

Tripa Truths

Information about the destruction of the Tripa peat swamps

inconvenient for some....

A Call For Action

On the 25th of August, 2011, the Governor of Aceh signed a Permit for an oil palm company to convert an undisturbed area of primary peat swamp forest into oil palm plantation. The permit contravenes a raft of laws and regulations, including the National Spatial Plan, established by Government Regulation 26/2008, and Presidential Instruction 10/2011 which forbids any new permits on primary forest and peat land. The company to which the permit was issued, PT Kallista Alam, already has a track record of dubious behaviour, with numerous complaints from local communities, and illegal outbreaks of fire on land it manages.

How is it that during a time when the world is increasingly concerned with global climate change, carbon emissions, and vanishing biodiversity, primary forests that cover huge natural carbon stores, and are home to rare, unique, and highly endangered wildlife, can still, with the stroke of a pen, be signed away in Indonesia for destruction? This is not just a case of preventing the annihilation of a population of Sumatran Orangutans, but preserving basic environmental functions essential to the quality of life of both local people, and the wider global community.



Some might say that it is too late: too much has been lost already; in the last 21 years, about 70% of Tripa's original forest and its orangutan population have already been destroyed; the peat lands continue to be drained. But such a defeatist attitude plays into the hands of those who would continue to destroy the environment that supports us all, for their own personal profit, while the rest of us pay the price.

We have prepared a series of information sheets that highlight the Tripa peat swamps, the history of their destruction and the victims, and the laws and regulations that have been repeatedly broken. Overleaf can be found a list of our goals, links to useful reference materials, key contacts for those that require further information, and suggestions for what YOU CAN DO.

Planned "Tripa Truths" Sheets:

| | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|-------------------|-----|------------------------|
| | Inconvenient for some... | 5: | A New Concession | 10: | Legal Status |
| 1: | Introduction | 6: | Local Communities | 11: | The Leuser Ecosystem |
| 2: | Value of Peat Swamps | 7: | PT Kalista Alam | 12: | Of Moratoriums |
| 3: | All about Carbon | 8: | Governor of Aceh | 13: | Fire! |
| 4: | A History | 9: | Land Use Planning | 14: | The Sumatran Orangutan |

Our Short Term Goals:

1. Immediate revocation of the permit issued to PT Kallista Alam in August 2011.
2. Immediate investigation of the procedures followed in the permit process, including any payments made by PT Kallista Alam.
3. Immediate investigation of the operations of oil palm companies in the Tripa peat swamps, including the use of fire for land clearing, and the clearance of forest on deep peat lands.
4. Immediate halt to any current land clearing in the Tripa peat swamps, and a permanent ban on any future land clearing by any parties.

Our Longer Term Goals:

1. The prosecution of any parties found to have broken laws and regulations pertaining to Spatial Planning, land management, and permitting, and the revocation of the permits of offending companies.
2. Restoration of the environmental functions of any unplanted areas of the Tripa peat swamps, as mandated by Government Regulation 26/2008, including measures to reverse the drainage of the peat swamps.
3. The phasing-out of existing oil palm plantations (that have not infringed the law) at the end of the productive cycle of existing palms at the latest.

List of Useful References:

- Wich et al., 2011. Orangutans and the Economic of Sustainable Forest Management in Sumatra. UNEP/GRASP/PanEco/YEL/ICRAF/GRID-Arendal. 83pp.
- PanEco/YEL, 2008. How palm-oil plantations at Tripa increase disaster risk, contribute to climate change and drive a unique Sumatran-orangutan population to extinction. 27pp.
- BPKEK, 2007. Management Plan for the Leuser Ecosystem
- PanEco/YEL, 2010. Tripa peat swamp forest ecological situation, trends and feasibility of restoration. Internal report 28pp.
- Tata HL, van Noordwijk M, eds. 2010. Human livelihoods, ecosystem services and the habitat of the Sumatran orangutan: rapid assessment in Batang Toru and Tripa. Bogor, Indonesia: World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF) Southeast Asia Regional Office.

List of Useful Contacts:

| Organization | Website/Email | Telephone |
|--|---|------------------|
| Friends of Earth Indonesia (WALHI Aceh) | http://walhiaceh.org/ | +62-65121183 |
| Leuser Management Body (BPKEK) | http://leuserecosystem.org/ ; bpkel.aceh@gmail.com | +62-6518052200 |
| Yayasan Ekosistem Lestari (YEL) | http://yelweb.org/ ; yel@yelweb.org | +62-614514360 |
| Transparansi Internasional Indonesia (TII) | http://www.ti.or.id ; info@ti.or.id | +62-21 720 8515 |

What You Can Do

- Send letters and/or emails supporting the investigation and prosecution of offenders to the National and Provincial Governments, or to your local Republic of Indonesia Embassy;
- Spread this information as widely as possible, especially amongst local, national and international Press and Media.

