



29 August 2022

Mr. Tom Lomax
Director, Senior Lawyer
Forest Peoples Programme
Moreton-in-Marsh
GL56 9NQ
United Kingdom

Dear Mr. Lomax:

**Project No.52347-001: National Roads Development Project (Kalimantan) –
ADB response on concerns related to environment and social safeguards**

We received the copy of your letter dated 11 August 2022 addressed to some members of the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Board of Directors regarding the concerns of the letter's signatories on potential social and environmental impact of the proposed National Road Development Project (Kalimantan). In this letter, I would like to respond to the concerns expressed in the letter.

ADB notes the concerns on environmental and social aspects associated with this project. I would like to update you that ADB is still in the early stages of preparing the project and the safeguard categorization and project scope are not yet final. We are still carrying out the required due diligence for environment, climate change, and social safeguards, including our final work on safeguards categorization. These due diligence work will be undertaken in tandem with the assessment to define the project scope. The results from this assessment will inform our decision on whether or not ADB should proceed with supporting the project.

With respect to the areas indicated in the diagrams included in your letter, a road section in Mahakam Ulu will be part of this safeguard assessment. As for the road section near Kayan-Mentarang National Park, the currently proposed site is located outside the national park and the safeguard assessment will be undertaken for this segment as well.

On the need for public consultation, I would like to assure you that culturally appropriate and meaningful stakeholder consultation, including with the project-affected persons, indigenous peoples, and civil society will be conducted as an integral part of this process. We will invite *Forest Peoples Programme* and other relevant civil society organizations to participate in the consultations. Any concerns raised by the stakeholders will be recorded, addressed, and reflected in the safeguard assessments, categorization, as well as the remedial measures in the appropriate safeguard plans to be developed under the project. We will also have relevant expertise in the core team including for indigenous peoples.

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I would also like to note that since ADB's last correspondence with Ms. Martha Doq from *Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan* and Mr. Darwis from *Green of Borneo* on 1 July 2021, which is cited in your letter, ADB has not undertaken substantive activities with regard to this project. It is only very recently that ADB resumed discussions with the government on this project. This is due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation that restricted ADB's ability to conduct site visits and other activities. As such, we do not plan to undertake the fact-finding mission in September 2022. The date for such a mission is yet to be determined and the indicative date posted on the ADB website (20-30 September 2022) will be updated.

Finally, we would like to give you and the letter's signatories, as well as other stakeholders, our commitment to adhere to ADB's safeguard requirements, as described in ADB's *Safeguards Policy Statement 2009*, in project preparation and implementation.

We look forward to having continued and constructive discussion on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jiro Tominaga
Country Director
Indonesia Resident Mission

cc: Director General of Highways (DGH), Ministry of Public Works and Housing (MPWH)
Director of Road Constructions, DGH, MPWH
Director of Bridge Constructions, DGH, MPWH
Director of System and Strategy for Roads and Bridges Delivery, DGH, MPWH
Bureau Head for the Budget Planning and International Cooperation, Secretariat General, MPWH
Director of Loans and Grants, Directorate General of Budget Financing and Risk Management, Ministry of Finance
Director of Multilateral External Funding, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS)
Director of Transportation, BAPPENAS
Governor of East Kalimantan Province
Governor of North Kalimantan Province
Executive Director Anthony McDonald, ADB
Executive Director Arif Baharudin, ADB
Executive Director Philip Rose, ADB
Director General, Southeast Asia Department (SERD), ADB
Director, Transport and Communications Division, SERD, ADB
Director, Environment and Safeguard Division, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB
Director, Media and External Relations Division, Department of Communications, ADB
Unit Head, NGO and Civil Society Center, ADB