



Laporan Investigasi:

# Masih Ada Deforestasi dalam Rantai Pasok Grup RGE

***New Report Exposes Hidden Deforestation in Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) Supply Chain and RGE Control of Pulp Mill Under Construction in Borneo – Putting Indonesia’s Rainforest At Risk***

**Jakarta, 23 Mei 2023**—Meskipun memiliki komitmen ‘Bebas Deforestasi’, Grup Royal Golden Eagle, perusahaan produsen viscose dan produk kertas terbesar dunia, ditengarai masih bergantung kepada sejumlah perusahaan pemasok yang melakukan deforestasi. Grup perusahaan milik Sukanto Tanoto ini juga diduga mengendalikan sejumlah perusahaan cangkang yang berada di balik pabrik pulp baru berskala besar di Kalimantan Utara.

Temuan tersebut terungkap dalam laporan investigasi yang diterbitkan oleh lima organisasi, yakni Environmental Paper Network, Rainforest Action Network, Auriga Nusantara, Greenpeace International, dan Woods & Wayside International. Laporan bertajuk *Babat Kalimantan* ini memuat bukti-bukti yang diperoleh melalui analisis citra satelit, kajian data ekspor, laporan pelacakan kapal, dan data dari pemasok (*supplier disclosure data*).

“Grup RGE dan anak perusahaan mereka seperti APRIL, Sateri, Asia Pacific Rayon, dan Asia Symbol berjanji untuk menghapus deforestasi dalam rantai pasok mereka. Namun, laporan ini menemukan bahwa janji itu tidak ditepati,” kata Sergio Baffoni, Koordinator Kampanye Senior Environmental Paper Network.

**Jakarta, 23 May 2023**—A new investigative report, ***Pulping Borneo***, finds that the Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) Group, the world’s largest viscose producer and major paper products company, continues to rely on deforestation in its supply chain despite a high-profile commitment to “No-Deforestation”. The report, co-published by five organizations, also reveals a chain of offshore shell companies pointing to RGE Group control behind a new mega-scale pulp mill in North Kalimantan, putting some of the world’s largest remaining rainforests at risk.

“The RGE Group and its subsidiaries, APRIL, Sateri, Asia Pacific Rayon, and Asia Symbol promised that RGE companies have eliminated deforestation in their supply chains, but this report shows that promise has not been kept,” said Sergio Baffoni, the Senior Campaign Coordinator of the Environmental Paper Network. “Ordinary people around the world are using these companies’ products in their everyday lives: the viscose is in clothes from global fashion brands, paper packaging in grocery stores, and tissue products in our kitchens and bathrooms,” added Baffoni.

The investigative report published today reveals that Asia

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Asia Symbol, pabrik pulp RGE di Cina, diduga menggunakan kayu dari sejumlah perusahaan yang baru-baru ini membatat hutan di Kalimantan. Kawasan hutan hujan tropis itu, merujuk data Kementerian Lingkungan Hidup dan Kehutanan, tadinya merupakan habitat orang utan Kalimantan yang terancam punah.

Laporan investigasi tersebut juga mengungkap hasil pemeriksaan dokumen yang menunjukkan hubungan RGE dengan pabrik pulp skala besar yang saat ini akan dibangun PT Phoenix Resources International di Pulau Tarakan, Kalimantan Utara. Keberadaan pabrik Phoenix—yang berpotensi mendorong pengembangan kawasan perkebunan kayu pulp monokultur secara luas—dikhawatirkan mengancam kelestarian hutan alam. “Ada sekitar 600 ribu hektare hutan hujan tropis yang masuk dalam konsesi kehutanan di Kalimantan, Papua, dan Papua Barat yang terhubung dengan RGE. Dengan pembangunan pabrik baru Phoenix, sebagian kawasan hutan itu bisa terancam,” kata Syahrul Fitra, Juru Kampanye Hutan Greenpeace Indonesia.

