

Term of Reference

Kick-Off Meeting

Participatory Action Research Community-Based Fire Prevention and Restoration in Bengkalis District

Bengkalis, September 18th 2018

A partnership between:

Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) and
Local Government of Riau District

with support from:

Temasek Foundation International and
Singapore Cooperation Enterprise

Background

Riau underwent devastating forest and land fire in 2015. This national disaster caused death of 24 people and premature death of 103.000 people¹ (Koplitz *et al.* 2016). It also caused US\$ 16 billion loss in environmental, economic, tourism, and education (Glauber and Gunawan 2016). In 2016, Indonesia experienced La Nina with high rainfall thus fire and haze can be suppressed. The following year, in 2017, forest and land fire occurred although the scale was far lower compared to massive 2015 forest and land fire². However, 2018 is considered to be a critical year for fire prevention efforts given the climate is forecasted dryer, concurrent local elections throughout Indonesia, and a prestigious sport event Asian Game will take place.

Efforts to prevent forest and land fire in Riau Province is extremely crucial because nearly 56% (approximately 5 million hectares) of Riau are peatlands, which are fire prone, if dried and degraded, and potential to emit massive amount of carbon in case of fire. Forest and land fire threats mainly came from land clearing for large scale commercial concession as well as the use of fire by local communities, although there have been many 'fire free' programs and campaigns at national and sub-national level.

One of the main challenge is introducing alternative for land clearing without using fire by considering the local communities who do not have access to resources, knowledge, and technology for implementation of the alternative. Companies and governments have adequate knowledge and technology, while community who owned small scale of land urgently needs

¹Premature death occurred before a person reached 70 years old (life expectancy).

²<http://fires.globalforestwatch.org/map/#activeLayers=viirsFires%2CactiveFires&activeBasemap=topo&x=0&y=40&z=3>

assistance to improve their understanding as well as enhance their knowledge to wisely utilize their land and increase their access towards resources and technology.

Bengkalis is a district with high level of fire hazard and risk in Riau Province. Nearly half of its sub-district (33 villages) are considered to be fire prone. It is also a district with a large share of peatlands where 8 out of 59 of peatland hydrological unit of Riau Province are found in Bengkalis District, totalling 750,000 hectares of peatlands with conservation and cultivation functions. These peatlands are found on forest concession, plantation, as well as community's food area. Thus, peatland restoration program and other relevant efforts are important to maintain the existence of and protect the peatlands from fire.

Various parties have initiated fire prevention and restoration of degraded peatland initiatives. They also combined these efforts with programs to improve community welfare. The Peatland Restoration Agency, for example, restoring degraded peatland through rewetting the dried degraded peatland, improving landcover by revegetating, and revitalizing of local communities' livelihood in and around the peatland restoration area³. With the support from DFID-UK, in 2015 to 2017, CIFOR conducted a research to comprehend the socio-economic and political dynamics causing forest and land fire as well as the implication towards natural resources, environment, and community. In a national dialogue⁴, we discussed our research findings and identified the needs of fire prevention and peatland restoration through a community-based participatory approach.

As a follow up, CIFOR in collaboration with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE), CSIRO, and University of Riau, with the support from Temasek Foundation International, will conduct a participatory action research involving local communities by reviewing lessons learned and best practices related to fire prevention and peatland restoration. Local communities will be assisted to determine and implement land clearing without using fire and restoring degraded peatland through reflection, planning, and action phase as a part of co-learning process generating effective work models. Risk reduction as well as practice and traditional knowledge related to controlled and safe burning, especially potential and initiative of local communities will be considered in our project.

CIFOR held a kick-off meeting with stakeholders from government institutions, academia, NGOs (Non-Governmental Institutions), companies, as well as other related stakeholders to gain support on the implementation of participatory action research project.

³ Programs of the Peatland Restoration Agency can be accessed through the following link: <https://brg.go.id>

⁴ CIFOR and University of Riau (UNRI) hosted a national dialogue in Riau Province on August 30th, 2017 attended by various leaders and representatives from national and sub-national level (<https://www.cifor.org/event/national-policy-dialoguelaws-and-best-practices-for-reducing-fire-and-haze/>)

Objectives and expected outcomes

The main objectives of kick-off meeting are:

- (1) Gaining a unified perception, among stakeholders, on the implementation of participatory action research specifically on the objectives, approach, and result, as well as expected outcomes. Participatory action research will take place in Dompas Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District, Bengkalis District and five others satellite villages in Bengkalis District, Riau Province.
- (2) Sharing lessons learned about policies and implementation of community-based fire prevention and restoration.
- (3) Comprehending community-based fire prevention and peatland restoration business model.

