LESSONS LEARNED DOCUMENT GOOD GROWTH PARTNERSHIP

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2018

Lessons Learned Document 2018

Content Contributor: *Dedy Iskandar, Isner Manalu*

Writer: *Hetty Tambunan*

Design: *Miranda Agustien*

Editor: *Atiqah Anugrah, Bharaty, Nassat Idris*

Cover Photo: *Conservation International/Andi Gultom*

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL Indonesia

Conservation International/Photo by Andi Gultom

CONTENTS

Conservation International/Photo by Hetty Tambunan

SOUTH TAPANULI

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WITH MAINSTREAMING MULTIPLE LAND USE OBJECTIVES

Forest cover in South Tapanuli has been reduced due to the expansion of palm oil plantations into forest areas.

This has resulted in the loss of natural capital especially biodiversity, more frequent floods and landslides as well as increased greenhouse gas emissions.

If left unchecked it will lead to stagnant economic growth and a decline in people's welfare in South Tapanuli.

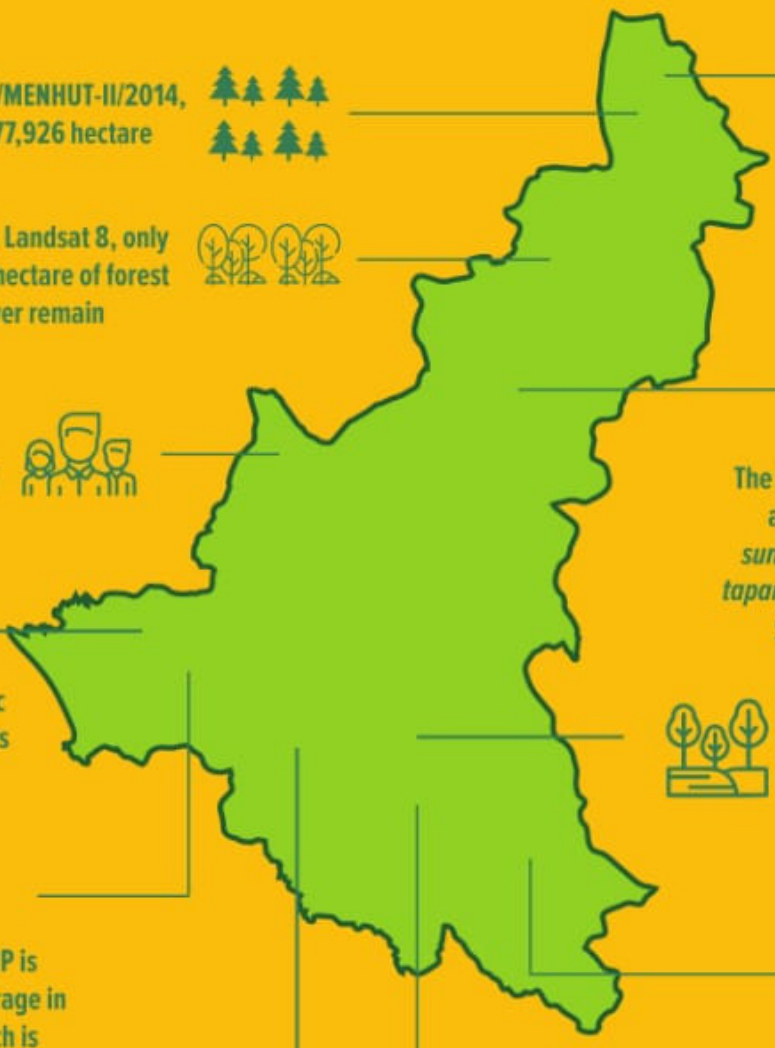
This problem occurs because the value multiple-use of the forest has not yet appreciated for public inn addition to the high demand for land for other development sectors.

Conservation International, as a partner of South Tapanuli District Government facilitate mainstreaming multiple land use objectives with an integrated approach involving multiple stakeholders and carrying various studies as an input to realize sustainable landscape.

