

**APRIL's New Road Threatens Natural Forest in Kampar Peninsula**

*New investigations by Eyes on the Forest reveal continued forest destruction in APRIL's concession area. At least 216 hectare of natural peat swamp forest have recently been opened and have brought illegal loggers and squatters to the area.*

PT. Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP), a pulp subsidiary of APRIL in Riau, has cleared 216 ha of natural forest in the Kampar Peninsula forest block for development of a new road linking APRIL's pulp mill in Pangkalan Kerinci, Pelalawan District to its planned new port in Tanjung Pal village, Siak District. Most of the cleared area was peat swamp forests.

The new road is 27 kilometer long and 12 meters wide, flanked by 40 meters of road side, canal and opened forests on either side. The rest of the road covering the distance between APRIL's mill to the new port passes through 53 kilometers of APRIL's Industrial Timber Plantation partners and concession.



**APRIL's planned port**  
N. 0 49 15 E. 102 23 52

**Encroached location by the local community in APRIL's corridor**  
N. 0 47 25 E. 102 22 14

Image 1, 2 and 3, APRIL's logging corridor and new port in Kampar Peninsular (Photo: Jikalahari/ April 5, 2005)

As a direct result of the opening of the road, Jikalahari observed increased illegal logging and encroachment in the Kampar Peninsula forest block.

## Illegal Logging and encroachment

Although no on-going illegal logging activity was observed during the field visit on 5 April 2005, the Jikalahari team found piles of timber along the road and an old loggers' camp at GPS coordinate N. 0 43 13 E. 102 20 53.

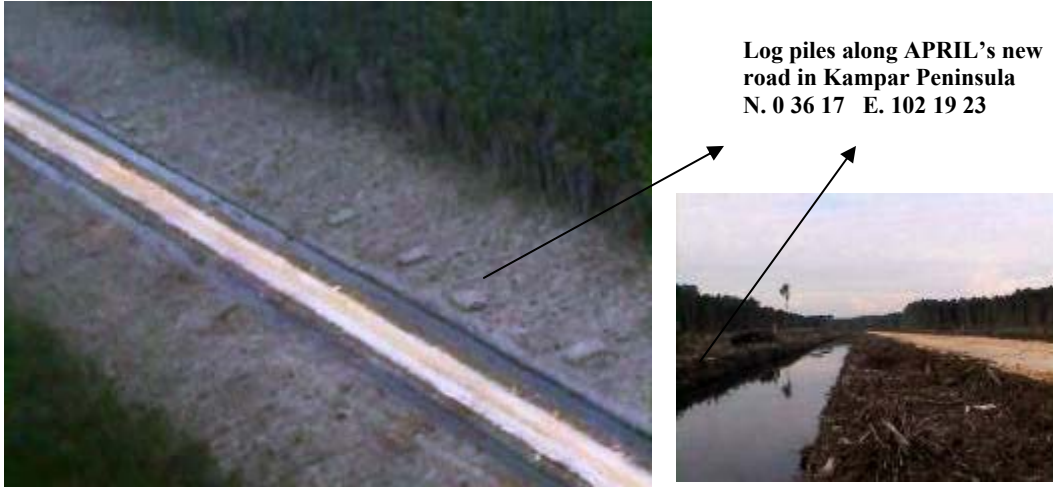


Image 4 and 5: Piles of timber along APRIL's logging road in Kampar Peninsula at N. 0 36 17 E. 102 19. 23. Photo: Jikalahari, April 5, 2005

Further, some new encroachment locations were found along the new road. People from Tanjung Pal and Sungai Rawa Village are encroaching the area newly opened for the road for agriculture and plantation development. During interviews, they told JIKALAHARI that three kilometers of land where the new road was built falls into their traditional communal land rights. APRIL showed no response regarding the local people's development activities. This could be interpreted as verifying the status of communal land rights of the newly built road.



Image 5, 6 and 7: Encroachment locations along APRIL's logging road in Kampar Peninsula (Photos: Jikalahari, April 5, 2005)

The cases of illegal logging and encroachment documented above are not the only examples of forest threats facilitated by the building of this new road through peat swamp forests. All of them show the company's inability or unwillingness to deal with the forest destruction that follows in the wake of their development activities.

In February 2005, the Eyes on the Forest Investigation team also found illegal logging activities along APRIL's new road in Kampar Peninsula forest block.

In 2001, APRIL built a pulp wood plantation right through the middle of the Tesso Nilo forest. Despite company claims that they would stop illegal loggers and encroachers along their concession, the area saw a dramatic increase of illegal logging and small scale forest conversion (IPK).

In February 2005, the Forest Crime Unit (FCU) of WWF Indonesia's Tesso Nilo Program found that illegal logging and encroachment along APRIL's road in Tesso Nilo had continued unchecked. Eighteen side roads had been created by illegal loggers to enter previously not accessible forest sectors.

In 2004, APRIL opened yet another road along the northern boundary of the Tesso Nilo forest. Immediately, the number of new settlers in the area increased significantly. Based on FCU surveys, the number of families in Dusun Sei Medang have increased from 43 families in 2002, into 300 families in March 2005. Most of them are immigrants from outside Riau province.



Image 8. Illegal logging in APRIL's logging corridor in Kampar Peninsula, Latitude: 0.81331551 Longitude 102.3937905 (Photo: EoF, February, 2005)

## **Kampar Peninsula Forest Block**

Kampar Peninsula area is one of the biggest peat swamp forests in Riau province and was identified as a potential high conservation value forest (HCVF) in a 2003 report by WWF Indonesia. The peat is more than three meters deep and important for the ecosystem and micro climate of surrounding areas. Developing a new road inside or across the forest block will likely threaten the ecosystem of the area, and it's the neighboring Danau Pulau Besar Wildlife Reserve.

With the new road access, the destruction of natural forest in Kampar Peninsula will most likely continue more rapidly. EoF demands that APRIL stops any further conversion of the forest block and clearly commits toward its conservation and rehabilitation. EoF also demands the government not to approve new concessions proposed by APRIL and its competitor APP, in Kampar Peninsula and Pulau Padang, or in any other areas, prerequisite to improvement of its management practices.

Regardless of APRIL assertion of possessing an EIA (Environmental Impact Analysis) permit from government to develop this road, the road opening has not been recognized by Riau's Spatial Plan, reflected in Provincial Regulation Perda No.10 of 1999, which clearly identifies Kuala Kampar--including the area of APRIL's new road, as protected forest, and therefore no road may legally be built.

In order to satisfy its pulp mill's need for raw materials, APRIL recently has requested licenses for new concessions from the government of Indonesia. The concession are for 215,790 hectares located in Kampar peninsula and Pulau Padang in the eastern coastal line of Sumatra, both areas mostly consist of peat swamp and mangrove forest.

EoF fears that the story of forest destruction in the wake of APRIL concession development described will be repeated over and over again. Government has to engage and hold the companies it grants licenses to responsible for their actions. The companies have to stop mis-informing civil society about their actions and actually stop the devastation they cause rather than only talk about it.

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**Appendix:** Map of APRIL's corridor in Kampar Peninsula

