Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 Press Release: Private Sector Companies Announce Voluntary Support to President Joko Widodo’s Peat Protection and Restoration Programme

On the occasion of the first Annual Meeting of the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020) on 10-11 March 2016 in Jakarta, several private sector companies have announced support for President Joko Widodo’s policy to mitigate further peat conservation, protect intact and restore degraded peatland.

The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 provides a global platform for companies, civil society and government partners to realize deforestation-free supply chains and build the necessary partnerships to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with the sourcing of palm oil, pulp and paper, soy and beef.

Announcement by Producing Companies Members of TFA 2020
Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd (APRIL), Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP), Asian Agri Group, Cargill, Golden Agri Resources, Wilmar International

As concession-holders for palm oil and pulp/ paper production in Indonesia, we welcome and support President Jokowi’s policy to protect and rehabilitate peatlands. Successful peat restoration requires transparency, effective engagement and empowerment of local communities, as well as collaborative action at the landscape level. In support of effective, long-lasting and swift impact we voluntarily commit to supporting President Jokowi’s peat protection and restoration program. We do so by taking the following actions:

- Submission of concession maps on peatlands, including natural forest areas, to create the necessary transparency for effective monitoring and restoration efforts by the Peatland Restoration Agency (Badan Restorasi Gambut, BRG)
- Drawing on the best practice from across Indonesia we will enhance our efforts to establish the most inclusive and effective fire management systems. This landscape based approach will build upon the best fire prevention model whilst continuing to empower and improve welfare of local communities and build capacity to reduce fires on concession areas.

Announcement by member companies of The Consumer Goods Forum (CGF)

On the occasion of the bi-annual meeting of the Consumer Goods Forum’s social and environmental steering committee, and on behalf of its consumer goods company members, CGF has announced support to President Joko Widodo’s policy to protect intact and restore degraded peatlands through the new Peatland Restoration Agency (Badan Restorasi Gambut, BRG).

As member companies of The Consumer Goods Forum with sourcing of palm oil and pulp/ paper commodities from Indonesia, we support President Jokowi’s policy to protect and restore
peatlands. This effort is synergistic with the Deforestation Resolution agreed upon in November 2010 by the Board of Directors of The Consumer Goods Forum.

Where we can, we will seek to align with the mandate of BRG, in support of effective peatland protection and conservation in Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua. The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 provides us with a platform to work towards such alignment through collaboration with other key stakeholders.

About the 2015 Fire and Haze Crisis
According to World Bank estimates, the 2015 fire and haze crisis in Indonesia burnt over 2.6 million hectares of land.\(^1\) Estimates of the Government of Indonesia suggest that it affected the health of over 140,000 people and caused economic losses of up to S$47bn.\(^2\) President Jokowi’s moratorium on permits to clear peatland and his decision to create the Peatland Restoration Agency (Badan Restorasi Gambut, BRG) constitute important steps to restore burnt land and mitigate future fires.

About the Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG)
Established for a period of five years until 31 December 2020, BRG’s mandate includes the prevention of fires on peatlands and the restoration of 2 million hectares of degraded peatlands in seven provinces in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and Papua. Its mandate also includes policy harmonization, peat mapping and land use planning to determine protection and cultivation land.

About the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020
The Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 is the global umbrella partnership that brings together governments, private sector companies, and civil society organizations to remove deforestation from palm oil, beef, soy, and pulp and paper. The Secretariat of the TFA 2020 is hosted at the World Economic Forum, Geneva, with support from the Governments of Norway and UK DFID. To learn more about the TFA 2020, go to [www.tfa2020.org](http://www.tfa2020.org)

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