Challenges and Lessons Learnt on Biodiversity and HCV Issues from the Growers Perspective

by Calley Beamish

wilmar

Conservation challenges in Indonesia
1. Land:

- HCV areas are not recognised by Indonesian government in agricultural land (*APL/* non-forest other land purpose).

- Conflict between law and with RSPO Biodiversity P and C. (P 5.2)

- Conservation areas considered as idle land and can be taken back by the government whether its status is *Ijin lokasi* or *HGU.*

wilmar
We Invest • You Harvest

Conservation challenges in Indonesia
2. Plasma and compensation:

- Communities expect plasma for HCV areas released.
- Communities do not want to receive lower compensation for HCV areas.
- Releasing large HCV areas requires huge financial commitment by the company.
- Compensation via desa or individuals? Need government facilitation.
- Without compensation- high challenges to protect and take action on illegal activities and prevent clearance by communities.

wilmar
We Invest · You Harvest

Conservation challenges in Indonesia
## 3. HCV identification and assessments

- Costly and time consuming and *Ijin Lokasi* is only applicable for **3** years.
- HCV mis-identification and map artifacts.
- Vast differences in HCV assessment quality and interpretations by consultants.
- Management plans from consultants often academic and not practical and very little guidance on implementation.
- HCV 5 and 6 issues as HCV 5 is dynamic and the communities have changing values and needs.
- Some communities reject HCV concept.

wilmar
We Invest · You Harvest

Conservation challenges in Indonesia
4. HCV Management.

- Compensation to communities does not guarantee protection against clearance and illegal activities by local communities.
- Inadequate support and action from Local Authorities for illegal activities especially mining.
- Overlapping HCV values and co-management with HCV5 is a big challenge due to non-sustainable use of resources. Once activities are considered non-sustainable the value is lost.
- Intensive conservation management such as habitat enrichment is a great deviation from op business and may conflict financial viability.

Large scale illegal mining Central Kalimantan
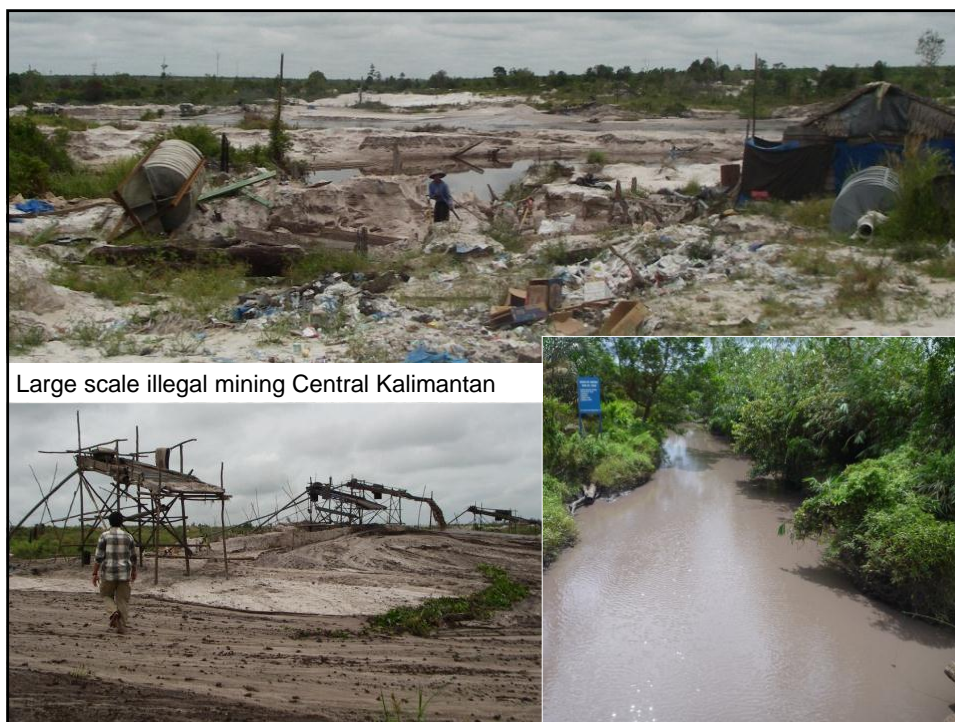
Conservation challenges in Indonesia
5. HCV Monitoring.

