

Generating Accurate Forest Information



INDONESIA'S FOREST MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT SYSTEM (FOMAS)

Most stakeholders generally agree that a lack of reliable information on forest and timber resources is a major obstacle to good forest governance in Indonesia.

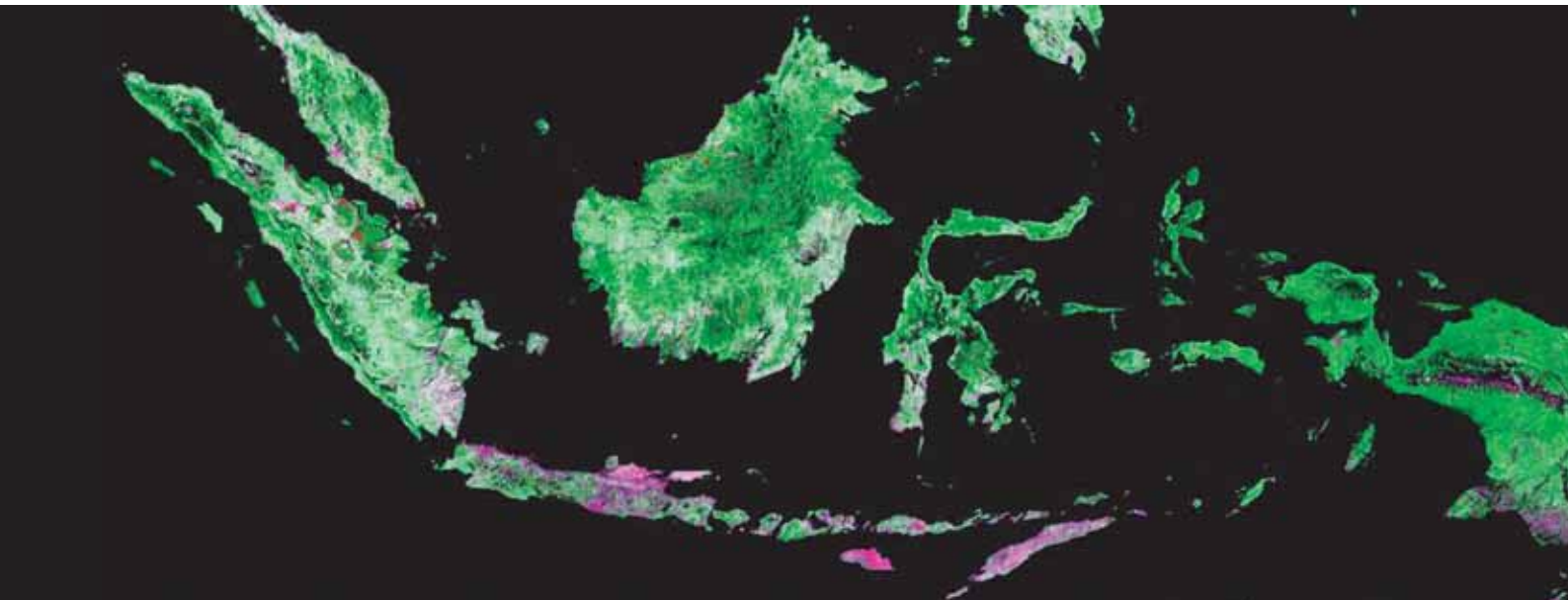
Following an extensive multi-stakeholder consultation process, the Indonesian Ministry of Forestry (MoF) launched a forest monitoring and assessment system known as FOMAS in early 2006 to address this problem.

FOMAS aims to promote good forest governance by making relevant, reliable, accurate and up-to-date forest sector information continuously available to decision makers and the general public.

The core components of FOMAS are:

- **An information management process** that generates and archives reliable, accurate and up-to-date information on Indonesia's forest and timber resources.
- **A comprehensive disclosure policy** that clearly articulates what information can be publicly disclosed.
- **Effective disclosure mechanisms** that allow multiple stakeholders to access reliable, accurate and up to date information on Indonesia's timber and forest resource.
- **An improved decision-making process** designed to use up-to-date and accurate forest sector information within daily operations in the Ministry of Forestry.

FOMAS is supported by a consortium of organizations (including the World Resources Institute, the World Bank, Forest Watch Indonesia, EU FLEGT, Sekala and South Dakota State University) who collectively seek to improve forest governance by feeding accurate and reliable information to decision makers, ensuring decision makers can effectively utilize this information for effective forest governance and allowing the general public to scrutinize and participate in decision making processes.



