

Press Release

APRIL ignores its own sustainability policy

Jakarta, 26 March 2015 – A spatial analysis conducted by Greenomics Indonesia between January and March 2015 (*see appendix*) shows clearly that APRIL has been clearing forested peatlands on its concession on Padang island in Sumatra. Based on the terms of APRIL's Sustainable Forest Management Policy (SFMP) – which was launched on 28 January 2014 – the clearing of natural forest and forested peatlands after 31 December 2014 by APRIL-owned concessions and long-term suppliers constitutes a violation of its SFMP commitments. One of the commitments stated in the SFMP is that APRIL and its long-term supply partners will complete their plantation establishments by the end of 2014.

"The spatial evidence shows that APRIL has ignored its own sustainability policy. Whatever the reasons, APRIL has committed an embarrassing violation," said Vanda Mutia Dewi, Executive Director of Greenomics Indonesia.

Vanda urged APRIL to remain committed to its sustainability policy by immediately stopping all of its clearing operations in natural forest and forested peatland areas on APRIL-owned concessions and on the concessions of its long-term suppliers, in accordance with the promises that were made directly by the President of APRIL to the Minister of Forestry at the launch of APRIL's SFMP at the end January last year.

"This violation clearly shows that despite what has been conveyed by APRIL at various international forums, the practice on the ground deviates from its own sustainability policy. This is regrettable," Vanda said.

Furthermore, she questioned the extent to which the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) – a committee established by APRIL to monitor the implementation of its SFMP – was aware that APRIL had been clearing forested peatlands post-31 December 2014.

"Of course, the SAC needs to clarify this to the public, and explain what they've done or recommended to APRIL," Vanda said. ***

For further discussion please email to:
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Appendix:

A spatial analysis using Landsat 8 images taken on 15 January and 4 March 2015 clearly shows that APRIL has been clearing forested peatlands on the PT RAPP concession on Padang island post 31 December 2014.

