Press Release

MORATORIUM AFTER A YEAR:
COORDINATION FOR GOVERNANCE IMPROVEMENT INCREASINGLY STRENGTHENS

Jakarta, May 21 – The ongoing efforts to improve primary forest and peatland governance as mandated by Presidential Instruction (Inpres) No. 10 of 2011 on Moratorium have been steadily and certainly leading to achievement of its main objective, i.e. the creation of an integrated map of all Indonesia’s forestland and peatland (One Map). A year after the Instruction was signed, “The moratorium is effective to develop the One Map. This is a remarkable feat given the fact that in the past various governmental agencies and ministries used different maps as the basis for issuing licenses,” said Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, the Head of the President’s Delivery Unit on Development Monitoring and Oversight (Unit Kerja Presiden Bidang Pengawasan dan Pengendalian Pembangunan/UKP4), and of the REDD+ Task Force, to reporters on Monday (21/5) in Jakarta.

The governmental agencies referred to by Kuntoro are the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Land Agency, each of which has its own maps and various peatland and primary forest use licenses that are independent of one another. The results are overlapping licenses and perplexed governance, possibly leading to serious land-related conflicts. “All of these are detrimental to the economic and sustainable development in Indonesia,” Kuntoro asserted.

The Inpres 10/2011 is accompanied by an indicative map of suspension of new licenses (PIPIB) in primary and peatland in Indonesia determined by the Ministry of Forestry, with the exception of licenses issued prior to the Inpres. The map is revised every six months to improve its accuracy – resulting in the addition or the reduction of areas under the moratorium – and to strengthen coordination among the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Land Agency, the Geospatial Information Agency and the REDD+ Task Force.

“Changes in areas under the moratorium as a result of each revision, including the second one, reflect the indicative nature of the map, where each revision clarifies and improves the quality of the spatial data and information related to the existence of primary forests, protected forests and reserves, and peatland that we have received from various parties: individuals, companies and ministries/governmental agencies,” added Kuntoro.

For example, the second revision of the map excludes a village located in the mineral land of the peatland in Kapuas District, Central Kalimantan, and reincorporates the 1,605-hectare concession of PT Kalista Alam in Rawa Tripa, Nanggrooe Aceh Darussalam. Some concessions that have been issued but have not obtained area relinquishment permits (izin pelepasan kawasan) are also reincorporated into the map and will be assessed as part of improvement to forest governance and utilization.
Overall, there is an addition of 379 thousand hectares of land as a result of the addition of 862 thousand hectares and the reduction of 482 thousand hectares, so the total areas in the current map stand at 65,753,810 hectares.

In parallel with the improvement to the map, the government has also started to restructure the system to register licenses in primary forests and peatland. To achieve this, the government is developing a database on licenses.

“Accountable and transparent licensing processes provide a very important basis for developing a just and sustainable management of land and forests. Throughout the lifespan of the Inpres, we will be improving the existing licensing system by developing an integrated one,” said Kuntoro.

Furthermore, the REDD+ Task Force, in cooperation with the Attorney General, the National Police and the Ministry of Forestry, has created the Integrated Team for Law Enforcement, with the task of ensuring consistent law enforcement against encroachers (particularly in primary forests and peatland). The Team, in intensive and harmonious cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Forestry and the National Police, has most recently handled an alleged violation in Rawa Tripa. The team is also intensively investigating some cases related to plantations and mining in other regions.

The government has committed to transparently, inclusively and accountably developing forest and peatland governance. Accordingly, all parties are invited to provide input to the revision through the media provided: letters, SMSes, the internet. “For each map that we publicly publish, everyone can track the changes directly and ask us when one finds an error,” Kuntoro explained.

To improve responsiveness, in the immediate future the REDD+ Task Force will launch the SOP for public complaints related to the map.

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