

PRESS RELEASE

INDONESIA-NORWAY JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Indonesia and Norway Collaboration for Peatland Protection and Restoration

JAKARTA (3 February, 2016) – Continuing the long-term bilateral partnership on climate and forests, Indonesia and Norway will collaborate to support Indonesia's efforts to protect and restore its peat ecosystems (full text below). This was announced by Norway's Minister of Climate and Environment Vidar Helgesen, Indonesia's Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya Bakar, and the Head of the Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG) Nazir Foead at a press conference held at the Presidential Palace in Jakarta.

"Indonesia has already made a significant commitment in restoring two million hectares of peatland in 2020. President Joko Widodo has firmly mandated the Peatland Restoration Agency to execute an ambitious peat restoration plan as stated in the Presidential Decree Number 1/2016," said Minister Siti Nurbaya.

To avoid the haze crisis, not only does degraded peatland need to be restored. As President Joko Widodo has announced, it is also necessary to enforce a moratorium on any clearing, drainage and/or conversion of currently unopened peatland. This announcement is being codified into a Regulation which will be promulgated by 1 June 2016. By 1 December 2016, BRG will have implemented a comprehensive and transparent monitoring system on the status of peatland restoration and protection, and enforcement of the moratorium.

"Norway congratulates Indonesia on its commitment to protect and restore all its peatlands for its own national interest and the world. We are ready to embark in a result-based support as part of the letter of intent between our countries," said Minister Vidar Helgesen. "The Government of Norway stands ready to fully support Indonesia's ongoing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the loss and degradation of its forests and peatlands, based on the goals and principles of our Letter of Intent of 2010."

The collaboration will support the mandate of Indonesia's newly established BRG as part of the ongoing, long-term climate and forest partnership between the Governments of Indonesia and Norway.

"This is a positive step in the ongoing partnership between Indonesia and Norway and signals the serious commitment by our President to address the devastating fires," commented Nazir Foead. "We applaud this important collaboration and hope it inspires others to make similar pledges."

Peatland and forests are vital to millions of people in Indonesia. This effort to protect and restore peat forests will help secure their livelihoods.

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Plan of Operation of Peatland Protection Agency, Jakarta, 3 February
2016

**Indonesia and Norway Collaboration on Peatland Protection and
Restoration**

The Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Government of the Kingdom of Norway reiterate their cooperation in a long-term, results-based climate and forest partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the loss and degradation of Indonesia's natural ecosystems, primarily natural forests and peatlands.

The nature of our climate and forest partnership is described in our joint Letter of Intent (LoI) of 2010. The President of the Republic of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway further elaborated a shared vision on these issues during the Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia in April 2015, as well as at the global level, along with 15 other leaders, through the Leaders' Statement on Forests and Climate Change at COP-21 in Paris last December.

The Government of Indonesia's Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG), established in January by Presidential Regulation 1 of 2016, is an essential element for the progress of our partnership. Therefore, the Government of the Kingdom of Norway will support the BRG's mandate as an integral part of our climate and forest partnership.

Consistent with the "results-based" spirit of the LoI, hereby are the principal deliverables of BRG:

- (1) By 1 June 2016, the completion of the official Indonesian Government process of codifying and promulgating Government Regulation to full implementation of President Joko Widodo's instruction to enforce a moratorium on any clearing, drainage and/or conversion of currently unopened peatland.
- (2) By 1 December 2016, BRG will have implemented comprehensive and transparent monitoring system on status of peatland protection and restoration, which covers:

- (i) Implementation of an Indonesia-wide baseline map of peatland.
- (ii) Mapping of peatlands in priority landscapes as defined in the BRG Plan of Operation.
- (iii) Progress reports on implementation of the moratorium on peatland clearing and drainage, peat rewetting and reforestation on degraded peat, including the status of burnt areas.
- (iv) Satisfactory implementation of the BRG Action Plan, including enforcement of and compliance with the peat moratorium.

The Kingdom of Norway will support the implementation of BRG Plan of Operation under the Phase II LoI, which include: peatland mapping, protection and restoration activities; local community engagement, planning, and peatland-sustaining economic development initiatives; documenting and securing the land rights of local communities and engaging them in restoration and sustainable development initiatives; coalition-building for peatland protection and restoration with civil society and the private sector; policy analysis and harmonization.

Background

The Governments of Indonesia and Norway are engaged in a long-term, results-based climate and forest partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the loss and degradation of Indonesia's natural ecosystems, primarily natural forests and peatlands. The nature of our shared partnership is described in our joint Letter of Intent of 2010. The President of Indonesia and the Prime Minister of Norway further elaborated a shared vision on these issues during the Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia in April 2015, as well as at the global level, along with 15 other leaders, through the Leaders' Statement on Forests and Climate Change at COP-21 in Paris last December.