

FGLG-Indonesia

NARRATIVE REPORT 2011



FGLG Indonesia Annual Report 2011

Introduction

2011 was a critical year for forest governance and REDD+ in Indonesia. With the pledge by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in 2009 to cut Indonesia's greenhouse gas emissions by 26 percent by 2020, followed by the Letter of Intent (LoI) signed by the Indonesian and Norwegian governments in May 2010, increased pressure was put on the forestry sector significantly contribute to this pledged figure by reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; in other words, through REDD+ activities.

According to the Forest Climate Center,¹ by October 2011, a total of 37 REDD/REDD+ projects in approximately 45 sites, covering a total area of around 11.5 hectares were already at various stages of development and implementation throughout Indonesia.

Prior and parallel to the development and implementation REDD+ demonstration activities, the Government of Indonesia (GoI) has been vigorously working on developing policies and regulations in support of climate change mitigation and the country's REDD+ platform. Among these efforts was the setting up of a special presidential task force mandated to establish a special agency responsible for reporting directly to the President and coordinating efforts pertaining to the development and implementation of REDD+.

Concerns over the impact that these rapid developments in establishing a credible REDD+ platform have on forest governance in Indonesia has been voiced by all stakeholders involved in the forestry sector in Indonesia. Many FGLG Indonesia members, especially those within the Ministry of Forestry, are directly involved at various levels of establishing Indonesia's REDD+ regulatory framework. Meanwhile, other members who are active on the ground in areas where demonstration activities (DAs) are being planned and developed, are also voicing concern. All share a common concern about the lack of information and lack of understanding of REDD+ (and related issues, such as carbon trading), and the potential harm misguided expectations among communities might have on community-based sustainable forest management, among others.

This report looks at the progress of strategic interventions by FGLG Indonesia within the context of REDD+ developments and forest governance in Indonesia in 2011, as described in the FGLG Indonesia workplan. FGLG Indonesia's workplan for the the 2nd phase of IIED's support to FGLG Indonesia was finally fully developed and approved in May 2011.

¹ The Forest Climate Center was formed to provide an independent monitoring and verification for a post-Kyoto mechanism that will potentially compensate developing countries for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation. Sekala in collaboration with several partners, such as Indonesian Community Mapping Network (JKPP) and the World Resources Institute aim to develop capacity for independent monitoring, verification and reporting on land cover change and GHG emissions in Indonesia.

Progress

As stated in our workplan, the objective of FGLG Indonesia's work is to ensure REDD+ is a driver for good forest governance in Indonesia, with the specific objective of strengthening good forest governance by contributing to development and implementation of an efficient, equitable and effective REDD+ programme in Indonesia.

The planned outputs and activities are presented below, with a summary of progress made during 2011.

Output 1: National REDD+ Strategy, with credible components on good forest governance

Activities contributing to Output 1

- 1.1 Carry out a series of focus group discussions amongst FGLG Indonesia alumni on governance for REDD+ strategy
- 1.2 Prepare a policy brief on key messages on governance for REDD+
- 1.3 Participate in technical meetings on REDD+ National Strategy
- 1.4 Participate in stakeholder REDD+ meetings to share lessons learned with policy makers, and REDD+ related institutions at national and local levels
- 1.5 Take part in international meetings to share and learn lessons on REDD+

Progress

Three formal focus group discussions were held among alumni to discuss REDD+ developments, covering almost all activities above. Present at these discussions were alumni - some of whom are more involved with REDD+ policy-related issues at the national and international levels (Agus Justianto, Yani Septiani, Bambang Supriyanto), and others who are more involved with demonstration activities at the local level - in addition to potential new members who are also closely involved with REDD+ activities.

These discussions provided the opportunity for members with less direct contact with REDD+ to gain a better understanding of developments on the local, national, and international levels, as many members are actively attending REDD+ related meetings and/or strongly involved with developing a regulatory framework for REDD+.

Through these discussions it also became apparent that quite a number of alumni who are involved in sustainable community-based forest management have limited knowledge and understanding of REDD+, and for some of them these discussions were the first opportunity for them to ask questions about REDD+ and begin questioning how to ensure that REDD+ supports good forest governance in Indonesia.

As a result of these discussions, the group came up with the idea to develop a REDD+ and governance learning tool in the form of a simple, concise, easy to understand powerpoint presentation on REDD+ and governance. Building on what members have developed themselves, and what they have found to be useful from

other presentations they have seen, the tool will be looking at REDD+ within the Indonesia context.

In addition to providing information and knowledge about REDD+ in Indonesia, the purpose of the presentation is to engage various stakeholders in a discussion on REDD+. Questions can be added to stimulate discussion on and the implications of REDD+ on community forestry and good forest governance, and other issues as deemed fit by the user.

In turn, the development and use of this tool will give input to the formulation of a policy brief on key messages on governance for REDD+, a planned activity that was not carried out in 2011 - among others due to the fast changing developments surrounding REDD+ and the need to designate this task to someone within the FGLG membership.

