Continue Multi-stakeholder Engagement Process to Find Solutions

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Golden Agri-Resources (GAR) is the world's second largest palm oil plantation company with a total planted area of 457,000 hectares (including smallholders) with integrated operations focused on the production of palm-based edible oil and fat products.

Since the launch of the FCP, GAR, together with SMART, TFT and Greenpeace, collaborated in a study to develop a practical, scientifically robust and cost effective methodology to define and identify areas of HCS for conservation. Ultimately, the conserved HCS area can revert to its natural ecological function as a forest. Under this study, fieldwork was conducted and measured 431 plots in four of GAR's concessions in Central and West Kalimantan from first quarter to last quarter of 2011.

The study categorised areas into different strata based on measurements of carbon in the above ground biomass. The study found that six strata could be identified and these correlated with different average carbon stocks. These are:

- **High Density Forest (HK3)** – Remnant forest or advanced secondary forest close to primary condition. Average 192 tC/ha;
- **Medium Density Forest (HK2)** – Remnant forest but more disturbed than High Density Forest. Average 166 tC/ha;
- **Low Density Forest (HK1)** – Appears to be remnant forest but highly disturbed and recovering (may contain plantation/mixed garden). Average 107 tC/ha;
- **Old Scrub (BT)** – Mostly young re-growth forest, but with occasional patches of older forest within the stratum. Average 60 tC/ha;
- **Young Scrub (BM)** – Recently cleared areas, some woody regrowth and grass-like ground cover. Average 27 tC/ha;
- **Cleared/Open Land (LT)** – Very recently cleared land with mostly grass or crops, few woody plants. Average 17 tC/ha.

In line with GAR's multi-stakeholder engagement process, GAR, SMART, TFT and Greenpeace have been consulting key government institutions. Hence, the HCS Forest Study Report was released in conjunction with the REDD+ Task Force seminar titled "Green Practices of Land-Based Industries in Reducing Carbon Emissions" on 5 June 2012. The REDD+ Task Force, together with other government bodies, are working to fulfil the Indonesian President's commitment to reduce emissions by 26% by 2020.

GAR, SMART, TFT and Greenpeace intend to hold wider discussions with representatives from the Government of Indonesia, civil society organisations, local and indigenous communities, key growers and other stakeholders in the Indonesian palm oil industry, to gather feedback on the study and the outcomes. More dialogue is also needed to focus on the ways to up-scale this HCS forest mapping process to regional or national levels, as well as the options on how to conserve, manage and protect areas designated as HCS forests.

Upon gathering the required input and feedback from all stakeholders and with guidance from the REDD+ Task Force, GAR intends to develop its action plans for how it will proceed further with this methodology and will announce this in due course.

GAR is focused on playing a leading role in developing a strong multi-stakeholder platform guided by the REDD+ Task Force to find solutions to conserve the forests, create much needed employment and ensure long-term sustainable growth of the palm oil industry which is a vital part of the Indonesian economy.