A new paradigm for forest research and development on the world stage

Change is constant; however, disruptive change could leave significant and lasting impacts on research and development. Drivers of disruptive change include natural disasters, conflict, migration and rapid urbanization, financial instability, as well as political flux and technological advancement.

Civil society organizations, partners and funders need to deal with shifts in the development of research and development landscape, and to understand the realities of working in an environment characterized by disruptive change. Within organizations, disruptive change can demand new organization missions or ways of operating. Its impacts are often most immediately felt through budget constraints, changing donor priorities, staff changes, or rapidly evolving technology. Disruption isn’t inherently negative, it can provide space for innovation, but adapting to disruptive change demands support and skills.
A NEW PARADIGM

A paradigm shift in the forest sector is occurring, moving from wood-based management to recognizing the contribution and importance of three aspects: social, economic, and ecological. However, almost every aspect of forestry is touched by political activity, and in Indonesia, the government takes a role in forestry research and development. To further this work, the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) have initiated a new platform for collaboration, promotion and adoption of scientific work.

SOCIAL FORESTRY IN INDONESIA

In terms of social forestry, the Government of Indonesia has made corrective measures and policies, resulting in a significant reduction of deforestation and reduced forestland conflicts. Despite those results, tropical forest management in Indonesia is complex, and deforestation and forest degradation are still big challenges for the forestry sector. Many factors contribute to deforestation and forest degradation, including the social or financial welfare of communities located near forest areas, who want more access to forest resources; and tenure conflicts, which can lead to land grabbing. Another challenge is the large-scale industrial sector, which still needs to improve their community welfare and forest sustainability efforts.

The Indonesian social forestry program began in 1984 and is one of the government’s most championed initiatives. In 2016, President Joko Widodo highlighted social forestry through the Nawacita program – a scheme to achieve greater economic self-reliance by allowing local people to manage 12.7 million hectares of forest, which led to communities partnering on collaborative forest management, as well as connecting communities with financing entities, such as banks, and empowering forest extension agents.

Moreover, social forestry is promoted as an inclusive way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through climate mitigation initiative, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

Challenges the panel will cover include:
1. Socialization process of social forestry;
2. Communication of forest tenure reforms;
3. Implementation of forest tenure reforms and their effects on tenure security;
4. Research needed on various alternative social forestry models that can be developed for specific areas.

Discussion points include:
1. What is the current situation of the social forestry program?
2. How can parties be sure that communities have enough access to forests for a successful social forestry scheme?
EVENT VENUE AND AGENDA

Then, the brown bag discussion, “Four years of challenges (2015 – 2018) social forestry and forestland tenure in Indonesia” will take place. The two-hour interactive discussion will feature expert speakers giving seven-minute presentations followed by a moderator-led group discussion.

“A new paradigm collaboration of forest research and development on the world stage” will be held on Tuesday, 26 February 2019 in the Global Forestry Hall, CIFOR headquarters, at 08.30 – 13.00 pm.

In this occasion, H.E. Minister Siti Nurbaya will deliver the keynote remarks, which will address the new paradigm of research and development, as well as Indonesian forest management. Following the opening remarks, a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

To further forestry research in the country, the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and CIFOR will convene to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Forestry and Environmental Research Development and Innovation Agency of the Government of Indonesia (FOERDIA) and CIFOR.

International Tropical Peatlands Center

Another important agenda item is the launching of International Tropical Peatlands Center (ITPC) interim secretariat office, which will be located at the CIFOR Bogor campus.

The ITPC is set to open its doors in 2019 with the mission of bringing researchers, governments, civil society and other stakeholders together to ensure the conservation and sustainable management of peatlands throughout Southeast Asia, the Congo Basin and Peru.
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>08.00 – 08.30</td>
<td>Registration at Global Forestry Hall CIFOR</td>
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<td>08.30 – 09.00</td>
<td>Opening by MC&lt;br&gt;Indonesian anthem&lt;br&gt;Opening prayer&lt;br&gt;Introductory remarks by Dr Robert Nasi&lt;br&gt;CIFOR Director General&lt;br&gt;Keynote remarks by HE Siti Nurbaya&lt;br&gt;Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister</td>
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<td>09.00 – 09.30</td>
<td>Signing of MoU on scientific and technical cooperation between FOERDIA, Ministry of Environment and Forestry of the Republic of Indonesia and CIFOR&lt;br&gt;Launching of the ITPC interim secretariat office&lt;br&gt;Recognizing FOERDIA as the best research and development agency&lt;br&gt;Group photo</td>
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<td>09.30 – 10.00</td>
<td>Ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the official opening of the ITPC interim secretariat office</td>
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<td>09.30 – 10.00</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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| 10.00 – 11.30 | Brown bag discussion:<br>Social forestry and forestland tenure in Indonesia: Four years of challenges (2015 – 2018)<br>
Moderator:<br>Dr Zahrul Muttaqien (forest policy expert)<br>Panelists:<br>Dr Bambang Supriyanto (Director General PSKL MoEF), Dr Sri Suharti (FOERDIA), Dr Ani Adiwinata Nawir (CIFOR), Dr Lukas Rumboko (FOERDIA), HKM Kali Biru Jogyakarta (social forestry practitioner) |
| 11.30 – 12.30 | Lunch  * VIP at Amazon meeting room                                                                                     |