Menurut Syahrul, kehadiran PT Phoenix ini berisiko memicu deforestasi dan menghilangkan keanekaragaman hayati, meningkatkan emisi gas rumah kaca, serta mengancam kehidupan masyarakat di wilayah tersebut. Dia mengingatkan, permintaan kayu dari pabrik pulp skala besar sebelumnya telah mendorong deforestasi parah di Sumatera. “Pola seperti itu bisa terulang kembali. Pembangunan pabrik ini adalah tanda bahaya gelombang baru deforestasi skala industri, kali ini di Kalimantan dan Papua,” ujar Syahrul.

Direktur Kampanye Hutan dan Keuangan Rainforest Action Network, Tom Picken, mengatakan peran RGE dalam perusakan hutan terjadi karena adanya pembiayaan dan ‘pemakluman’ untuk mereka. Sebanyak 25 bank telah menggelontorkan lebih dari US\$5 miliar untuk sektor kehutanan RGE sejak 2016. Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, misalnya, sudah menyalurkan lebih dari US\$430 juta untuk RGE, kendati bank tersebut memiliki kebijakan untuk tidak membiayai deforestasi.

Tom Picken juga menyoroti langkah Forest Stewardship Council, organisasi sertifikasi hutan global, yang membuka pintu untuk APRIL, walaupun masih ada dugaan deforestasi dalam rantai pasok anak usaha RGE ini. APRIL pernah mengikuti proses penilaian untuk mendapatkan sertifikat ramah lingkungan dari FSC pada 2013, tetapi mundur. “Bank-bank dan fasilitator harus berhenti mengabaikan deforestasi yang masih menjadi bagian dari model bisnis RGE,” kata Tom Picken.

Laporan selengkapnya dapat dilihat di tautan [berikut](#).

### Catatan Editor:

1. Investigasi ini menemukan bahwa pada 2021 dan 2022, pabrik pulp dan kertas Asia Symbol di Rizhao, Cina, menerima kayu dari beberapa perusahaan di Kalimantan yang membatat hutan lewat PT Balikpapan Chip Lestari, sebuah pabrik serpihan kayu yang terafiliasi dengan RGE. Sejak Juni 2015, ketika Kerangka Keberlanjutan Kehutanan, Ser-

Symbol, RGE’s pulp mill in China has been using wood from companies that have recently cleared large tracts of tropical rainforest in Kalimantan, Indonesia’s territory on the island of Borneo. Much of the rainforest, before it was destroyed, was habitat for endangered Bornean orangutans, according to data published by Indonesia’s Ministry of Environment and Forestry. Evidence presented in the report was obtained through analysis of satellite imagery, and the review of export data, vessel tracking reports and supplier disclosure data.

“RGE’s role in forest destruction is only made possible by those bankrolling and excusing their destructive practices,” said Tom Picken, Campaign Director for Forests & Finance, Rainforest Action Network. “RGE’s top 15 banks have pumped more than USD 5 billion into the group’s forest-sector operations since 2016. For example, Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group has provided more than USD 430 million — despite the bank having policies against financing deforestation. Meanwhile, the Forest Stewardship Council is pushing to bring APRIL back into the FSC system despite these links to ongoing deforestation. These banks and other facilitators must stop willfully ignoring the deforestation which remains part of RGE’s business model,” added Picken.

The investigative report examined corporate records to document RGE’s links to a new mega-scale pulp mill, which PT Phoenix Resources International is currently constructing on the island of Tarakan in northeastern Kalimantan. “The Phoenix mill is expected to drive the development of large areas of monoculture pulpwood plantations, placing pressures on natural forests. Areas most directly at risk include portions of over 600,000 hectares of tropical rainforest in RGE-linked forestry concessions in South and West Papua, as well as in RGE supplier concessions in Kalimantan,” said Syahrul Fitra, of Greenpeace Indonesia. “The demand for wood to feed this mill threatens communities in these regions, as well as biodiversity loss and greenhouse gas emissions,” added Syahrul.

“This mill is a flashing red-alert signal for a new wave of industrial-scale deforestation, this time in Kalimantan and Papua,” cautioned Syahrul. He added, “In Sumatra, the demand for wood from mega-scale pulp mills drove catastrophic and irreversible deforestation. Now the same pattern could repeat itself in Kalimantan, starting with this new mega-scale pulp mill.”

