

Pulau Padang, Riau, Sumatra
INDONESIA

To Mr. Roger Federer
SWITZERLAND

Riau, 16th April 2015

Dear Mr. Federer,

Greetings from the rainforests of Riau, Indonesia, the home of the Sumatra Elephant and the Sumatera Tiger!

We are writing to you to ask for your urgent assistance to help us save our community lands and to stop illegal logging and deforestation in our unique tropical peatland forests.

In particular, we are asking you to use your influence as brand ambassador of the Swiss bank, Credit Suisse, to convince the bank managers to stop funding the Royal Golden Eagle Group (RGE) whose subsidiary, Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings (APRIL) is responsible for the destruction of our rainforests.

Mr. Federer, maybe you wonder why we are asking you to do this. So, please give me a chance to tell you the reason. I was born in Bagan Melibur village, a small village located in Pulau Padang, Riau province, Indonesia. It is a peatland forest area in Indonesia with a peat depth of more than 10 – 12 meters. Our ancestors have been living in Pulau Padang since 1850. We were living in peace with people and nature, including the forest. People lived from farming, others from fishing. In 2011, PT. RAPP (RGE/APRIL's subsidiary) came. Things then became totally different ever since. The company started to clear our forest, taking our farms and homes. Some of us had already their homes/lands taken.

We tried to object against the destruction of our livelihoods. Once, 82 villagers from Pulau Padang went to Jakarta, asking for attention and support from different parties not to let the company take their land. As a sign of protest, 28 of our people even sewed their mouths! In response to our protests, an agreement was made. Three villages are now excluded from the logging concession including my village, Bagan Melibur. Sadly, just a few weeks ago I heard that the company is still illegally clearing the forest in Bagan Melibur. They are digging drainages, continue cutting down the trees and are replacing them with Acacias for monoculture pulpwood plantations. They destroy *Ramin* (*Gonystylus bancanus*), an endangered tree species that should be protected.

Socially, RGE/APRIL has divided our communities between their supporters and opponents. Currently we don't even trust our family. The condition of our communities is getting worse and worse. We almost lost our hope, but we thought you might be able to help us and talk to Credit Suisse about our problem.

We were shocked to learn that Credit Suisse, together with some Chinese banks, has provided major loans to RGE/APRIL to finance their business activities. While other international banks, such as Santander and ABN/AMRO, have publicly distanced themselves from RGE/APRIL's operations, Credit Suisse is the only European bank that keeps defending RGE/APRIL, despite international protests.

Dear Mr. Federer, our strong hope is with you: Please tell Credit Suisse to cut ties with RGE/APRIL and please stop advertising for Credit Suisse as long as the bank is financing RGE/APRIL's operations.

Thank you for helping us to save the Riau rainforests and protect the human rights of Pulau Padang communities

Yours sincerely,

Isnadi Esman
Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Riau



Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Riau

Woro Supartinah
Jikalahari



Attachment: Pictures of RGE/APRIL operations in Pulau Padang peatland forests in September 2014.