



Clearcutting by PT Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper, an affiliated company to APRIL, in Logas Selatan block (Sei Tasem), threatens Sumatran Tiger forest as it shows how the group breaks its commitment not to use legal timber from HCVF



Cover: Natural forest clearance by PT RAPP Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), an affiliated company to APRIL in Riau, for acacia development. Photo taken by EoF, in August 2010, GPS position on S 0°20'16.05 E 101°13'33.83

Investigative Report 2010 - Eyes on the Forest

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Eyes on the Forest (EoF) is a coalition of environmental NGOs in Riau, Sumatra: WALHI Riau, Jikalahari "Riau Forest Rescue Network", and WWF-Indonesia, Riau Program. EoF monitors the status of natural forests in Riau Province, Sumatra and disseminates the information to readers around the world. For more information about Eyes on the Forest, go to <http://www.eyesontheforest.or.id>; Email: eof@eyesontheforest.or.id

PT RAPP continues clearcutting natural forest where HCVF assessment is not implemented yet

In 2010, PT RAPP in Logas Selatan block (Sei Tasem) obtained a permit logging of natural forests based on the Minister Decree SK.01/RAPP/XII/2009, dated 24 December 2009 with size of around 1593 hectares. The area of natural forest clearance is a part of PT RAPP's concession size totaling 350,165 hectares in several sites in the province. This confirms that the natural forest clearcutting occurs inside concession affiliated to Asian Pacific Resources International Holdings Limited (APRIL).

As PT RAPP Blok Logas Selatan is a concession that affiliated to APRIL, so the pulp group should fully comply with its public commitment before clearcutting the natural forest by implementing assessment or review of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF). So far, Eyes on the Forest coalition has not obtained any information whether APRIL has conducted an HCVF assessment yet. Since 2005, APRIL has committed to its buyers, investors and the general public to protect High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) professionally and independently identified following the stakeholder driven HCVF Toolkit for Indonesia (www.aprilasia.com/images/stories/hcfv.pdf).

The concession area of PT RAPP Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem) is located in the Bukit Rimbang – Bukit Baling forest block that has hilly and highly potential to contain High Conservation Value as indicated in this region including Protected Areas by the Indonesian Government and Riau Province Government (Map 2 and 3).

Bukit Tigapuluh and Bukit Rimbang Baling Tiger Priority Landscape become a few of priority areas for tiger conservation in Indonesia, as the first one recently declared by the World Tiger Summit in 2010.

While, Bukit Batabuh area is an important habitat for the Sumatran tiger (*panthera tigris sumatrae*) in Riau, functioning as a wildlife corridor between Bukit Tigapuluh and Bukit Rimbang Baling. Bukit Batabuh is classified as a protected area by Riau Province in 1994, and categorized as a limited production forest based on Indonesia's 1986 Land Use Consensus, meaning no company can legally exploit the forest.

