

# REDD+: False solutions for women in Central Kalimantan in Indonesia

The livelihoods and health of women of the Central Kalimantan region of Indonesia are being threatened by changing weather patterns and unpredictable seasons resulting from climate change. The traditional methods of resource management practiced by the women are also endangered by existing international climate projects in the region, primarily through REDD+.

In the heavily forested Kalimantan area, main sources of the women's livelihood are all obtained from the forest, such as rattan, wood, vegetables, traditional medicines, rubber and fish. Women are heavily reliant on their natural environment and therefore extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.

Unpredictable rainy and dry seasons are changing the traditional farming calendar of women in this region and increasing the threat of fires. Farming is no longer a reliable source of income. Prolonged dry seasons also reduce the amount of available clean water used for bathing, washing, and toilet facilities. Reduced clean water and pollution from nearby palm oil plantations and gold mines result in women using contaminated water from the river. This exposes them and their families to increased risks of skin diseases, diarrhea, and other threatening gastrointestinal illnesses. Long-lasting dry seasons of up to six months cause many forest fires. These forest fires further threaten the women's farmland, increasing their vulnerability to food insecurity and loss of livelihood.

Torrential rain is a major obstacle to rubber-farming. Women previously dependent on rubber are routinely unable to "rubber tap," which is the process of collecting latex from incisions made in tree bark.

Existing Demonstration Activities of REDD programs in Central Kalimantan, namely the Kalimantan Forest Climate Partnership (KFCP), intended to mitigate climate change have in turn contributed to threatening the women's livelihoods and access to resources. In addition, this project oriented

program has resulted in conflict within the community. This reforestation program was implemented without the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous women, though they suffer from many of its consequences. No appropriate standard applied to ensure the protection of rights of the community people, in particularly women.

Women reported being left out of planning meetings, and are given no say in the implementation of these programs. Information is portrayed on posters that the largely illiterate female population cannot read, or that use language that women cannot understand without proper explanation, such as "climate change" and "carbon emissions."

When the programs are put into place, the zoning of forest land for REDD+ project purposes take away the women's ability to access the forest as they always have- for food, for medicine, for fuel, and for income. Women must seek other employment and are given only the lowest paid and least-skilled jobs like seeding and planting. In addition, women only saw this project as job opportunities, without any improvement on their quality of live and livelihood, which is far from the main objective of the project. As one woman from SeiAhas village in Central Kalimantan said, "I don't know about KFCP project, what the objective of the project is. When there's a meeting in the village related to KFCP, they rarely invite the women. Even if there were invitations, I couldn't understand what they are saying, I only know that there will be job opportunity, such as seeding and planting given by the KFCP". The women are thus further relegated to a position of inferiority socially, politically and economically.

Climate change is threatening the lives and livelihoods of the women of Central Kalimantan. Existing climate policies and plans fail to properly protect their rights or meet their needs. Future climate policies and actions must properly recognize the needs, experiences and knowledge of indigenous women, and must ensure their meaningful participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of future programs, particularly in the decision making.

## International Recommendations

- Commit to a radical and urgent transition from extractive, profit based economies to people centered models that are just, equitable, gender-sensitive, responsive and locally driven;
- Commit to a comprehensive, ambitious and binding new climate agreement which aims to limit global warming below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels;
- **Mitigation:** the new agreement should target the elimination of all fossil fuels and the use of 100% renewable energy by 2030 for developed countries and 2050 for others with just transitional period;
- **Mitigation** should not include commercializing of the climate through mechanisms that have failed to reduce emissions including REDD, REDD+, and "climate-smart" agriculture, among others. Stop any false solution, such as market based approaches to forests, harmful energy and mega project, such as nuclear energy, mega hydro dam, biomass, monoculture agroindustry, mega infrastructures, carbon offset and carbon trading. No to financialization and commodification of Nature and nature's functions;
- **Adaptation:** Developing countries needs (particularly LDCs and SIDS) should be addressed as a **priority** in the new agreement. Developed countries must recognize their historical responsibilities and fulfill their **obligation to support adaption measures for developing countries**, including through finance, technology transfer, capacity building and the removal of patent and intellectual property restrictions;
- **Loss and damage** must address long term and slow onset loss and damage as well as immediate disaster related damage;
- **Support small-scale**, locally owned and developed ecological responses ensuring **food sovereignty and traditional knowledge and practices of indigenous and rural women** are retained and promoted;
- **Decision-making processes at the local, national and international levels:** should be led by the interest and needs of those most affected by the impacts of climate change, particularly women;
- **Disaster Risk Reduction:** A gender-sensitive and responsive approach should be integrated in all disaster risk reduction strategies, humanitarian assistance and reconstruction policies and measures;
- **Accountability mechanism:** A strong and effective compliance mechanism to the agreement should be established to ensure the fulfillment of Parties' obligations.
- **Financing mechanism:** The global fund for climate change should provide direct, simple and accessible financing for community people which are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and should not be addressed to finance Private Corporation who has record of violation of human rights, women's rights, caused environmental degradation, and triggered social and environmental conflict.

