



Bumitama Agri Ltd

10 Anson Road #11-19

International Plaza, Singapore 079903

Tel : +65 6222 1332

Fax : +65 6222 1336

NEWS RELEASE

Forest rehabilitation and patrolling of BBCP conservation areas

Jakarta, 7 July 2020 – While the global pandemic has brought the whole world to a standstill, the activities of our Bumitama Biodiversity and Community Project (“**BBCP**”) Forest Rangers comprising of biodiversity monitoring in the 8,000 hectares of conservation areas, nurturing seedlings in our nursery, maintenance of jungle tracks that allow for easier access into different parts of the conservation areas and management of the integrated farm of 10 hectares that is sited just at the entrance of the potential wildlife corridor, are still ongoing.

BBCP also includes a rehabilitation programme that aims to restore nearly 2,000 hectares of damaged forest areas. While some are reforested through advance regeneration (natural succession), others require assisted or artificial regeneration through planting of seedlings of indigenous tree species. Seeds and seedlings collected from the forest or purchased from the local communities are nurtured in our nursery for about 6-9 months before being planted when the forest rangers are doing their patrolling at designed areas. These seedlings are properly marked for regular monitoring and recording in their growth. To date, we have reforested around 35 hectares, planting nearly 20,000 seedlings, while an additional 10,000 seedlings are maturing in our nursery, waiting for their time to be planted in the forest.



To help accelerate the reforestation programme, Bumitama has started exploring an alternative yet innovative method of reforestation that will utilise UAVs to disseminate tree seeds. We are hopeful that in the coming months, we will be able to rehabilitate larger areas of forest that would otherwise be inaccessible due to the terrain conditions, or too dangerous to navigate. The trial will test several types of seeds of local tree species, mixed together to imitate the natural forest. Once fully-grown, they will provide food for the wildlife, while the outer buffer zones of the conservation areas will create opportunity for the local communities to harvest Non-Timber Forest Products (“**NTFP**”) such as honey, medicinal plants, or forest fruits and nuts. If proven successful, this method will provide better cost- and work-efficiency than manual reforestation, with the potential to be replicated in other areas.

We have also earmarked some of the areas for reforestation to be conducted under a partnership programme with local communities, as a way to include other stakeholders, educate, and encourage preservation of the forest and biodiversity of the area. The idea is to create a sense of ownership for the local people, which will empower them to protect the biodiversity of the conservation areas against external threats of deforestation, hunting and forest fires.



It has become increasingly frequent, that our Forest Rangers cross paths with illegal loggers and hunters. The opening of the mining road in 2018 appears to have exacerbated their presence and increased the rate of logging and hunting in the project area, which we believe was the leading factor behind last year's forest fires. Although we have since improved our security and are now closely collaborating with the police, curbing the illegal deforestation is an endless task of constantly racing against the perpetrators, who if not contained can almost effortlessly destroy the fragile balance of the natural ecosystem that will require humongous amounts of effort, time and resources to restore back into its original state.

For further information, please email:

Christina Lim

Email: clim@bumitama-agri.com

Lim Sian Choo

Email: lim.sian.choo@bumitama-agri.com

Glenn Ho

Email: glenn.ho@bumitama-agri.com
