



## SIARAN PERS

### Organisasi Masyarakat Sipil Indonesia Desak Uni Eropa Perhitungkan Krisis Deforestasi di Papua dalam Sistem Benchmarking EUDR

**Jakarta** – Dua puluh dua organisasi masyarakat sipil Indonesia telah mengirimkan surat kepada para pejabat tinggi Uni Eropa pada Jumat (28/2/2025) untuk menyampaikan kekhawatiran atas semakin parahnya kondisi hutan hujan di Papua Barat dengan ancaman deforestasi 2 juta hektar hutan serta meningkatnya ancaman terhadap masyarakat adat Malind dan Yei di wilayah tersebut.

Surat ini ditujukan kepada Teresa Ribera, Wakil Presiden Eksekutif untuk Transisi Bersih, Adil, dan Kompetitif, Kaja Kallas, Perwakilan Tinggi untuk Urusan Luar Negeri dan Kebijakan Keamanan serta Wakil Presiden Komisi Eropa, Jessica Roswall, Komisararis untuk Lingkungan, Ketahanan Air, dan Ekonomi Sirkular Kompetitif, Jozef Sikela, Komisararis untuk Kemitraan Internasional dan Maroš Šefčovič, Komisararis untuk Keamanan Perdagangan dan Ekonomi, Hubungan Antar Lembaga, dan Transparansi.

Dalam surat tersebut, organisasi masyarakat sipil meminta Komisi Eropa untuk secara serius mempertimbangkan krisis deforestasi dan ancaman terhadap hak-hak masyarakat adat di Papua dalam proses penilaian risiko negara dan bagian-bagiannya dalam skema Benchmarking Regulasi Deforestasi Uni

## PRESS RELEASE

### Indonesian Civil Society Organizations Urge the European Union to Consider the Deforestation Crisis in Papua in the EUDR Benchmarking System

**Jakarta** – Twenty-two Indonesian civil society organizations have sent a letter to European Union Commissioners to express their concerns over the worsening condition of Papua's rainforests on Friday (28/2/2025). The region faces the threat of deforestation of 2 million hectares of forest, alongside increasing risks to the Indigenous Malind and Yei communities.

The letter was addressed to Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice President for a Clean, Fair, and Competitive Transition; Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice President of the European Commission; Jessica Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience, and the Competitive Circular Economy; Jozef Sikela, Commissioner for International Partnerships; and Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations, and Transparency.

In the letter, the civil society organizations urges the European Commission to seriously consider the deforestation crisis and threats to Indigenous rights in Papua as part of its country risk assessment within the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR) benchmarking system. Under this scheme, the EU will classify countries or regions as

Eropa (EUDR). Berdasarkan skema ini, Uni Eropa akan mengklasifikasikan negara atau wilayah sebagai berisiko rendah, standar, atau tinggi terhadap deforestasi dan pelanggaran hak asasi manusia. Penetapan ini harus dilakukan sebelum 30 Juni 2025.

Pasal 29 EUDR menyatakan bahwa penilaian risiko harus mempertimbangkan tingkat deforestasi dan ekspansi lahan pertanian. Lebih lanjut, Pasal 29(4)(d) mengharuskan Komisi Eropa untuk memperhitungkan keberadaan undang-undang yang melindungi hak asasi manusia, hak masyarakat adat, penanganan korupsi, serta transparansi dari data-data yang dibutuhkan dalam memenuhi ketentuan EUDR.

**“Kami mendesak Komisi Eropa untuk memastikan bahwa Pasal 29(4)(d) diterapkan secara konsisten dan ketat di semua negara dan wilayah, termasuk Papua Barat. Tanpa pendekatan yang ketat terhadap perlindungan hutan dan masyarakat adat, skema EUDR berisiko gagal mencapai tujuannya dalam mencegah deforestasi dan pelanggaran hak asasi manusia dalam rantai pasok global,”** ujar Andi Muttaqien, Direktur Eksekutif Satya Bumi.

[Laporan](#) yang sebelumnya telah disampaikan kepada Komisi Eropa pada tahun 2024 yang didukung lebih dari 30 organisasi masyarakat sipil di Indonesia memperjelas bagaimana ekspansi industri perkebunan skala besar di Papua telah mengancam kelestarian ekosistem serta hak-hak masyarakat adat yang bergantung pada hutan. Papua merupakan salah satu

low, standard, or high risk for deforestation and human rights violations, with classifications to be determined before June 30, 2025.

