

A Joint Petition of the Indigenous Suku Anak Dalam Batin Sembilan

## **RSPO, please stop protecting Wilmar!**

*"Wilmar is firmly committed to respecting human rights. We have land conflict resolution policies, systems and mechanisms in place and comply with relevant laws and regulations in the countries in which we operate. Furthermore, we have a good track record of proactively engaging and working with our stakeholders including the local communities, government agencies and NGOs to ensure limited social impact in areas of our operations."* This statement was officially released by Wilmar International Limited on 30 August 2011, when Germany saw massive campaigns by Robin Wood protesting the demolition of the indigenous Suku Anak Dalam's house and forced eviction of the tribe by PT Asiatic Persada, one of Wilmar's subsidiaries in Jambi.

Wilmar's commitment was then realized through their willingness<sup>1</sup> to be facilitated by IFC's CAO to seek a settlement, which would benefit not only the company but also the indigenous Suku Anak Dalam, who has been fighting for their rights to the land currently under control of PT Asiatic Persada. It turned out that the commitment was mere lip service as Wilmar sold off its subsidiary to other parties<sup>2</sup> when the mediation process facilitated by the Joint Team Mediation/JOMET (a joint team between the provincial government of Jambi and IFC's CAO<sup>3</sup>) was still ongoing and was moving closer to an agreed settlement.

The hand-over of PT Asiatic Persada to other parties was done without Wilmar seeking our prior consent as the affected party. It really hurt our feeling as the indigenous Suku Anak Dalam and affected group. Imagine that we have spent about 4 years sticking to the agreed means of conflict resolution, i.e. the mediation process, which was also monitored by RSPO's representatives in Indonesia. What Wilmar has done to us and to the CAO mediation process is not the first time. It made a gross violation of the mediation's code of conduct three years ago when, again, a settlement was almost reached.

That PT Asiatic Persada was sold when the mediation was approaching a settlement has proved that Wilmar was not serious about fulfilling its commitment as an RSPO member, who should promote sustainable palm oil. What Wilmar has done will set a bad precedent for other members and for the RSPO's future itself.

Based on the above, we, the indigenous Suku Anak Dalam Batin Sembilan and the affected community in PT Asiatic Persada's concession, request that RSPO, which we respect for its total commitment to social, economic and environmental sustainability, to immediately:

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<sup>1</sup> PT AP's commitment to having the conflict mediated by CAO was written in its official letter dated 6 January 2012

<sup>2</sup> The holding was sold to Prima Fortune International Ltd and PT Agro Mandiri Semesta in early April 2013

<sup>3</sup> The Team works under the Order Letter (*Surat Perintah Tugas*) No. 2122/SPT/SETDA.EKBANG-4.2/IV/2012 dated 16 April 2012, signed by the Regional Secretary on behalf of the Governor of Jambi.

1. Sharply rebuke Wilmar as an RSPO member, as it did others burning the forests in Riau and Sumatra because what it has done to us has tarnished the RSPO as a pioneer of sustainable palm oil promoter in the world;
2. Suspend the RSPO certification of Wilmar's subsidiaries, and revoke certificates granted to Wilmar;
3. Freeze Wilmar's membership because it explicitly and intentionally made the negotiation deadlocked and made the conflicts continue and even lead to violence between us - the indigenous Suku Anak Dalam and the affected communities - and PT Asiatic Persada. Wilmar has let the tension heighten, leading to potential friction and physical clashes on the ground.
4. Revise its standards to close any potential aperture that might allow its members to evade their responsibilities for social sustainability and for the RSPO to make continuous improvement.

Yours sincerely,