Tripa Truths

1: Introduction

Information about the destruction of the Tripa peat swamps

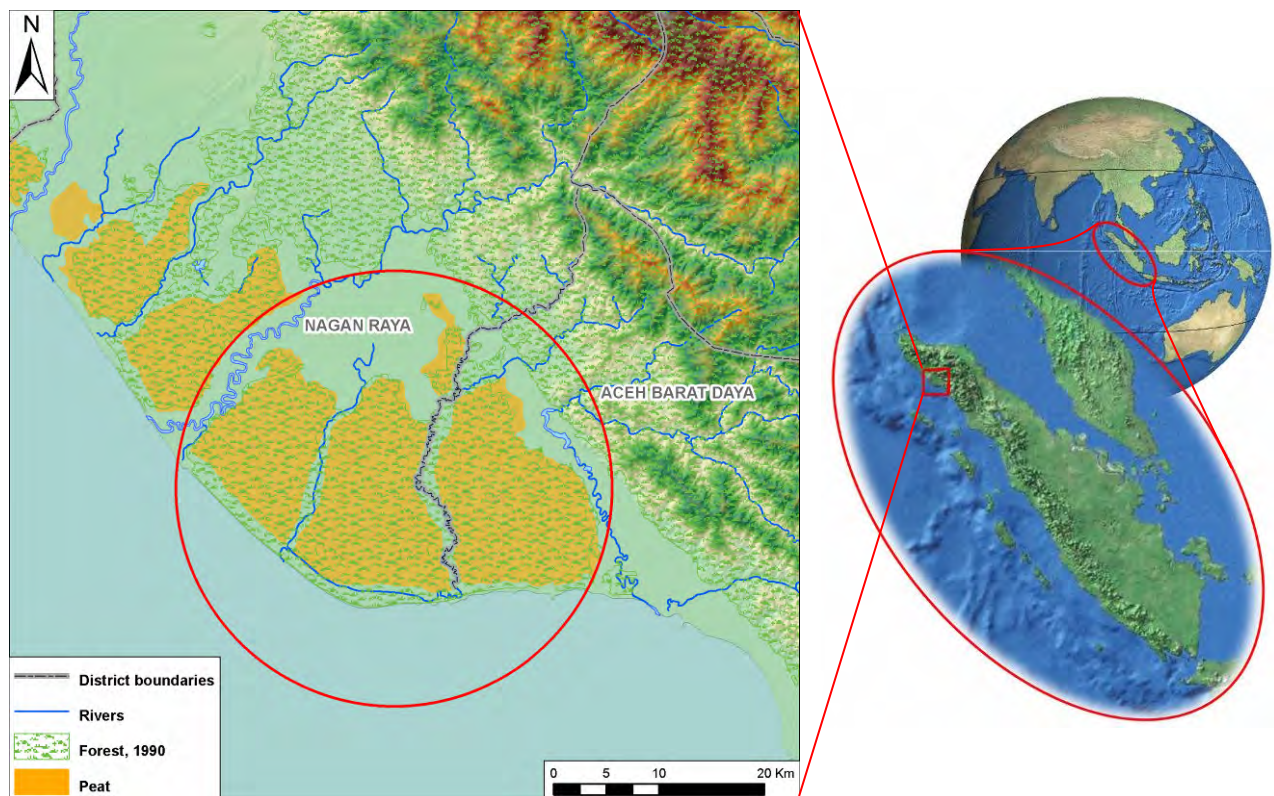
Introduction

This series of fact sheets is designed to provide information about the Tripa peat swamps including a brief description, history, values and threats, and current legal status and exploitation.

Where and what are the Tripa peat swamps?

The Tripa peat swamps lie on the west coast of the province of Aceh in Indonesia, at the northern tip of the island of Sumatra. They straddle the border between the districts of Aceh Barat Daya and Nagan Raya. The swamps consist of 3 main peat blocks, separated by 4 rivers: from west to east the Tripa, Seuneuam, Seumayam, and Batee rivers. The Seumayam river forms the border between the 2 districts.

The location of the Tripa peat swamps (circled) on the west coast of Aceh province, northern Sumatra, showing rivers, forest cover in 1990, peat, and district boundaries.



Until 1990, the peat swamps were covered by almost 61,000 ha of primary forest (an area almost the size of Singapore), which was home to a rich and diverse fauna including a large population of the endangered Sumatran orangutan (*Pongo abelii*), the Sumatran tiger (*Panthera tigris sumatrae*), and numerous other threatened species, many of them unique to peat swamps.

As in other parts of Indonesia during the 1990s, the peat swamps of Tripa were carved up into concessions for oil palm plantations. Five companies then set about clearing nearly 35,000 ha of the forest, before being forced to suspend operations due to the heightening of the Aceh civil conflict. After the cessation of the companies operations, many of the already cleared areas began to regenerate naturally.

1: Introduction (contd.)

However, following the devastating tsunami of 26th December 2004, and the subsequent signing of the Helsinki peace accord in 2005, several of the oil palm companies returned to the area and little heed was paid to legal restrictions on peat swamp conversion, or the Instruction for a moratorium on the logging of primary forest issued by the Governor of Aceh (also in the Instruction, the Head of the Provincial Office for Plantations was instructed to direct all land clearing to non-forested areas). Meanwhile, the use of fire for land clearing became more frequent too, and in 2009 there were more fire hot spots recorded than in all the previous 8 years put together.

Between mid-2007 and the end of 2009, almost 8,000 ha (28%) of the remaining forests were lost. Despite considerable lobbying by local communities and environmental groups, no action was taken to stop the burning or land clearing.



A large portion of the remaining Tripa peat swamp forests photographed in August 2008. In the foreground are planted and unplanted oil palm blocks, with further blocks being drained before clearing. These blocks have now already been cleared. The fate of the orangutans that lived there is not known for sure, but most have almost certainly died in the process.

The end game for the forests of Tripa and their orangutans is approaching. Despite the establishment of the Leuser Ecosystem as a Strategic National Area for Environmental Protection in the National Spatial Plan in 2008, and 3 months after the announcement of the recent Presidential Instruction forbidding any new permits in peat lands, on August 25th, 2011, the Governor of Aceh issued a Permit for a new plantation area in the Tripa peat swamps. With this permit, the carving up of Tripa peat swamp ecosystem for conversion to oil palm plantations is virtually complete.