Output 2: FGLG Indonesia alumni effectively engaged in implementing REDD+ strategy

Planned Activities:

- 2.1 Communicate amongst FGLG, secure the services of a writer, and conduct interviews and group meetings, to capture case studies of FGLG alumni influence and prepare a report on 'what FGLG can do' – of these case studies with a synthesis of FGLG shared values and potential
- 2.2 Use the above report and other actions to deepen the commitment of existing FGLG alumni and increase their numbers
- 2.3 With FGLG members and alumni, map out the ways they engage, or can engage, in implementing REDD+ - including Monitoring, Reporting and Verification - and develop this into a strategy to optimise this engagement
- 2.4 Through good communications and networking actions, push the implementation of the FGLG REDD+ engagement strategy and take stock of progress in late 2011

Progress:

Several attempts were made to secure the services of a writer to interview and write up case studies on FGLG Indonesia alumni, and capture what FGLG Indonesia is all about (shared values and potential). Unfortunately, the writers initially contacted fell through. This is still a very important planned activity for FGLG Indonesia, and we hope to be able to carry it over to 2012.

With the REDD+ and governance learning tool developed to contribute to Output 1 (explained above), together with the report on what FGLG Indonesia is and can do based on alumni case studies, we hope to get potential members who have already expressed interest - such as The Nature Conservancy's Berau Forest Carbon Project (BFCP), and WWF Tesso Nilo; both DA areas. Many junior Ministry of Forestry staff have also expressed interest, as a result of learning from senior ministry staff who are FGLG members.

Hence, our proposal is to carry over activities contributing to Output 2 and combining them with planned activities for 2012, as well as linking them with activities contributing to Output 1.

Output 3: Findings and lessons from experience relevant to REDD+ and governance taken up by stakeholders in REDD+ initiatives

Planned Activities:

- 3.1 Conduct workshops and stakeholder communications on effective approaches to governance of sustainable forest management in different forest types of relevance for national REDD+ strategy and demonstration activities – and produce information briefs on these
- 3.2 Begin lesson learning from REDD+ demonstration activities on the ground - and produce information briefs
- 3.3 Generate and take opportunities to install findings on SFM approaches and initial lessons from REDD+ experience in national and local REDD+ implementation processes

Progress

Little progress has been made under Output 3. Some members have shared their experiences in preparing for and beginning implementation of REDD+ demonstration activities, but the group expressed in having FGLG Indonesia host a learning event on this issue - with a link to implications on communities, sustainable forest management, and forest governance.

It is the hope of the members that planned activities under Output 3 for 2011 be carried over into 2012.

Lessons

1. Changing FGLG Indonesia Membership

Quite a number of FGLG Indonesia members involved at its initial formation are now in very important positions with the Ministry of Forestry. They are no longer able to be as flexible as they used to in being involved in FGLG activities, and have been helping identify junior staff who they feel will benefit from being involved in FGLG Indonesia.

Many of these 'senior' FGLG members, when asked, state that FGLG Indonesia has contributed to their achievements and leadership. Capturing their stories and lessons from the perspective of the importance of leadership in forest governance is a potential activity that can contribute to and build upon other activities under Output 2.

As far as new members go, we have been able to engage with potential new members for FGLG Indonesia, including junior Ministry of Forestry staff at the national and local levels, as well as NGOs involved in implementing REDD+

activities in the field such as WWF Tesso-Nilo and the TNC Berau Forest Carbon Project. However, further efforts need to be made to engage more widely and deeper.

The planned development of a REDD+ learning tool and events linked to its testing and launching are potential opportunities to contribute to all three outputs of FGLG Indonesia's strategic objective.

2. REDD+ Activities and Information Overload

Each day there is an abundance of information coming out on REDD+ in Indonesia. Many FGLG Indonesia members are actively involved at various levels, from policy formulation to public consultations to planning, implementing and monitoring demonstration activities. Keeping abreast of all these developments is a daunting task, even if it only focuses on FGLG Indonesia's membership.

So one question is whether or not it is FGLG Indonesia's task to do so - and if it is, how can it be done in a way that is effective, efficient and up-to-date.

The other question is one that was raised by members who strongly believe in good forest governance, community engagement and FGLG Indonesia - but are not particularly interested in REDD+. "What about us?" - they asked.

In other words, it is crucial that FGLG Indonesia redefine what it is, what it has achieved, and what it can do -- based on reflections and case studies of previous members, but also with input from new members that need to remain diversified and not limited to only those engaging with REDD+ issues.

As was jointly agreed upon at the December 2011 discussion among a diverse group of alumni - FGLG Indonesia's main concern and focus is and should continue to be good forest governance that includes and engages communities for sustainable forest management.

3. Management Challenges

One of the greatest challenges this year - which began already in 2010 - has been the management of FGLG Indonesia activities. The host organization, INSPIRIT INNOVATION CIRCLES (INSPIRIT) has had difficulty in finding additional support staff to help in the running of FGLG Indonesia in the way we believe a learning group should be run.

In addition, in mid-2011, INSPIRIT - which is a facilitation, training and consulting organization - was tasked with supporting several learning events for Indonesia's largest community empowerment programme, PNPM Mandiri. What was supposed to be a one-off event, turned into a series of events that ended up draining our resources (including the FGLG Indonesia country convenor) and making it extremely difficult to coordinate schedules with any other activities planned.

Several informal attempts were made by the country convenor and host organization to explore the possibility of someone else in FGLG Indonesia taking on our role - however, when this idea was thrown to the members to get their

response, they insisted that INSPIRIT's neutral role is what has made "learning" truly happen within the FGLG Indonesia context.

However, there is a pressing need to revisit how FGLG Indonesia should best be run and by whom. The workplan that was developed for 2011 was one that seemed very reasonable and achievable. However, many important activities did not take place - though they remain relevant and perhaps in terms of timing and content may fit better in 2012, as REDD+ policies and demonstration activities have moved along further.