



## Tropical Forest Alliance 2020

Press Release

For Immediate Release

### **Government of Indonesia and TFA 2020 Support Elimination of Deforestation in Palm Oil and Pulp & Paper Industry by 2020**

**Jakarta, 27 June 2013** – President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced on Thursday that the Indonesian government will increase its cooperation with other governments, as well as business and civil society, to ensure that production of key commodities, such as palm and paper, does not destroy forests and respects customary land and forest rights.

“I am fully aware that profit is the driver of every business. Yet, I also believe that while making profits, companies could avoid encroachment of natural tropical forests,” said President Yudhoyono in his address at a major gathering of companies, governments and civil society.

“While striving for growth is our priority, I have also given particular emphasis on the protection of the environment. I balance the pro-growth strategy with the pro-environment strategy. This is the essence of sustainable development. And it is the development that meets the needs of the present, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

The President spoke at Tropical Forest Alliance (TFA) 2020 workshop, titled “Promoting Sustainability and Productivity in the Palm Oil and Pulp & Paper Sectors,” held in Jakarta June 27 – 28, 2013.

The workshop is the first international meeting of TFA 2020 – a public-private partnership committed to reducing deforestation from key commodity supply chains such as palm oil, paper, soy and beef. TFA 2020 was born out of discussions between the U.S. Government and the Consumer Goods Forum to mobilize and align efforts by governments, the private sector and NGOs.

The production of palm oil, paper, soy and beef accounts for the majority of global deforestation, which represents roughly 15 percent of the world’s greenhouse gas emissions. Reducing deforestation helps fight climate change and supports millions of people who depend on forests for livelihoods.

The Jakarta gathering comes as Indonesia battles forest fires in Sumatra that have triggered severe haze in neighbouring countries, underscoring the threat to forests from land clearing for agriculture.

In his speech, President Yudhoyono made a landmark commitment to support the land and forest resource rights of indigenous peoples.



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"I am personally committed to initiating a process that registers and recognizes the collective ownership of *Adat* (indigenous) territories in Indonesia. This is a critical first step in the implementation process of the Constitutional Court's decision."

In May this year, the Constitutional Court in Jakarta ruled that the customary forests of indigenous peoples should not be classed as being part of 'State Forest Areas', opening the way for wider recognition of indigenous peoples' rights over their forest areas. Government data shows that State Forest areas overlap with about 32,000 villages.

TFA 2020 partners include the Consumer Goods Forum and the Governments of the United States, Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

"Halting tropical deforestation is a shared global challenge that requires the action of governments, private companies, NGOs and consumers. We have an obligation to current and future generations to combat climate change and conserve our natural resources," said Kit Batten, U.S. Agency for International Development Global Climate Change Coordinator and U.S. Government speaker at the TFA 2020 workshop. "The United States welcomes the first workshop under the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 and looks forward to a robust dialogue that we hope will find tangible, collaborative steps forward."

Companies attending the meeting include Asia Pulp & Paper, APRIL, Golden Agri-Resources, as well as Unilever, Nestle, Kraft, Mondelez, J&J, Lion, Aeon and Kimberly-Clark. Together with the governments represented, including the United States and Indonesia as the host, and representatives of civil society, they will discuss steps needed to reduce tropical deforestation from the supply chains for palm oil and pulp & paper.

"The event brings businesses, international and national, closer to our national initiative on reducing emission from deforestation and land degradation (REDD+) that is beyond forest and more than carbon," said Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head of the President's Delivery Unit for Development Monitoring and Oversight, and Chairman of Indonesian REDD+ Task Force. Reducing deforestation is everybody's responsibility, business included."

The challenge is to respond to rapidly growing demand for commodities and promote sustainable economic growth that benefits people, while preventing further deforestation and degradation of the world's remaining tropical forests.

"The task is to find a way to meet this increasing demand without deforestation. There is no doubt that if all concerned put their minds to it, the problem can be solved," said Paul Polman, Chief Executive Officer of Unilever Global. "Companies of the Consumer Goods Forum are totally committed to removing any trace or suspicion of deforestation from their supply chains. But to be successful they will need financial, policy and technical support from governments in both producer and consumer countries."

The need to act is urgent. Every year about 13 million hectares of forest are cleared or lost globally, with the majority of clearing occurring in tropical forest countries.



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### **Notes to Editors:**

#### **About the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020**

The Alliance was born out of discussions between the U.S. Government and the Consumer Goods Forum (CGF) and seeks to deliver solutions on deforestation that spur economic growth and food security. These goals are aligned with the development and climate change priorities of the Indonesian and United States governments. TFA 2020 is open to new members, including countries, private sector companies, and civil society organizations that agree to undertake specific actions to address tropical deforestation. For further information on TFA 2020, visit <http://www.usaid.gov/climate/tfa2020>.

#### **About the Consumer Goods Forum**

The CGF is a network of more than 400 companies whose combined revenues exceed US\$3 trillion a year – around four percent of global GDP. In 2010, the CGF made a commitment to eliminate deforestation by 2020.

#### **About the TFA 2020 Workshop**

The goal of the workshop is to build a common understanding and awareness of current initiatives to eliminate tropical deforestation from the palm oil and pulp & paper sectors, highlight existing policy, economic and technical obstacles and seeking solutions that industry, government and civil society can work on together.

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The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020) is a public-private partnership that was founded by the U.S. Government and the Consumer Goods Forum with the goal of reducing the tropical deforestation associated with key global commodities. The Alliance is open to new members, including producer and consumer countries, private sector companies and civil society organizations that agree to undertake specific actions to address commodity driven tropical deforestation