Other sheets planned in this series:

- Inconvenient for some...
- 1: Introduction
- 2: Value of Peat Swamps
- 3: All about Carbon
- 4: A History

- 5: A New Concession
- 6: Local Communities
- 7: PT Kalista Alam
- 8: Governor of Aceh
- 9: Land Use Planning

- 10: Legal Status
- 11: The Leuser Ecosystem
- 12: Of Moratoriums
- 13: Fire!
- 14: The Sumatran Orangutan

These sheets were prepared on behalf of the **Tim Koalisi Penyelamatan Rawa Tripa** (or TKPRT)

The Basics of Global Climate Change

Carbon is one of the basic building blocks of life. Animals and plants combine sugars with oxygen to produce energy, producing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and water (H₂O). The carbon in animals comes from their food. However, through photosynthesis, plants also take up carbon dioxide and combine it with water using sunlight as an energy source, to create sugars, including cellulose the major component of wood.

Since the advent of the industrial age two and a half centuries ago, the amount of CO₂ being emitted into the atmosphere has increased enormously. This carbon dioxide comes primarily from the burning of fossil fuels (oil, gas, coal) for power and transport. These fossil fuels were formed from plant remains over millions of years, and can not be replaced. Large amounts of carbon dioxide also come from the burning of forests for conversion to agriculture. The percentage of CO₂ in the atmosphere is now 35% higher than it was at the start of industrialization during the 18th century.

The problem stems from the effect of carbon dioxide on our climate. It, plus some other gases such as methane are called "greenhouse" gases (GHG), because they trap heat in the earth's atmosphere, causing it to warm up. As the atmosphere warms up, our climate is changing, with potentially disastrous consequences for humans and most other life forms on the planet.

Indonesia's Role in Global Climate Change

Indonesia has the 4th largest population in the world, but its emissions of GHG's from industrial sources alone such as power generation and transport are only about the 15th largest in the world (2008). However, Indonesia's emissions of GHG's from deforestation, peat land fires, and the destruction of the peat itself, mean Indonesia is that it has ranked as high as 3rd in the world in terms of emissions, behind only China and the USA.

As a result, Indonesia has made a number of commitments to reducing its emissions, particularly through reducing deforestation, forest fires, and peatland destruction.

Why are Peat Swamp Forests important?

One of the biggest contributions to Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions is the conversion of peat swamp forests. Peat is basically carbon and water, and peat swamps are huge natural stores of carbon. While tropical rainforests on mineral soils also store relatively large amounts of carbon compared to say, grasslands, forests on peat store as much as 10 to 20 times as more! It is estimated in Tripa that the remaining primary forest contains about 110 tonnes of carbon per ha above ground but up to 1,300 tonnes per ha below ground in the peat itself. The total carbon stock of Tripa is conservatively estimated at to be between 50 to 100 million tonnes.

The Carbon "Trade": REDD

In recent years, there has been much global interest in the idea of "paying" for the carbon. Companies that have large carbon footprints (or "net emissions") can purchase "carbon offsets": i.e. they pay for the conservation of carbon elsewhere. Establishing the procedural framework for this has proven complex, and in Indonesia there are still few (if any) fully operational carbon projects. The globally proposed framework is called REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation), but many question marks remain over its operational viability. What was touted as being the first major REDD project in the world, the so-called "Rimba Raya" project in Indonesian Borneo, was sabotaged at the last minute when the Ministry of Forestry allocated half the proposed carbon concession on peat lands to an oil palm company, shortly before the project was to become operational (see the Reuters Special Report "How Indonesia hurt its climate change project at <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/16/us-indonesia-carbon-id USTRE77F0IK 20110816>).

Special Report: How Indonesia hurt its climate change project

Recommend

258 recommendations. Sign Up to see what your friends recommend.



By David Fogarty

SINGAPORE | Tue Aug 16, 2011 8:49am EDT

(Reuters) - In July 2010, U.S. investor Todd Lemons and Russian energy giant Gazprom believed they were just weeks from winning final approval for a landmark forest preservation project in [Indonesia](#).

A year later, the project is close to collapse, a casualty of labyrinthine Indonesian bureaucracy, opaque laws and a secretive palm oil company.

The Rimba Raya project, on the island of Borneo, is part of a United Nations-backed scheme designed to reward poorer nations that protect their carbon-rich jungles.

Deep peat in some of Indonesia's rainforests stores billions of tonnes of carbon so preserving those forests is regarded as crucial in the fight against climate change.

By putting a value on the carbon, the 90,000-hectare (225,000 acre) project would help prove that investors can turn a profit from the world's jungles in ways that do not involve cutting them down.

After three years of work, more than \$2 million in development costs, and what seemed like the green light from Jakarta, the project is proof that saving the world's tropical rainforests will be far more complicated than simply setting up a framework to allow market forces to function.

A Reuters investigation into the case also shows the forestry ministry is highly skeptical about a market for forest carbon credits, placing it at odds with President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who supports pay-and-preserve investments to fight climate change.

The Rimba Raya affair illustrates a clear lack of coordination between different agencies within the Government of Indonesia, with the Task Force on REDD attempting to promote investment in the carbon trade in Indonesia, while sections of the Ministry of Forestry continue a contradictory permitting strategy encouraging more plantations and forest exploitation. According to Reuters, the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Forestry, Daryanto, said **"Who will pay for the dream of Rimba Raya? Who will pay? Nobody, sir!"**, when asked whether REDD could ever work. Meanwhile the head of the REDD Task Force in Indonesia, Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, noted that "the Rimba Raya case highlighted deep flaws in the bureaucracy and the need for sweeping reforms to underpin the 40 other REDD projects in Indonesia". He apparently told Reuters in an email **"The core concern is the (lack of *sic*) trust in government statements of readiness, and responsibility.** Even with the best of intentions, the unsynchronous action of the central government's ministry and the district government's action is not conducive for investment, especially in this new kind of venture. I can surmise that the case of Rimba Raya is a case of a business idea that is ahead of its time. **The government infrastructure is insufficiently ready for it."**

One can only speculate at the reluctance of Ministry of Forestry officials to back REDD. Daryanto's comments above imply a scepticism or a lack of understanding of the financial viability of REDD projects, even though in the case of Rimba Raya there was already investor commitment. Could it be that the real fear is that the rigorous governance framework required for REDD to be successful, threatens the "financial viability" of the Forestry's bureaucratic elite (i.e. the "system as usual")?