Through this process, a landscape can be designed to accommodate optimum level of production, restoration, protection, and conservation purposes.

This approach ensures that land use and forest management are better, which has an impact on forest integrity while at the same time improving and sustaining community welfare.

South Tapanuli



According to SK.579/MENHUT-II/2014, the forest area 277,926 hectare

Based on Landsat 8, only 197,098 hectare of forest cover remain

Total population is 278,587 lives in 2017

Gross Regional Domestic Product (GRDP) in 2018 is Rp 11,9 trillion

South Tapanuli GDRP is below the district average in North Sumatra which is Rp 20 trillion

The Human Development Index is 68.69, below the national average of 70.81

Above the fracture zone of Renun-Toru-Angkola which is potentially affected by the earthquake

The area of palm oil plantations is 61,000 hectares and other plantations 28,000 hectares

Area of HCV/HCS* 359,297 hectare or around 82% of the area of South Tapanuli

(High Conservation Value/High Carbon Stock)

The habitat for endangered species such as Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), Tapanuli orangutan (*Pongo tapanuliensis*), tapir (*Tapirus indicus*), dan Sunda pangolin (*Manis javanica*)

Biodiversity corridor that connects key forests in North Sumatra namely Batang Toru and Batang Angkola protected forest and also Batang Gadis National Park

I. Establish district-level forum, FOKSBI (Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Forum) South Tapanuli

Comprehensive interventions are needed to stop deforestation caused by Palm Oil Plantation in South Tapanuli. Working closely with local government instituions on sustainable palm oil programs has begun since the end of 2017 through various coordination meetings to cultivate a common vision.

Numerous parties are involved in the palm oil sector, such as government agencies, private sectors, smallholders, NGOs, and academics. To maximise cordination and implement sustainable palm oil, these parties needs a forum that is strong enough to actualize sustainable palm oil.

Therefore on February 22, 2018, the establishment of FOKSBI (Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil Forum) in South Tapanuli was authorized through the signing of the Regent's Decree SK 188.45 / 92 / KPTS / 2018 about the establishment of a multi-party forum for sustainable palm oil in South Tapanuli.

Disagreements are seen through FoKSBI discussions due to similarities and differences between FokSBI members, especially when it comes to ways to balance commodity production and management with the environment. Through coordination, FoKSBI aims to farmiliarize sustainable palm oil practices and avoid adverse impacts on ecosystem functions.

H. Syahrul M. Pasaribu, SH (Regent of South Tapanuli) "The increasingly diverse demands of the community need to be harmonized with an increase in understanding and concern for oil palm plantations that prioritize intensification. The GGP program plan that will be carried out together with CI and UNDP applies a holistic approach that will be discussed through a multi-stakeholder forum, so that it is expected to provide the best alternative solutions."

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

II. Local roadmaps and developing district-level sustainable commodity action plan.

The first FoKSBI meeting was to find out the best approach to achive sustainable palm oil practices using the roadmap approach. The main problem that was identified was the stagaring ammount of smallholder plantation within the forest area (production and protected forest areas). The main concern is the market pressures for oil palm supply chain are a priority to seek solutions. Nonetheless, FFB production rates within APL areas remain low and unable to fully provide for the mills. For this reason, it is important for the Action Plan to focus on independent smallholders.

Bottom up approaches was used during the developing process of this Action Plan by having monthly meetings and discussion involving related members. To accommodate the different levels of understanding between members, an expert was hired to facilitate during the constraction of the Action Plan, which he acts as a catalyst for the process of knowledge sharing.

Representatives of each institution involved in FOKSBI meeting are also sometimes switching, so the information received is not holistic by the individual. At the beginning of each meeting, there is always a review of the process and what agreements have been reached before. For institution that rarely present their representatives, follow-up and meetings are conducted separately, consequently the drafting process requires a long time.

