

(An English Translation of a letter in Bahasa Indonesia)
**Gabungan Organisasi Non Pemerintah
Penyelamat Hutan Riau**

Pekanbaru, 4 April 2006

A Letter From Local NGOs and Community Organizations to the Indonesian Ecolabeling
Institute (LEI), Which Issued the Certificate

To LEI's Board of Constituent Members in Jakarta

Dear Sirs

We hope you are all well and wish you every success in your operations.

We are writing to protest strongly about the certification of Sustainable Plantation Management issued by LEI and PT Mutu Agung Lestari (MAL) to PT RAPP which was recently publicly announced

Our position is based on the following important points:

1. The provision of information to the public in the initial stages was inadequate before the second Expert Team decided that the plantation met the required standard, was inadequate.
2. PT MAL (the assessors) requested no inputs or comments whatsoever on the long-standing grievances of all the communities in the vicinity of PT RAPP's concession (a total of 85 villages which have been affected by the establishment of the plantation or by the Forestry Minister's decision No. 137/1997) as part of its assessment of public opinion.
3. It is clear that much of the information gathered by the assessors and the Expert team II does not reveal the (many) genuine cases of wrong-doing committed by PT RAPP since it started up in Riau which are intolerable to local communities.
4. PT RAPP has carried out manipulation of public opinion and deception on a grand scale through its press releases and adverts placed in the national and local press and also distributed electronically. RAPP did not publicly reveal the three scores it received on the criteria of social, economic & cultural aspects, ecology and production. The company only declared that its plantations had been certificated. So the public cannot tell with any certainty where PT RAPP's weaknesses lie.

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In view of the above, we – as a component of Riau's communities who are directly affected by RAPP's activities to date and who suffer its impacts– press PT Mutu Agung Lestari and the Indonesian Ecolabelling Institute to reconsider, as a matter of urgency, the certificate of sustainable plantation management they have issued to RAPP.

We also urge RAPP to apologise to the public by publishing the details of the scores given by the second Expert Panel Team within a week of publication of this letter. We submit this letter with the awareness and responsibility entrusted to us as natives of Riau.

Pekanbaru 4th April 2006,

signatory

- * Johny Setiawan Mundung
- * Executive Director WALHI Riau
- * Zulfahmi
- * Co-ordinator Jikalahari
- * Fatra Budianto
- * Director HAKIKI
- * Dt. Jafri
- * Co-ordinator AMAR (Riau Indigenous Peoples Alliance)
- * Susanto Kurniawan
- * Director Yayasan Elang

CC :

1. President of Republic Indonesia
2. Minister of Forestry
3. DPR RI
4. Riau Governor
5. Head of Riau Parliament (DPRD)
6. PT.Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper
7. PT. Mutu Agung Lestari
8. Lembaga Ekolabel Indonesia (LEI)
9. Forum Komunikasi Daerah (FKD) Riau
10. Media (Print and Electronic)