In spite of the apparently bleak outlook, at least in the short term, the theory that the world should be for financing forest protection in Indonesia by paying to maintain carbon stores such as the Tripa peat swamps is a valid one. We believe that pressure to reform the bureaucracy that is currently the main obstacle to carbon financing in Indonesia will ultimately be successful.

Economic analysis has already demonstrated that maintaining the Tripa peat swamps as a carbon store could be worth more to Aceh and Indonesia than their conversion to oil palm plantations (see: Orangutans and the Economics of Sustainable Forest Management in Sumatra, 2011; available for download from http://www.grida.no/files/publications/orangutan-sumatra/orangutan_report_lr.pdf), but only if decisions relating to land use are based on the public good rather than personal gain.

Other sheets planned in this series:

- Inconvenient for some...
- 1: Introduction
- 2: Value of Peat Swamps
- 3: All about Carbon
- 4: A History

- 5: A New Concession
- 6: Local Communities
- 7: PT Kalista Alam
- 8: Governor of Aceh
- 9: Land Use Planning

- 10: Legal Status
- 11: The Leuser Ecosystem
- 12: Of Moratoriums
- 13: Fire!
- 14: The Sumatran Orangutan

These sheets were prepared on behalf of the **Tim Koalisi Penyelamatan Rawa Tripa** (or TKPRT)

Tripa Truths

Information about the destruction of the Tripa peat swamps

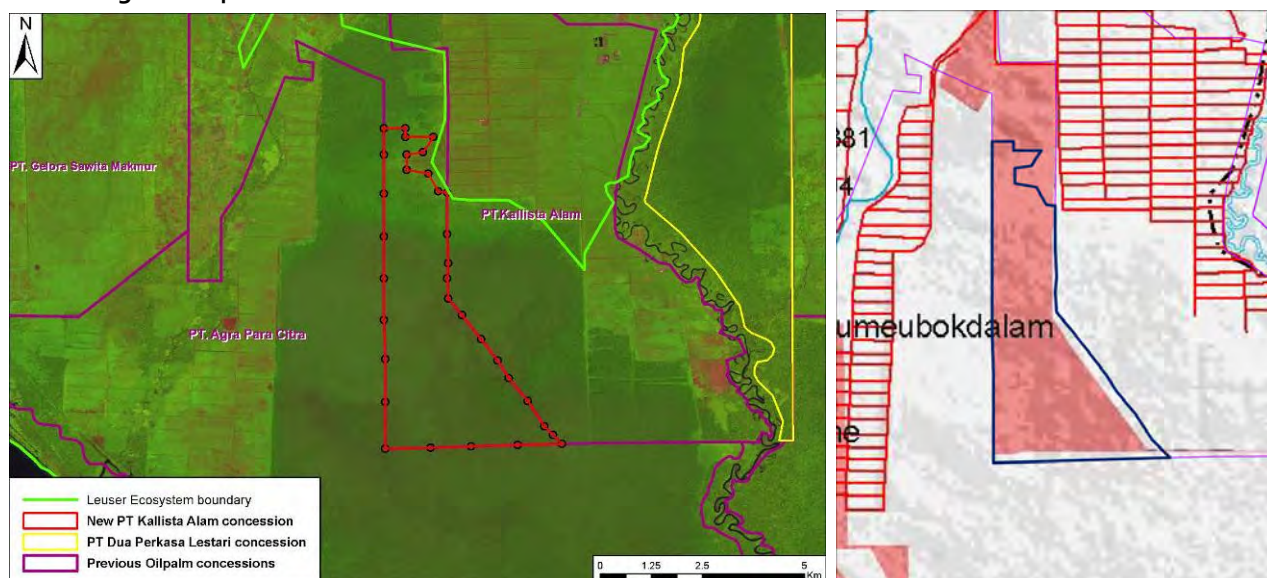
5: A New Concession!

A New Permit: A New Threat

On the 25th of August 2011, the Governor of Aceh, Irwandi Yusuf, signed a Plantation Business Permit (SK IUP-B 525/3P2T/5322/2011) awarding an area of +/- 1605ha in the Tripa peat swamps to P.T.Kallista Alam. The company already has 1 concession area in the Tripa swamps, and another close by, and have been one of the most active companies in the area since the resumption of commercial activities after the Helsinki peace agreement signed of 2005.

The Permit document has a map as an Appendix, including a table of coordinates of the new area, plotted in the maps below:

Left map: The location of the new concession issued to PT Kallista Alam in August 2011, and the concession issued to PT Perkasa Lestari in 2007, plotted on a 2006 satellite image of the Tripa peat swamps along with existing concession boundaries. Right map: The same concession overlaid on the official forestry map for areas (shown as pink blocks on the map) in which new permits are not allowed under Presidential Instruction for a Moratorium on the issuing of new permits.



All the area below the green line on the left map is part of the Leuser Ecosystem, so the new concession is clearly within the ecosystem. In the heart of the Tripa peat swamps, it is in an area previously unallocated for conversion to plantation. The underlying satellite image shows that almost all this area, and the concession issued in 2007 to PT Dua Perkasa Lestari (the yellow outline to the east of new concession), were still largely covered by primary peat swamp forest as recently as 2006.

