

**OPENING REMARKS OF COUNTRY DIRECTOR ON  
THE LAUNCHING OF THE 2012 INDONESIA FOREST,  
LAND AND REDD+ GOVERNANCE INDEX**

*Hotel Le Meridien Jakarta, 6 May 2013*

Your Excellency, Bapak Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head of UKP4 and Presidential Task Force for Preparation of REDD+ Implementation, Your Excellency, Bapak Zulkifli Hasan, Minister of Forestry;

DISTINGUISHED LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS,

It is my honor and distinct pleasure to welcome you this evening to the launch of the 2012 Indonesia Forest, Land and REDD+ Governance Index. I want to take a few minutes to share with you some thoughts on why UNDP sees this index as important to all Indonesians.

Let me start with the general context.

Indonesia, as we all know, has the third largest tropical forest coverage in the world. What happens to Indonesia's forests not only affects the quality of life and economic well-being of all Indonesians, but it also affects the entire global community. It is for this reason that, when the President of Indonesia made a global commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 26% by 2020 using the country's own resources, or by 41% with international support, the world took note.

For many decades Indonesia's forests have contributed to the economic advancement of the country. However, both in Indonesia and around the globe it has been recognized that the manner in which forest resources were exploited was not always sustainable, and that in some instances there have been significant degradation of forests and peatlands, loss of biodiversity, displacement of communities and so forth.

Partly because of this, in late 2010 the Government of Indonesia signed a Letter of Intent with the Government of Norway to embark on an ambitious programme to halt deforestation and forest degradation, while at the same time ensuring that the country continues to grow. In other words, the collaboration is intended to support Indonesia in its quest for a greener path towards growth and prosperity.

UNDP has been a privileged partner to the Government, and has been supporting the national REDD+ Task Force, under the leadership of His Excellency Pak Kuntoro. We have also been partnering with the Ministry of Forestry, led by His Excellency Pak Zulkifli, to implement the UN-REDD programme.

These programmes, ladies and gentlemen, are seeking to put in place the national policy and institutional framework for REDD+ in Indonesia. Already, Indonesia has made important positive steps to protect its forests. Under the Indonesia REDD+ programme, the country has implemented a moratorium, put in place a national REDD+ strategy, and commenced work on provincial REDD+ strategies together with corresponding action plans. It has also started to establish baseline data on forest areas and boundaries and has developed a single unified map of its forest coverage as a planning reference to be used by all sectoral ministries. Work is also advanced on the design of a national REDD+ Agency, an MRV system, and a REDD+ financing mechanism.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wanted to start with this broader framework, in order to make the point that for Indonesia to address deforestation and land degradation, it will also be important to address critical issues of forest governance, and to build and strengthen institutions for REDD+ governance, funding, monitoring, and enforcement. There is no one solution to the broad challenges; rather, what is needed is a comprehensive set of actions that strengthen the institutional framework for REDD+.

This was also the message that came out of last week Wednesday's national conference on the Moratorium - the key message was that the moratorium is important primarily because it gives the country time to resolve critical governance challenges, and put in place stronger systems to more effectively regulate and manage Indonesia's forests and peatlands.

This then brings us to the PGA or participatory governance assessment. This exercise has not taken place in a vacuum. It is part of the initiatives related to the national REDD+ programme, and was designed as a strategic tool to provide the government and people of Indonesia with data on the quality of governance of Indonesia's forests and peatlands so that important decisions can be made.

The PGA is a recognition that there is no addressing REDD+ without good governance. Good governance is about ensuring that public systems, institutions and laws to protect the forests and peatlands work effectively. Good governance is about ensuring that basic human rights and people's access to forests for their livelihoods are guaranteed. Good governance is about ensuring that all stakeholders have a voice and that the benefits derived from the use of Indonesia's natural resources are distributed fairly.

The importance of good governance in forest management was recognized at the 16<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Cancun. The conference encouraged governments to promote and develop transparent and effective national forest governance structures. At the COP 17 in Durban, the Parties also agreed to ensure that actions taken to mitigate climate change include the implementation of social and environmental safeguards.

This is where the PGA can prove useful as it aims to help Indonesia identify the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Not surprisingly, the PGA analysis shows that there is need for further strengthening of forest governance mechanisms as key drivers for effective forest protection. Among other things, the analysis shows that there is often unclear spatial planning and land tenure regulations, as well as limited community participation in forest management and weak enforcement of regulations - to name just a few - as important contributors to deforestation and land degradation.

