

Conservation NGOs in Indonesia

Here, we first give a general presentation of the strategies of conservation NGOs in Indonesia based on Ruyschaert¹, and then focus on the specific strategies of the Indonesian branch of WWF.

● **Strategies of conservation NGOs in Sumatra**

Focusing on the case of sumatran orangutans, Ruyschaert¹ identifies three main obstacles to species and habitat conservation in Indonesia: the complexity of the legal framework, the lack of resources and the weakness of sanctions. He further identifies three strategies that conservation NGOs have employed to operate in this context: by weighing on the formation of the state forest, by forming strategic alliances with authorities, and by supporting the government in enforcing policy.

First of all, in the 1980's, a joint program of FAO and WWF supported Indonesia's national park program. Throughout this process, conservationists adopted a top-down approach, working in close collaboration with senior officials of Indonesia's central government, with no involvement of local communities in the formation or in the management of these protected areas.

Ruyschaert gives several examples of instances where conservationists formed alliances with either central or local authorities to promote their objectives. In the 1990's, conservationists form a strategic alliance with senior officials of the central government to legally protect a 2.6 M ha area (called Leuser ecosystem) comprising Gunung Leuser National Park in Northern Sumatra (this was a way for the central government to take control over this area from Aceh's separatists). Conservationists justify protection of this area by the ecosystem services it supposedly provides to local communities living on its edge. Conservationists further established the Leuser International Foundation (LIF) and, through their strategic alliance with the government, succeeded in obtaining a mandate for this association to manage the Leuser ecosystem.

The main international conservation NGOs working on the Leuser ecosystem are the PanEco Foundation and the Sumatran Orangutan Society (specialized NGOs), Flora and Fauna International (FFI), World Conservation Society (WCS) and Conservation International (CI, generalist NGOs). They work in partnership with their local branches or Indonesian associations such as LIF and Orangutan Information Center (OIC). They have a range of activities in connection with the Leuser ecosystem:

- Spatial planning and border demarcation (for example, PanEco and LIF help the provincial government develop spatial plans in accordance with national policy),

- Management of wildlife-community conflicts (e.g. through WCS's *Wildlife Response Unit*, which removes traps and raise awareness among the local population),
- Illegal plantations destruction,
- Capacity building,
- Population resettlement,
- Policy enforcement.

Conservationists support policy enforcement. For instance, in 2011, a coalition of Indonesian associations led by Wahana Lingkungan Hidup Indonesia (WALHI) sued Aceh's governor and a plantation owner for establishing a concession on a protected peatland. They further orchestrated a media campaign, ultimately resulting in the cancellation of the concession license (a small success, considering that a much larger area of the Leuser ecosystem is converted into palm oil plantations each year).

Conservation NGOs such as PanEco, WCS, and WWF also help authorities (in particular, the Directorate General of Forest Protection and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Environment and forestry) fight illegal wildlife trade, by monitoring the traffic and providing logistic support.

In parallel with conservation-oriented activities, conservation NGOs carry out development-oriented projects on the edge of the Leuser ecosystem, such as reforestation, organic farming (e.g. organic coffee) and ecotourism. However the impacts are limited, in part because the funds mobilized are negligible compared with governmental funds targeted at developing the palm oil industry in the region.

In order to overcome the antagonism between conservation objectives and palm oil development, large NGOs (such as IUCN, CI, WWF) have adopted a "result-based management" approach. This approach notably seeks to involve stakeholders of the palm oil industry, in particular through voluntary agreements such as the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO).

● **WWF-Indonesia**

I. Organization

WWF Indonesia is governed by a different boards : The Advisory Board, The Supervisory Board, and The Executive Board. Together, they design the policy orientation and the strategies of the organization. WWF has been formally present in Indonesia since 1998. There are [25 offices](#) in Indonesia which implement field projects. The National Office in Jakarta coordinates the policies of the different field offices, and ensures the respect of the WWF International rules internally. In Indonesia, projects are run in 23 ecosystems and 16 provinces in the three goals :

marine, freshwater and forest ecosystems. The National Office insists on working with all the different stakeholders, especially the local communities, the government and the companies. WWF first came in 1962 in Indonesia mainly for research work around some specific species. The National Office began working in the 1980's but was really established in 1998 and first worked around marine conservation projects. It also assisted the Indonesian government with forest conservation areas especially in National Parks. In particular, WWF tried to highlight the role of local communities in the management of the natural resources .

II. Programmes

WWF has launched or participates in several initiatives throughout Indonesia.

Heart of Borneo (HoB)² is a trilateral initiative launched in 2007 by the three Bornean governments (Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia and Malaysia) to preserve 23 M ha of tropical rainforest in the interior of the island. It is supported by the WWF through the WWF Heart of Borneo Programme. HoB covers six "priority landscapes", including the Katingan landscape.

As part of this initiative, WWF Indonesia launched a Systematic Conservation Planning approach, defined as way of identifying a set of areas that represent conservation features through technical software, data collection and spatial planning.

