Rehabilitation planting on burnt over peat land in the Kepayang Village Forest

Planting on burnt over peat land in the Kepayang Village Forest was a follow up activity to the training on planting and establishing nurseries carried out on Februari 2017. Activities carried out in 13-26 march fell under the direct guidance of Ir. Bastoni M. Si. and Teten Rahman, researchers from the Palembang Environment and Forestry Research and Development Center (BP2LHK). The training involved 11 participants from Dusun II in Kepayang village and Talang Nuaran. Agroforestry system-based planting was planned for 5 ha in addition to the already available 1-ha training demonstration plot, making a total area of 6 ha. The agroforesty system used local species : *jelutung, pulai, tembesu, and kayu labu*

Planting location of 6 hectares in Village Forest Kepayang

Activities began by taking measurements of surface water depth/inundation in areas that had already been or would be planted, and continued with the manual establishment of planting rows and spacing during the land clearing process. Planting plot patterns followed the physical form of the Nuaran River starting from the direction of the Nuaran estuary. To facilitate access for plant maintenance, planting rows were spaced 5 meters apart, and ran from north to south. The north-south direction also aimed to maximize sunlight for the seedlings to allow them to grow and develop properly.

Land clearing and row establishment were re-evaluated using aerial photographs from unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) to minimize narrowing or widening between planting rows. Once the land clearing and planting row establishment processes were complete, markers were installed to determine planting points along each planting row. Species planted were NTFP producing species and local peat swamp forest tree species such as: *Jelutung Rawa*, *Meranti Blangiran*, *Pulai*, *Tembesu* and *Kayu Labu*.

Peat depth was also measured for every planting plot hectare and accompanied by the installation of piezometers, which function to monitor surface water depth/inundation in each planting plot hectare. The hope is that knowledge of fluctuations in surface water depth/inundation in planting plots can be used as a reference in preventing fires in planting locations.

Problems in the land clearing process were the heights of ferns which reached 2 meters, and the significant surface water depth ranging from 21.5 – 65 cm, both of which delayed the planting process. It was necessary to wait for the surface water to subside, and to spray herbicides along the planting rows to stem fern growth.

Planting tree for forest rehabilitation at Village Forest Kepayang

“Planting on burnt over peat land is an easy process. However, ensuring it does not burn again in the dry season requires commitment and a high sense of ownership in managing the land.” Ir. Bastoni M. Si. from the Palembang Environment and Forestry Research and Development Center (BP2LHK).

There will be monitoring of the plants-growth as a follow up from this activity in the 6th week after planting. The monitoring will involveBP2LHK and community group of Kepayang

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