After 10 FGD meetings and different thematic workshops, including: what is sustainable palm oil, legal aspects of land (PERPRES 88/ 2017 concerning land tenure settlement in forest areas), ISPO and RSPO, finally there is an agreement in draft of RAK. The FOKSBI members agrees with the vision, mission and time frame, but the technical methodology of the RAK writing is assisted by consultants.

RAK focuses on independent smallholders, contains conservation and environmental values, reasonable and long-term program activities. The goal is for 100% farmers to obtain ISPO / RSPO certification in 2028. RAK is agreed to be a dynamic living document, can be changed at any time in accordance with regional conditions, applicable regulations, and changes in landscape.

On November 30, 2018, the RAK public hearing event were opened by the deputy of regent and closed by the regent and attended by 120 peoples. The process of legality of the smallholder's plantations is the main input to be sharpened in the action plan.

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

Saulian Sabbih (Chair of the FOKSBI South Tapanuli Regency), "We are currently finalizing this action plan in accordance with all of the input and suggestions. The legality of farmer's land will be prioritized in the action plan by utilizing the existing ATR / BPN (Agrarian and Spatial / National Land Agency) budget allocations. The target is by the end of this year, the action plan has been completed and will be proposed to be internalize with regional planning documents."

Conservation International/Photo by Hetty Tambunan

III. Identify HCV (High Conservation Value)/ HCS (High Carbon Stock) areas.

Inadequate understanding of conservation theory is one of the constrains, so training on HCV/ HCS concept and workshops on key biodiversity were conducted with assumptions/ predictions on scientific studies. Producing a draft of HCV / HCS document, a study desk, verification and ground check were carried out in the form of observation and interviews with experts and the community.

In the other hand, incomplete and varied spatial data at the district level, and data transparency are also challenging. The using of satellite image data as a reference and retrieve sources from the national government had been using as support data. HCVRN certified assessor is involved so that data processing and studies are in accordance with HCV criteria.

IV. Capacity building for Extension Officers and Key Farmers

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

At the start of this program, Extension Officers knowledge is limited solely on Palm Oil plants which are mostly only gained from practices. This is why, CI conducted capacity building activities through ToT (Training of Trainer) for selected Extension Officers and keyfarmers. Those whom pass the ToT exam, was chosen to facilitate FFS in 13 units of field schools.

The ToT participant selection process starts from the need assessment training in 4 sub-districts (Muara Batang Toru, Batang Toru, Angkola Selatan, and Angkola Sangkunur) From each sub-district there were around 10 people with various education backgrounds including high school graduates, agricultural graduates, and others. Participants was also chosen from their employement status and comitment (non-civil servant, energetic, willing to work in the field, and have a good relationship with the community). In total, there are 25 extension workers and key farmers participating in the ToT.

ToT was held approximately 10 days simultaneously, covering the topics of GAP (Good Agriculture Practice), conservation, ISPO / RSPO, and communication facilitation techniques. ToT conducted with adult learning methods (andragogy) that highlight activities/ practices. The module that been used is easy to implement,

because the tools are complete and trigger direct practice. A post test and pretest was conducted, average score improvement was 30%. The participants confidence levels had distinguish improvement as well as their facilitation and persuasive skills which is an important ability for significant behavioral change.

After participating in the ToT, there were also Extension Workers who were less active in the field and who did not continue the implementation due to the lack of commitment. As many as 80% of participants (20 people), consist of 8 Extension Workers and 12 Key Farmers who proceeded to facilitate FFS. The side-by-side of CI staff and PPL from other districts also helped field school activities in places where they were needed more back up. Knowledge sharing is also conducted across regions with the support of the head of the agriculture agency.

