



Jaringan Pemantau Independen Kehutanan

Indonesia Independent Forestry Monitoring Network

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PRESS RELEASE

Indonesia and European Union Should Ensure The Trading of Legal Timber Products

Bogor, 25th October 2012. *Indonesia Independent Forestry Monitoring Network (JPIK) reaffirmed the need of checking the imported timber products that imported to European Union (EU). This have to be done to ensure the timber products that accepted by the EU are the one that legal guaranteed legal and can be traced to its sources.*

This statement from JPIK is to response the shipment test, involving 17 companies done in 4 big major harbor; Tanjung Perak at Surabaya, Tanjung Emas at Semarang, Tanjung Priok at Jakarta and Belawan at Medan. This shipment test conducted in 15th October 2012 until the end of November 2012 to 9 EU member countries. The shipment test is a part of agreement between Indonesia and European Union about FLEGT VPA, an agreement in law enforcement and good governance in forestry sectors, including the trading.

“Tanjung Perak, Tanjung Emas and Tanjung Priok are harbors which have bad track records in bad business and cases of of timber smuggling. The non-finishing timber placed in containers, complete with false or fake information in export document. The timbers inside containers usually are sawn timbers and logs. Based on Indonesian policy, those two types of timber are not allowed to be exported. This is one of the challenges faced by Body of Timber Legality Verification (LVLK) who have task to issue V-Legal Document for timber products,” said Hapsoro, Director of Forest Watch Indonesia.

Timber Legality of Assurance System (Indo-TLAS)-called SVLK in Bahasa Indonesia-is improved with subjective to ensure timber and timber products can be verified and guaranteed only come from legal and sustainable sources. Indo-TLAS or SVLK developed since 2003 with multi-stakeholders participation process. Indo-TLAS or SVLK is applied mandatory for all timber products and timber from natural forests, tree plantation forests and community plantation forests.

“All businesses in forestry sectors have to fulfill their obligation in Indo-TLAS or SVLK implementation as stated in policy of Minister of Forestry P38/2009 juncto P68/2011, including the deadline. The government should ensure this and taking firm steps to crack down on those who didn’t fulfill their obligation,” said Abu Meridian, National Dynamist of JPIK.

Furthermore, Abu Meridian said that European Union as consumer countries have to be serious on ensuring that timber products imported from Indonesia can be guaranteed come from legal sources. Other than that, the status of legal products in relation to VPA agreement have to be reaffirmed in European Timber Regulation.

“Without firmness from government of Indonesia and European Union, then commitment to reinforce good governance on forestry sector including trading of timber products, will be another “toothless” policy without any bright future for forests and the wellbeing of forests-dependent communities.”

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EDITOR'S NOTE

- Timber Legality of Assurance System (Indo-TLAS) or SVLK is a requirement to fulfill legality of timber/ products which made based on multi-stakeholders agreement. It included standards, criteria, indicator, verifier, verification methods and assessment norms.
- Assessment System for Performance of Sustainable Forest Management is an assessment process of Sustainable Forest Management (PHPL) and Timber Legality Verification to holders of timber commercial license. This includes standard, criteria, verifier, verification methods and assessment norms.
- Indonesia Independent Forestry Monitoring Network (JPIK) has been agreed and declared on 23rd September 2010 by 29 Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) and NGOs Network from Aceh to Papua. Establishment of JPIK is a form of commitment to actively contribute in improving good governance in forestry sector and also to ensure credibility and accountability of Assessment System for Performance of Sustainable Forest Management (PK-PHPL) and Timber Legality Verification (VLK). This is as stated-but not limited- in Policy of Minister of Forestry Permenhut P38/2009 jo P68/2011 and its derivatives.
- Until the end of October 2012, JPIK's members including 41 bodies and 269 individuals. JPIK has a role to monitoring the implementation of Indo-TLAS or SVLK, from accreditation process, assessment/verification on businesses, until export process. Monitoring results done by JPIK submitted as advices for auditor and also as complaints to ensure the credibility of Indo-TLAS or SVLK.