



Forest Peoples Programme

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Neil Franklin and Dian Novarina
PT RAPP
Jakarta
Indonesia

11th May 2009

Dear Neil and Dian,

Progress with 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent' in the Kampar Peninsula

Thanks for the very helpful meeting on 4th May when we discussed the progress being made by PT RAPP to secure the Kampar Peninsula through the creation of a ring of HTI which would include Acacia plantings, buffer zones and areas of mixed lands for community use, for which PT RAPP has almost secured the necessary licences, and a core conservation area, in which some community use may also be permitted. We appreciate that the legal status of the proposed conservation or REDD concessions in the core area remain to be defined.

We also updated you on our own efforts to engage with the communities in the Peninsula to help them prepare for negotiations with outside parties who have plans for the development and conservation of the lands in their customary and administrative areas.

During the meeting, we expressed concern that the hurried process underway of issuing permits for these areas has run ahead of internationally accepted norms for the recognition of peoples' rights in line with the right of indigenous peoples to 'Free, Prior and Informed Consent' (FPIC).

We also expressly asked for the following:

1. A clear statement from PT RAPP (APRIL) that the company has now adopted a policy in line with FPIC.
2. Clarification of the procedures that PT RAPP is using to adhere to FPIC.
3. Clarification of who are the responsible and suitably authorised persons in PT RAPP that the communities should deal with to secure recognition of their lands and other rights and ensure that FPIC is adhered to.

4. Copies of the Standard Operating Procedure currently being used by PT RAPP in dealing with local communities
5. The Project Development Document which has been elaborated by a consultancy for securing a conservation concession in the core area.

If the FPIC process is to have any meaning - ie for any negotiations and agreements to be both **prior** and **informed** - it is important that these policies, procedures, names and documents are made available as a matter of urgency.

If you do not have the authority to proceed with these matters yourselves please could you advise us of the best way to proceed so the relevant decision-makers in PT RAPP / APRIL can consider these issues and provide a ready response.

Best wishes



Ahmad Zazali
Executive Director
Scale Up



Dr. Marcus Colchester
Director
Forest Peoples Programme