



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

# **Innovative Initiative in Indonesia Brings Developing and Developed Countries Together on Climate Change**

*Demonstrating Solutions for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation*

Bangkok, Thailand, October 7, 2009 – Last night at an event surrounding the UN climate change talks here, the Government of Indonesia introduced an innovative new initiative in the district of Berau, East Kalimantan for reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD). The Berau Forest Carbon Program (BFCP) is one of several REDD demonstration activities in Indonesia that supports efforts to establish a national REDD mechanism to address climate change. BFCP is an integrated district-scale forest carbon program, that by 2015, brings at least 800,000 hectares under effective management, avoids emissions of 10 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub> over five years, protects areas with critical hydrological functions, as well as areas with high-biodiversity values, including habitat of 1,500 orangutans, and creates improved economic outcomes and opportunities for communities living near forests.

“Reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation is possible, and doable. By linking our district level initiative in Berau, which is just one of the sub-national processes in our national climate change program, to the international discussions we are showing how to deliver REDD implementation,” said Agus Purnomo, Head of Delegation of Indonesia, who is also the head of the Secretariat of the National Council on Climate Change.

At the event, Indonesia presented its plan to develop readiness for REDD implementation to around 40 negotiators and partner organizations. Wandojo Siswanto, chairman of the Ministry of Forestry’s Climate Change Team, said that REDD can demonstrate best practice in sustainable development and decentralized government structure while respecting the rights and incorporating the concerns of local stakeholders. The BFCP provides a unique opportunity to tie all the necessary components for REDD into one coherent program, including land use planning, management of forest and agricultural lands, and measures to account for forest carbon emissions at district level. It is expected that the program will deliver biodiversity conservation, improved community livelihood and sustainable forest management.

“Indonesia is showing important leadership through its support of this program. By confronting these challenges in a comprehensive way, the Berau program is finding solutions for reducing deforestation emissions that will provide clear examples to the rest of the world,” said Andrew Deutz, Director of International Government Relations at The Nature Conservancy, a leading

international conservation organization that is one of the NGOs supporting the project design and implementation.

By strengthening forest management techniques, including reduced impact logging, expansion of protected areas, and responsible siting of palm oil, the program aims to enable Berau to move into a sustainable, low-carbon emitting future, while at the same time meeting key development goals. The effort could also contribute to helping Indonesia achieve the emissions reductions proposal of 26% by 2020 that was announced by the President of Indonesia during the G-20 Summit in late September.

“Berau District is interested in moving towards more sustainable outcomes but we have to consider our overall development and economic stability. This program could enable us to achieve all of these outcomes,” said Suparno, assistant to Head of District.

The guests represented a range of developing and developed country governments and international organizations interested in sharing experiences and learning more about pilots like Berau. One such government taking the lead on this issue is Australia, which is currently supporting Indonesia in the development of its national framework for avoided deforestation through the Kalimantan Forests and Climate Partnership, which aims to prevent the deforestation of up to 70,000 hectares of Kalimantan's peat land forests, rehabilitate 200,000 hectares of degraded peat land and plant up to 100 million new trees on rehabilitated peat land.

The BFCP is designed to bring developed and developing countries together around actions that will reduce carbon emissions and break the impasse of waiting game between the developing and developed countries.

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*In July 2008, The President of the Republic of Indonesia, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono issued Decree #46/2008, establishing the Dewan Nasional Perubahan Iklim (DNPI) or National Council on Climate Change (NCCC).*