Data on projected peat depth in the Tripa peat swamps, based on bores taken in 2007, suggest that the new Kallista Alam concession is in one of the deepest parts of the Tripa peat swamps, with most, if not all, of the concession having a peat depth in excess of 3m, and in parts exceeding 5m. This alone means that converting this area is illegal.

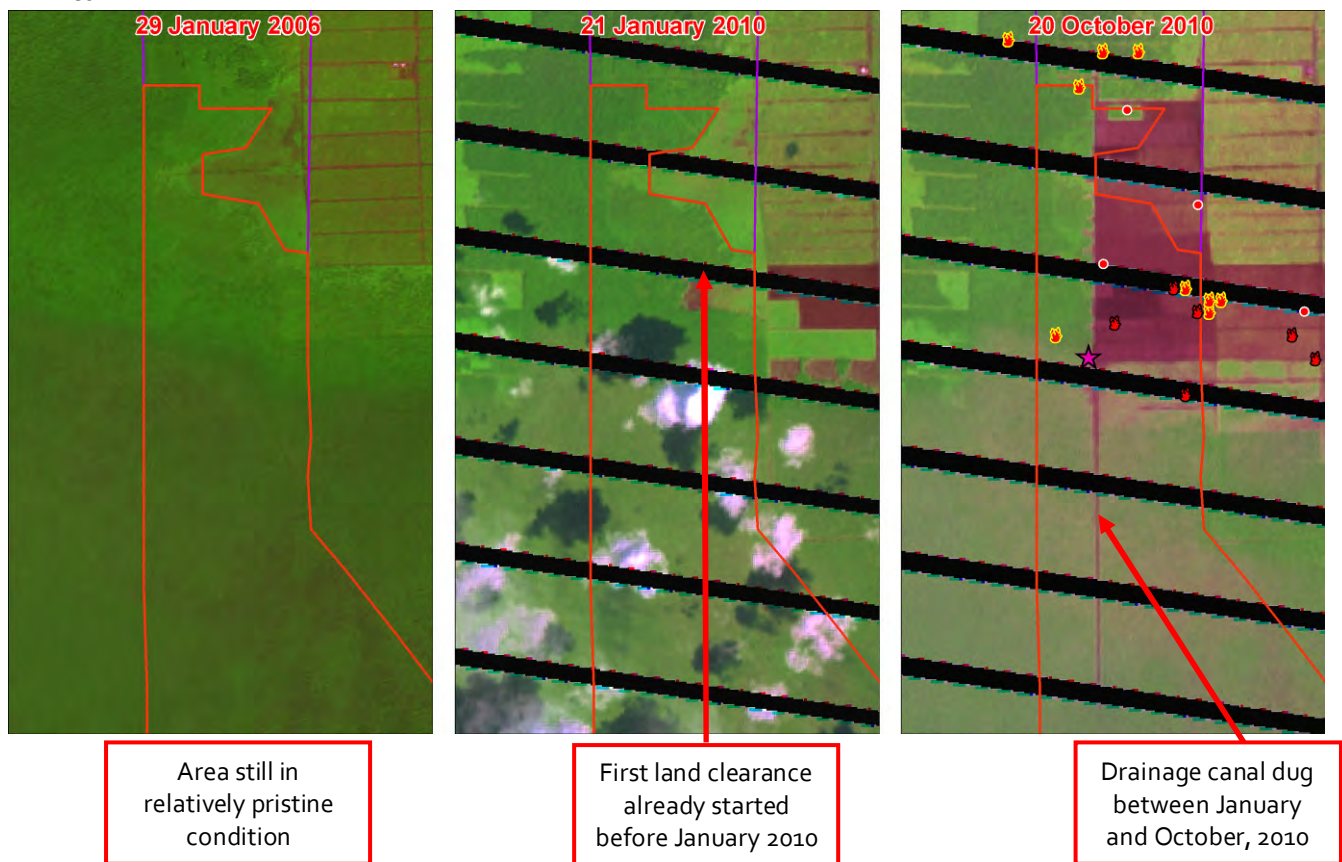
The company first applied to the local District Head (*Bupati*) for the location in August 2007, and letters of support were issued by the District Forestry office, the *Bupati*, and the Provincial Office for Plantations in 2008, but the license for the area was not issued. In 2010, both the Provincial Integrated Permitting Agency and the Office for Forestry and Plantations requested evaluations by the Leuser Management Body (BPKEL), who replied that the whole of the area was in the Leuser Ecosystem. BPKEL then conducted a site visit in March 2011 and found evidence of land clearing, despite no permit having been issued, and made a complaint to the Provincial Police Office (Polda).

5: A New Concession! (contd.)

The Provincial Police Office conducted a review of the case (*gelar perkara*), but oddly found in favour of PT Kallista Alam. The Governor then used this as a basis for issuing the concession permit.

Evidence collected from the field and from analysis of satellite imagery has confirmed that the digging of drainage canals, land clearing, and planting of oil palms all commenced long before the issuance of the permit by the Governor (see below). Furthermore there is a population of Sumatran orangutans in the concession, a critically endangered and legally protected species, for which no provision has been made. Destroying the habitat and causing the death of these protected animals is also illegal.

Northern section of the new concession plotted on a time series of satellite images (Spot 5: 29/1/06; Landsat 7: 21/1/10 and 20/10/20) showing damage to the area before the concession permit was ever issued. The purple star on the right hand image are orangutan nests photographed on 11/11/11. Red flames with yellow border are fire hot spots in 2011, red flames with black borders are those in 2009 and 2010, and the small red dots are fire events 2001 to 2008.



It is clear that extensive land clearing was carried out in 2010, including burning. The drainage canal dug in 2010 extends deep into the heart of the largest remaining fragment of the Tripa peat swamp forests, and if action is not taken, not only to revoke this concession but also to block this and other drainage canals, this forest will soon be gone, along with its orangutan population.

