



# Community Mapping and REDD

## COMMUNITY MAPPING - A TOOL TO RESOLVE CONFLICTS AND ACHIEVE RESULTS IN AVOIDED DEFORESTATION INITIATIVES

*Community mapping is a tool that allows indigenous people to map their land and forest resources in a participatory way. It can also be used to mediate conflicts between the government and indigenous people and provides an avenue for both parties to negotiate and agree upon spatial plans and customary boundaries. In other words, community mapping can be used to help indigenous people gain recognition of their land rights and to have a say in natural resource management.*

Community mapping was first applied in Indonesia in conservation areas such as Kayan Mentarang National Park and Wasur National Park. In these areas it was used to: identify the land use rights of indigenous people, assist indigenous people to gain government recognition of their customary lands and to allow them to have a say in conservation management. It is now widely used throughout the Indonesian archipelago and often applied as a tool to resolve conflicts between large-scale concession holders (logging, oil palm, mining) and local people.



**Realistic, tangible and innovative solutions for sustainable development**

## WHY SHOULD INDIGENOUS PEOPLE BE CONSULTED IN REDD INITIATIVES?

Indonesia is one of the most diverse nations in the world. It is also home to a host of indigenous groups that have ancestral rights to forest resources. These people have long managed forest resources to support their daily lives. They rely on forest resources for food, medicine, shelter and income. Their lives are affected by large-scale developments and conservation initiatives and they need to be adequately consulted and involved in large scale developments and avoided deforestation initiatives.

## HOW CAN COMMUNITY MAPPING BE USED IN REDD INITIATIVES?

### To Identify Available Degraded Lands for Large-Scale Plantations

Studies conducted under the auspices of the Indonesian Forest Climate Alliance (IFCA) have recommended that timber plantations and oil palm plantations should no longer be developed on forested land and peat soils to avoid deforestation and mitigate carbon emissions. These plantations should instead occur on available degraded lands that are suitable for plantation development.

A solution of this kind looks relatively simple on the surface because Ministry of Forestry statistics currently indicate that around 8.1 million ha of land falling within the forest estate are currently considered to be degraded while another 15.1 million ha of degraded land lie outside the forest estate.

However, in reality this solution is quite complex. Degraded lands are not necessarily available lands and are likely to already be occupied by people. These lands are also likely to have become degraded because they were subjected to logging, shifting cultivation and encroachment. People have been behind these activities and are likely to be occupying some of the lands. Some of these people will have planted agriculture crops on these lands and may have legitimate rights to them.

Community mapping can be used to identify overlapping land rights and to ensure that local people are adequately consulted about large scale plantation developments slated for degraded lands. It can also be used to ensure that plantations are only established on local peoples' land once their free, prior and informed consent has been obtained.



