



To: Linda Wijaya,
Asia Pulp and Paper
Jl. M.H. Thammarin 51
BII Plaza Tower I

Cc: Joint Steering Committee

Subject: Association with new suppliers in Bangka Belitung, PT. Bangun Rimba Sejahtera (BRS)

17 March 2017

Dear Ms. Wijaya,

we were recently made aware that APP is considering bringing on PT. Bangun Rimba Sejahtera (PT BRS) as a new tier 1 supplier. We read this in the “Investigation Report” of PT BRS in the Province of Bangka Belitung.¹ We are deeply concerned that PT BRS does not have the consent of local communities impacted by this project and that, should APP move forward with allowing PT BRS to become a supplier, APP would be violating its Forest Conservation Policy (FCP)² and Association Policy³.

The investigation suggests that 100,000 people in West Bangka Regency could be affected by PT BRS operations, and that 21 villages (the majority of the affected villages) have expressed their opposition to the presence of PT BRS.

The report finds that up to 85% of the land in this recently awarded concession is being used by local communities for their livelihoods, and the remaining, often communally held forest areas are critical to local people for ecological services such as clean water and provision of non-timber forest products.

It seems that in order to be viable, PT BRS must use lands claimed and used by local communities, in many cases in direct opposition to their stated objections. The project, which has already seen concerted opposition from communities and local government, consequently risks further igniting social unrest, undermining local livelihoods and creating serious land conflict. It also could spark inter-community conflicts and inter-family and community divisions thereby damaging the social fabric of the area.

The report finds that PT BRS has failed to undertake a credible Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process, and that some meetings have involved the intimidating presence of armed personnel (police or army). The situation with PT BRS is, in our view, a clear violation of APP’s Forest Conservation Policy, and according to APP’s association policy, APP should not associate with PT BRS.

We view this as a test case for APP that, in the face of pressure to secure new fibre sources for the OKI mill, will demonstrate how serious the company is about its FCP and other policies. We look forward to hearing APP’s response to our concerns and sincerely hope the company will not proceed with seeking a wood supply from PR BRS.

Finally, the report suggests ties between APP/Sinar Mas Group and the Wijaya family and PT BRS. In the spirit of the FCP and other transparency commitments, we request that the financial and management ties between the companies be fully disclosed.

Thank you in advance for addressing our concerns and for posting this as a grievance on the dashboard.

Best wishes

Akar Foundation (Indonesia), ARA (Germany), BankTrack (The Netherlands), Blue Dalian (China), Denkhaus Bremen (Germany), Dogwood Alliance (USA), Environmental Paper Network - EPN, Finance & Trade Watch (Austria), FoE US (USA), Forest Peoples Programme (UK), Forest Watch Indonesia, Forum Ökologie & Papier (Germany), Forum Umwelt und Entwicklung (Germany), Friends of the Earth Finland - Maan ystävät, Friends of the Earth Japan, Friends of the Siberian Forests (Russia), FUGe (Germany), Genesis (Indonesia), Global 2000 (Austria), Green Longjiang (China), Hutan Kita Institute - HaKI (Indonesia), Inspira (Indonesia), Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Jambi (Indonesia), Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Riau (Indonesia), Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Sumatra Selatan (Indonesia), Japan Tropical Forest Action Network – JATAN (Japan), JMG-J (Indonesia), Jikalauhari (Indonesia), Kanopi Bengkulu (Indonesia), KKI Warsi (Indonesia), KPKA Rimba Negeri (Indonesia), Link-AR Borneo (Indonesia), LBH Palembang (Indonesia), Markets For Change (Australia), Mighty (USA), Mitra Insani (Indonesia), Perkumpulan Hijau (Indonesia), Padi Indonesia, PeTA (Indonesia), Pro Regenwald (Germany), Rainforest Action Network – RAN (USA), Rainforest Foundation (Norway), Rainforest Rescue (Germany), Re:Common (Italy), Reforesting Scotland (UK), Robin Wood (Germany), Sarawak Campaign Committee (Japan), Scale Up (Indonesia), Terra! (Italy), Serikat Tani Tebo (Indonesia), Urgewald (Germany), Walhi Jambi (Indonesia), Walhi Kalimantan Barat (Indonesia), Walhi Kalimantan Timur (Indonesia), Walhi Kep. Bangka Belitung (Indonesia), Walhi Sumsel (Indonesia), Walestra (Indonesia), Watch Indonesia! (Germany), Wuhu Ecology Center (China), Yayasan Keadilan Rakyat Jambi (Indonesia).

This letter was facilitated by the Environmental Paper Network

¹ <http://hutainstitute.or.id/local-communities-reject-pt-bangun-rimba-sejahtera-potential-supplier-apps-oki-mill/>

² http://www.asiapulp.com/system/files/app_forest_conservation_policy_final_english_0.pdf

³ “Any existing or potential supplier to APP is required to meet our Responsible Fibre Procurement and Processing Policy and Forest Conservation Policy” http://www.asiapulp.com/system/files/140207_app_association_procedure_revised_draft_final_0.pdf