The 2018 report THE WWF SPATIAL PLANNING EXPERIENCES IN BORNEO³ sums up the lessons learned from the projects previously implemented in Borneo by the WWF.

Some recommendations include :

- Ensuring that the commitments made by political authorities are followed up by real actions (follow up advocacy)
- Put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation system to assess the effectiveness of the projects implemented in order both to generate data and improve future projects
- Data, maps and technical knowledge on geographical information is key for the implementation of the conservation projects
- Proactive engagement with local authorities in charge of land use is crucial for the projects to work, with a scientifically sound approach which allows the political actors to support the conservation projects and to implement similar policies

The chapter 5 specifically talks about the Kalimantan region and the presidential regulation of 2012 on Systematic conservation planning in Kalimantan. The regulation aims to preserve 45% of Kalimantan as protected forests and conservation areas. The current objective of the government is to evaluate the already existing management practices in the protected areas and to identify ecosystem corridors that could serve to link different protected areas and especially to facilitate the movement of species between protected areas.

Green Prosperity RIMBA programme supports sustainable rubber and palm oil plantations, agroforestry and wetland restoration in the RIMBA corridor in Sumatra. Partners: other NGOs (MCAI), community leaders and local governments.

Seafood Savers programme is a WWF-Indonesia initiative launched in 2009. It supports responsible aquaculture and capture practices and help industries reach certification standards.

NEWTrees is a joint initiative between WWF, Nokia and Equinox Publishing launched in 2007. Its goal is to replant trees in national parks and protected forests.

Kanoppi: “developing and promoting market-based agroforestry options and integrated landscape management for smallholder forestry in Indonesia”

Rewetting of Tropical Peat Swamp in Sebangu National Park : this project is included in the REDD+ for Indonesia. It is meant to restore the peat swamps dried out because of illegal logging (canals dugged). The reconstruction of the peat swamp is supposed to decrease GHG emissions, to restore the vegetation and thus help species like the orangutan. The project began in 2004 and mainly consisted in the construction of dams and the restoring of the natural hydrological conditions. The local communities were directly included in the project, both during the construction of dams and after the project as they will benefit from the restored peatlands for their livelihoods. The overall project was done working with the different stakeholders especially the fishermen (in designing the dams) and the national park authority (especially during the monitoring phase). The project is expected to have climate, biodiversity and community impacts but the impacts have still not been assessed.

Sunda Bunda Seascape Marine Protected Area⁴ : Marine conservation project, with issues relating to seagrass ecosystems, mangrove ecosystems, biodiversity conservation

Climate and Energy Program : through mitigation (carbon emissions reduction) and adaptation strategies. For example, the WWF has implemented awareness campaigns to advocate in favour of low-carbon energies (cut coal production encouraged by the government) and especially renewable energies.

III. Activities

WWF-Indonesia has a wide range of activities throughout the country, among which⁵:

- **support governmental initiatives to establish protected areas**, e.g. marine-protected areas networks (this includes scientific studies, sociological and ecological impact monitoring and technical support to provincial leaders for the design of legal frameworks),
- **provide technical assistance to authorities during investigations of illegal wildlife trade** (e.g. sea turtle trade). WWF-Indonesia recently established a “Wildlife Crime Team”. It also helps authorities address encroachment in national parks,

- **establish “Indigenous Community Conserved Areas” (ICCA)**, with the goal of revitalizing “traditional conservation practices”,
- **support community-based forest management**,
- **enhance community farming** and the non-timber forest products sector (e.g. honey, ecotourism) through training (e.g. quality control, pricing and accounting), facilitate registration for organic certification schemes.
- **conduct participatory spatial planning projects**, help communities register mapped areas with the Traditional Domain Registration Agency.
- provide assistance for the development of management plans and the implementation of best management practices in and outside of protected areas
- **increase the share of RSPO-certified products**, strengthen private sector commitment to traceability schemes and promote smallholder certification.

IV. Approach

- **Landscape approach**

The landscape approach is a framework which seeks “to provide tools and concepts for allocating and managing land to achieve social, economic, and environmental objectives in areas where agriculture, mining, and other productive land uses compete with environmental and biodiversity goals”⁶. It is an extension of the “integrated conservation and development” paradigm with stronger attention to the interactions between different spatial scales and the complexity of human institutions and behavior⁶. **Spatial planning**, a legally-binding instrument which defines local land uses, is an important aspect of landscape approaches .

WWF applies the landscape approach in Indonesia, for instance in Sumatra (RIMBA corridor landscape) and Kalimantan (Katingan-Kahayan Landscape).