Article 29 of the EUDR states that the risk assessment must take into account deforestation rates and agricultural land expansion. Furthermore, Article 29(4)(d) requires the European Commission to consider the existence of laws protecting human rights, Indigenous rights, anti-corruption measures, and transparency in data necessary to comply with the EUDR.

**“We urge the European Commission to ensure that Article 29(4)(d) is applied consistently and strictly across all countries and regions, including West Papua. Without a rigorous approach to forest and Indigenous rights protection, the EUDR framework risks failing to achieve its goal of preventing deforestation and human rights violations in global supply chains,”** said Andi Muttaqien, Executive Director of Satya Bumi.

A [report](#) previously submitted to the European Commission in 2024—supported by more than 30 Indonesian civil society organizations—clearly outlined how the expansion of large-scale plantations in Papua threatens both ecosystem sustainability and the rights of Indigenous communities who depend on the forests. Papua holds one of the largest remaining reserves of natural forests designated for plantation industries in Indonesia, covering more than 2 million hectares—1.9 million of

pemegang cadangan hutan alam untuk industri perkebunan di Indonesia seluas lebih dari 2 juta hektar—1,9 juta diantaranya hanya untuk komoditas kelapa sawit dan kayu. Oleh karena itu, organisasi masyarakat sipil mendesak Uni Eropa untuk memastikan bahwa klasifikasi risiko dalam skema benchmarking EUDR mempertimbangkan kerentanan Papua atas deforestasi dimana hal ini mencerminkan realitas di lapangan.

Direktur Yayasan Pusaka Bentala Rakyat Franky Samperante menegaskan pembabatan hutan Papua jelas melanggar hak-hak masyarakat adat di sekitar konsesi terutama masyarakat adat Malind dan Yei.

**“Uni Eropa sepatutnya bisa mempertimbangkan kondisi perusakan kehidupan, perampasan hak atas ekonomi, pecah belah sosial di beberapa Distrik di Papua Selatan termasuk intimidasi militer. Konsumsi bersih Eropa jangan hanya bersih dari perusakan hutan, tetapi juga bersih dari perusakan martabat manusia,”** ujarnya.

Proyek mega deforestasi besar di Papua ini menetapkan lahan seluas 1.5 juta ha untuk sawah dan 500 ribu ha untuk perkebunan tebu. Meski kedua komoditas tersebut tidak termasuk dalam EUDR, namun kami melihat terdapat potensi kayu hasil babatan hutan tersebut masuk ke pasar Eropa. Lebih lanjut, potensi deforestasi dihitung dari keseluruhan angka bukaan hutan—tidak hanya berpatok pada ketujuh komoditas yang dicangkupi EUDR.

which are allocated solely for palm oil and timber commodities.

For this reason, the organizations urging the European Union to ensure that the risk classification under the EUDR benchmarking scheme reflects the vulnerability of Papua to deforestation, aligning with the realities on the ground.

Franky Samperante, Director of the Pusaka Bentala Rakyat Foundation, emphasized that forest clearing in Papua clearly violates the rights of Indigenous communities living within and around plantation concessions, particularly the Malind and Yei peoples.

**“The European Union must consider the destruction of livelihoods, the economic dispossession, and the social fragmentation occurring in several districts in South Papua, including the intimidation by military forces. Europe's clean consumption should not only be free from deforestation but also free from the destruction of human dignity,”** he said.

The large-scale deforestation project in Papua designates 1.5 million hectares for rice fields and 500,000 hectares for sugarcane plantations. Although these two commodities are not included in the EUDR, there is a risk that timber from forest clearing could enter the European market. Furthermore, deforestation potential should be assessed based on the total forest area cleared—not just the seven commodities covered by the EUDR.

Riset yang dilakukan Satya Bumi, et. al., memperlihatkan batas atas perkebunan sawit di Indonesia menggunakan perhitungan Daya Dukung dan Daya Tampung Lingkungan Hidup adalah [18.1](#) juta ha. Sedangkan perkebunan kelapa sawit Indonesia saat ini adalah [17.7](#) juta ha. Dengan ambisi Prabowo Subianto untuk membuka perkebunan pangan dan energi sebesar [20](#) juta ha, hal ini tentu akan secara kilat mendeforestasi Papua sebagai hutan alam terluas terakhir di Indonesia.

