

## PRESS RELEASE

Papua's natural forests facing destruction on massive scale

(Jakarta, 1 February 2011) - Greenomics Indonesia has warned that Papua's natural forests are set to be cleared on a massive scale.

Greenomics Indonesia data reveals that at least 3 million hectares of natural forest in Papua are earmarked to be cleared for the development of industrial forestry plantations (HTI) by 17 companies.

Six of these companies have benefited from special treatment by being exempted from the moratorium. A total of 1.2 million hectares of natural forest are affected.

Meanwhile, it is as yet unknown whether another 1.8 million hectares earmarked for 11 other companies will be excluded from the moratorium.

Accordingly, Greenomics Indonesia would ask the Minister of Forestry to postpone all licensing processes related to the conversion of natural forest and peatland until the relevant Presidential Instruction establishing the moratorium is issued.

The shocking predicament of Papua's natural forests was revealed by Greenomics Indonesia's Executive Director Elfian Effendi in Jakarta on Tuesday (1/2/2011).

"Of these 3 million hectares, more than 1 million will be developed as forestry plantations to supply raw materials to the pulp and paper industry. During the initial stages, natural forest will be cleared and the resulting timber used to supply raw material for the pulp and paper industry," explained Elfian.

He said that the envisaged development of industrial forestry plantations would assuredly result in the felling of natural forest on a massive scale. "It will be no different from what has happened in Riau Province," Elfian continued.

He said that it was already a fact that one forestry plantation company operating in Papua were exporting wood chips produced from timber felled as part of the natural forest clearance process.

"Can you imagine what the outcome will be if this happens to 3 million hectares of natural forest in Papua?" Elfian asked.

Greenomics Indonesia is pressing to have President Yudhoyono's proposed moratorium on the conversion of natural forest and peatland spelled out immediately through the issuance of the required Presidential Instruction.

"We must at all costs avoid a situation where the government itself creates a new and protracted period of uncertainty," Elfian concluded.