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

iIswal Parningotan (Head of the Food Security Division of the Tapsel Agriculture Office) said, "This is the first time for PPL receiving an intensive training on palm oil plantations and demonstration in the field. The current state of Extension Workers knowledge is mostly on rice, corn, and soybean commodities. There was no place to ask and find solutions to the problems face by the smallholders about Palm Oil plantations. In fact, Palm oil is the main commodity in Muara Batang Toru, Batang Toru, Angkola Sangkurnur, and Angkola Selatan sub-districts. "

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

V. Establishment of demonstration plan, smallholder mapping, capacity building of smallholder for targeted production support.

The main purpose of FFS is to teach best management practices on production through the proper land use without contradicting conservation principles. The socialization of this activity began by inviting community members for socialization, ID collecting process, pinpointing plantation for geographic boundaries with the polygon mapping system to ensure the participants for FFS were all in the APL (non-illegal) area. To be a participant of FFS, farmers must at least own 1/2 hectare of land with a plant age of more than 4 years (producing and incurring profit when cultivated). Each field school unit is only attended by 30 farmers and if there is an excess amount of participants who would like to join they will be differed to join the second batch which will happen in 2019.

The consistency of field school participants is still lacking and there are those whom are low-literate and low-skilled in Bahasa. Participants who cannot attend an FFS session had to have a subtitute to fill in their spot (usually a family member) to later muatualy transfer the knowledge. In delivering the training, occasionally, one or two participants would help CI and other facilitators to interpret and translate the FFS topics for others to better understand our language a little better.

To support the practice, 4 demonstration plots (demoplot) was prepared to become a trial area of implementing all the things learned in the field school, such as: integrated pest management (Tito alba, Turnera subulate, etc). Demoplot locations are chosen close to the road, easy access, owned by field school participants, and supported by official documents as a form of agreement. In demonstration plots, participants must always be reminded to record each treatment and every yield.

There are 9 field school classes: 5 session on GAP, 2 session on conservation, and 2 session on ISPO / RSPO. In terms of farmer's understanding on those modules, pre and post-test results showed a 20% improvement. From 13 units planned for field school, there are one who are cancelled because they do not agree with the conservation concept. In this first cycle, a total of 309 households have participated in field school activities in 3 sub-districts (Angkola Selatan, Muara Batang Toru, and Angkola Sangkunur).

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap

Zulkipli Nababan (Smallholders), said "The activities on field school and direct application on the demo plot area inspired me to treat my plants well and use the fertilizer according to the correct procedure and measurement. Currently, my production has also increased from the average 120 kg per/harvest to 180 kg. I now understand that it isn't always all about the SIZE of the palm plantation. We need to protect the forest for our community's water sources."

Conservation International/Photo by Hetty Tambunan

VI. Sustainable palm oil farmer's group and Gapoktan (smallholder union) for ISPO readiness.

Buying fertilizer is difficult, plants need nutritions (i.e nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, magnesium, sulfur and calcium), but the financial capability of each farmer is different from one another. Extension workers see the need to enable farmers to form groups to support sustainable oil palm plantations. In line with the process of implementing the FFS knowledge, farmer groups was also formed as ane institutions that can act as a platform to access input/ supply, financing sources, and certification. These groups are also crucial to boost advocacy and recognition in a higher scope for certifying smallholders and ISPO readiness.

Nine of the twelve existing farmer groups unified under one Smallholder union "Maju Bersama".

It was based on the geographical location of the group to accommodate better coordination and communication. The other four farmer groups will join the second group of smallholder union.

The human resources of these farmers are low, so they tend to have low sense of initiatives and even sometimes narrow minded. In addition, organizational experience also lacking. For this reason, group capacity strengthening must be done regularly. Building coordination through WA (WhatsApp) groups which involves extension workers, key farmers, and CI staffs. This method can also be used to monitor progress and coordination among members of smallholder unions.

The average farmer group consists of 25-30 farmers and meet on a weekly basis. Through a better communication, a sense of mutual respect and mutual understanding began to form. In some farmer groups there was an idea to do mutual aid such as pruning the plantation and being able to work together to apply GAP.

Conservation International/Photo by Hetty Tambunan

Conservation International/Photo by Rahman Harahap