



Site Visit B: Overview

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Site Visit Theme | Avoiding Deforestation in West Java |
| Location | Bandung vicinity, West Java, Indonesia |
| Main site visit | Meeting with forestry conservation stakeholders: YPAL, Forestry Conservation NGO; BKSDA (Forestry Ministry); local village government; tea plantation authorities, Panaruban Village. |
| Additional site visits | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Panaruban tropical forest Tea plantation Panaruban waterfall and hawk conservation site |



| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Main Issues | <p>Indonesia possesses the world's second largest and third widest forested area. This forest functions as one of the world's principle carbon sinks (whereby carbon dioxide is absorbed from the atmosphere and converted into biomass). Sadly, the rate of deforestation according to Greenpeace, is currently two million hectares per year (2% of the country's total) or 49 km² every day. Deforestation is steadily increasing due to logging, burning and clearing for cultivation, mining and road construction by government, private companies and local communities.</p> |
| Cross Cutting Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participatory decision making • Gender and development • Biodiversity conservation • Poverty alleviation and income generation • Social justice and equity |
| Background | <p>From a global perspective, forests play a critical role in abating climate change by behaving as carbon sinks. Forests not only absorb carbon dioxide through photosynthesis, but also produce carbon dioxide through respiration. The excess of carbon dioxide absorbed converts to forest biomass. Processes of photosynthesis and respiration in tropical forest are greater than in other types of forests. Deforestation of tropical forests leads to a decline in forest vegetation (biomass) which in turn contributes to a reduced capacity to absorb carbon.</p> <p>Forests have various functions; in addition to performing an ecological function, they perform economic and social functions. Forest stakeholders are diverse, ranging from central and local government, private companies and local communities. Therefore, deforestation has a variety of causes due to the motivations of each stakeholder group. Generally, deforestation occurs systematically as a consequence of population growth and economic development imperatives.</p> |

Challenges and Potential Solutions

Avoiding deforestation remains a very serious challenge in West Java, and across Indonesia. Deforestation continues at a rate of 2% per year meeting domestic and international demand for forest products. Sadly, many still view the logging and clearing of tropical forest as a reliable source of livelihood rather than the preservation of the forest being viewed as critical for their livelihoods.

There are efforts being made to address deforestation as communities in particular, experience water scarcity and wood shortages for fuel and building. There are examples of NGOs educating the community about the benefits of reforestation. Central government has also been made to curtail large scale intensive logging. Local NGOs and local government also cooperate to protect existing forests and support alternative income generating activities to tree felling.

About the Site Visit

The site visit will take us to the tropical forest region of Panaruban, where we will see in addition to the tropical forest, tea plantations, and local villages. The tropical forest of this area is particularly distinct for its endemic species such as: Javanese hawks (*Spizaetus bartelsi*), surilis (*Presbytis comata*), bangkai flowers (*Amarphopulus annurifer*), jamujus (*Dacrycarpus imbricatus*), and various traditional herbal plants.

Much of the forest has been converted into tea plantations by the Dutch colonisers. The tea plantations are surrounded by a buffer zone – tropical plants and tea plants which remain unpicked. The Panaruban tea plantation is part of a state-owned company (PT. Perkebunan Nusantara VIII). As the plantations were established relatively recently, the impacts of deforestation have yet to be observed.

Reforestation is being implemented by a minority of people who are concerned with the maintenance of their water supply and the provision of forest products. There is increasing public concern for forest preservation. Collaboration between PTPN VIII, local government, conservation NGOs and the community has resulted in some examples of joint efforts that have benefited all stakeholders.

The Panaruban area and its surroundings are beautiful and have drawn increasing numbers of tourists in recent years. In 2005 a golf course and tourist resorts were planned for the area. Fortunately, the local people successfully rejected the scheme.

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Key Stakeholders | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YPAL (Forestry Conservation NGO) • BKSDSA (Forestry Ministry) • Village government • Local community • Tea plantation authorities (PTPN VIII) |
| Innovative Aspects of the Site Visit | <p>The site visit provides an example of a successful collaboration between various stakeholders with different interests concerned with forest conservation. All of them are able to benefit from forest conservation as a result of the collaboration.</p> <p>YPAL (NGO) adopts different approaches to tackling deforestation. One of their sites is concerned with saving an endemic species of hawk (Elang Java). Caring for the preservation of the raptor means has meant that people have become aware of the need to conserve the raptor's habitat.</p> <p>YPAL began to work with other stakeholders dependent on the forest, such as tea plantations and the community, to bring about awareness about the need to conserve the forest. By linking the community's ability to enhance their income through reforestation activities, the NGO have succeeded in bringing about an increased awareness and value in preserving the forest resource.</p> |
| Impacts of the Project Towards Sustainable Development | <p>Panaruban tropical forest is currently managed by local communities, government, the tea plantation and NGOs. It provides a good example of a multi stakeholder partnership that has increased awareness and developed alternative income generation for various stakeholders from the preservation of the forest.</p> <p>YPAL through collaboration with multiple stakeholders, ensuring that each had their interests met, contributed to economic development (from the tea plantation), local employment and biodiversity conservation (forest and the raptor) in the Bandung region.</p> <p>Achieving sustainable development can be facilitated by adopting a mutual gains approach, whereby all stakeholders strive to get their needs met and in the process meet the needs of others. This example also demonstrates how impacting one part of the system impacts positively on other parts contributing to an overall positive transformation towards the goal of avoiding deforestation.</p> |