



RIMBA INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM AREA IN SUMATRA

Protect some of the world's richest biodiversity, natural heritage and global climate

Sumatra's natural forest



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Sumatra's natural forests are a key provider of drinking water, food, medicine, non timber forest products, and other natural services for millions of people. Protecting these forests greatly benefits communities throughout the island. Sumatra's carbon rich peat soil and forest also is a critical carbon store for the planet, making it vitally important in efforts to combat global climate change. Sumatra's seven million hectares of peat soil may store more than 19 gigatons of carbon, while the island's remaining natural forest may store and additional two gigatons.



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As of 2008, Sumatra had only 29 percent (12.8 million hectares) left of its total area covered in forest. Eighty-three percent of Sumatra's remaining forest areas overlap either with very carbon rich peat soils, are part of "critically endangered" or "endangered" eco-floristic sectors, and/or are used by at least one of Sumatra's four flagship fauna species. Fifteen percent of Sumatra's remaining natural forests, 1.9 million hectares in total, has all of these carbon and biodiversity values present. These important conservation values, however, are also present on half of the island's already-deforested areas. Without restoration they will be lost.

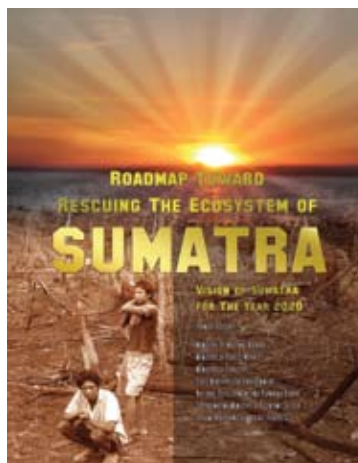
Roadmap to rescuing the ecosystem of Sumatra

Sumatra has lost almost 50 percent of its forest in the last quarter century. Deforestation for plantations and logging has led to heavy costs to people, as well as nature. Habitat destruction on the island reduces water quality, affects the regular supply of water for drinking, hydropower and irrigation, increases erosion leading to greater risk of landslides, and depletes forest products that are important for local livelihoods. Deforestation, particularly of peat swamps, also affects climate globally by releasing significant carbon dioxide emissions. The loss of these “ecosystem services” – coupled with the destruction of Sumatra’s biodiversity - has raised concern in Indonesia and abroad.



In October 2008, all 10 Sumatra governors, supported by the Indonesian Ministries of Interior, Forestry, Environment and Public Works, announced their joint commitment to “save and conserve the ecosystem of Sumatra Island in order to balance ecological functions and economic development for the people of Sumatra, by (1) initiating ecosystem-based land-use planning, (2) restoring critical areas to protect ecosystem services, and (3) protecting areas with high conservation value to protect ecosystem services, biodiversity, and the global climate. The commitment was announced during a side event at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

As a follow up to the commitment, a “Roadmap Action Plan for Saving the Sumatra Ecosystem”, which set up an ecosystem vision for Sumatra by 2020, was launched in May 2010. It was developed by a number of government departments (Internal Affairs, Public Works and Forestry, along with the Ministry of Environment, National Development and Planning Board and Coordinating Ministry of the Economy Sector) along with a forum of NGOs known as Forum Tata Ruang Sumatera (ForTRUST).



The Minister of Public Works

The Vision provides guidance for province and district governments to implement the Governors’ commitment to conservation in Sumatra. The Ecosystem Vision maps areas for protection and restoration based on an assessment of critical biodiversity and habitat.

