

## COURSE REPORT

### Introduction to REDD Training

**Pontianak, West Kalimantan, Indonesia**  
**October 28-30, 2009**

**A course jointly organized by:**

Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)  
Fauna & Flora International (FFI)  
West Kalimantan Forest Service  
Titian Foundation (TF)  
Dian Tama Foundation (DTF)

**Background:** Tropical forests play a fundamental role in climate regulation, serving as both a carbon source and sink. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2007 report indicates that tropical forests absorb a significant percent of total annual carbon dioxide emissions, helping to mitigate the impact of fossil fuel use. Because of widespread deforestation and forest degradation, however, tropical forests, which contain more carbon than temperate and boreal forests combined, are now the source of approximately 15-20% of total carbon dioxide emissions—more than the entire global transportation sector. As a result, deforestation and forest degradation have become a major topic of discussion in the on-going climate change negotiations.

Under the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), only afforestation/reforestation projects, which sequester carbon through the planting and maintenance of trees, are permitted within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) regulatory market. A complementary and potentially more effective approach now known as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD), which aims to protect the carbon stocks of intact forests, was not permitted due to a variety of political and technical concerns. Nevertheless, a number of environmental NGOs, whose interests lie more with biodiversity conservation than climate change mitigation, started developing REDD-type projects for the voluntary carbon market as a conservation finance mechanism.



The Bali Climate Change Conference in December 2007 resulted in a decision to reconsider the role of REDD in the UNFCCC regulatory market, due to pressure from tropical countries with large areas of tropical forests and an increased awareness of the relative cheapness of forest-derived carbon credits. Although the details of REDD are still being worked out, Indonesia, currently ranked as the world's third largest green house gas emitter

on account of its high rate of deforestation, has been rapidly preparing to take advantage of what could become a very large and lucrative market. The Indonesian central Government's preparedness campaign, however, has had very limited impact in the districts, where, following decentralization, many land use decisions are now made. In fact, at that level of government, the degree of understanding about the opportunities presented by REDD, as well as the processes needed to develop REDD projects, is generally low.

In order to begin addressing this problem, ELTI, together with FFI, which is currently developing REDD projects in the region, decided to initiate a training program for West Kalimantan, a province that is widely recognized as having a large potential for REDD. The province's Forest Services, DTF, and TF were brought on board as co-sponsors of the event in order to help facilitate preparations, gain greater local "buy-in," and help identify the most relevant participants.



#### **Course Objectives:**

- To ensure that all participants understand the key elements of REDD, including science, business, and policy aspects;
- To provide all participants with knowledge of the key components of a REDD project and the steps needed to develop one in accordance with appropriate standards and national regulations; and
- To encourage participants to develop "Action Plans" outlining their plans for participating in REDD project development.

**Participants:** The REDD training was attended by a total of 60 participants from regional government agencies and NGOs. Government representatives were invited from the district-level offices of the provincial Forest Service and Land Use Planning Agency. The participant's list was designed to include two individuals from each of the provinces' forested districts; greater participation, however, was permitted from Kapuas Hulu and Ketapang Districts, where FFI and other organizations are currently in the process of developing REDD projects. Meanwhile, the other participants consisted primarily of representatives from regional NGOs and other related institutions that may play an important role in assisting with project development and/or implementation in Kapuas Hulu and Ketapang. One cluster of individuals, who are interested in developing a REDD project in and around Gunung Palung National Park, were also included.

**Training Format:** The training was conducted over a three-day period and consisted of formal presentations, group discussions, and a field activity. The first day of the course focused on providing introductory background information, including modules explaining the scientific basis for REDD, the international policy context in which the regulatory carbon market was created, the difference between the regulatory and voluntary carbon

markets, the reasons for standards, and the Indonesian national policy & legal framework in which REDD projects must be developed. During the second day of the course, the participants were able to explore some of the technical aspects of REDD project development, including project development opportunities in West Kalimantan, the forest carbon project development cycle, and carbon accounting. The second day of the course ended with a carbon accounting field activity at the Tanjung Pura University Botanical Garden. Finally, the third day of training focused on some of the more difficult issues in project design and implementation, including modules on the drivers of deforestation and the development of project activities to address them, and the complexities of working with local communities, with a discussion of how standards have been developed to address such issues as overlapping tenure and distribution of REDD benefits. Possible follow-up activities were discussed to end the training.

**Coordinators and Resource People:** The training program was designed and prepared by an organizing committee comprised of representatives from the five partner organizations. The training program curriculum was largely designed by Dr. David Neidel (ELTI) with input from Dr. Ahmad Kusworo (FFI). Logistics were handled by Mr. Muhamad Afifudin (West Kalimantan Forest Service), Mr. Yuyun Kurniawan (TF), and Ms. Herculana Ersinta (DTF). Meanwhile, the training modules were presented by a team of qualified resource people, including Ms. Dwi Astiani (Yale University/Tanjung Pura University), Dr. Suraya Afif (Karsa Institute/Samdhana Institute), Dr. Eka Ginting (PT Rimba Raya Conservation), Mr. Marwayan (Indonesian Department of Forestry), Mr. Muhamad Afifudin (West Kalimantan Forest Service), and Dr. Markus Lupp (German Development Service, DED). Additional logistic support during the training program was provided by Ms. Hazel Consunji (ELTI) and other staff from FFI, YDT, and YT.

**Follow-Up:** West Kalimantan is currently being targeted by FFI and a range of other organizations and institutions for REDD project development. Given that ELTI's mandate is limited to capacity-building and training, much of the follow-up will be carried out by our partner organizations. Capacity-building remains a huge need in the region, though, and ELTI will continue to be involved, whether it be by conducting additional trainings or by providing our partner organizations with additional and newly-updated training materials. We have also made several participants aware of the opportunities available to them through the Leadership Program.



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