

**Letter to the Rio + 20**  
**Our Land is not a Carbon Toilet**  
*from the dirty industry of the developed countries*



That in reality, the peat is our lifeblood over generations, and for centuries as a process creating the technology, knowledge, skills and ability to manage the peatlands by way of rubber gardens, rotan gardens, reed gardens, pantung gardens, traditional forests, rivers, canals and ditches\*, swamps, and lakes that are beneficial for the education, health and culture that has boundaries which protect the sovereignty and autonomy of our rights to protect the peatland territories forever.

Climate change is happening fast, corresponding to the growth of the industries of mining, oil, gas, automotive, oil palm, electronics, transportation, and agricultural technologies that are not environmentally friendly, created by the advanced countries, they have encountered failure, as the planet's condition worsens.

Now, it has been over a long long time and over generations, that millions of people in every corner of the world have been cultivating and protecting the trees, coping with the destruction of nature caused by investment, providing subsistence for our families, and being subject to the impact of ongoing economic crises.

In Central Kalimantan, the very people who were the victims of the peatland development projects have been working to rehabilitate these lands, from 1999 up to 2012, by way of replacing rotan and rubber gardens and reforestation – the area of our protection of traditional forests has reached over 300,000 hectares, we have been standing against the rapid growth of expansion of oil palm plantations and mining. Then our brothers and sisters in Borneo, Sumatra, Sulawesi, Papua and Java, and our brothers and sisters in Vietnam, Thailand, Myanmar, Philippines, Brazil and other developing countries started to do the same kind of thing and we became a force of the developing world as part of the solution to climate change.

However, our initiatives have not become an important factor in the global solution to climate change. The initiatives of people throughout the world constitute a model for managing the environment in a way that could save our families and all the inhabitants of the earth. But as it turned out, this was ignored as a matter of global importance and now the term 'green economy' has taken precedence in talks at the UN conference on sustainable development (Rio + 20) in Brazil 20-22 June 2012.

This situation makes us even more certain than ever, that really, a solution to climate change by way of carbon market mechanisms and the concept of green economy, and promises of financial returns for developing countries, is nothing but empty talk, because these ideas are nothing other than a new face of capitalism in the shape of ecological imperialism. So much so, this has formed our view of the developed countries' solution to climate change through the REDD scheme, as only turning our homes into a toilet for carbon.

When the developed countries don't want to stop their own carbon emissions, those who are innocent have to shoulder the whole burden. For example, Australia could not handle the difficulties within their country, so through the KFCP project (Kalimantan Forest Climate

Partnership) REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation of forest) over a space of 120,000 hectares, in Central Kalimantan, the heavy burden is being placed on 10,000 residents of 14 villages, the victims of this perverse climate solution.

If we look at the reality on the ground, completely inconsistent with the the efforts involved in the KFCP project, the area covered by the operations of Australian mining companies Central Kalimantan reaches around 500,000 hectares.

It would be best if the PM of Australia, would immediately do something to stop the trial REDD KFCP project in Central Kalimantan, because the project is sure to bring plenty of problems, starting with the duping of the people over their understanding of the issues of climate, social conflict, and the violation of our social, cultural and economic rights in relation to the peatlands.

The step that must be taken by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is to immediately revoke and cancel the concessions for oil palm plantations, mining, polluting factories and industries, and the dirty technology of the advanced countries – that is if the solution to climate change being sought is going to go well and not rip the people away from their land.

We call upon our brothers and sisters of the developing countries, let us walk together in our struggle to contribute to a solution for climate change based on the traditional knowledge that we have from many generations past. If this initiative becomes the one best solution, then, the countries of the world and the global regime won't have to promote dreams of millions of dollars, but it would be enough to give enduring acknowledgement and protection to the welfare of humanity and of the earth.

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Petak Danum Kalimantan Tengah

*\* the traditional system for irrigating the peatlands by creating small ditches and canals diverting water from the rivers known as tatah and handil.*