



Wang Bo
 President, APRIL Group
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- CC: Craig Tribolet, Director of Sustainability and External Affairs, APRIL Group
- CC: Bey Soo Khiang, Chairman, APRIL Group
- CC: Geeta Ramachanran, International Media Contact, APRIL Group
- CC: Reviana Surya, Indonesia Media Contact, APRIL Group
- CC: Lucita Jasmin, Director of Sustainability, RGE Group
- CC: Members of the APRIL Stakeholder Advisory Committee

1 June 2026

Re: APRIL Group sourcing raw material from PT Industrial Forest Plantation and PT Mayawana Persada and suspending its Sustainable Forest Management Policy

Dear Wang Bo,

The undersigned 23 organisations represent civil society groups from Indonesia, Europe, the United States and Canada working on the protection of natural forests, peatlands and Indigenous rights.

We are alarmed and disappointed that the APRIL Group has added the timber plantation company PT Industrial Forest Plantation to its [published list](#) of fibre suppliers, and has [confirmed](#) that PT Mayawana Persada will be added as a supplier in the coming weeks. APRIL has confirmed that it began receiving wood fibre from PT Industrial Forest Plantation in May 2026. These two companies have cleared more natural forest than any others in Indonesia’s industrial plantation sector this decade, according to publicly-available satellite analyses.

We are also concerned that as of 22 May 2026, a statement on the APRIL Group website announced the suspension of the APRIL Group’s Sustainable Forest Management Policy 2.0 (SFMP 2.0) – a long-standing set of commitments to ensure that the corporate group’s activities

respect environmental protection and human rights throughout its supply chains, and do not contribute to deforestation. While this statement was subsequently changed, and as of 26 May 2026 refers to a review rather than suspension of the policy, this announcement casts serious doubt on the APRIL Group's commitment to sustainable supply chains.

We are similarly concerned that the APRIL Group has changed the cut-off date for deforestation under SFMP 2.0 from 2015 to 31 December 2020, opening the door to companies involved in highly damaging clearance of natural forest after SFMP 2.0 was adopted.

We believe that sourcing fibre from PT Industrial Forest Plantation or PT Mayawana Persada appears inconsistent with SFMP 2.0 and the sustainability policy of the APRIL Group's parent company Royal Golden Eagle (RGE), as well as the remedy process which the Group has entered into with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Sourcing fibre from PT Industrial Forest Plantation or PT Mayawana Persada may mean that the APRIL Group is no longer compliant with many of its customers' sustainability policies, potentially significantly restricting market access for the Group's products. It would also mean that future exports from the APRIL Group would be effectively non-compliant with the upcoming EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), thereby closing the door to the entire EU market from December 2026.

We call on the APRIL Group to immediately reinstate SFMP 2.0 with the original deforestation cut-off date of 2015; to remove PT Industrial Forest Plantation and PT Mayawana Persada from the Group's list of approved suppliers; to commit to not purchasing any further material from either company; and to commit to not buying from any other company that has cleared natural forest since 2015.

Sustainable Forest Management Policy 2.0

[APRIL Group's Sustainable Forest Management Policy 2.0](#) (SFMP 2.0) was adopted in June 2015, following years of NGO criticism and negative press relating to APRIL's significant role in the destruction of natural forests in Indonesia.

The policy applies to all of the APRIL Group and its suppliers, and states, *inter alia*:

- "APRIL and its suppliers will only develop areas that are not forested, as identified through independent peer-reviewed High Conservation Value (HCV) and High Carbon Stock (HCS) assessments"
- "By 15 May 2015, APRIL and its suppliers halted all harvesting of mixed hardwoods"
- "APRIL will not acquire any new land, or forestry licenses; or receive wood from land licensed to third parties, where after 3 June 2015 the seller has knowingly cleared HCV or HCS forests or forested peatlands"
- "No new development by APRIL and its suppliers on forested peatland"
- "APRIL respects the rights of indigenous peoples and rural communities and commits to the following [...] Respect of the tenure rights of indigenous peoples and rural communities [...] Respect of the rights of indigenous peoples and communities to give or withhold their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to operate on lands where they hold legal, communal or customary rights prior to commencing any new operations [...]"

No tolerance for the use of violence, intimidation or bribery [...] Resolution of complaints and conflicts through mutually agreed, open, transparent and consultative processes that respect customary rights.”

We are aware that in [meetings in February and March 2026](#), APRIL’s Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) discussed disruption of fibre supply linked to the recent revocation of permits for 28 companies in North Sumatra, including APRIL suppliers, and discussed plans to purchase materials from new suppliers.