IMPROVING SPATIAL DATA ON INDONESIA'S FORESTS

SEKALA and its partners are assisting the Ministry of Forestry to:

- Collect, digitize, improve and archive spatial data on the legal boundaries and licenses of large-scale timber concessions, industrial timber plantations, tree crop plantations and national parks.
- Adjust spatial data on the legal boundaries and licenses of forest enterprises into a new Ministry of Forestry basemap.
- Produce up-to-date forest change maps for Indonesia's forest estate.

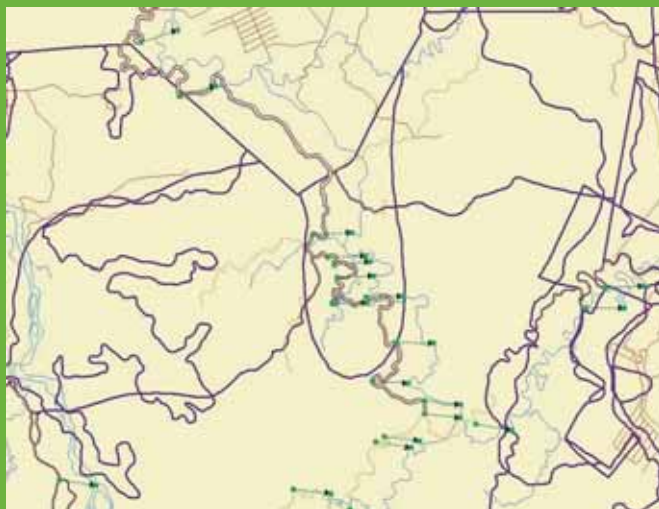
When this process has been completed the Ministry of Forestry will have an up-to-date geographic database.

WHY DOES SPATIAL DATA ON INDONESIA'S FORESTS NEED TO BE IMPROVED?

Forest management and policy in Indonesia suffers at all levels from inadequate data of poor or inconsistent quality. The last national assessment of land cover and land use (RePPPOT) was made in the early 1980s, and rapid deforestation and changing land use since then have rendered it obsolete. A consensus based framework to reliably monitor changes in forest cover and land use also does not exist. This means that there is no reliable system in place to collect and analyze forest cover data.

Decentralisation has also meant that forest sector information on the legal boundaries and licences of logging concessions, industrial timber plantations and oil palm plantations are no longer kept in a central data base. Instead, this information is scattered throughout the Indonesian archipelago and is not systematically collected or archived.

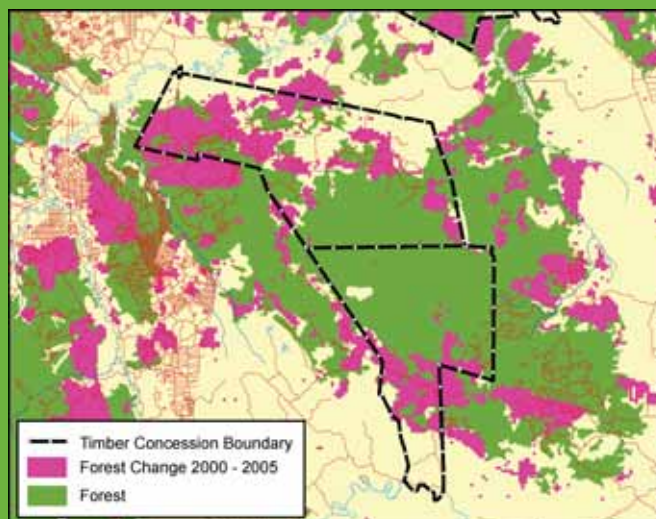
Moreover, most of the data on the legal boundaries and licences of large-scale forest enterprises is only recorded on paper maps which need to be digitized to allow policy makers to carry out spatial analysis and make informed decisions about spatial planning.



Adjusting spatial data into the Ministry of Forestry's new basemap

HOW WILL GOOD SPATIAL DATA ON INDONESIA'S FOREST RESOURCES BE USED?

Accurate, up-to-date, reliable spatial information on Indonesia's forest resources can be analyzed and used to improve decision-making processes, develop effective policies and reforms that can mitigate deforestation, detect illegal logging and forest conversion, and inform spatial planning processes. It can also be used to monitor forest cover change and carbon emissions.



Using spatial data to detect illegal forest clearing in a timber concession



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