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NEWS RELEASE

*** BBCP UPDATES – CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY ***

ANNUAL STAKEHOLDER VISIT TO THE BBC PROJECT AREA

Jakarta, 5 April 2018 – On 26 and 28 March 2018, the Bumitama Biodiversity and Community Project (“BBCP”) team hosted a number of visitors in the conservation areas of the project, located in PT Gemilang Makmur Subur (“GMS”). First, as a part of our annual progress update, we have invited our project partners from IDH – Sustainable trade initiative, Aidenvironment and Yayasan International Animal Rescue Indonesia (“YIARI”), together with a representative from RSPO.



All our partners had a chance to witness first-hand the progress that has been made, visiting our indigenous plant nursery, mushroom farm, natural integrated farming which includes vegetables and fruits plots, fish farming and plots for poultry and cattle rearing. This site will be used as the “show, teach and harvest centre” for the local people from the 8 villages which had been selected important to BBCP. The team also had the opportunity to hike one of the tracks used by the patrolling team and catch their wind in a gazebo surrounded by trees with a river running next to it. The finale of the event was the opportunity to climb a watchtower, which was built 16 meters high, around a tree.



Subsequently, we have welcomed the Ketapang Development Planning Agency (*Bappeda*), representatives of 5 Regional Offices (*Dinas*), local Camat and representatives of other Local Government institutions to our project site to conduct ground checking of the conservation areas based on the SK (Decree) on the *Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial* (“KEE”) areas, issued by the Governor of West Kalimantan in late 2017.



Pak Akia, the Head of Bappeda was enthusiastic about the prospect of conservation of the areas proposed by Bumitama. Our project promotes capacity building of local people using the natural integrated farming with a potential to develop an industrial scale project, where the trained local persons could harness their new skills for economic opportunities. The aggregation of these talents offers a scalable potential of businesses as well as opportunities for ecotourism and wildlife studies.



The event was held in the spirit of inclusion with a wide participation of stakeholders. The support of the Government is vital in the process of safeguarding the set aside areas. Bumitama will continue working together with the representatives of the Regional Government in preparation of decree that would safeguard the set aside areas for conservation under the spatial planning of the Ketapang Region.

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