Other sheets planned in this series:

Inconvenient for some...

- 1: Introduction
- 2: Value of Peat Swamps
- 3: All about Carbon
- 4: A History

- 5: A New Concession
- 6: Local Communities
- 7: PT Kalista Alam
- 8: Governor of Aceh
- 9: Land Use Planning

- 10: Legal Status
- 11: The Leuser Ecosystem
- 12: Of Moratoriums
- 13: Fire!
- 14: The Sumatran Orangutan

These sheets were prepared on behalf of the **Tim Koalisi Penyelamatan Rawa Tripa** (or TKPRT)

Tripa Truths

Information about the destruction of the Tripa peat swamps

8: The Governor of Aceh

A Brief Biography

The Governor of Aceh, Drh. Irwandi Yusuf, MSc, to give his full title (Drh. means he is a Veterinarian), was born in 1960 in the district of Bireun, Aceh. He graduated from the Veterinary Science Faculty from Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh in 1987, and became a lecturer at the same university. He became a member of the Free Aceh Movement in 1990, before receiving a scholarship at the University of Oregon in the USA, where he gained a Master's in Veterinary Science in 1993.

On his return to Indonesia, he joined the central command of the Free Aceh Movement, of which he had been a member since 1990, being active in propaganda and psychological warfare.

In 1999, he was one of the founder members of Fauna and Flora International's conservation programme in Aceh, working with a focus on elephant conservation until 2001. In this year he also worked briefly for the International Red Cross (ICRC) also in 2001.

Returning to active service with the Free Aceh Movement as the conflict in the province escalated, he was imprisoned in 2003 by the Indonesian authorities in the Kedah prison in Banda Aceh, where he remained until the devastating tsunami of December 26th, 2004 which is estimated to have killed almost 200,000 people in Aceh alone. He survived the tsunami flood waters by escaping through the roof of the building as it collapsed, one of only 40 inmates out of 278 to survive. He is quoted as saying "I didn't escape from prison, the prison escaped from me"!

The major international focus on Aceh due to the tsunami and its devastating impacts was a major catalyst in the signing of a peace accord between the Indonesian government and the rebel movement: the Helsinki Accord of 2005. The following year, the Indonesian government passed a new Law on the Governance of Aceh (Law 11/2006) which granted special autonomy of the province and paved the way for gubernatorial elections. Drh. Irwandi stood for Governor, one of the few candidates with an environmental platform. He won the election with nearly 40% of the popular vote and took office in February 2007.

Green Credentials

Within 4 months he announced a moratorium on cutting primary forests in the province, including a review and "redesign" of the forestry sector, and formed a "Green Aceh" advisory team. Along with Barnabas Suebu, the Governor of Papua at the other end of Indonesia, he gained an international reputation for promoting environmentally friendly development and the carbon trade, which he pushed when attending the COP13 Climate Change meeting in Bali in December 2007.

The forestry review team (known as TIPERESKA) presented their findings to him at the end of 2008. These included recommendations on an expansion of protected forest, including Tripa's, to maintain environmental services, and a revamp of the provincial forestry sector.



8: The Governor of Aceh (contd.)

He has also supported the establishment of several elephant teams to mitigate human-elephant conflict in northern Aceh, has forbidden the transfer of endangered wildlife such as tigers and orangutans from Aceh to other parts of Indonesia without express permission, and supported the establishment of a centre for the reintroduction of ex-captive orangutans at Jantho, in Aceh Besar district.

A One-Man Show?

While he has made numerous statements promoting environmental sound development, and has an undoubted commitment to the welfare of the people of Aceh, it should not be forgotten that Governor Irwandi inherited a provincial government bureaucracy long used to a symbiotic relationship with the private sector, especially in key sectors such as forestry, plantations and mining. He also inherited a province with 22 districts and cities, each with its own political elite, bureaucracy, and desire to develop as fast as possible, usually by exploiting forests and mineral deposits. With the private sector keen to get access to the province's natural resources, and a willing bureaucracy, it is perhaps naïve to expect one man single-handed to stem the tide of exploitation.

Villain or Victim?

Even so, it remains a mystery why a Governor with such apparently "green" credentials can issue a permit for a new plantation in the Tripa peat swamps that so clearly contravenes environmental good sense, let alone existing and binding legislation.

Is it a calculated and cynical step to garner political support from a powerful private sector player in a bid for re-election in 2012? Or was he duped into signing a permit, slipped into a pile of papers for signing just before the major Islamic holiday of Idul Fitri at the end of Ramadhan? Or was he mis-led by an erroneous police evaluation?

His next steps will determine whether he will be regarded in future as a cynical "green" opportunist, or a committed, if easily duped, environmentalist, tricked into issuing a plantation permit that has serious legal and environmental implications.

