Social Conflicts - Inequity and Rights Abuses

Challenges to sustainable and responsible palm oil plantation investments in Indonesia

Norman Jiwan
Division Head of Campaign and Public Education - Sawit Watch

Bank Risk Assessment for the Indonesian Oil Palm and Timber Sector, 18 April 2005 - WWF Indonesia
Palm Oil Plantation in Indonesia

- Palm Oil (Elais guineensis) is non native plant to Indonesian
- Large-scale and monoculture
- Top-down and centralistic approaches
- Striving for quantity of land rather than production quality
- Fraud with Corruption, Collusion, and Nepotism Practices = land monopoly
- Operation practices by converting forestlands
- Development policy and system benefit investors
- Overlapping with Spatial Planning Policy
Social Problems

• Land conflicts between indigenous people/local communities with plantation companies
• Degrading indigenous people’s knowledge and cultural as well as loss access to natural resources management
• Emerging poverty problem
• Abuses to palm oil plantation workers’ rights
• Partnership inequality between palm oil smallholders and the companies
Environmental Problems

- Deforestation
- Forest fires
- Soil erosion and degrading soil quality
- Biodiversity loss
- Increase pests attacks
- Human-animal conflicts
- Rampant environmental disasters (flood, landslide, pollution, etc.)
SHOW CASES

• Overlapping concessions
• Illegal logging
• Victims of victimised villagers
# Concessions Overlapping with Tanjung Puting National Park

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Concession</th>
<th>Forest areas</th>
<th>KPP</th>
<th>% of forest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KUCC</td>
<td>18,000</td>
<td>16,920</td>
<td>1,080</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BEST</td>
<td>12,370</td>
<td>11,670</td>
<td>700</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GIAT</td>
<td>12,310</td>
<td>10,620</td>
<td>1,690</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>42,680</td>
<td>39,210</td>
<td>3,470</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: WALHI Central Kalimantan
Illegal Logging Activity in TNTP
The 20th November Tragedy - Victims of “Greedy” Oil Palm Company

Fighting for the Rights’ Victims

• Irfan Rangkuti (20 November 2004)
• Amrin Lubis (20 November 2004)
• Usman Siregar (February 2005)
‘Tahlilan’ – Muslim Ritual in memorial for the deaths

Tambusai People in crowded to pray for the living souls and spirits

100 days in memorial for their beloved brothers; Irfan Rangkuti and Amrin Lubis
“We all live on the same planet, we all operate in the same market. There is no emergency exit from this planet, or from this market. It is we who will have to make it work. There are no other options. There is no one else to blame”,

Opening Address by Jan Kees Vis, President of RSPO on the occasion of RSPO2, Jakarta, 5-6 October, 2004
Therefore,.....

• Sawit Watch exists to fight for the people’s rights, social justice and environmental protection

• To promote conflict resolution and responsible investments in oil palm industry, and;

• To encourage stakeholders’ commitment and concrete actions
Stakeholders and Expected Targets

- **Local Communities**
  Strengthened people’s organisations capacity in bargaining and position with government and companies

- **Local Government**
  To re-evaluate the developments of palm oil business and to review agriculture options in land use planning to secure food supply

- **Local Parliament (DPRD)**
  Access to good monitoring tools to make good rules and evaluate and improve government policies to guarantee peoples’ sovereignty over land and production

- **National Parliament (DPR-RI)**
  Re-evaluate the development of the oil palm sub-sector and plan how to support food sovereignty in Indonesia; develop a policy to protect the peoples' rights viz-a-viz industrial developments

- **Palm Oil Companies**
  Learn how to respect peoples' rights, introduce sustainable natural resource management and improve private sector-community partnerships
Stakeholders and Expected Targets

- **Investors**
  Adopt and truthfully implement the investment criteria as developed by international investors, such as ABN Amro and Rabobank

- **Palm Oil Buyers**
  Must have critical understanding of the issues and where necessary pressure to suppliers if their practices do not live up good ethics and sustainable business

- **Local NGOs**
  Must have good capacity to facilitate the people in the framework of strengthening the people through non violence means

- **National NGOs**
  Working together to give inputs to stakeholders to improve government policies

- **International NGOs**
  To put pressure and collaborate with buyers, investors, governments in marketing countries to adopt good policies on sustainable development that seriously take the people needs into account
THANK YOU