Komisi Uni Eropa harus mampu memaksimalkan penggunaan EUDR untuk menghentikan laju deforestasi dan melindungi masyarakat adat. Surat ini secara khusus meminta Uni Eropa untuk:

1. **Memberikan fokus khusus atas potensi deforestasi di Papua** yang terhubung dengan perkebunan pangan dan energi, termasuk minimnya pelibatan masyarakat sebagai potensi pelanggaran hak asasi manusia.
2. **Meminta Dewan Hak Asasi Manusia PBB dan badan-badan terkait lainnya untuk menyelidiki** apakah situasi di Papua Barat merupakan pelanggaran terhadap kewajiban hak asasi manusia internasional Indonesia.
3. **Mendukung Indonesia dalam menemukan cara-cara berkelanjutan untuk meningkatkan ketahanan pangan dan energi**, termasuk meningkatkan produktivitas pertanian di lahan yang ada, mengurangi pemborosan

Research conducted by Satya Bumi and others shows that the maximum sustainable plantation area for oil palm in Indonesia, based on the country's Environmental Carrying Capacity, is [18.1](#) million hectares. Currently, Indonesia's oil palm plantations cover [17.7](#) million hectares. With President-elect Prabowo Subianto's ambition to open [20](#) million hectares of land for food and energy plantations, Papua—Indonesia's largest remaining natural forest—faces the risk of rapid deforestation.

The European Commission must maximize the use of the EUDR to halt deforestation and protect Indigenous communities. This letter specifically calls on the EU to:

1. **Prioritize the risk of deforestation in Papua** related to food and energy plantations, including the lack of community involvement, which constitutes a potential human rights violation.
2. **Request the UN Human Rights Council and other relevant bodies to investigate** whether the situation in West Papua constitutes a violation of Indonesia's international human rights obligations.
3. **Support Indonesia in finding sustainable ways to enhance food and energy security**, including increasing agricultural productivity on existing land, reducing food waste, and prioritizing the use of degraded land for expansion.

makanan, dan memprioritaskan penggunaan lahan terdegradasi untuk perluasan.

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**February 28, 2025**

**To: The European Commission Rue de la  
Loi 200, 1049 Brussels**

For the Special Attention of:

Ms. Teresa Ribera, Executive Vice President for a Clean, Just and Competitive Transition

Ms. Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission

Ms. Jessica Roswall, Commissioner for Environment, Water Resilience and a Competitive Circular Economy

Mr. Jozef Síkela, Commissioner for International Partnerships

Mr. Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security, Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency,

Dear Commissioners Ribera, Kallas, Roswall, Síkela, and Šefčovič,

We, the undersigned 22 Indonesian civil society organizations, work across diverse areas, including Indigenous peoples' rights, human rights, and environmental protection. We write to express our concerns regarding the worsening state of West Papua's rainforests and the escalating threats to Indigenous communities, as detailed in the [report](#) we shared with you in 2024 and further summarized in the attached appendix.

We urge the European Commission to fully take into consideration these pressing issues in the ongoing benchmarking assessment of regional and country risk, as part of the EUDR benchmarking system to classify countries or regions as "low, standard, or high risk" by June 30, 2025, based on their compliance with deforestation, forest degradation, human rights, and legality requirements.

Of particular relevance, Article 29 of the EUDR emphasizes that risk assessments must take into account deforestation rates and agricultural expansion, while Article 29(4)(d) mandates the consideration of laws protecting human rights, Indigenous peoples' rights, and local communities, along with the transparency of relevant data.

As such, we respectfully call on the Commission to ensure that Article 29(4)(d) is consistently and rigorously applied across all countries and regions, including West Papua.

Thank you for your time. We remain available for further discussion and look forward to your

response.

Sincerely,

Andi Muttaqien, Executive Director, Satya Bumi Franky

Samperante, Executive Director, PUSAKA

Alexandro F. Rangga OFM, Director, JPIC OFM Papua

Harry Woersok, Director, Perkumpulan Petrus Vertenten MSC - Papua Tommy

Pratama, Executive Director, Traction Energy Asia

Amalya Reza Oktaviani, Program Manager, Trend Asia

Uli Arta Siagian, Forest and Plantation Campaign Manager, Friends of The Earth Indonesia - WALHI