The meeting minutes reveal that APRIL decided to change its deforestation cut-off date from 2015 to the end of December 2020. This amendment calls into question the APRIL Group’s commitment to sustainable sourcing, and also sends a dangerous signal to timber companies that clearing natural forest will not necessarily be a barrier to market access, so long as they wait for sufficient time to pass.

Subsequently, a [statement](#) appeared on the APRIL Group website stating, as of 22 May 2026: “Following meetings of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee in February and March 2026, it was agreed that, given the changing external environment, the evolution of globally accepted practices and other APRIL policies that have come into force since the inception of the policy, the SFMP 2.0 and its provisions have been suspended and will be reviewed and subsequently updated.”

The language of this statement was then changed to read, as of 26 May 2026: “Given the changing external environment, the evolution of globally accepted practices and other APRIL policies that have come into force since the inception of the policy, the SFMP 2.0 is currently under review, following [meetings](#) of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee in February and March 2026, and will be subsequently updated.”

These developments have called into question the status of SFMP 2.0, the APRIL Group’s commitment to sustainable supply chains and its reliability as a producer of deforestation-free products.

Deforestation and conflict with local communities in the concessions of PT Mayawana Persada and PT Industrial Forest Plantation

The timber plantation company PT Mayawana Persada cleared [more than 33,000ha](#) of natural forest in its concession in West Kalimantan between 2021 and 2024, more than any other company in Indonesia in this period. Approximately two thirds of this forest clearance was on peat, turning a critical carbon sink into a major emitter of carbon.

PT Industrial Forest Plantation cleared [more than 14,000ha](#) of natural forest in its concession in Central Kalimantan between 2021 and 2024, ranking second after only PT Mayawana Persada for area of forest cleared.

These forest loss totals are based on data from Global Forest Watch, an internationally respected monitoring platform [overseen by](#) APRIL Stakeholder Advisory Committee Co-Chair Rod Taylor in his role as Global Director, Forests at the World Resources Institute.

Deforestation by PT Mayawana Persada destroyed habitat for the critically endangered Bornean orangutan and triggered ongoing conflict with Indigenous Dayak communities. Local community leaders [contend](#) that PT Mayawana Persada cleared sacred forest and important agroforestry sites, in contravention of agreements signed with the company in 2020. This led to protests from community members and customary sanctions imposed on the company. The company's activities have been extensively covered in both Indonesian and international media, including a [front-page story in *The New York Times*](#) in August 2025. Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry issued an order to PT Mayawana Persada to cease logging and halt its activities in March 2024. The company [continued](#) to plant acacia on recently deforested land after this, in apparent violation of the government order.

PT Industrial Forest Plantation is located in a critical stronghold for Bornean orangutans, as recognised in a [2016 government-backed assessment](#). A [2022 report](#) estimated that around half of the concession's area was orangutan habitat. Much of this area has since been cleared of forest. The local community in Humbang Raya, whose village overlaps with the southern part of PT Industrial Forest Plantation's concession, has been in conflict with the company since 2018. Members of the community [told investigators from the NGO Auriga Nusantara](#) that fishing and collecting wood have become significantly more difficult; that the company does not recognise customary or community-managed forest areas; and that the company has failed to fulfil promises to provide the community with crops to support their livelihoods.

Both [PT Industrial Forest Plantation](#) and [PT Mayawana Persada](#) have since 2020 sold large quantities of natural forest timber produced through the clearance of forest to timber processing companies. Given extensive deforestation and harvesting of natural forest timber in their concessions since 2020, PT Industrial Forest Plantation and PT Mayawana Persada should be excluded under SFMP 2.0, even with an amended cut-off date of 2020.

Indeed, in 2023 Asia Symbol – RGE's pulp and paper company in China and APRIL's sister company within the Group – [concluded](#), following its own investigation, that deforestation occurred in PT Industrial Forest Plantation's concession between 2016 and 2022, and instructed its then wood chip supplier PT Balikpapan Chip Lestari to suspend sourcing from PT Industrial Forest Plantation "indefinitely".

The APRIL Group potentially has a valuable role to play in the restoration of forest ecosystems and the remediation of social conflicts in Kalimantan, by working closely with suppliers excluded by its sustainability policies to design and implement restoration activities and develop a pathway towards alignment with those policies. However, welcoming such companies as suppliers to the APRIL Group should only be considered after the completion of such activities, with the close involvement of local communities and independent monitors. To date, neither PT Industrial Forest Plantation nor PT Mayawana Persada has undertaken significant efforts to restore destroyed forest and peatland, or provide restitution to communities affected by the companies' activities.

