

November 22, 2017

Pekanbaru, Indonesia

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 28, 2014, after a decade of massive deforestation and violation of local community rights, APRIL announced its Sustainable Forest Management Policy (SFMP). The policy was significantly improved on June 3, 2015.¹ It was expected that APRIL's operations would take positive steps to address the company's social and environmental footprint and past and ongoing social and environmental harm to forests, peatlands and communities.

However, since the launch of the sustainability policies until now, APRIL has not shown substantial improvement. In addition to ongoing land and social conflicts, APRIL has been involved in massive fires in 2015 and continued to destroy peatlands, making us question its commitment to its own sustainability policies.

Besides showing poor implementation of its own commitments, APRIL, through the activities of its main pulpwood supplier (PT RAPP) in Riau, has shown weak adherence to Indonesia's regulations, specifically for peat protection and management. In accordance with the Government regulation about peat protection and management (PP 71/2014, revised in PP 57/2016), the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MoEF) issued a regulation providing technical guidance (Ministry regulation No 17/2016)² on the division of peat areas into protected and development areas and the requirement for all pulp plantation companies to revise and adjust their Ten Year Workplan to the Peat Map issued by the Ministry. In October 2017, the Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya stated that PT. RAPP's (APRIL's long term supplier) workplan was suspended and that PT RAPP no longer had a legal basis for its pulpwood plantation operations.³

The suspension of PT RAPP's workplan happened only after MoEF issued a series of warnings for the company to comply with the new regulation for peat protection and management. Instead of revising its workplan, PT RAPP/APRIL continued to mislead the public and its employees by stating that its permit was withdrawn and that it should shut down operations and dismiss its employees. As a result of this posturing, a large protest on October 23, 2017 attended by thousands of PT RAPP employees demanded that the government withdraw cancellation of PT RAPP's workplan. By using the unemployment issue for protection, PT RAPP continues field operations and APRIL continues producing and exporting its products.

¹ APRIL, APRIL Group's Sustainable Forest Management Policy 2.0, 3 June 2015, http://www.aprilasia.com/images/pdf_files/april-sfmp2-3-june-2015.pdf

² PP 17/2016 is about the development of timber industrial plantations, which is not allowed to be carried out in areas of peat. For plantations already developed but categorized as protected areas, the regulation requires companies to take responsibility to restore the areas. [http://103.52.213.225/hukum/simppu-lhk/public/uploads/files/P.17%20\(10\).pdf](http://103.52.213.225/hukum/simppu-lhk/public/uploads/files/P.17%20(10).pdf)

³ [j] Forest Hints, 09-10-2017. [APRIL loses legal basis for operations due to non-compliance](#)

PT RAPP/APRIL's disobedience to the Ministry's warnings is added to its ongoing violation of Government regulations by continuing to destroy peat, disrupting the lives of communities, and endangering the climate. This is in addition to the company's past record of unlawful behavior continuing criminal behavior including illegal logging, corruption, fires (in 2015), non-payment of taxes, and reluctance to implement Government regulations (71/2014, revised in 57/2016) on peat protection and management. Jikalahari, an NGO in Riau, calculated that APRIL has caused USD 52 billion in losses since it began operations in Riau.⁴

Furthermore, APRIL has a long history of manipulating information and breaking its own commitment by destroying High Conservation Value (HCV) areas and developing new areas on peat.⁵

Given this urgent situation, we, the undersigned organizations, are writing this letter to remind buyers and investors of APRIL to support The Government of Indonesia as well as affected communities and ecosystems by not supporting APRIL and disengaging from any existing support to the company. We also urge all buyers not to purchase from APRIL until it definitely stops all destructive practices, improves seriously its management practices, follows all relevant regulations, and remedy past and ongoing harm to communities and the environment. In addition, we call on civil society, including those organization supporting APRIL's sustainability commitments, to use the documented violations to urge APRIL to meet the requirements under its own commitments (SFMP 2.0), including to protection and sustainable management of peat areas.

Should you need further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact the following: Woro Supartinah; worozafira@gmail.com, Aidil Fitri; aidilplg@gmail.com, Rudiansyah; rudi.jambi@gmail.com

Yours Sincerely,

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| 1. Jikalahari, Riau | Woro Supartinah/Coordinator |
| 2. Walhi Riau, Riau | Riko Kurniawan/Director |
| 3. JMGR, Riau | Isnadi Esman/ Secretary General |
| 4. Riau Woman Working Group (RWWG), Riau | Sri Wahyuni/Director |
| 5. Riau Corruption Trial (RCT), Riau | Ahlul Fadli/Coordinator |
| 6. Yayasan Mitra Insani (YMI), Riau | Muslim Rasyid/Director |
| 7. Perkumpulan Elang, Riau | Janes Sinaga/Director |
| 8. Hakiki, Riau | Akhwan Binawan/Director |
| 9. Kaliptra Andalas, Riau | Romesh Irawan/Director |
| 10. Eyes on the Forest (EoF), Riau | Nursamsu/Coordinator |
| 11. LBH Pekanbaru – YLBHI | Aditia B. Santoso/Director |
| 12. Walhi Jambi, Jambi | Rudiansyah/Director |
| 13. Akar Foundation, Bengkulu | Erwin Basrin/Director |
| 14. Jaringan Masyarakat Gambut Sumatera/JMGS | Albadri Arief/Executive Director |

⁴ On October 23, 2017, Jikalahari released a report about the losses to Indonesia from APRIL's operations in Riau. Those losses were incurred from tax evasion, environmental destruction and corruption. The detailed report can be downloaded at <http://jikalahari.or.id/kabar/berita/pt-rapp-dan-april-grup-merugikan-keuangan-negara-dan-kerugian-ekologis-senilai-rp-71224-triliun/>

⁵ <http://www.foresthins.news/govt-punishes-april-business-as-usual-practices-in-peatlands>.

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| 15. JMGJ, Jambi | Amron/Secretary General |
| 16. JMG Sumsel, South Sumatera | Sudarto/Coordinator |
| 17. Hutan Kita Institute (HaKI), Sumsel | Aidil Fitri/ Executive Director |
| 18. Pinus, South Sumatera | Rabin Ibnu Zainal/Director |
| 19. KSPPM, North Sumatera | Suryati Simanjuntak/Executive Secretary |
| 20. KKI Warsi, Jambi | Diki Kurniawan/Program Manager |
| 21. JAPESDA, Gorontalo- Sulawesi | Rahman Dako/Coordinator |
| 22. TuK, Jakarta | Rahmawati R. Winarni/Executive Director |
| 23. FWI, Bogor | Soelthon/Executive Director |
| 24. Sampan, West Kalimantan | Dede Purwansyah/Director |
| 25. PBHK, West Kalimantan | Esti Kristianti/Program Manager |
| 26. Perkumpulan Padi, East Kalimantan | Ahmad SJA/Chairman |
| 27. Walhi Kaltim, East Kalimantan | Fathur Roziqin Fen/Executive Director |
| 28. Link-AR Borneo, West Kalimantan | Agus Sutomo/Director |
| 29. Yay. Titian Lestari, West Kalimantan | Sulhani/Director |
| 30. EoF jaringan Kalbar, West Kalimantan | Icunk/Coordinator |