Sabarudin, Chairman, Palm Oil Smallholder Farmer Union - SPKS Tata

Mustasya, Executive Director, SUSTAIN

Achmad Surambo, Executive Director, Sawit Watch Agus

Sutomo, Executive Director, Teraju Foundation Linda

Rosalina, Executive Director, TuK INDONESIA

Muhammad Isnur, Chair Indonesia Legal Aid Foundation - YLBHI

Ahmad Mustafad Vauzi, Program Manager, Institute for Policy Research and Advocacy - ELSAM

Abdullah, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth Jambi

Muhammad Ichwan, Executive Director, Independent Forest Monitoring Network - JPIK

Rahmat Maulana Sidik, Executive Director, Indonesia for Global Justice - IGJ Giorgio

Budi Indrarto, Deputy Director, Madani Berkelanjutan

Agung Wibowo, Executive Director, Perkumpulan HuMa Mufti Ode,

Executive Director, Forest Watch Indonesia

Ahmad Syukuri, Executive Director, Link-AR Borneo West Kalimantan Andi

Rahman, Executive Director, Friends of the Earth Southeast Sulawesi

## APPENDIX: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION TO SUPPORT WEST PAPUA

### A. Deforestation Trends in West Papua: A Growing Crisis

Over the past two decades, West Papua has lost or degraded more than 800,000 hectares of forest. While deforestation rates across Indonesia declined after 2015, the opposite occurred in West Papua, particularly under President Joko Widodo's administration.

[According to Greenpeace](#), 40% of Indonesia's palm oil-related deforestation since 2015 has taken place in West Papua. Research by PUSAKA, an Indonesian civil society organization advocating for Indigenous rights in Papua, found that the [deforestation rate from 2010-2019](#) more than doubled compared to the previous decade. Alarming, an additional 1.9 million hectares of forest in West Papua have already been allocated as concessions for palm oil and timber, signaling further destruction.

President Prabowo, within his first days in office, visited Merauke, South Papua, to promote the National Strategic Project (PSN) for the Merauke Food and Energy Zone. This initiative aims to convert approximately two million hectares of primary forests, mangroves, savannas, and swamps—home to Indigenous Papuans—into industrial agricultural zones, including 1.5 million hectares for rice fields and 500,000 hectares for sugarcane plantations controlled by fewer than ten corporations. This aligns with his administration's broader ambition to open [20 million](#) hectares of land for energy transition and food security, primarily through palm oil plantations.

However, research by Satya Bumi et al. estimates that Indonesia's palm oil plantations are already near their maximum capacity, with [17.77 million hectares](#) in use out of a projected upper limit of [18.1 million hectares](#).

In a troubling development, President Prabowo has deployed approximately 3,000 TNI personnel to secure the Merauke project. Human rights defenders from the Malind and Yei Indigenous communities, who have opposed the project, have faced [threats and intimidation](#) from the Indonesian military.

Furthermore, [the legality of forest release and business permits for ten companies involved in the proposed sugarcane plantations remains in question](#). Historically, natural resource extraction projects in West Papua have been riddled with legal irregularities, including failure to conduct full environmental impact assessments as required by Indonesian law and non-compliance with international Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles.



Indonesian human rights defenders who criticize these policies face regular harassment. [The criminalization of Fatia Maulidiyanti and Haris Azhar](#) exemplifies the government's efforts to silence dissent. Investments that marginalize Indigenous communities have further fueled the region's long standing armed conflict, with the Indonesian military suspected of [committing crimes against humanity against civilians](#).

## **B. The EU's Role in Addressing Deforestation and Human Rights Violations**

Although rice and sugarcane are not currently covered under the EUDR, [conversion of timber from deforested areas](#) is entering global markets. The Merauke Food and Energy Estates highlight how large-scale agricultural and forest-commodity projects in West Papua contribute to widespread deforestation, severe human rights violations, and regulatory failures. These issues are also prevalent in other large developments in the region, particularly [palm oil plantations](#).

The EUDR presents a critical opportunity to curb deforestation and protect Indigenous communities in West Papua and beyond. We urge the European Commission to:

1. Raise concerns with the Indonesian government regarding ongoing deforestation in West Papua linked to food and energy estates, the lack of consultation with local communities, and the negative impact on Indonesia's ability to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.
2. Request the UN Human Rights Council and other relevant bodies to investigate whether the situation in West Papua constitutes a violation of Indonesia's international human rights obligations.
3. Support Indonesia in finding sustainable ways to enhance food and energy security, including improving agricultural productivity on existing lands, reducing food waste, and prioritizing the use of degraded lands for expansion.