

## **APRIL Independent Peat Expert Working Group (IPEWG)**

### **- Meeting 5, Summary Report -**

**Time/Location:** March 7-10, 2017 – Pangkalan Kerinci, Sumatra and Jakarta, Indonesia

#### **Participants**

**IPEWG:** Prof. Dr. Supiandi Sabiham, Dr. Ari Lauren, Prof. Susan Page, Prof. Chris Evans, Prof. Vincent Gauci, and Dr. Ruth Nussbaum

**SAC:** Joe Lawson

**APRIL:** Praveen Singhavi, Lucita Jasmin, Dr. Ibrahim Hasan, Mark Werren, Rob Pallett, Dr. Mukesh Sharma, Dr. Anthony Greer, Dr. John Bathgate, Craig Tribolet, Rudi Fajar, Susilo Sudarman, Dr. Chandra Deshmukh, Branislav Zoric, Dian Novarina, Wan Jakh, Addriyanus Tantra

**Stakeholders:** Badan Restorasi Gambut (BRG) – Nazir Foead and C. Nugroho Priyono

**Collaborating Partners:** Winrock International (Sarah Walker, Arief Budiman), The Nature Conservancy (Herlina Hartanto, Joe Kiesecker, Kei Sochi, Ratih Loekito)

**Secretariat:** Tim Fenton (APRIL)

**Transition to the IPEWG Coordinator:** The IPEWG would like to thank Jonathan Wootliff for all his work as Facilitator of IPEWG from its inception in 2015 until the end 2016 and to recognize his contribution to the establishment and progress of IPEWG over its first year. At the beginning of 2017, the IPEWG transitioned to the leadership of Dr Ruth Nussbaum as IPEWG Coordinator.

#### **Objectives of IPEWG Meeting #5:**

1. Consider how the IPEWG work links to existing APRIL programs and activities
2. Update the IPEWG Roadmap and Workplan, including a review of the meeting schedule to ensure it is linked to the Workplan.
3. Discuss the outputs to be achieved by the end of 2017 (and beyond)
4. Review previous IPEWG Recommendations and consolidate with the Workplan

**Change of Reporting Format:** With the development of the Roadmap for Responsible Peatland Management, together with the associated Workplan, the IPEWG will publish a Summary Report following each meeting to document participation, information reviewed and discussed and key recommendations. Actions planned and completed and their outcomes will be recorded in an accompanying Work Plan. The two documents are designed to be linked together.

Topic	Discussion Overview Notes	Workplan Ref.
<b>Responsible Peatland Management</b>		
<b>Legal Update</b>	A comprehensive update on current developments on Indonesian peatland regulatory requirements, including remaining uncertainties and likely timetables, was discussed. IPEWGW needs to be aware of regulatory requirements, including any changes, but will continue to focus on the science that supports long term understanding and contributes to responsible peat land management.	Operations
<b>BRG Indicative Maps</b>	APRIL provided an overview of the BRG's Indicative Maps for Protection and Cultivation zones in the peatlands of Riau. These maps will be superseded by maps issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry, but in the interim they provided a useful starting point to discuss the process for verification of government proposals and the development of APRIL's response - using a draft version of Pulau Padang as an example. IPEWGW emphasized the importance of using a clear and systematic set of science-based principles in developing the response.	Operations
<b>Best Management Practices (BMPs) and Peat Management Modeling</b>	<p>1. Progress on the peatland plantation model was reviewed, with a focus on the analysis of early-age field trial data simulations for impacts of different management approaches. The latest field measurements (just becoming available at the time of the meeting) will be utilized by the simulator to review mid-rotation age trends. Work on this will continue with a webinar discussion between IPEWGW members on the next steps.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> IPEWGW noted that drainability assessments will be required for future planning, so it is necessary to think about how this will be done.</p> <p>2. Key components of peatland Best Management Practice for the IPEWGW to focus on were set out in the Workplan.</p> <p>3. IPEWGW welcomed the news of APRIL's efforts to fill the positions of Water Management Best Practice and Peatland Management Best Practice.</p> <p>4. APRIL confirmed a joint workshop in Kerinci with Wetlands International during the month of April, 2017 which was also welcomed by IPEWGW.</p>	<p>D2.1 D2.2</p> <p>2.1.1 3.2</p> <p>2.1.2 3.3</p>
<b>Peat Subsidence</b>	<p>A tri-party discussion between the IPEWGW, APRIL and Winrock International on peat soil data analysis, including the first stage of analyzing APRIL's data, was very useful. It was agreed to continue with the next stage of analysis, particularly linking subsidence measurements to geo-spatial information.</p> <p>IPEWGW noted that APRIL's peatland subsidence monitoring data may be the most extensive data set in existence on tropical peatland subsidence and that combined with the results from the flux towers it represents world class science. IPEWGW commended APRIL on their research programme and on the agreement by the company to share this, in collaboration with the IPEWGW, through joint submission of a paper to a high quality research journal by year end 2017.</p>	D1.1
<b>Integrating production in the wider landscape</b>		
<b>Communities and Rural Development</b>	Updates on social development were provided by both APRIL and the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) Chair, as the SAC is taking the lead on this component. It is important the IPEWGW stay updated on the social dimension of the peatland landscape.	

