



Bumitama Agri Ltd
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NEWS RELEASE

BUMITAMA REFERS TO GREENPEACE ARTICLE DATED 29 AUGUST 2018

Jakarta, 10 September 2018 – Bumitama Agri Ltd and its Group (Bumitama) refers to the Greenpeace article named “Fires burning inside palm oil concessions linked to major household brands” published on their website dated 29 August 2018.

Bumitama reaffirms strict adherence to its Zero-burning policy, banning all use of fire for land clearing and waste disposal as per its own Sustainability Policy, upholding its Buyer’s policies, the RSPO Principles and Criteria and Indonesian regulations in all of its plantations and plasma developments.

We are highly aware of the national and regional concerns surrounding haze resulting from land fires in Kalimantan and Sumatra, and are taking proactive measures to ensure that we are a part of the solution to this issue, which poses high environmental and public health risks.

As a part of our commitment to comply with the valid regulations and standards, some of the implemented measures are:

- **Strengthening Fire Management and Staff**
 - Dedicated fire-fighting organization and staff in each of our management unit had undergone necessary training and has been equipped with appropriate tools. We cooperate with central and local government institutions in fire-fighting and disaster mitigation.
 - During dry season, our team monitors fire-prone areas, analysing water sources in and around our plantations, and keeps track of any hotspots. The information is updated regularly and shared to our employees and fire-fighting teams. The team conducts ground verification if any hotspots appear within or near to our plantation boundaries.
- **Strengthening Surrounding Communities through “Desa Bebas Api” Programme**

We cooperate with central and local government in training up to 20 local community members per each village and assist in providing their fire-fighting equipment. Fire free villages are rewarded with an in-kind incentive, which provides an additional encouragement for the communities to actively participate in this programme.

Despite the above measures, we are regretful to confirm that there had been fire in PT Sejahtera Sawit Lestari (SSL). This area was previously burned in 2015 and after take over by Bumitama, it was purposed for natural rehabilitation. The reoccurrence of fire has been first reported on 12 August 2018 outside of our boundaries and it was put out completely on the same day. On the following day our patrol team spotted hotspots in three different locations and started fighting the fire with the assistance of the village fire-fighting team, village government teams and local military team (Babinsa). However, dry vegetation, peat soils and strong winds spread the fire into the western part of our concession and made putting it out difficult. To completely extinguish the reappearing fire, the team finally flooded the area with water from a nearby stream. The fire incidences had been reported to relevant authorities.



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PT SSL is directly located next to our Bumitama Conservation and Community Programme (BBCP) in PT Gemilang Makmur Subur and PT Damai Agro Sejahtera. The BBCP is a collaborative landscape-based project, with a broad participation of stakeholders, from NGOs, communities, Ketapang district government and Kalimantan Barat provincial government. To expedite the rehabilitation of this area, it will be supported by this project instead of following natural rehabilitation.

The rehabilitation programme will furnish for the area with:

- Engagement with experts and NGOs to find best way to manage the area;
- Detail mapping of areas for rehabilitation and reforestation;
- Indigenous trees nurtured from our nursery; Co-management with local community as part of the Village Level Land-use Planning, that will ensure that the area will be managed for the benefit of the community, e.g. under a paludiculture programme;

This sour incident pointed out some of the weaknesses in our process, in areas vulnerable to burning. We will immediately start looking into the rehabilitation programme and to work with the advice of experts in its implementation.



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Fire burning in neighbouring community land, which spread into the area of PT SSL



Bumitama fire team together with the community trying to put out the fire



Bumitama fire fighting team using heavy machinery to prevent fires from spreading further



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Fire fighting with the help of the Babinsa, the military village guards



Local fire department unit and security guards helping to put out the fires

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