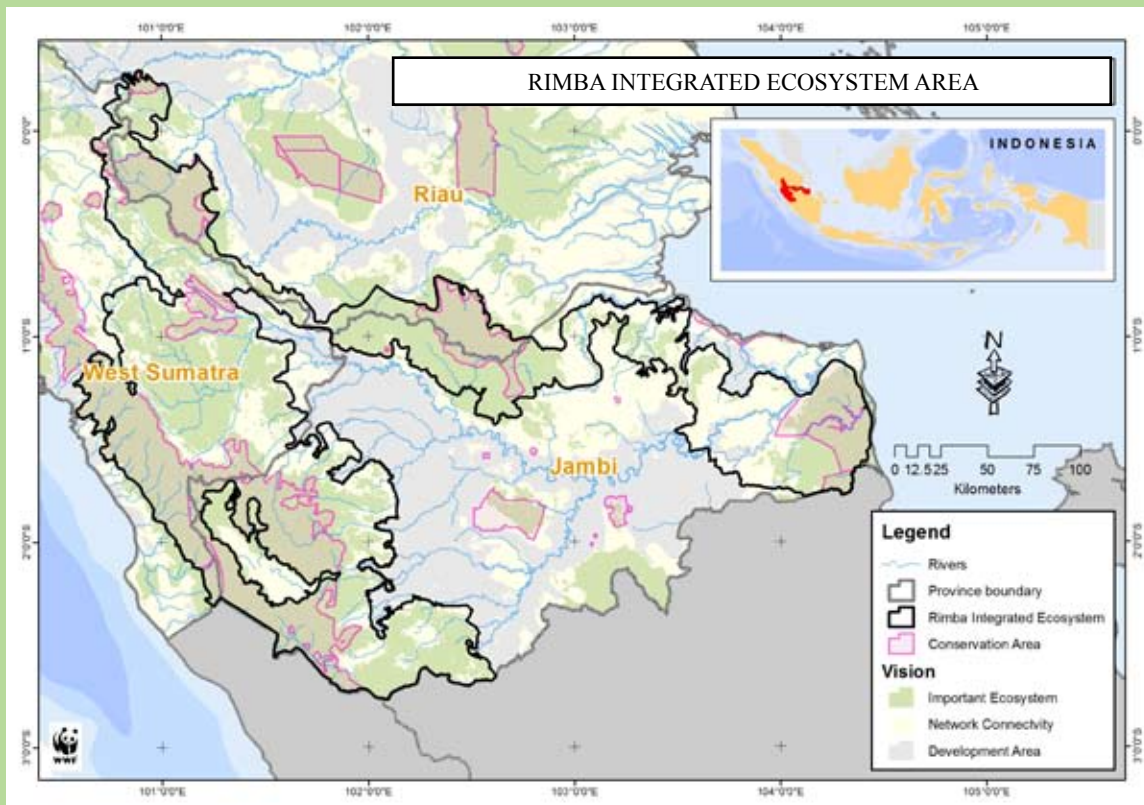
The Roadmap Action Plan also outlines measures to be taken to avoid additional ecosystem degradation through restoration of critical areas, sustainable management of areas in good condition and development of incentive mechanisms.



10 Sumatra Governors and 4 Ministers signed the Roadmap document to rescuing ecosystem of Sumatra

RIMBA Integrated Ecosystem Area

1. RIMBA is an area in Central Sumatra that spans 19 districts in the provinces of Riau, Jambi and West Sumatra. RIMBA is an abbreviation (in Bahasa Indonesia) for Riau, Jambi, and West Sumatra.
2. It covers three out of six priority Tiger Conservation Landscapes (TCLs) identified by experts as important habitat for Sumatran tiger conservation. This includes Kampar Kerumutan, Bukit Tigapuluh and Kerinci Seblat.
3. It encompasses remaining high-biodiversity montane, lowland, and peat swamp forest, and degraded areas prioritized for restoration.
4. It includes three important watershed areas - Indragiri, Kampar, and Batanghari rivers – that serve one million hectares of their surrounding area.



In May 2010, during the launch of Sumatra Vision 2020, the Public Work Ministry announced RIMBA as a demonstration location to model best practices for sustainable spatial planning and development with low carbon emissions. The province and district governments in Riau, Jambi, and West Sumatra then agreed to name the landscape “Integrated Ecosystem Area RIMBA”. The intention is for the best practices introduced in the RIMBA demonstration location to eventually be introduced elsewhere in Sumatra and beyond.

Given the high levels of carbon emissions from conversion of peatlands in RIMBA, this spatial plan has the potential to make a major contribution to the com-

mitment by the Government of Indonesia to reduce green-house gas emissions by 26 percent by 2020 from the 2005 level, and by 41 percent with external assistance. It can also support the two year moratorium on new permits to convert natural forests and peatlands, announced by the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry in May 2010.

Finally, the results in this report can inform locating and selecting forest carbon projects being planned in the RIMBA ecosystem, particularly in carbon rich peatland areas, building on partnerships forged between the Indonesian Government and the Governments of Norway and Australia.

ACTION



Five programs have been selected by the Indonesian government for financing and implementing ecosystem-based spatial planning in RIMBA demonstration location in Sumatra:

- Restoration to restore damaged natural forests. The Sumatra Governors committed to “restoring critical areas to protect ecosystem services”. The Roadmap Action Plan for Sumatra outlines a Sumatra Ecosystem Restoration conservation program giving priority to protected areas.
- Forest carbon projects, such as those involving payments for land-based actions to reduce green-house gas emissions through forestation, reforestation, and reduced deforestation and forest degradation.
- Payments for watershed services (PWS) as contractual and voluntary transactions where a ‘buyer’ agrees to provide ‘payment’ to a ‘seller’ conditional on delivery of a hydrological ecosystem service, or implementation of a land use or management practice likely to secure that service.
- Best management practices for plantations that reduce their environmental footprint, and potentially increase productivity and biodiversity conservation.
- Best management practices for forestry including biodiversity conservation in provincial strategic areas, arrangement of inter-organization coordinating mechanisms, and development of incentive and disincentive instruments.



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