- Limited practical guidance on monitoring.
- Most op companies lack expertise/ specialists to guide practical implementation.
- Dedicated staff extra expense so HCV PIC double up on roles then not so effective.
- Sustainability roles often seen as a dead end careers- can cause high turnover.
- Plantations tend not to monitor how effective the monitoring is.
- RSPO auditors overstep line to a role of consultants during audit process and plantations have to comply.

wilmar
We Invest • You Harvest

Lessons learnt

- HCV management plans and monitoring records are necessary to show active management of HCV areas to prove the land is not idle.
- Continual engagement with local and provincial government is vital for verification and recognition of HCV.
- Partnering with governments, NGOs and research institutions is essential and achieves greater success.
- Continual engagement with communities.

wilmar
We Invest • You Harvest

Lessons learnt 2

- Aerial photography highly useful in HCV management and monitoring change.
- Employing teams of HCV staff with staff numbers relevant to biodiversity and threat levels.
- Continual HCV training necessary.
- Annual updating and tweaking of monitoring systems necessary based on the feedback of field monitoring.
- Sustainability structures must ensure sufficient career opportunities to retain staff.
- Higher management support ensures success.

wilmar
We Invest • You Harvest

Good practices 1

- Partnering with governments, NGOs and academic institutions.
- Education programmes with staff, workers and local communities.
- Tree nurseries for HCV enhancement and enrichment planting.
- Orangutan nest census surveys to manage and monitor any orangutan populations.
- Review of species specific management plans by relevant consultants.

wilmar
We Invest • You Harvest

Orangutan Education Programme YAYORIN, BKSDA and Wilmar

47 orangutan food plants species –Central Kalimantan

HCV enrichment programmes in Indonesia and Malaysia

Type	Partner	Project
Government	**Sabah Forestry Department.**	5 year Riparian Management Project Sabahmas Plantation, Malaysia. *2009-2014.*
	Sabah Wildlife Department.	Honorary Wildlife Wardens, Sabahmas Plantation and Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Malaysia. *Ongoing.*
NGOs and multi-parties	**BACP- Zoological Society London, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI).**	*2009-2011:*BACP ZSL-Wilmar project on "Increasing the effectiveness of the implementation of biodiversity P&C." *2012:* Development of monitoring protocols and a software programme which will provide HCV monitoring tools to effectively monitor HCV areas in oil palm.
	Central Kalimantan Government and BOSF.	Orangutan Best Management Practices Project. *May 2011-December 2012.*

Signing of the MoU with the State Government 2009.

Riparian project using advanced pruning to allow light in for natural regeneration to compliment tree planting.

HONORARY WILDLIFE WARDENS

ZSL-Wilmar deliverables Project 2009-2011

ZSL-Wilmar Project 2012

Good practices- 2

- Patrol monitoring.
- Biodiversity tree plots for long term monitoring.
- Camera trap monitoring- along trails or in grids for more accurate species monitoring.
- Six monthly rapid biodiversity assessments.
- Conservation education programmes with local schools.
- Research by students from local and international universities and institutions on biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Type	Partner	Project
Research Institutions	South East Asian Rainforest Research Programme, International and Malaysian and Indonesia Universities.	**Universities (MSc, PhD and Post-Doc students)** *Malaysia:* Cambridge University, York University, University of Cumbria, Swansea University and the University of Malaysia Sabah. **Projects-** **3 year Darwin initiative project-** "Developing tools for reducing biodiversity losses in tropical agricultural landscapes" 2009- August 2012. **5 year Earthwatch project**- ecosystem services and biodiversity in oil palm 2010-2015. *Indonesia:* MoU Andalas University, Padang 2012. Previous MoU was under ZSL –Wilmar project.
Bankers/ Financial Institutions	HSBC Bank Malaysia	Sustainability courses to enable HSBC to practice better due diligence in order to comply with the Equator Principles 2009-2011.

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Oil Palm:
Developing tools to assist in Malaysia's drive for sustainability in palm oil

Conference held in Sabah 2011

Thank you to all partners for their collective intelligence, passion, support and commitment towards our conservation goals and objectives.