A recent study based on an analysis of the RIMBA corridor landscape⁷ identified governance problems as an important challenge for this approach. Several issues were identified from group discussions among key stakeholders of the RIMBA programme, among which: insufficient awareness of the detrimental consequences of deforestation, the power of coalitions who benefit from activities that cause deforestation and forest degradation, and the economic incentive for local communities to pursue business-as-usual practices. This results in persisting unsustainable agricultural practices and forestland conversion within the corridor, as well as a general tolerance of land encroachment. The weak institutionalization the RIMBA corridor (weak legal and regulatory framework which limits institutional legitimacy, and the sectoral organization of the current institutions), despite its legal recognition, limits the ecological efficiency of the programme. The study points at the need for a formal institution to facilitate effective governance of the RIMBA corridor landscape.

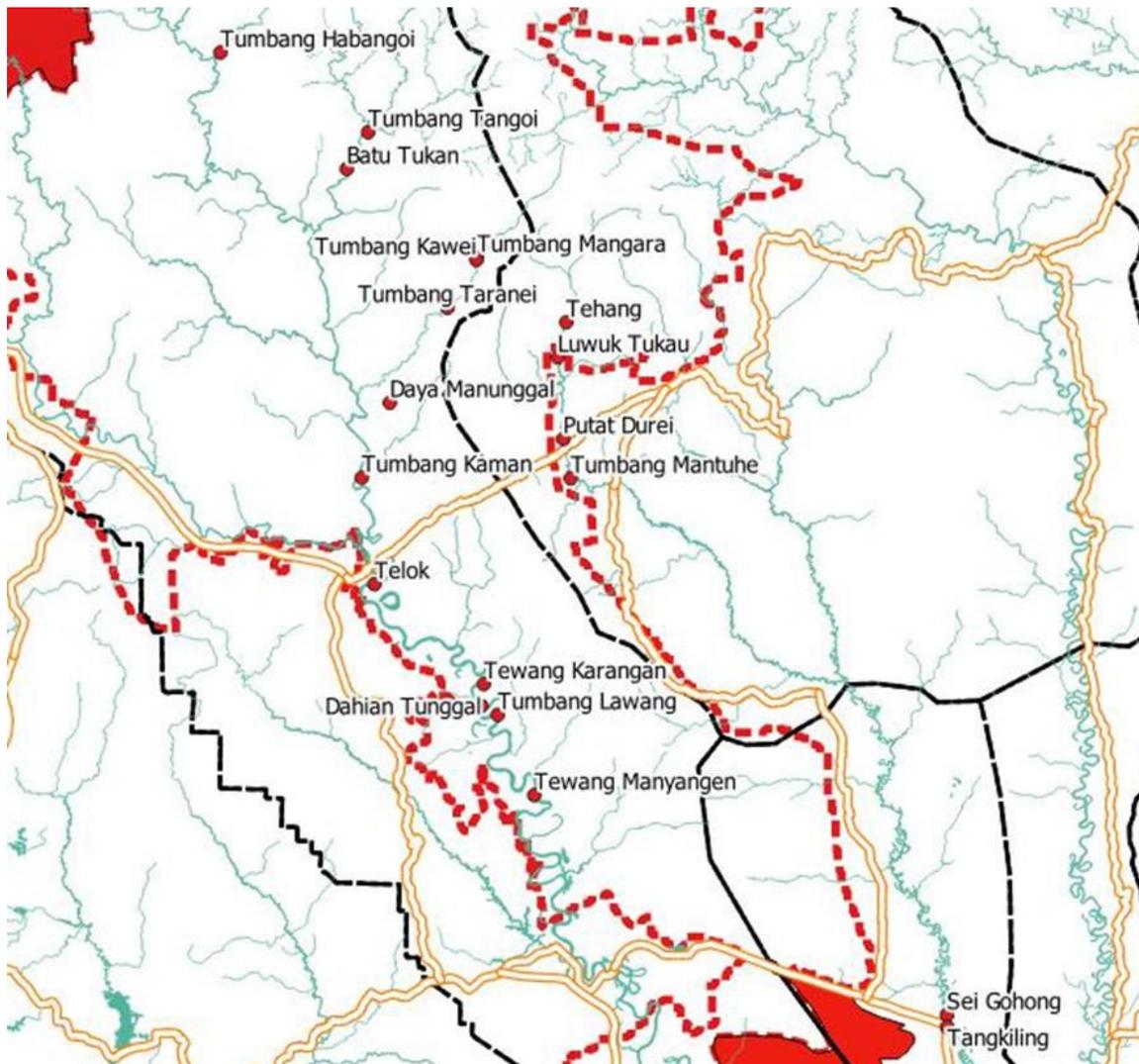
- **Result-based management**

KAP survey from WWF

A way for the WWF to get better informations about the EEA and the KEE area was to survey the are thanks to a KAP study. This study is a quantitative one, based on what interrogated people said⁸.

A study was undertaken to explore community knowledge about biodiversity, to understand biodiversity attitudes and to understand biodiversity management practices. The study was conducted in 19 villages, each of 2 villages in Palangka Raya City, 13 villages in Katingan District and 4 villages in Gunung Mas District.

Table 1.1. Target Studies of Essential Ecosystem Zone



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