



Bumitama Agri Ltd

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NEWS RELEASE

Creating a Shared Goal: Village Level Land-use Planning for the Ketapang District

Bumitama's acquisition of the plantation companies of PT Gemilang Makmur Subur (PT GMS) and PT Damai Agro Sejahtera (PT DAS) in Ketapang district allowed us, together with our partners from IDH – Sustainable Trade Initiative and Aidenvironment, to trial landscape approach through development of the Bumitama Biodiversity and Community Project (BBCP). This collaborative multi-stakeholder programme combines protection, production and inclusion through conservation of biodiversity, smallholder productivity improvement programme and alternative livelihood development for local community near to this corridor. By applying landscape approach to the fragmented topography we aim to connect the patches of HCV, HCS and peat set-aside areas in our two plantations to create a wildlife corridor linking to the protected forest of Gunung Tarak and the Sungai Putri ecosystem around these set-aside areas. The alternative livelihood and productivity programme and inclusion of the regional government agencies are necessary to ensure the success and longevity of this project.

To ensure alignment of perspectives among all stakeholders and to introduce a village planning model (a Village Level Land-use Plan (VLLP); which also looks into alternative livelihood and productivity programmes), we held a 1 day discussion forum on "Landscape and Rural Development" in Ketapang on 23rd of May 2017 with various stakeholders from regional government agencies, local NGOs and Oil palm growers companies. The workshop focused on:

- Introduction to the VLLP concept and how it can be integrated into the government village planning agenda under Village Area Development Programme (*Pembangunan Kawasan Perdesaan - PKP*);
- Dialogue on building and remodeling of the Village Area Development programme via VLLP;
- Synchronising of BBCP VLLP with the Local Government plans;
- Importance of the multistakeholder process, where each partner has a definitive role in ensuring the success of the VLLP and ultimately the success of the BBC Project.



The following points were captured in the discussions. These will be addressed by the stakeholders on a staged basis as a part of the project:

- Lack of clear boundaries between the villages causes social tensions, while overlapping of village boundaries with Gunung Tarak protected forest has been restricting the affected villages from obtaining permission to develop these parts of the village area;



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- Plans for development of the project should be aligned with the Government's PKP programme, shaped by the agenda of the Ministry of Spatial Planning to elevate 5,000 villages from 'under-developed' to 'developing' and 2,000 villages from 'developing' to 'independent';
- Lack of career prospect in the rural area of Ketapang district causes migration of local talent without any intention to return.

Reception of the workshop by the invited government representatives and other participants has been positive. Relevant stakeholders showed genuine interest to solve the presented issues and to support the spatial planning goals of the Ketapang district. As a result, the forum agreed to form regional and local level coordination teams to develop a road-map and action plan for implementing of the PKP.

Representatives of the Ketapang Regional Government shared optimism that development of BBCP project in partnership with the local communities, NGOs and representatives of the private sector will help to promote the agenda of the District Head bpk. Martin Rantan for sustainable development of the Ketapang region.



Pictures: Some of the panel and representatives from the various stakeholders of the workshop





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About PT GMS

PT GMS is a management unit that was purchased by Bumitama on 13 September 2016. Although the larger part of this area was previously opened and planted by its previous owners, the elevated concern for the remaining forest land, constant threats of fire and consideration for local communities prompted the acquisition. In accordance with its Sustainability policy and RSPO Principle & Criteria (RSPO P&C), Bumitama conducted a High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) assessment of the area prior to the acquisition. The results indicated that the majority of the unplanted area could serve as an interconnection link between the forested areas on the west and east of PT GMS. Realising the importance of this area for the preservation of biodiversity of the whole landscape, Bumitama took the opportunity and approached its partners to team up in design and management of this project. Once developed, the corridor would provide mobility for several key-species of wildlife, linking production of palm oil with conservation under one sustainable landscape.

About PT DAS

PT DAS is a management unit that was purchased by Bumitama on 20 December 2016. PT DAS boundary lies on the southwestern boundary of PT GMS and the eastern boundary of the Sungai Putri ecosystem which is now an Industrial Forest Plantation (*Hutan Tanaman Industri/ HTI*). When the news of land clearing activities in PT DAS reached us, we initiated discussion with its previous owners and explained on the BBCP objectives. These previous owners were land agents, not familiar with the concepts of connectivity and corridors, and an offer was made to us to acquire the company. This acquisition enhances the viability of the corridor, offering an additional 6,500 hectares for potential conservation; an area of forest with peat swamps rich in biodiversity identified through HCV and HCS assessments and study on distribution of Orangutans conducted in partnership with YIARI (Yayasan International Animal Rescue Indonesia). The challenge of managing this area is very high but we look forward to be able to make best use of it to trial best management practices, biodiversity studies and mapping robust conservation and alternative livelihood and food source plans with our partners.