

Support for Forest Management Units

as Provincial Government Entities at District Level

Why Support Forest Management Units?

Effective political institutions and administrative structures are needed if the state is to fulfil its responsibility for good governance of natural resources to let future generations benefit as much as the present society. So it must be ensured that natural resources are protected and sustainably managed, that management is accountable to society, that laws are enforced and services are provided, and that individual (especially women's) and communal rights are respected. The state must also guarantee equitable access to public resources.

Forest Management Units

The Government of Indonesia (GoI) has embarked on a process of policy and administrative reform in the forestry sector. The Forests and Climate Change Programme (FORCLIME) supports these efforts at the national level to improve the policy and required regulatory framework and ensure effective and decentralised management of natural resources.

At district level, FORCLIME supports the GoI's efforts to establish Forest Management Units (FMUs) as effective operational units. This support focuses on establishing model FMUs in the districts of Kapuas Hulu in West Kalimantan, Malinau in North Kalimantan and Berau in East Kalimantan.

FORCLIME supports the provincial forest services as they develop the FMU concept and establish units in the districts. Programme activities range from inventories and data



collection, which is needed to prepare management plans for the respective forests, to support for institutional and administrative structures in adapting to their roles and functions and facilitating stakeholder participation. If the FMUs perform their roles effectively, this should ensure that Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices are implemented.

The communities living in and around each FMU area are a key group of stakeholders. FORCLIME supports community efforts to manage the forests, for which permissions have been granted by the Government. FMUs are expected to provide the services that communities need to develop and establish sustainable forest management in accordance with local traditions.

A Forest Management Unit (FMU) is an operational unit responsible for an area of manageable and controllable size predominantly covered by forests. The FMU has clear economic, social and ecological management objectives and a long-term management plan closely related to the main forest functions (e.g. protection and production) considering the resources available. Operational and administrative tasks are determined by long-term management objectives coordinated with forest managers (commercial companies, communities, state forest companies) and other relevant stakeholders.

The FMU is a legally established entity with clearly and permanently demarcated boundaries. It is responsible for ensuring that legal provisions are met, all functions and services of the forests in the area are maintained and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is implemented.

This is achieved by:

- Approving and monitoring the forest management plans and operations of private forest managers.
- Providing advice/ services, approving and monitoring forest management plans and forest operations carried out by local communities.
- Directly managing forests not given to third parties for management (FMU-implemented operations).
- Helping to resolve overlapping claims that cause conflicts and may threaten forest functions.

Where there are plans to convert forestland to other types of land use, the FMU provides its expertise to higher forest authorities to ensure that the decision-making process considers ecological, social and economic functions of the forests in responsibility of FMU.

Achievements

- The provinces and districts have harmonized their plans for the various FMU areas.
- The forest areas of the district FMUs have been identified and approved by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.
- The FMU concept and general organizational structure of the units have been socialized within government institutions and the public.
- The organizational FMU setup is implemented as a basis for human resource development.
- Community based forest management schemes apply for approval, start participatory resource and boundary mapping and managing of the forest areas.
- Conflict resolution mechanisms are in place, mediation processes contribute to the settlement of community-related disputes.
- Women's needs in respect of the use of forest resources have been analyzed and integrated into FORCLIME's activities.



Forests and Climate Change (FORCLIME)

FORCLIME is Forests and Climate Change Programme, a bilateral programme of the German and Indonesia governments, consists of Technical Cooperation (TC) and Financial Cooperation (FC).

FORCLIME TC, a programme implemented by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and GIZ, and funded through the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

In 2007, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the most widely, inter-governmentally agreed definition of **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**:

“Sustainable forest management as a dynamic and evolving concept aims to maintain and enhance the economic, social and environmental values of all types of forests, for the benefit of present and future generations.”

SFM has seven elements:

- Extent of forest resources
- Forest biological diversity
- Forest health and vitality
- Productive functions of forest resources
- Protective functions of forest resources
- Socio-economic functions of forests
- Legal, policy and institutional framework.

(Source: UN 2008, Resolution 62/98, non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests)

Next steps

- ... in providing data as needed for planning procedures is further supporting inventory procedures and resource assessment.
- ... in operationalization of FMUs is the development of annual workplans derived from long- and medium-term planning.
- ... in creating the prerequisites for business activities of FMUs a regulatory framework for financial transactions and transparent accounting of revenues has to be developed.
- ... to contribute to clarification of the role of FMU is to commission FMU personnel with their relevant tasks as well as inform all relevant stakeholders accordingly.
- ... to increase the share of communities benefitting from forest management is to further support applications for and implementation of social forestry schemes.
- ... to develop and promote best practice and standard operating procedures is to enhance cooperation among FMUs on provincial level.

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