

Dialogue participants learn about smallholder agroforestry at the Community Forest.

3.3 Next steps

Current and next steps to advance ecosystem restoration in Indonesia

1. Proposal for co-developing a policy brief with recommendations from the dialogue
2. Improved intersectoral collaboration to advance identified actions, the development of IKN is one example that could particularly mobilize such efforts.
3. The provincial government has dedicated funding for restoration activities outside the State Forest area. Participants shared their intention to use learnings from the dialogue to inform plans to give land to communities to use for restoration activities.

4. Synergy with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) road map to restoration with multi-stakeholder platform of researchers and government organizations. Four dialogue participants will participate in a meeting in early May 2024 and will carry forward dialogue priorities and learnings.
5. Recommendations from dialogue will be helpful for company voluntary restoration plans as part of commodity certification schemes, including the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil that require companies to make remedy when land is cleared in a poor way and Forest Stewardship Council social and ecological harm remedy process.
6. Take learnings forward to Orangutan Conservation Forum upcoming meeting in Bontang of private sector, government, NGO and academy.

Next steps regionally and globally

1. Take learnings forward at FAO; will report on learnings at the next ACSFI annual meeting, will support engagement activities within Capacity Knowledge and Learning Action Plan for the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.
2. A field dialogue in Cameroon was proposed as a next step for the global Ecosystem Restoration Initiative. The dialogue is needed as a method to advocate for the private sector to contribute to restoration in Cameroon. A key goal of this action will be to share knowledge between Indonesian and Cameroonian restoration stakeholders.
3. Participants that are part of International Forestry Students Association (IFSA) will carry forward learnings about ecosystem restoration in Indonesia to the global youth platform.

Dialogue participants review the ideas generated on chellenges to address ecosystem restoration.

IV. ANNEX

A. Full list of identified challenges for ecosystem restoration

Capacity and knowledge

1. **Lack of community member capacity/knowledge about all aspects of restoration projects**, including technical, entrepreneurship, and leadership skills.
2. **Not learning from past experiences with restoration:** Lack of detailed and accurate data related to past restoration initiatives.
3. **Need to integrate a diversity of knowledge systems:** Need for training and implementation approaches.
4. **Limited skills and capacity to comply with restoration requirements:** Lack of government-led capacity building programs.
5. **Inappropriate communication for audience:** Overly technical, communication of restoration vision, approaches and implementation not adequate or appropriate for the audience.
6. **Lack of knowledge of restoration practices within the government** thus limiting the development of appropriate policy and regulations.

Biophysical

1. **Lack of shared definition of successful restoration**, future state being different from the past state.
2. **Unclear indicators of restoration success** for monitoring and evaluating.
3. **Lack of multidimensional approach** to identify ecosystem degradation.
4. **Lack of clear guidelines for restoration**.
5. **Challenges to integrate traditional and scientific knowledge** on good restoration practice.
6. **Restoration is context specific:** Diversity of restoration approaches are required across the landscape. Practices shouldn't be generalized into a "one size fits all approach."
7. **Restoration commitments and target areas rarely realistic to the biophysical needs**: Lack of understanding of natural cycles in restoration target areas, like natural regeneration and history of fire, also don't have have budget and time to meet those needs.

Financing

1. **Limited access to adequate and reliable long term funding** to unlock and incentivize restoration: lack of capital; Few sustainable finance and mechanisms.
2. **Lack of capacity to unlock the capital that exists**.

3. **Complexity around forest carbon and biodiversity markets**: Who owns it? Who is going to pay for it? What's the approach to benefit sharing?
4. **Various risks to investment** and little clarification of responsibilities.
5. **Market and processes for public goods and services are not transparent**.
6. **Few benefit-sharing mechanisms**.
7. **Nature has long-term returns on investment**.

Social and community

1. **FPIC not being implemented** in a robust and ongoing manner.
2. **No social mapping or rehabilitation planning before starting a restoration project**.
3. **Lack of recognition of Indigenous peoples and local community**.
4. **Lack of benefits to community from restoration projects**.
5. **Neglect of local wisdom**.
6. **Community** need for development limits engagement in restoration.
7. **Decision making processes are not inclusive:** Lack of inclusive processes that involve all stakeholders; Lack of shared restoration vision between stakeholders.
8. **Lack of trust between stakeholders**.
9. **Companies don't always have social sensitivity or knowledge of local community**.
10. **Communities not always the driver of restoration projects**.

Policy and governance

1. **Tensions around top-down versus bottom-up approaches:** Different expectations around who is leading the project and who is benefiting, government vision often not aligned with other stakeholders, lack of trust.
2. **Siloed governmental departments:** Competing priorities, lack of coordination, no conflict resolution between institutions and sectors, lack of systems thinking.
3. **Bureaucratic burden of restoration activities.**
4. **Lack of clarity regarding ownership of land:** Overlapping concessions, unrecognized community rights, mismatch between formal and customary land tenure systems.
5. **Varied values and expectations:** Different groups and individuals hold different values as to what restoration is resulting in varied expectations as to what restoration is.
6. **Ineffective regulations:** Change rapidly and are not implemented.