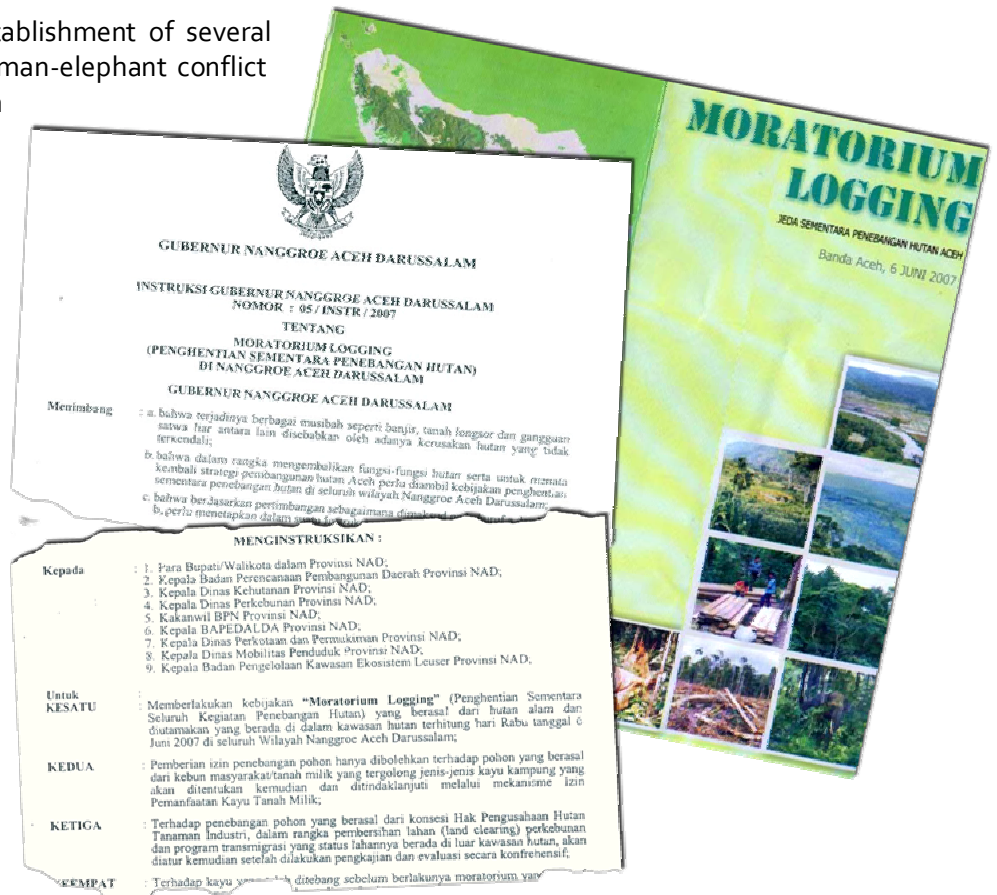
Other sheets planned in this series:

- Inconvenient for some...
- 1: Introduction
 - 2: Value of Peat Swamps
 - 3: All about Carbon
 - 4: A History

- 5: A New Concession
- 6: Local Communities
- 7: PT Kalista Alam
- 8: Governor of Aceh
- 9: Land Use Planning

- 10: Legal Status
- 11: The Leuser Ecosystem
- 12: Of Moratoriums
- 13: Fire!
- 14: The Sumatran Orangutan

These sheets were prepared on behalf of the **Tim Koalisi Penyelamatan Rawa Tripa** (or TKPRT)



Part of the Governor's Instruction of 6 June, 2007, for a moratorium on logging primary forests and land clearing in Aceh, and a leaflet prepared for its launch.

Tripa Truths

Information about the destruction of the Tripa peat swamps

7: PT Kallista Alam

Most Beautiful Nature?

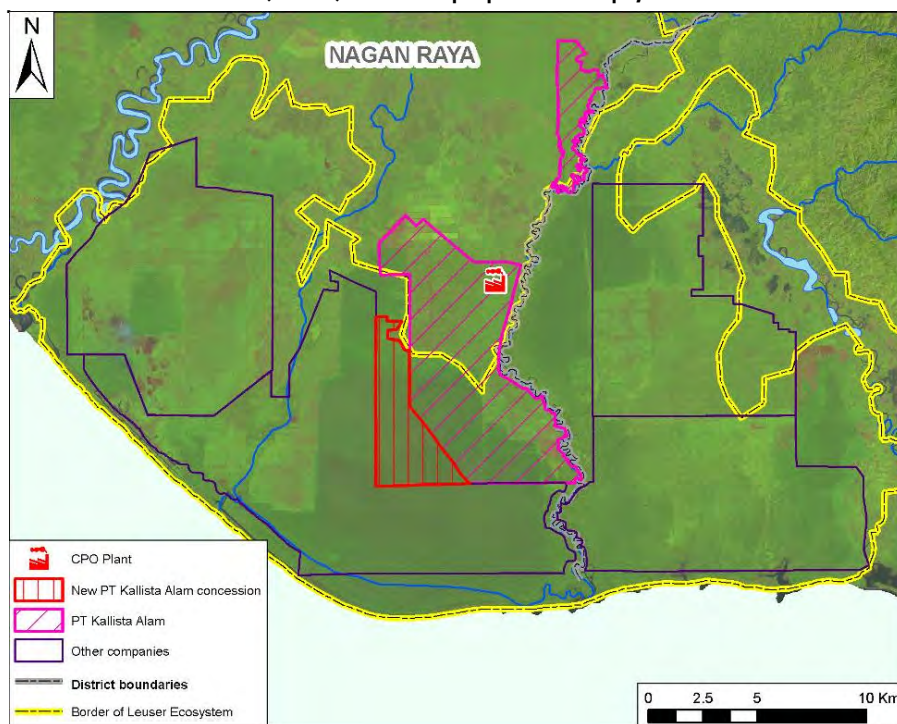
The permit for a new concession in the Tripa peat swamps by the Governor of Aceh was to PT Kallista Alam, a company formed by as long ago as 11th March 1980, with changes made to the company articles on 18th January 2002. The origins of the company's name are not known for certain, but "Kallista" is one form of a Greek name meaning "most beautiful", while *Alam* is Indonesian for nature, giving the highly ironic company name of "the Most Beautiful Nature company".

