

Reducing fire risks through inclusive landscape governance in Ketapang district, Indonesia

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Frequent fires in 2015 and 2019 in Ketapang district drew national attention. In 2019-2020, Ketapang had the highest number of fires in West Kalimantan, mostly in peatland areas. Tropenbos Indonesia applies landscape and jurisdictional approaches to reduce fire risk in the largely peatland Pawan-Kepulu-Pesaguhan landscape. With the district government and other stakeholders under a district multistakeholder platform has been developing and implementing five strategies that emphasize fire prevention that improves peatland ecosystems while maintaining production and livelihood functions. This area also part of national restoration target under Indonesia Peatland and Mangrove Restoration Agency (BRGM)



Strategies to agreement and adoption of effective fire management

- 1. Planning and regulatory instruments at district level.** Key for improving landscape governance for fire prevention and sustainable peatland management, is a fire prevention masterplan developed and endorsed at district level through multistakeholder processes.
- 2. Financing models.** Incentives are needed to sustain fire prevention, peatland restoration and forest protection efforts. These can be obtained through responsible private sector financing, jurisdiction-based fiscal transfers, or improved allocation of public funds.
- 3. Strengthening landscape and village institutions.** Regulations and action plans are needed to operationalize district plans, and landscape and village institutions are the foundation for implementing good practices, with budgets for fire prevention, peatland monitoring, and forest protection.
- 4. Peatland restoration and peatland-adaptive agriculture.** Initiated with rewetting and improving vegetation cover, while in farmed areas to adapt to peatland-adaptive agriculture.
- 5. Applying commodity-based supply chain standards.** With oil palm well established, RSPO or ISPO compliance should be a minimum. The district level action plan on sustainable oil palm (RAD KSB) should become standard for oil palm practices in the country.

Actions and achievements

- The district planning agency led a multistakeholder process to develop the 'masterplan for fire prevention and peatland governance', endorsed in March 2023. This was supported by the development of landscape typology based on (i) peat-ecosystem categories and historical fire occurrence, (ii) land status and management rights. Four categories of strategies to be enforced were identified: regulatory framework and stakeholder capacities, hydrological aspects, forest protection and land management, and peatland monitoring.
- Of the financial modalities explored, two proved successful. A private sector responsible financing mechanism contributes to protection of remaining peat swamp forest and restoration of degraded areas. Second, a public funded mechanism regulated by the district, through increased village budgets for community-based fire prevention and peatland monitoring.
- Local institutions have been strengthened. Village governments have increased budget allocation for fire prevention, village councils adopted fire prevention rather than just suppression, and village organizations are implementing forest management plans.

Next steps

As a follow-up, the Masterplan will be set forth as a Regent's Regulation on fire prevention at Pawan-Kepulu-Pesaguan landscape. Furthermore, on the basis of Regent's regulation action plans will be developed by district government and all relevant stakeholders to implement the four strategies of the masterplan.



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