In order to be considered as new suppliers under the APRIL Group's sustainability policies and in line with the FSC Remedy Framework, at a minimum any forest clearance that occurred after 2015 in the concessions must be remedied, and peat canals should be dammed. The sooner this happens, the better the chance of ecosystem recovery. Community conflicts and human

rights violations must be resolved, with mutually agreed-upon restitution measures and compensation paid to impacted communities.

We believe the decision to add PT Mayawana Persada and PT Industrial Forest Plantation as fibre suppliers is also contrary to the [Sustainability Policy](#) of APRIL's parent company, RGE. This policy applies to all of its business groups (BGs), including the APRIL Group, and states: "RGE BGs are firmly committed to zero deforestation, degradation and conversion in our operations and supply chain."

The EU Deforestation Regulation

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), set to be enforced from 30 December 2026, will prohibit the import into the EU of wood products (including pulp and paper) which were produced on land subject to deforestation or forest degradation after 31 December 2020, or in contravention of laws in the country of production. EU importers must submit a due diligence statement to regulators that shows there is 'negligible risk' that the products in question are not compliant with the requirements above.

If wood from anywhere in the concessions of PT Industrial Forest Plantation or PT Mayawana Persada is used by APRIL Group companies in the manufacture of pulp and paper products, it would be extremely difficult for an EU importer to determine there is negligible risk that their products contain any non-compliant material, grown in areas deforested after 2020. In practice, to avoid potential exposure to non-compliant material and the consequent risk of penalties, EU companies are likely to avoid purchasing from any exporters which buy wood from concessions where recent deforestation has been documented.

If the APRIL Group proceeds with buying fibre from PT Industrial Forest Plantation or PT Mayawana Persada, it would in effect be excluding the possibility of future exports to the EU. This could have major implications for APRIL Group companies which export significant quantities to the EU. For example, Earthsight analysis of shipment records indicates that APRIL Group company PT Anugrah Kertas Utama exported more than 168,730 tonnes of paper and paperboard to EU countries in the period January 2025–April 2026, representing 32.2 per cent of the company's total exports. Another APRIL Group company, PT Riau Andalan Paperboard International, exported more than 43,000 tonnes of paperboard to the EU in this period.

Implications for FSC remedy process

The leading wood sustainability labelling scheme Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) [disassociated](#) from APRIL in 2013, following NGO complaints regarding deforestation and human rights violations. FSC initiated a formal dialogue with APRIL over regaining FSC certification in 2016, and in November 2023 the two parties [signed a Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MoU) to start a formal remedy process under the FSC Remedy Framework. This set out a pathway for APRIL to regain FSC certification by acknowledging and redressing prior environmental and social harms.

[FSC suspended](#) the MoU with APRIL in September 2025 due to allegations of violence against local community members involving timber plantation company PT Toba Pulp Lestari, which is part of APRIL's corporate group.

The addition of PT Industrial Forest Plantation and PT Mayawana Persada as suppliers may be inconsistent with the terms of APRIL's MoU with FSC, by representing the corporate group re-engaging in the same activities that led to its disassociation. Unless urgently addressed, this would appear to be grounds for the termination of the remedy process and an end to APRIL's hopes to regain FSC certification.

For the reasons above, the undersigned organisations call on the APRIL Group to:

- immediately reinstate SFMP 2.0 with the deforestation cut-off date of 2015;
- remove PT Industrial Forest Plantation and PT Mayawana Persada from the APRIL Group's list of approved suppliers;
- commit to not purchasing any further material from PT Industrial Forest Plantation;
- commit to not buying from any other company that has cleared natural forest since 2015.

We also intend to raise our grave concerns with the APRIL Group's customers, with the Forest Stewardship Council, and with Competent Authorities in the European Union responsible for enforcing the EUDR, to flag that any future imports of pulp or paper products from APRIL Group companies may be at high risk of non-compliance with the regulation.

Please send any response to this letter by email to info@earthsight.org.uk.

Kind regards,

AMAN Central Kalimantan
Auriga Nusantara
Biodiversity Conservation Center
Boreal Action
Bruno Manser Fund
ecodevelop
Earthsight
Environmental Paper Network
Eyes on the Forest, Riau
Forest Peoples Programme
Forest Watch Indonesia
Forum Ökologie & Papier
Greenpeace Indonesia
Hutan Kita Institute – HaKI
JPIK
LPESM Riau
Mighty Earth
Rainforest Action Network
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Save Our Borneo
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