The company's Director is listed as Subianto Rusido, while Palacheta Subies Subianto is a Vice-Director, apparently the Director's younger brother. The family are have for a long time been based in the Nagan Raya District of Aceh, and are well known there but the company owners now live in Medan in North Sumatra province, and the contact details for the Company are also noted on its letterhead as being in Medan at:

| Address | Telephone | Fax |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------|
| Kompleks Taman Setia Budi Indah II, Blok V Ruko No. 11 -14, Medan – 20133, Sumatera Utara | +62 61 8216341 +62 61 8216542 | +62 61 8216532 |

A local address can also be found in the Tripa area at Gampong Kuala Seumayam, Kecamatan Darul Makmur, Kabupaten Nagan Raya, Aceh.

The 2 original concession areas of PT Kallista Alam (shown in pink hatching) and "new" concession (in red) in the Tripa peat swamps, on a 2006 satellite



The new concession (shown in red) is adjacent to the one of the 2 concession areas received in December 1995, based on maps produced by the National Land Registry or the *Badan Pertanahan Nasional* (BPN). 52% of the largest of these 2 blocks lies in the Leuser Ecosystem, while most of the area of both concessions lie on peatlands, much of it deeper than 3m in depth. By 2006, all of the smaller block had been cleared of forests, while 60% of the larger block had been cleared.

The company also has a large CPO (Crude Palm Oil) processing plant located within in the larger block (see map).

Land Clearing and Fires

Since 2007, the company has been actively clearing the remaining forest in the larger block, so that by July 2011 less than 460ha of the original 5,700 ha of primary peat swamp forest remained. In 2010, active draining and clearing of the "new" concession block issued by the Governor of Aceh in August 2011. The company's lands also contained 203 of the 591 (34%) fire hotspots recorded in Tripa between January 2001 to September 2011 by the MODIS¹ satellites from, even though PT Kallista Alam's concessions represent only 15.4% of the total area of concessions issued in the 1990's.

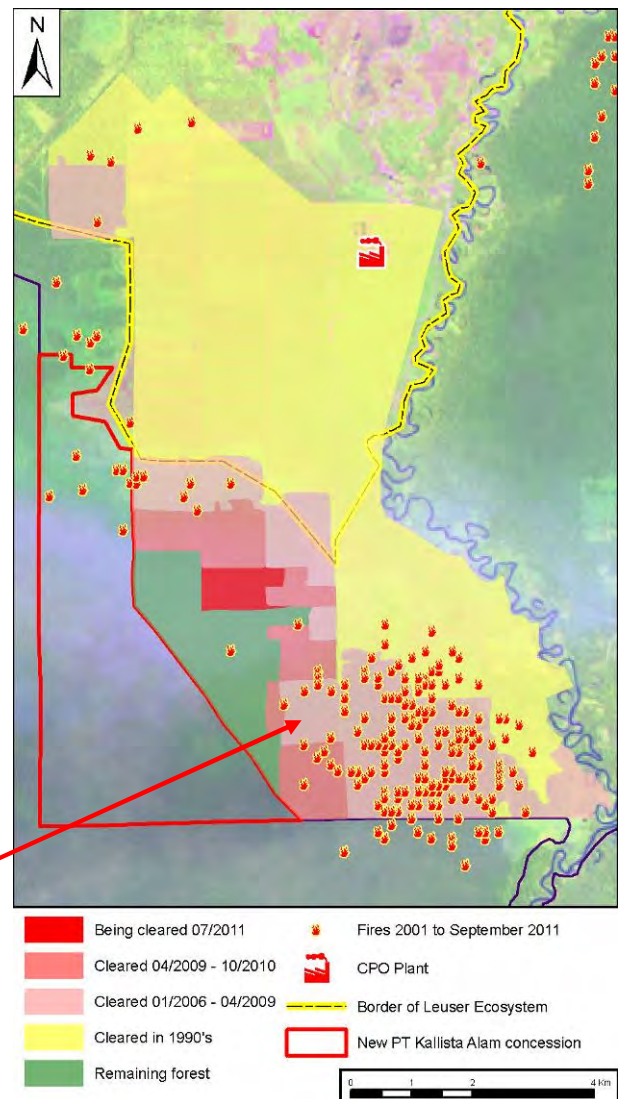
¹ Global fire hotspot data collected by the MODIS Terra and Aqua satellites is analyzed and made available to the public by the Fire Information for Resource Monitoring System (FIRMS). The number of fires recorded is an underestimate, as the satellites only traverse the area twice a day and heavy cloud cover will mask many fires. See more at: <http://maps.geog.umd.edu/firms/faq.htm>

7: PT Kallista Alam (contd.)

The map at right shows the history of land clearance and fires in the main block of the PT Kallista Alam concession since it was issued in December 1995. These data are easily obtained by anyone from the internet.

Almost 90% of the 1,862 ha of forest cleared by PT Kallista Alam since 2006 lies in the Leuser Ecosystem, and forest clearing is on-going. Of the 203 fire events detected on PT Kallista Alam's lands, all but 5 were in the Leuser Ecosystem.

The following aerial views (looking to the southwest), taken in August 2008, show the progress of deforestation since 2006 in the main PT Kallista Alam concession. In the southern section of the concession all of the forest has been cleared. Most of the cleared area in the foreground were cleared between 2006 and 2008, whilst the remaining forest areas on the near side of the red line have also been cleared after 2008. The cleared block in the middle distance corresponds to the pink coloured block identified with an arrow on the map.



The photograph to the right shows the extent of the last forest block left in the concession (between the red and white lines: compare with green block on map). All the forest in the foreground (in front of the red line) was cleared between 2008 and 2010.

Below: the CPO plant in the north of the concession, surrounded by oil palms.



These images show how the "Most Beautiful Nature" company has destroyed, and continues to destroy, thousands of hectares of beautiful natural peat swamp forest which previously provided vital important environmental functions, and were home to hundreds of highly endangered Sumatran orangutans.

These sheets were prepared on behalf of the **Tim Koalisi Penyelamatan Rawa Tripa** (or TKPRT)