## National recommendations

- **Indigenous peoples, including women, should have access to information and meaningful participation in all decision-making policies and measures on climate change affecting them;**
- **Gender disaggregated data and gender differentiated analysis should be collected applied to measure the impacts of all climate change policies and actions;**
- **Adaptation national policies should be based on traditional and local knowledge of the women in the communities as guarantee their access and control over natural resources.**
- **Indonesian government should reject all climate change false solutions such as market-based approaches to forest, especially REDD and REDD+, monoculture agroindustry, mega hydro dam and infrastructures, carbon markets, among others.**

## Indonesia Country Info

**Population:** Over 237 million, making Indonesia the 4th most populous country in the world.

Indonesia is home to the world's third largest forest, with forest covering 68% of its landmass.

**Human Development Index Ranking:** 108 of 187 on Human Development Index

**Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** As of 2010, Indonesia contributed 4.8% of global greenhouse gas emissions and in 2013 had a per capita emission rate of 1.81 metric tons (as compared to 17.5 metric tons for the US, and 6.18 metric tons for China).

**Climate Change Vulnerability:** Indonesia is highly vulnerable to floods, droughts, storms, landslides and forest fires. Changing rain patterns will make for heavier, shorter periods of rainfall that can be expected to cause many destructive floods. Such floods have already begun occurring, such as the Jakarta flood in February of 2007 that reportedly displaced over 420,000 people.

Warmer and more acidic seawater is expected to reduce Indonesian fish catches by 40 percent, causing great harm to food sovereignty and the fishing sector.

With a high concentration of its population, infrastructure, and fertile agricultural lands located in low-lying coastal areas, Indonesia is expected to experience extreme economic and human losses and displacement due to even moderate rising sea levels.

**Costs of Climate Change loss and damages:** The Asian Development Bank estimates that by 2100, the impacts of climate change will cost between 2.5 to 7 percent of Indonesia's GDP. The poorest are expected to bear the brunt of this burden as they are typically most vulnerable to the impacts of drought, floods and landslides and pursue livelihoods that are highly dependent on climate-sensitive sectors such as fisheries and forestry.

## Community Info

The research group is comprised of women living in three villages of Central Kalimantan, Indonesia.

- Central Kalimantan is the third largest province in Indonesia.
- 67% of the population of Central Kalimantan live in rural areas.
- 65% of Central Kalimantan land is forest.
- A majority of women in this area are rubber farmers, rice farmers and craftswomen. These women still engage in traditional forestry and farming techniques passed down from previous generations.
- Women of Central Kalimantan are highly dependent upon the forest and forest products for social, cultural and spiritual values, health and livelihoods.

## Organization Info

**Solidaritas Perempuan/SP (Women's Solidarity for Human Rights)** is a feminist organization based in Indonesia, which fights for gender justice and women's human rights. They focus on grassroots women and the issues of conflict over natural resources and climate change, food sovereignty, migration and trafficking and pluralism and religion politicization. It has 765 individual members across 10 different provinces of the archipelago.



## Climate Justice is a Feminist Issue

APWLD is Asia Pacific's leading feminist, membership driven network. We hold consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Our 180 members represent groups of diverse women from 25 countries in the region. For 25 years APWLD has been empowering women to use law as a instrument of change for equality, justice, peace and development. We use research, training, advocacy and activism to claim and strengthen women's human rights.

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