

To: UNREDD Programme  
Cc: Norway's International Climate and Forest Initiative

Oslo, 10 January 2009

## **Recommendations from RFN regarding the UNREDD pilot province in Indonesia**

Please find attached a report prepared by the independent consultant Lili Hasanuddin for the Rainforest Foundation Norway (RFN). The quick assessment study was conducted in order to provide RFN with better knowledge of the situation regarding forest governance and the civil society in the region where the UNREDD Programme is considering a REDD pilot province. As the report provides valuable information on the above mentioned aspects, we hope that it can be of use to UNREDD as well.

Based on the findings presented in the report, RFN is of the opinion that **Central Sulawesi** would be the better choice between the three provinces. Central Sulawesi is by far the largest province with its 6,8 million ha (compared to 1,2 and 1,5 millions in Gorontalo and North Sulawesi respectively). The forest area is also significantly larger, 4,4 million ha in Central Sulawesi compared to less than one million ha in the two others.

At the same time, the pressure on the forest in Central Sulawesi is high, and the drivers of deforestation are more representative in an Indonesian context (mining, oil palm and transmigration). In order to generate useful models which can later be scaled up, it is important that the situation in the pilot province mirror the existing challenges in other areas of Indonesia.

The civil society is strong in Central Sulawesi compared to Gorontalo and North Sulawesi. Furthermore, the interaction between NGOs and the government has improved over time, and there is now a positive attitude towards multi-stakeholder processes from all sides. RFN believes that a successful REDD pilot province depends on real participatory processes involving all relevant parties at all stages of the process, from planning to implementation.

We are therefore pleased to see the UNREDD's proposal of a multi-stakeholder expert committee to be involved in the selection of a pilot province. For the future process, it is of outmost importance that also local communities are informed and allowed to participate in the implementation of REDD. Unless the local communities feel that their voices are being heard, and develop ownership to the mechanisms and a real interest in protecting their surrounding forest, REDD initiatives are likely to fail. In order to reach out to these communities, NGOs and indigenous peoples' organizations play a crucial role. This point further favors Central Sulawesi's candidature.

Yours sincerely,

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