

## No Conversion of Primary Forest and HCVs Ecosystems



Around 40 per cent of Indonesia's legal timber supply results from land clearance for conversion to plantations (World Bank, 2001), which can generate income of up to US\$2100 per hectare towards the start-up costs of the plantation (Casson A., 2000)



In Indonesia, the oil palm plantation is formally well-known for its large-scale development and monoculture planting with no covering vegetations. Most of the plantations land clearing and operations take place by converting so-called critical lands and sometimes by exploiting tropical primary rainforest. In 2002, Sawit Watch conducted researches to monitor oil palm development in Danau Sentarum National Park (TNDS) and Meratus Mountain areas where dozens of concessions are operating and clearing the nearest forestlands. The researches also reveals that in Central Kalimantan and respectively West Kalimantan, palm oil plantation companies' concessions allegedly are overlapping with Tanjung Puting National Park (WALHI, 2005), Lake Sentarum National Park and Meratus Mountain areas (Sawit Watch, 2003).

Recently and the latest update, the government of Indonesia is planning the world's largest oil palm plantation project in Kalimantan in order to secure the border areas. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono announced that the government would soon increase development projects in border areas on Kalimantan Island. He said the projects include developing plantations and roads along the border areas, where transnational crimes are rampant. "Indonesia has 2,004 kilometers of border with Malaysia on Kalimantan Island. If it is not managed well then there will many problems, such as theft, (illegal) border-crossers and insecurity," Susilo was quoted by Antara as telling governors of Kalimantan provinces in Pontianak (The Jakarta Post, 2005).

*Borneo (Kalimantan island), which has 27 million hectares of forests, has suffered from serious deforestation; at a rate of 1.2 million hectares annually, while the World Bank predicts that by 2010, all of Kalimantan's lowland forests will disappear if nothing is done to curb deforestation, which is mostly caused by illegal logging and shifting cultivation (The Jakarta Post, 24 October 2005).*



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