7. **Ineffective land use planning:** Top down, restoration doesn't always include land use planning, Corruption in the allocation of concessions.
8. **Ongoing conversion of land for other land uses:** The demand on land and associated resources limits the availability of land to be restored; Road development can result in increased accessibility of the land for conversion.
9. **Lack of multi-stakeholder approaches**: Lack of external engagement and collaboration between stakeholders; lack of mutual understanding between stakeholders.
10. **Overly focused on project inputs:** Trees planted, canals blocked, rather than long-term management needs, impacting the long term impacts and outcomes of a restoration activity.

B. Full list of identified opportunities to address ecosystem restoration challenges

1. Complementarity of restoration, conservation, reclamation rehabilitation
2. Access to benefit sharing scheme
3. Conflict resolution mechanism
4. Values-centered approach to development
5. Collaboration of private corporations with communities
6. Political will and policy
7. Carbon and biodiversity markets
8. Women and customary people engagement in decision-making
9. New Capital City, *Ibu Kota Nusantara (*IKN)
10. Multi-use trees at community level
11. Corporate funding for restoration
12. Recognize customary community rights
13. Multi-stakeholder forum
14. Clear land tenure
15. Traditional knowledge
16. Mutually beneficial restoration planning
17. De-risking investment opportunities

C. Participants list

Name	Organization
Sulton Afifudin	Blue Forests (Yayasan Hutan Biru)
Rudianto Amirta	Universitas Mulawarman
Keiran Andrusko	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (Australia)
Illias Animon	FAO
Ahmad Ariadi D	Dayak Paser Kalimantan
Agus Bei	Mangrove Center
Francesca Bertola	FAO
Astrik Mursatio Budi	PT. Indo Tambangraya Megah Tbk
Lyndall Bull	FAO
Chris Burchmore	APRIL
Azwar Busra	Indominco
Tri Cahyono	PT Surya Hutani Jaya
Marcus Colchester	Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)
Martha Doq	Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan
Dwi Dwardi	Indominco Mandiri Company
Muhammad Faisal	PT. Kemakmuran Berkah Timber
Fathur Roziqin Fen	Walhi Kaltim
Nazir Foead	Sustainitiate
Canakya Galerita	International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
Mochamad Indrawan	PwC Indonesia
Sri Jimmy Kustini	WWF-Indonesia
Mamta Lama	RECOFTC
James Langston	CSIRO
Devi Candra Lestari	Authority IKN
Angus MacInnes	Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)
Abdul Malik	PT INHUTANI / Bukit Bangkirai
Buyung Marajo	Pokja 30
Paulus Matius	Universitas Mulawarman
Daniel Mendham	CSIRO

Name	Organization
Marhaeni Dirk Mesakaraeng	PT INHUTANI / Bukit Bangkirai
Jekk Mickale Paderes	International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
Rizka Afif Muhammad	International Forestry Students' Association (IFSA)
Elis Nawati	Perempuan Aman
Cécile Ndjebet	African Women's Network for Community Management of Forest (REFACOF)
Maria Niron	PT Bharinto Ekatama (BEK)
Saiduani Nyuk	AMAN Kaltim
Susilo Pranoto	East Kalimantan Forestry Service
Aldrianto Priadjati	Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation
Lely Puspitasari	Environmental Leadership and Training Initiative (ELTI)
Nanang Qasim	PT. RHOI
Chum Ramsiri	Indominco Mandiri Company
Fernanda Rodrigues	Diálogo Florestal - Brazilian Forest Dialogue
Yurni Sadariah	
Mustofa Agung Sardjono	Universitas Mulawarman
Erni Kumala Sari	PH KOM Bawe Pemaluan Balik
Bradford Saunders	Restorasi Ekosistem Riau (RER)
Bayu Setiawan	Indominco
Agus Setyarso	Instiper
Ali Suhardiman	Pusrehut
Depi Susilawati	Australian National University (ANU)
Wahyu Ria Triastuti	Authority IKN
Muhammad Wilujeng	PT Trubaindo Coal Mining
Darwis	Green of Borneo
Harianto	Pemuda Ada Balik Sepaku
Jakiyah	PH KOM Bolum Bawe Balik
Sukartiningsih	Universitas Mulawarman
Zubaidah	Perempuan Aman

D. Acronyms

ACSFI	Advisory Committee on Sustainable Forest-based Industries
BKPM	Indonesian Ministry of Investment
BOSF	Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
ESG	Environment, Social and Governance
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FPIC	Free Prior and Informed Consent
IKN	Ibu Kota Nusantara
KPH	Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan
MHA	Masyarakat Hukum Adat
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Products
TFD	The Forests Dialogue
UNMUL	Mulwarman University

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations