



Belantara
FOUNDATION

New Foundation to Protect Indonesian Rainforests Springs into Action

Jakarta, 4 February 2016: Belantara, the foundation initiated by Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP) to direct funding and manage programmes to protect Indonesian rainforests is today ready to operate. At a meeting in Jakarta, a newly appointed Advisory Board comprising a group of experts from around the world consisting of widely respected individuals drawn from the government, non-profit and corporate sectors met to officially launch the new foundation.

Belantara will work with communities, civil society, government and businesses to help ensure a careful balance is found between economic development, the livelihoods of people in local communities and environmental conservation. This involves overseeing natural forest restoration and endangered species protection and conducting studies to strengthen sustainable landscape management. In addition, the Foundation will support community empowerment and local economic development, especially in areas that rely heavily on natural resources.

The Foundation, alongside partners including the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Yapeka, APP and other partners, has produced a landscape conservation master plan to act as a guide for all partner groups implementing projects. With the input of key stakeholders, the foundation has identified ten priority landscapes, where APP and its suppliers have commercial forestry based operations and are among the most ecologically valuable, yet simultaneously threatened in Indonesia. These will form the initial focus of the foundation's work to support the protection and restoration of local ecosystems while advancing sustainable development within communities. These landscapes are a mix of ecosystems dominated by wetlands, including mangrove forests, peat swamp forests, and freshwater swamp forests, together with lowland rainforests and heath forests.

Marzuki Usman, Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Belantara said, *"The landscape approach championed by the Belantara Foundation and APP is vital to the conservation of the ten landscapes we identified in collaboration with our partners. The preservation of one of Indonesia's most important assets – our rainforests – is of critical importance, today more than ever. Government, private companies and civil society must work together to solve the biggest challenge our country faces."*

Jatna Supriatna, Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Foundation added, *"These ten priority landscapes are among the most ecologically valuable, yet simultaneously threatened, in Indonesia. Belantara's mission is to balance the development needs of agriculture, mining and other productive land uses against the critical needs of our environment, so that businesses can prosper while making significant steps in mitigating climate change."*

Tony Sumampau, Chair of the newly-assembled Advisory Board to the Belantara Foundation commented, *"I am honored to join the advisory board of the Belantara Foundation, which brings together leading academics, administrators and conservationists who have made great advancements in sustainability over their decades of experience. We harbor high hopes for the efforts of the Belantara Foundation - the first platform of its kind - and are tremendously excited to leverage our collective experience in guiding programmes that will protect the ecology and biodiversity of Indonesia's most important landscapes."*

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About the Belantara Foundation

The Belantara Foundation has been initiated by Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP) to secure and manage funding to support wide-ranging landscape scale conservation projects in Sumatra and Kalimantan, Indonesia. It aims to help ensure a careful balance is found in the region between sustainable economic development, the livelihoods of people in local communities and environmental conservation. This involves overseeing natural forest restoration and endangered species protection, protecting endangered animals, and studies to strengthen sustainable landscape management, as well as engaging in community empowerment and local economic development, especially for those that rely heavily on natural resources.

New Advisory Board Members

- Tony Sumampau, Indonesia
- Tony Juniper, United Kingdom
- Xu Daping, China
- Hans-Jurgen Matern, Germany
- Mark Buckley, United States
- Suzanne Gendron, Hong Kong
- Professor Francesco Bertolini, Italy