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22 September 2009

Dr Marcus Colchester  
Director  
Forest Peoples Programme  
1C Fosseway Business Park  
Moreton-in-Marsh  
GL56 9NQ  
England

Dear Marcus,

#### **RESPECTING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN THE KAMPAR PENINSULAR**

This open letter is in response to your letters dated May 11<sup>th</sup>, August 17<sup>th</sup> and September 16<sup>th</sup>. It summarizes, for the benefit of the wider audience, key issues discussed and progress made in ensuring the indigenous peoples' rights as part of the Kampar area's regional development.

APRIL's Sustainability Director, Dr Neil Franklin will respond in a private letter to you explaining how APRIL can work with the Forest Peoples' Programme Scale Up or similar NGOs to contribute towards securing the indigenous peoples' rights in Kampar Ring.

#### **APRIL'S OBJECTIVES IN THE KAMPAR PENINSULAR**

APRIL's plantation investment in the Kampar Ring is developed with the goal of ensuring not only sustainable plantation fiber for our mill, but also a better quality of life for Kampar people. Our extensive community development programmes are designed to address several key concerns - create economic stability and forge long term-relationships. We seek to provide a sustainable future for these relatively deprived communities, through providing viable livelihood alternatives.

Sustainable plantation and natural forest management in peatland presents specific challenges for the resource manager. Responsible management must focus on achieving enhanced, long-term productivity of plantations; minimised impact upon intrinsic and adjacent natural forest conservation areas; reduced CO<sub>2</sub> and GHG emissions from the plantation and conservation landscape, as well as optimised livelihood opportunities for communities living in close proximity.

Through a combination of the best science and practical management expertise, APRIL and its third party science-based research partners work to contribute solutions for arresting the ongoing trajectory of degradation of the Kampar area forest resource, creating a basis for sustainable future for the communities on these degraded peatlands.

On a landscape scale, matching Eco-Hydrology management with the efforts of other stakeholders can provide win-win solutions that balance sustainable economic development, GHG emissions, local livelihoods, and the security of high conservation value forests through active management and investment.



## TELUK MERANTI VILLAGE SUPPORTS APRIL'S PRESENCE IN THE KAMPAR PENINSULAR

The planning process preceding the concession management agreement (license) has been completed in accordance with the Indonesian forestry law and regulations. During that process, the license applicant has no right to act as manager or initiate social consultations, but needs to follow the environmental impact and macro and micro delineation rules set by the government.

Respecting the community rights, APRIL worked with the Indonesian government to ensure that RAPP's (APRIL's operating entity in Indonesia) Kampar Ring licensed area would not overlap with community land.

Upon receiving the industrial tree development (HTI) license on June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009, APRIL/RAPP then initiated the community consultation process.

The June 20<sup>th</sup> letter from Teluk Meranti community, which was the focus of your August 17<sup>th</sup> letter to Thomas Handoko, was issued prior to the consultation and prior to APRIL proposing any plans to the villages.

Now, three months later and after APRIL's plans have been made known, the villages support APRIL's presence and have no objection to the move of heavy machinery to the site ( please refer to the letter from Teluk Binjai village on September 10, 2009).

APRIL is committed to resolving any community disputes and land use conflicts amicably through the application of the principles of free, prior and informed consent. From our own experience of previous implementation, we recognise the many challenges that are presented, specific to the socio-political context in which we operate.

## GOING FORWARD - SECURING INDIGENEOUS PEOPLES' RIGHTS IN THE KAMPAR PENINSULAR

We are presently expanding social consultations in the area and would welcome the support of third party mediators during this important phase. RAPP will integrate the results of these consultations into our operations and community development plans, as required by law, and in line with our commitment to respond to the aspirations and needs of our important community stakeholders.

In the Kampar Ring case, our work plan extends to the engagement of independent third parties who have carried out High Conservation Value assessments in the area, with emphasis on social and community values in the Kampar Ring area. These assessments have been done in parallel with ongoing first phase consultation with the communities, and have provided a clear set of management recommendations for the next phase and on the ground partnerships.

We are also currently revising company protocols that integrate social and cultural values with the Conservation value principles. The protocols will be reviewed independently, and RAPP will invite participation from key local (Riau) stakeholders in the development process. We hope these stakeholders will include representatives from various local NGOs.

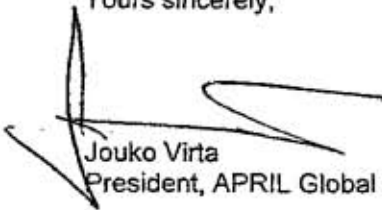
We recognize the complex stakeholder dynamics in this region and hope that all parties can work together in achieving these goals. We look forward to working with those who share a common vision of achieving a sustainable development model in the Kampar region, to protect, conserve and manage the landscape for present communities and our future generations.



The success of this endeavour is as important to APRIL as it is to the community and other concerned stake holders. Leaving the Kampar Peninsular area alone is not a viable option, as we have been witness to the massive destruction to the area due to illegal logging and other forms of encroachment.

We look forward combining your skills and experience with APRIL's management strength, investment and technology, to establish a stable operating environment in the Kampar Peninsular for securing both the rights of the indigenous people and the sustainability of these communities, presently living in relatively unsustainable environment.

Yours sincerely,



Jouko Virta  
President, APRIL Global Fiber Supply

Enclosure: Surat Pernyataan, with English translation

cc. TFD Steering Committee  
World Business Council for Sustainable Development  
HCVResource Network  
NGOs