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Indonesia on completing this forest governance assessment as the first of four countries globally that are currently piloting this initiative with support from the UN's global REDD+ programme. The other countries where similar assessments are currently underway are Vietnam, Nigeria and Ecuador.

The forest governance assessment builds both on the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre's knowledge and experience within the field of conducting governance assessment in a wide range of sectors and themes (such as anti-corruption, justice and gender issues) as well as the FAO's experience in data collection and monitoring in the forest sector.

There is a lot of important data in the PGA. The exercise was conducted to assess forest, land and REDD+ preparedness in 10 forested provinces across Indonesia and in two districts in each of those provinces. The assessment not only maps out the condition of forest, land and REDD+ governance but it also puts forward some policy recommendations for strengthening forest governance. As part of the exercise an index to measure forest governance has been developed as a tool to help gauge the level of preparedness for REDD+ implementation based on various governance dimensions.

Our hope is that the results of the assessment can be used together with other research and data as a key reference by Indonesian stakeholders to develop a road map on how to address governance issues and challenges requiring attention during the REDD+ readiness and implementation phase in Indonesia.

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

Importantly, the assessment also offers a methodology to regularly measure the progress that is being made on REDD+ governance in Indonesia.

The report uses a scale of 1 to 5 to calculate an overall index value of forest, land and REDD+ governance. The result was an index of 2.33 in 2012. This value is derived from the average of REDD+ governance indices at the central level (2.78) combined with the average index value calculated for the 10 provinces with the largest forest areas (2.39), and the average index value of 20 districts surveyed within these provinces (1.8).

This overall score indicates that there is much room for further improvement. The report points to four main areas that will require priority attention.

Firstly the report points to the need to provide greater legal certainty to regulate access to forest and state forest areas in order to resolve ownership and land right disputes in these areas.

Secondly, the report calls for more effort to clarify and determine rights to forest resources, and for the introduction of measures that can decrease the number of forest conflicts through effective complaint handling and mediation mechanisms.

Thirdly, it calls for improving law enforcement in the forest sector through, among other things, complaint mechanisms that provide for the protection of whistle blowers similar to the principles already developed by the Ombudsman Commission.

Fourthly, the report calls for measures to decrease the high costs and payment of informal fees for forest permits and licenses through the creation of an efficient, transparent and accountable procurement mechanism for the acquisition of licenses, and which allows for public monitoring.

EXCELLENCIES, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Addressing these issues will require strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders ranging from government to civil society to local communities and the business community. UNDP and the UN can help. UNDP has had a long history of supporting the Government of Indonesia and many other countries to develop and strengthen institutional and individual capacities on environment and climate change issues. We work not only with government but also with civil society, the private sector, and communities. We would be pleased to continue providing support wherever and whenever requested.

## LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

The next step for this PGA report is the dissemination to wider audience as well as use. The plan is to pilot the tool into provinces and use the findings to enhance the legal and policy frameworks and strengthen their capacity for better forest governance sector.

We hope that you will all find this governance assessment useful in your efforts to introduce concrete measures to improve forest, land and REDD+ governance. It is only by taking action on REDD+ that we will see meaningful reductions in the release of greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change and threaten the common heritage of our planet and the well-being of humankind.

In closing, and on behalf of UNDP and the UNREDD agencies, I would like to express my deep appreciation and thanks to everyone who supported us in the development of this assessment. I would especially like to thank Dr. Kuntoro Mangkusubroto, Head of UKP4 and Chairman of the REDD+ Task Force; Dr. Hadi Dariyanto, Secretary General of the Ministry of Forestry; Bappenas, AMAN, APhi, and all stakeholders consulted during the development of the framework and data collection. I am also grateful for the technical and financial support provided by the UN-REDD Global Programme and the Government of Norway as the main funder of the UN REDD Programme. Last but not least, let me also thank the PGA expert team which has worked so hard to produce the Index. Our sincere gratitude to Prof. Hariyadi Kartodihardjo who led the team and the members of the Expert Team.

Thank you all for your efforts.

And let us remember that while we continue to make steps in the right direction, this is all still work in progress. To secure the future of our planet we need to find sustainable development patterns that allow countries to grow and generate the benefits for poverty reduction and secure the livelihoods of people while also protecting the resources of the earth for future generations to come. This is easier said than done. But it requires action. It requires bold leadership. It requires the commitment and buy-in of major stakeholders. It requires partnership and support. And, as we have said before, it requires strengthening governance mechanisms that can help improve the management of forest and peatlands.

Thank you all for your time and attention.

TERIMA KASIH