

**PRESS RELEASE**

For immediate release, November 21<sup>st</sup> 2013

## **Milestone for Indonesian forestry: one million more hectares of certified sustainably managed forest**

**Jakarta** - The total forest acreage being managed in accordance with Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) guidelines in Indonesia due to the Borneo Initiative now tops one million hectares. The most recent two FSC certificates were awarded to the logging companies PT Indexim Utama in Central Kalimantan and PT Gema Hutani Lestari in the Moluccas. These awards mean that a further 200,930 hectares have been added to the FSC-certified forest area, thereby boosting the total acreage of sustainably managed forest in Indonesia to 2.4 million hectares, to which 1.1 million ha The Borneo Initiative contributed with funding.

The first agreements with logging companies were signed in 2010. Today, on November 21<sup>st</sup>, another 6 logging companies entered into a partnership with The Borneo Initiative bringing the total number of agreements to 41 timber companies, mostly members of the Association of Indonesian Forest Concessionaires (APHI) with whom The Borneo Initiative signed a formal partnership on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

These 41 companies together account for forest acreage of 4.2 million hectares. Of these, 11 have since gained a FSC certificate, including 1 in Papua-New Guinea. The Borneo Initiative aims to boost the area of FSC-certified forest in Indonesia (and surrounding countries) by supporting a total of eight million hectares of forest areas in 2016.

FSC is an internationally accepted certification system aimed at safeguarding the legal and sustainable utilization of forests while respecting the ecology and the interests of workers and local inhabitants. The Borneo Initiative was started in the Netherlands with the aim of boosting both supply and demand for legally and sustainably produced tropical hardwood. The Borneo Initiative offers timber companies in Indonesia (and surrounding countries) financial support as they undertake the process of gaining certification for their forest management against FSC, as well as mandatory SVLK standards. In addition it offers support in forging trade links with timber buyers in the Netherlands, Europe and the United States.

Some 23 million hectares of tropical rainforest in Indonesia are utilized in the form of logging concessions. By stipulating conditions that govern where the timber comes from and how the forest is managed, market players can promote the sustainable and good management of these forests.

\*\*\*

### **About The Borneo Initiative**

The Borneo Initiative is a not-for-profit foundation based in The Netherlands, dedicated to slowing down forest loss or degradation in the tropics, with a special focus on Borneo. With offices in the Netherlands and Jakarta, the assistance focuses on forest concessions, which manage natural forest and promote sustainable management according to the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and mandatory SVLK. The Borneo Initiative receives funding from the private sector, including construction companies such as Royal BAM Group NV, Bouwfonds Property Development, Steffex Handelsmaatschappij plus a number of housing associations, all-important end-users of Indonesian timber. In addition, funding is received from the Dutch government via The Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) and private charities. The Borneo Initiative coordinates its operations in Indonesia under a memorandum of understanding with the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) Indonesia and also with the Indonesian Association of Forest Concessionaires (APHI)

Visit our website: [www.theborneoinitiative.org](http://www.theborneoinitiative.org).

For questions of further information:

**Rizki Pandu Permana, Office Director Indonesia, The Borneo Initiative**

Email: [r.permana@theborneoinitiative.org](mailto:r.permana@theborneoinitiative.org), Phone: +62 812 84962620