

Sharing Experiences on Peatland Restoration in South Sumatra

Burnt Area Rehabilitation and Peat Swamp Forest Landscape Management



Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency (*Badan Restorasi Gambut* (BRG)) in collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Korea held a one-day seminar in Jakarta on 8 November 2016, which was followed up with a field visit to South Kalimantan on 9 – 10 November.

The seminar entitled "How the Government of Korea can Contribute to Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Program" was opened by the BRG Chair, Nazir Foead. The seminar, which involved 50 participants representing government agencies, ministries, the Korean embassy and the private sector, had its basis in the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Governments of Indonesia and the Republic of Korea in Seoul in May 2016. The agreement was on peatland restoration and fire prevention efforts. The overall aims of the seminar were to: (1) share experiences and ideas on peatland ecosystem restoration and

rehabilitation for use as references in implementing activities on the ground; (2) identify aspects and possible activities that the Government of the Republic of Korea might carry out in peatland restoration and rehabilitation efforts in Indonesia; and (3) identify possible project sites for Korean – Indonesian peatland restoration collaboration.

The Indonesian-German technical cooperation program, GIZ Bioclimate, gave a presentation on its experiences with peatland restoration in South Sumatra. This presentation, given by Berthold Haasler (Team Leader) and Mohammad Sidiq (Deputy Team Leader), focused on burnt area rehabilitation and landscape management efforts by emphasizing: (1) a multistakeholder approach; (2) 'one map' for peatland restoration; (3) water management design; (4) rehabilitation; (5) community engagement; (6) sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs);

and (7) a forest management unit (FMU) approach.

The multistakeholder approach aims at rallying common strengths and political will to apply regulations on fire prevention. Applying a 'one map' policy for restoration aims at developing a database management center, so that restoration can be sourced from one data set managed by the provincial government. Water management design is established by involving local communities in blocking drainage canals in order to re-wet peat and to ensure the water table remains stable. Technically, rehabilitation includes the development of plantation forest nurseries by forest farmer groups (*Kelompok Tani Hutan* (KTH) who are involved regularly in every activity in the local sphere. In addition, Bioclime has also initiated sustainable use of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) by preserving NTFP potential in villages to support community economies. Another approach involves collaboration with Forest Management Units (FMUs). Bioclime focuses strongly on capacity building for FMUs and their connections with participatory peatland restoration activities with communities as FMUs are the direct site-level managers.

In its presentation, Bioclime relayed data on the frequency of fires in South Sumatra from 1997 – 2015, which have caused wholesale loss of biodiversity. Bioclime also showed video footage on monitoring forest condition in the wake of the 2015 fires taken using an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). The introduction of UAVs is a strategic step for more efficient use of time and resources in monitoring efforts to support peatland restoration programs.

Other important points put forward were that Bioclime is supporting the South Sumatra Provincial Government in green development and biodiversity conservation initiatives, and South Sumatra will become the first province in Indonesia to design and implement a sub-national (provincial) Green Development plan in line with the Indonesian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IBSAP). Bioclime's involvement in the seminar was part of the project's mission to publicize its activities in South Sumatra and build a network so it is recognizable to stakeholders at the national level.

Presentation: attached

Contact: mohammad.sidiq@giz.de

Author : nyimas.wardah@giz.de



collaboration on peatland restoration in Indonesia