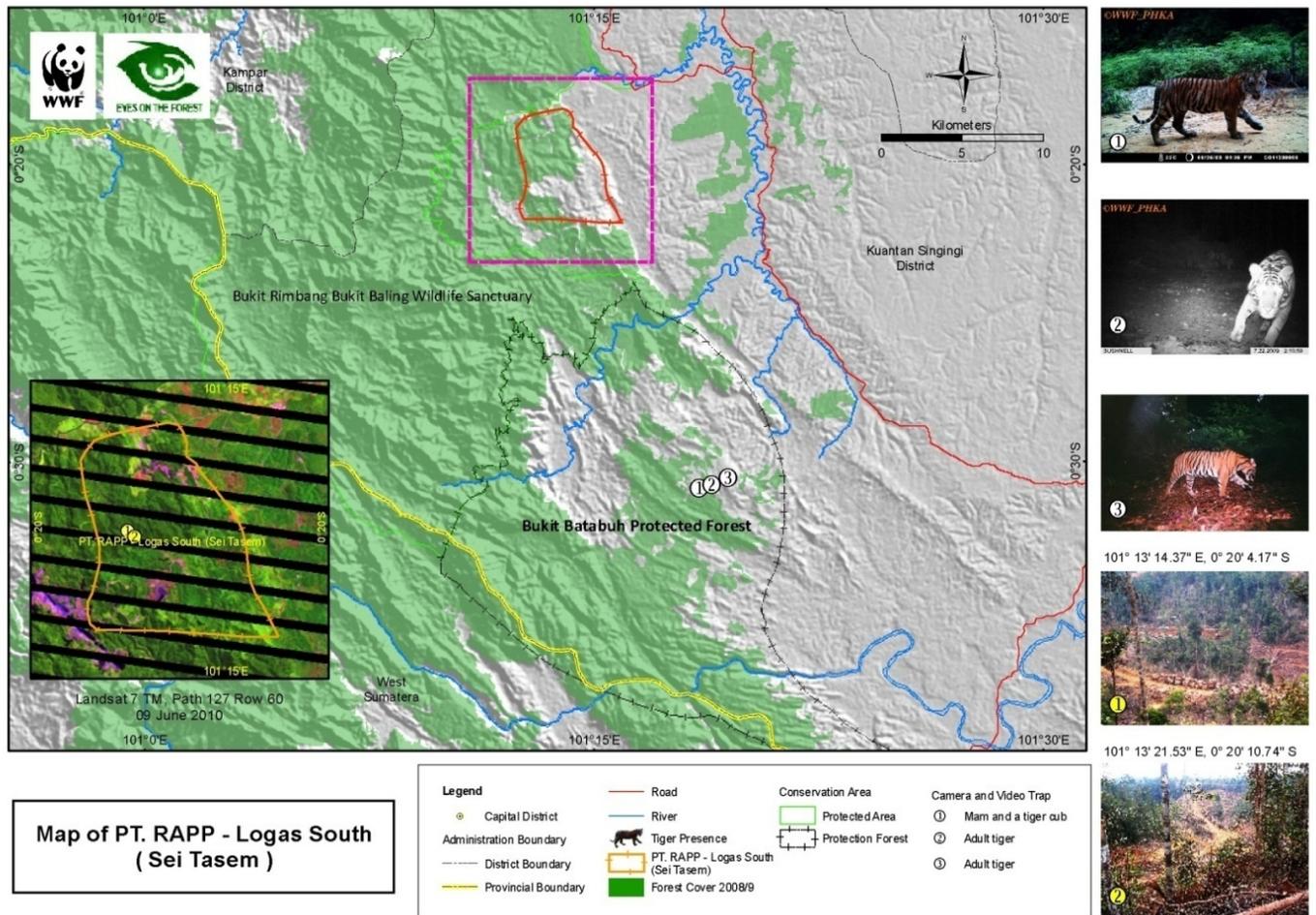
In 2009, WWF recorded presence of Sumatran tigers with cubs in this area (**Map 1**) by famous video footages and photos. In 2010, WWF also caught a bulldozer destroying this Sumatran tiger forest where Sumatran tiger cubs and adult ones were found by video trap one year before (see "Camera catches bulldozer destroying Sumatra tiger forest", a press release at www.eyesontheforest.or.id).

Recent natural forest clearance by APRIL's PT RAPP likely pressured to shrinking habitat of endangered Sumatran tiger. It shows APRIL is not committed to what it pledges by its own public policy to protect HCVF.

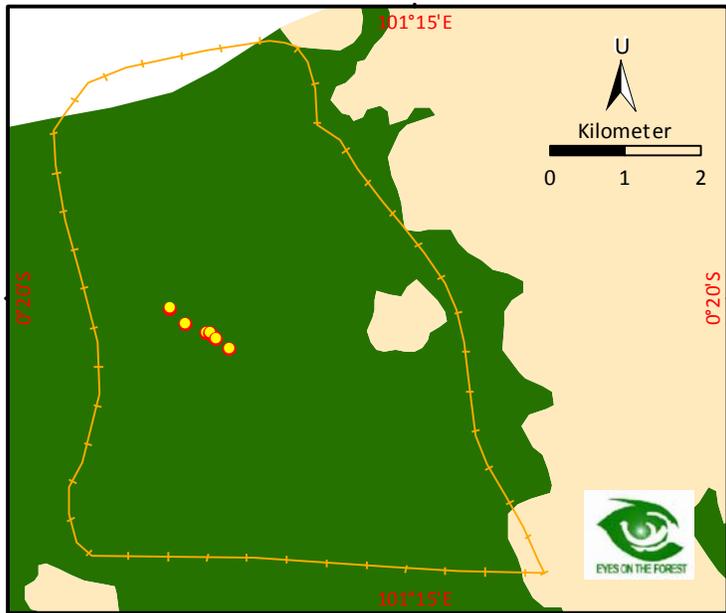
The concept of HCVF was first developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) in 1999 as their "Principle 9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests". To ensure that High Conservation Values are protected, FSC Principle 9 states that: *"Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach."* In practice this means that no forests should be cleared without prior assessment of High Conservation Values in the forest and its surrounding landscape combined with identification of the measures needed to maintain and enhance such values.

EoF considers that logging and timber harvesting operations by PT RAPP violate APRIL's own public policy which is committed not to "source the timber from the areas of high conservation value."