We expected the following outcomes from kick-off meeting:

- Summary of the discussion and points of agreement regarding to the implementation of participatory action research.
- Recommendation, from the participants, to be included into the implementation plan of participatory action research.

Date and venue

Kick-off meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 18th 2018 at Bengkalis District, Riau Province.

Agenda

The kick-off meeting will consist of two sessions. The first panel session focusing on policy, plan, and lessons learned regarding fire prevention and peatland restoration at the site level. The second panel session focusing on business model of peatland restoration at the site level.

Time	Activities	Resource Person
08.30-09.00	Participant registration	
09.00-09.45	Welcome speech Welcome speech and opening remark by the Regent of Bengkalis	1. Team Leader of CIFOR 2. Donor representative 3. Regent of Bengkalis
09.45-10.00	Coffee break	
Panel Session 1: Policy, implementation plan, and experience on forest and land fire prevention and peatland restoration at the site level in Bengkalis District		
Moderator: Head of Environment Service Office of Bengkalis District		
10.00-12.00	1. Policy, plan, and financing fire prevention and peatland restoration in Bengkalis District 2. Company initiatives on fire prevention and peatland restoration at the village level 3. Accelerating the action on peatland restoration and fire prevention at the Peat Hydrological Unit 4. Experiences in assisting the community on peatland restoration and developing alternative economic model	Head of Bappeda of Bengkalis District PT. Sakato Pratama Makmur/ PT. Surya Dumai Industri Centre for Disaster Study, University of Riau Riau Community Peatland Network (Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Riau/ JMGR)
12.00-12.15	Discussion	
12.15-13.00	Lunch and prayer break	
Panel Session 2: Improving the potential of peatlands as cultivation lands and developing business model of peatland restoration at the site level		
Moderator: Head of Research and Regional Development Agency (Balitbangda) of Bengkalis District		
13.00-15.00	1. Cultivation of agricultural and plantation crops on peatland 2. Cultivation of forestry crops on peatland	Head of Agriculture Service Office of Bengkalis District Mr. Mulyatmono, Production Forest Utilization Agency (Balai Pemanfaatan Hutan Produksi/BPHP) of Riau Province

Time	Activities	Resource Person
	3. Testimony from local community on cultivation of peatland	Mr. Atik/Mr. Rodji, Dompas Village
	4. Marketing of products generated from peatland and entrepreneurship at village level	Mr. H. Azmi, DPRD of Bengkalis District
	5. Sustainable livelihood development for peatland community	CIFOR
15.00-15.30	Discussion	
15.30-15.45	Coffee break	
15.45-16.00	Conclusion and plan on participatory action research in Dompas Village	CIFOR
16.00-16.15	Closing remark	Deputy IV of the Peatland Restoration Agency

Annex.

Participants

Kick-off meeting will be attended by various leaders of government as well as non-governmental institution and research center at sub-national level working on fire prevention and peatland restoration in Bengkalis District.

Government institution of Riau Province

1. Environment and Forestry Service Office of Riau Province
2. Regional Peatland Restoration Team of Riau Province
3. Production Forest Utilization Agency (BPHP) of Riau Province

Local government of Bengkalis District

4. Regional Secretary of Bengkalis District
5. DPRD of Bengkalis District
6. Regional Planning and Development (Bappeda)
7. Environment Service Office
8. Regional Disaster Management Agency (BPBD)
9. Community and Village Empowerment Service Office
10. Agriculture Service Office
11. Union, Small and Medium Enterprise Service Office
12. Firefighting Service Office
13. KPHP (Forest Management Unit) Unit V Bukit Batu

Companies

14. PT. Sakato Pratama Makmur/Sinar Mas Forestry
15. PT. Surya Dumai Agrindo, Pekanbaru
16. Asia Pulp and Paper
17. APRIL

Research center/academia/Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

18. Center for Disaster Study, University of Riau
19. WWF
20. Jikalauhari
21. Riau Community Peatland Network (Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Riau/JMGR)
22. Yayasan Mitra Insani
23. WALHI
24. CIFOR

Local communities

25. *Camat* of Bukit Batu
26. *Camat* of Siak Kecil
27. Head of Dompas Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District
28. Secretary of Dompas Village
29. Fire Care Community (MPA) of Dompas Village
30. Association of Farmers Group (Gapoktan) of Dompas Village
31. Head of Buruk Bakul Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District
32. Head of MPA of Buruk Bakul Village
33. Head of Sejangat Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District

34. Head of MPA of Sejangat Village
35. Head of Sepahat Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District
36. Head of MPA of Sepahat Village
37. Head of Sukajadi Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District
38. Head of MPA of Sukajadi Village
39. Head of Sungai Pakning Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District
40. Head of MPA of Sungai Pakning Village
41. Head of Sungai Selari Village, Bukit Batu Sub-District
42. Head of MPA of Sungai Selari Village