

Indonesian Civil Society Petition to the European Parliament on Biofuels Policy

Jakarta , Indonesia
9 September, 2013

On September 11, 2013, the EU Parliament will vote on vital reforms to EU biofuels policy. If no action is taken to restrict demand for biofuels, this Directive will cause a huge negative impact for communities and environment in producer countries such as Indonesia which are growing biofuel crops for the European market.

Palm oil produced in Indonesia and Malaysia is playing an increasing role in supplying biodiesel to meet EU targets. At the same time, biofuels continue to be an important part of the Indonesian Government's plan to develop palm oil, with predictions of increased palm oil plantations from 11 million hectares today to around 28 million hectares by 2020.

We, Indonesian civil society, call upon the European Parliament not to turn a blind eye to the devastating impacts of biofuel production in producer countries such as Indonesia. The targets set by the biofuels policy will encourage massive and intensive expansion of large-scale industrial monoculture plantations, such as oil palm, which are continuing to cause environmental, social and economic problems for millions of Indonesians.

Large-scale industrial oil palm plantations have caused serious problems for the community and the environment in Indonesia, and other producer countries. Some key issues are:

1. Large -scale oil palm plantations are one of the biggest contributors to Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions due to deforestation, fires and the draining of carbon-rich peatlands. Therefore, biofuels that drive expansion of palm oil will not be able to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. On the contrary, they will increase greenhouse gas emissions, making climate change worse.
- 2 .The development of large-scale industrial oil palm plantations has also resulted in the grabbing of indigenous peoples' and local communities' lands, land conflicts, and human rights violations by state security forces. Non-recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to their land has led to conflicts between communities and companies, which has often ended in violence perpetrated by the security forces in support of the company concerned.
3. The current system of large-scale industrial oil palm plantations does not respect the rights of workers, causes gender injustices, and often involves child labour in the production process, resulting in children losing their right to education. Eighty percent of workers in large-scale industrial oil palm plantations - men and women - are casual laborers who have no guarantee of safety at work or job security, and are paid wages which are too low to meet daily needs.

4. The development of large-scale industrial oil palm plantations leads to loss of food sovereignty of indigenous peoples, local communities and people living in coastal areas and small islands who are heavily dependent on forests as their sources of food and livelihood. Many large-scale industrial oil palm companies destroy land and forests, including mangrove forests and fertile coastal areas and replace them with oil palm monoculture plantations.

We, Indonesian civil society, are very concerned about the EU's biofuel policy which will have very large negative impacts on millions of Indonesians and will contribute to rising and 'globally significant' greenhouse gas emissions in Indonesia that are causing climate change.

Therefore, we, Indonesian civil society, call on the EU to:

1. Not use biofuel derived from large-scale monoculture plantations
2. Not use biofuel that comes from clearing natural forests, peatlands, or mangrove forests
3. Not use biofuel derived from lands where companies are in conflict with indigenous peoples and local communities
4. Not use biofuel that comes from companies involved in human rights violations, including violations of workers' rights, women's rights, and where production process involve child labour
5. Reduce the consumption of palm oil and other biodiesels that are driving global palm oil demand, and immediately cease the use of palm oil for biofuel.

Signatories:

1. WALHI (Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia) – Friends of the Earth Indonesia
2. SawitWatch (Oil Palm Watch)
3. AMAN (Indigenous Peoples Alliance of the Archipelago)
4. AMAN Central Kalimantan
5. KpSHK (the Supporting Consortium for Community-based Natural Resources Management)
6. FWI (Forest Watch Indonesia)
7. KIARA (Indonesian Fishery Justice Coalition)
8. SBIB (Indonesian Shout)
9. ADS (The Indonesian Alliance for Prosperous Village)
10. KRKP (Peoples' Coalition for Food Sovereignty)
11. JKPP (Participatory Mapping Network)
12. HuMA (The Indonesian Institute for Law and Community)
13. E-Law Indonesia
14. RMI (Young Forester Indonesia)
15. Save Our Borneo
16. YBB (Betang Borneo Foundation)
17. FOKER SHK (Working Group on Community Forest System)
18. Perkumpulan Menapak, East Kalimantan
19. Nurani Perempuan, East Kalimantan
20. FOKER LSM Papua (Papuan NGO Working Group)
21. PADI, East Kalimantan
22. WALHI South Kalimantan
23. WALHI East Kalimantan
24. WALHI West Kalimantan

25. WALLACEA
26. Kelopak Foundation, Bengkulu
27. Perkumpulan PUSAR, Central Sulawesi
28. FNPF (Friends of the National Park Foundation)
29. WALHI Jambi
30. WALHI Riau
31. Perkumpulan ROA, Central Kalimantan
32. PerkumpulanHijau, Jambi
33. PUSAKA Foundation
34. TuK INDONESIA (Transformation for Justice Indonesia)
35. WALHI North Sulawesi
36. WALHI Lampung
37. JMG-J (Peatland Community Alliance Jambi)
38. WALHI Central Sulawesi
39. WALHI North Maluku
40. WALHI East Java
41. WALHI Central Kalimantan
42. Institut Dayakologi, West Kalimantan
43. Pancur Kasih Foundation, West Kalimantan
44. PPSDAK Pancur Kasih, West Kalimantan
45. Lembaga Bela Banua Talino, West Kalimantan
46. Lembaga Gemawan, West Kalimantan
47. Lembah Foundation, West Kalimantan
48. Cassia Lestari, West Kalimantan
49. Human Rights Comittee of West Kalimantan
50. SHK West Kalimantan
51. Perkumpulan Elpagar, West Kalimantan
52. Riak Bumi Foundation, West Kalimantan
53. PSE KAP, West Kalimantan
54. LPS Air, West Kalimantan
55. AMAN West Kalimantan
56. Lanting Borneo, West Kalimantan
57. Perkumpulan SAMPAN, West Kalimantan
58. Lingkar Borneo, West Kalimantan
59. Institut Manua Punjung, West Kalimantan