Therefore, EoF urges APRIL to stop the clearcutting of natural forest in the area and urges the importance to assess High Conservation Value Forests in collaboration with stakeholders before starting to fell the trees inside the tropical rainforest in order to carry out its own public policy.

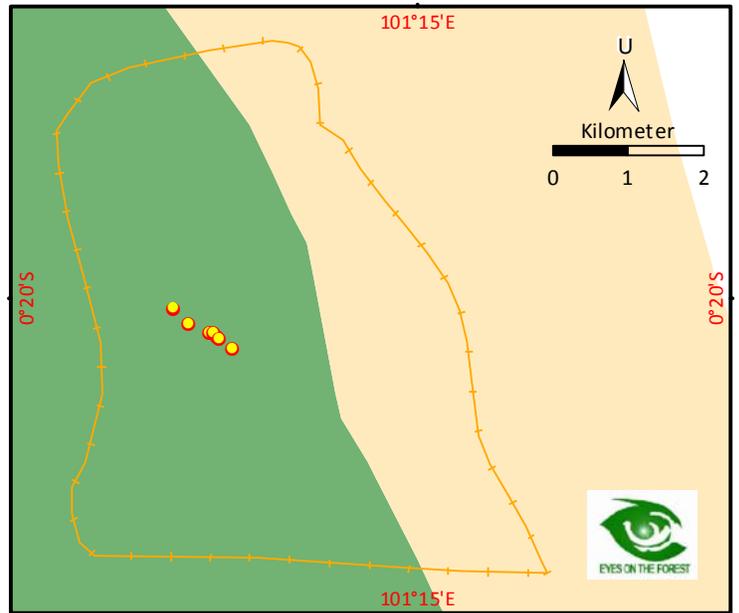


Map 1. The points of Sumatran tigers presence as surveyed by WWF through video trap, which are relatively close to the location of current natural forest clearance by APRIL's PT RAPP.



- Legenda**
- Titik Survei
 - Sungai
 - - - Batas Kabupaten/Kota
 - RTRWN 2008
 - Hutan Lindung
 - Kawasan Budidaya
 - ⌞ Konsesi HTI
- PT. RAPP - Logas South (Sei Tasem)

- Sumber :**
1. Peta RBI - Bakosurtanal 2008
 2. Konsesi HTI Dishut Riau 2006, Dephut 2005
 3. RTRWN 2008 Departemen PU



- Legenda**
- Titik Survei
 - Sungai
 - - - Batas Kabupaten/Kota
 - RTRWP 1994
 - Kawasan Lindung
 - Arahan Pengembangan Kawasan Kehutanan
 - ⌞ Konsesi HTI
- PT. RAPP - Logas South (Sei Tasem)

- Sumber :**
1. Peta RBI - Bakosurtanal 2008
 2. Konsesi HTI Dishut Riau 2006, Dephut 2005
 3. RTRWP 1994 Bappeda Riau

Map 2 and 3. Concession of PT RAPP Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem). According to the National Spatial Plan issued by the Ministry of Public Works in 2008, the entire area in that location is included to the national Protected Forest (*green*). Based on the Riau Province Land Use, most of the area included to the Protected Forest as well.



Photo 1. Logs from natural forest clearance by PT RAPP blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), an APRIL's affiliation, for acacia expansion. Picture taken by Eyes on the Forest, in August 2010. GPS position S0° 20'21.04 E101° 13'40.51



Photo 2. A heavy machinery is clearcutting natural forests in Bukit Rimbang-Baling as PT RAPP Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), an affiliated company to APRIL, is developing acacia plantation. Picture taken by Eyes on the Forest, in August 2010. GPS position S0° 20'4.17 E101° 13'14.37



Photo 3. Logs that felled in tropical rainforest by PT RAPP Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), an APRIL affiliated company in Riau. The photo taken by Eyes on the Forest, in August 2010. GPS position S0° 20' 10.74 E101° 13' 21.53



Photo 4. Natural forest clearcutting by PT RAPP -Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), an affiliated company to APRIL, for conversion to pulpwood plantation. The picture taken by Eyes on the Forest, in August 2010, GPS location S0° 20'14.90 E101° 13'29.95



Photo 5. Natural forest clearcutting by PT RAPP -Blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), affiliated company to APRIL, for conversion to pulpwood plantation. The picture taken by Eyes on the Forest, in August 2010, GPS location S 0° 20'14.66 E 101° 13'32.24



Photo 6. Logs from tropical rainforest that felled by PT RAPP blok Logas Selatan (Sei Tasem), affiliated to APRIL in Riau, for the development of acacia. Picture taken by Eyes on the Forest, in August 2010, GPS location S 0° 20'16.68 E 101° 13'34.67

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