The report is co-published by five organizations: Yayasan Auriga Nusantara, Environmental Paper Network, Greenpeace International, Rainforest Action Network, and Woods & Wayside International. The full report, along with company responses to the findings, is available after the embargo lifts: [https://environmentalpaper.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/20230523\\_Pulping\\_Borneo.pdf](https://environmentalpaper.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/20230523_Pulping_Borneo.pdf).

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at, Pulp, dan Kertas RGE–yang melarang deforestasi–mulai berlaku, pemasok ke pabrik kayu serpih ini telah membuka 37.105 hektare hutan alam di Kalimantan Tengah, Kalimantan Timur, dan Kalimantan Utara. Area ini setara dengan lebih dari setengah luas Singapura.

2. Tak ada satu pun dari pihak yang bertanggung jawab memastikan implementasi kerangka keberlanjutan APRIL–seperti Komite Penasihat Pemangku Kepentingan dan firma akuntansi global KPMG–melaporkan secara terbuka deforestasi dalam rantai pasokan RGE ini.
3. Investigasi ini memeriksa catatan perusahaan yang mendokumentasikan hubungan RGE dengan pabrik pulp skala besar baru–yang saat ini sedang dibangun di Pulau Tarakan–melalui hubungannya dengan pemilik pabrik yang dilaporkan, PT Phoenix Resources International. Pabrik pulp Phoenix dirancang untuk memproduksi pulp semi-kimia. Menurut Analisis Mengenai Dampak Lingkungan proyek tersebut, pabrik itu akan memiliki dua lini produksi dan total kapasitas pulp sebesar 1,7 juta ton/tahun. Setelah beroperasi penuh, pabrik tersebut diproyeksikan mengkonsumsi setidaknya 3,3 juta green metric ton (GMT) serat kayu setiap tahunnya.
4. Menanggapi temuan laporan ini, Asia Symbol (Shandong) Pulp & Paper menyatakan akan melakukan penyelidikan. Tanggapan lengkap Asia Symbol dan pihak-pihak lain yang disebutkan dalam laporan dapat dilihat pada lampiran laporan yang diterbitkan.

### Editor's notes:

1. The investigation found that in 2021 and 2022, Asia Symbol's pulp and paper mill in Rizhao, China, received wood from companies in Borneo that cleared rainforest via PT Balikpapan Chip Lestari, a woodchip mill in Kalimantan linked to RGE. Since June 2015, when RGE's Forestry, Fibre, Pulp & Paper Sustainability Framework – which prohibits deforestation – took effect, suppliers to this woodchip mill have cleared 37,105 ha of natural forest in Central, East, and North Kalimantan. This area is equivalent to over one-half the size of Singapore.
2. Neither of the parties responsible for monitoring APRIL's implementation of its own sustainability policies – namely, its Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and the global accounting firm KPMG – has publicly reported this deforestation in the RGE supply chain.
3. This investigation examined corporate records to document RGE's links to a new mega-scale pulp mill – which is currently under construction on the island of Tarakan in northeastern Kalimantan (near to the district of Juata Permai, a few kilometers from the town of Tarakan) – through its connections to the reported owner of the mill, PT Phoenix Resources International. The Phoenix pulp mill is reportedly designed to produce semi-chemical pulp, and according to the project's Environmental Impact Assessment, the mill will have two production lines and a total pulp capacity of 1.7 million tons/year. Once it is fully operational, the mill is projected to consume at least 3.3 million green metric tons (GMT) of wood fiber on an annual basis.
4. The Phoenix pulp mill will place new pressures on natural forests in Indonesia, as the mill's demand for wood fiber is likely to drive the development of large areas of monoculture pulpwood plantations. Forest areas most directly at risk include those within forestry concessions currently supplying BCL in the provinces of North, East, and Central Kalimantan and those linked to RGE companies in South Papua and West Papua. Spatial analysis using satellite imagery identifies over 600,000 hectares of standing tropical rainforest within seven timber and plantation concessions that could be impacted by the mill's development.
5. In response to the report's findings, RGE subsidiary Asia Symbol (Shandong) Pulp & Paper, which operates a pulp mill in Rizhao, China, has said it will conduct an investigation. Asia Symbol's full response and those of other parties mentioned in the report are found in the appendices of the published report.

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