



# Laws and Best Practices for Reducing Fire and Haze

Wednesday, 30 August 2017 | Aryaduta Hotel, Pekanbaru, Riau

## Background and objectives

Forest, land and peat fires are overwhelmingly driven by economic forces, as fires are the most cost-effective means of land clearing. Illegal land transactions assist in speeding such processes, with fires an important tool in clearing land to prepare areas for plantation crops as mechanised land clearing exists, but with prohibitive costs. There are a number of laws, regulations and policies prohibiting the use of fire and the development of plantations on peatlands, but patronage, unclear spatial plans and fragile civil society participation in decision-making hinder their effectiveness. Perhaps due to the ineffectiveness of these laws, in Indonesia fires have continued on in 2017.

There is a sense of urgency among governments to address fires on the peatlands of Sumatra, Kalimantan and Papua. This is demonstrated by targets set by President Joko Widodo, and Indonesia's ratification of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in September 2014. At the same time, the private sector is taking initiative to address fires. New ISPO (Indonesian Sustainable Palm Oil) standards for a presidential regulation (Perpres) are being drafted. However, fires and the resulting haze are occurring in 2017 as reported in the media, including people intentionally burning forest and land to plant crops.

CIFOR's DFID-funded Knowfor (Forestry Knowledge) sub-project "The Political Economy of Fire and Haze" aims at (1) equipping national and sub-national actors with knowledge to effectively reduce fires and haze; and (2) supporting common action of ASEAN country members to achieve a vision of a haze-free ASEAN by 2020 through facilitating dialogue. In this regard, the policy dialogue will discuss fires, haze, peat and palm oil laws at the national and local levels. The role of local laws (PERDA) to strengthen national laws as well as the capacity to enforce laws, institutions and landscape governance will be discussed. Disagreement among land-based actors on, among others, government regulation (PP) no. 57 and the palm oil bill draft will be on the agenda. The dialogue will also bring best practices from communities, companies and projects to common discussion. What people in ASEAN member countries can do to reduce fires will be examined.

To obtain multistakeholder perspectives on how the implementation of laws and best practices can reduce

fires and haze, a one-day national policy dialogue will be conducted. The overall objective of the dialogue is to maximize opportunities provided by the Indonesian legal system both at national and sub-national levels to reduce fires and share lessons learned from best practices. The dialogue will be coordinated by CIFOR in collaboration with University of Riau.

## Expected outputs

The policy dialogue is expected to have the following outputs: (a) Developing ways to effectively strengthen laws to reduce fires and haze, (b) Communicate best practices from communities and companies, and how to scale them out and up, (c) Create and support common action among the ASEAN member countries and that those actions are followed up.

## Participants and speakers

Participants and speakers will hail from central and local governments, business, CSOs/NGOs, academia and the UK delegation and ASEAN secretariat. Ministry of Environment and Forestry (MOEF) and National Board for Disaster Management (BNPB) will represent the central government, while local government representatives will be represented by those from Riau. Business associations like GAPKI (Indonesian Palm Oil Association) and APHI (Indonesian Association for Forest Concession Holders) will be invited. Local communities and MPA (fire concerned communities) from Riau, South Sumatra and Central Kalimantan will join. CSOs/NGOs such as JIKALAHARI (Riau Forest Rescue Working Network), JMGR (Riau Peat Community Network), WALHI (Indonesian Forum for the Environment), CSF (Conservation Strategic Fund), TNC and WWF will be invited. LAM-Riau (Riau-Malay Adat Organization) will represent adat communities.

## Venue, time and agenda

The dialogue will take place at the Aryaduta Hotel in Pekanbaru, Riau Province – an area prone to fire and haze events.

The dialog will be conducted in Bahasa Indonesian. Organiser provides SIS (simultaneous interpreting system – the language translation tool) along with its interpreter during the event.

Registration:  
[bit.ly/2vNeqv9](http://bit.ly/2vNeqv9)

Contact:  
Meutia Isty  
[CIFOR-FireHaze@cgiar.org](mailto:CIFOR-FireHaze@cgiar.org) | 0812 9539 8851

[bit.ly/2uHWldJ](http://bit.ly/2uHWldJ)



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