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<b>Natural Forest Management</b>	IPEWGW welcomed the additional focus by APRIL on the overview and management of natural forests in and around APRIL and supplier concessions, with a senior member of staff responsible for leading on a more proactive approach. A brainstorming session provided input on addressing baseline data gaps, developing a management plan and planning monitoring on aspects such as forest hydrology, forest structure and biodiversity.	D6.2
<b>Growing Trees on Wetter Peat</b>	<p>1. IPEWGW reviewed an APRIL technical paper on fiber yields from Acacia in wetter peat compartments, between full production plantations and conservation areas. The discussion centered on productivity challenges at differing age classes under higher water table requirements.</p> <p>2. R&amp;D presented data on initial screening trials of survival and growth of more than 50 species (native and exotic) on peatland subject to seasonal flooding. Recent trials also include bamboo.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> APRIL needs to accelerate its work in this area to increase options for peatland management in the future. This can include (a) establishing larger-scale trials in wetter areas of the plantation for both Acacia and other species, (b) working with government and collaborating with national universities (see Note 1 below) as well as engaging with NGOs such as Wetlands on breeding and trials.</p> <p><i>Note 1:</i> One of the priority areas identified by the Indonesian government's Peatland Restoration Agency (BRG) is acceleration of research by universities (including the University of Riau), for alternate species on peat soils.</p>	<p>D3.1</p> <p>D3.2</p> <p>3.3.1</p>
<b>Fire Management</b>	<p>1. APRIL provided an update on the work of the Fire Free Village Program. The report on the independent review of APRIL's 2016 Fire Free Village Program results will be made public in March.</p> <p>2. An analysis of hotspot reporting (from Global Forest Watch) in APRIL's and supplier's concessions for 2016 compared to incidence of fire was presented and was noted by IPEWGW as useful. The detection of fire is important; and the use of Hotspots as indicators of fire in the tropics warrants further work.</p> <p>3. The analysis, requested by IPEWGW, of all available data APRIL has on fire incidence and water table depth was presented and discussed. The results indicate that there is no evidence of a correlation between water table depth and fire in APRIL's concessions. There was further discussion of what the main factors might be, and what other information might be available. IPEWGW agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting to identify further work needed to build a better understanding.</p>	<p>D4.1</p> <p>D4.2</p>
<b>GHG Flux Towers</b>	The update on the 2 operating GHG Eddy Flux towers provided a look at the CO <sub>2</sub> and CH <sub>4</sub> data for the past 6 months – comparing plantation emissions to a mixed landscape (plantation, natural forest and community lands). The proposed subsidence and water table collection point transect across the Kampar Peninsular (from Tower 3 to Tower 1) for correlating GHG emission data to field conditions was discussed and welcomed by the IPEWGW as a valuable addition to the existing monitoring network.	<p>D1.2</p> <p>D1.3</p> <p>2.1</p>
<b>LIDAR</b>	LiDAR data collection on Pulau Padang is complete and the preliminary analysis of the data by the APRIL team was received with great interest. The possible uses of the LiDAR data were discussed, together with plans for reviewing the optimum methodologies for data collection. There was also a discussion about the costs of using LiDAR and the need to balance this with other research needs. It was noted	

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	<p>that costs are likely to drop over the next 1-2 years with more use of unmanned flights and as cheaper cameras become available.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> The Landscape Level Data Acquisition Strategy was reviewed and agreed by IPEWGW in 2016, but it was agreed that it needs to be reviewed and updated regularly as more is learnt about LiDAR:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All supplier areas should be included in the data acquisition strategy, including former 'short term suppliers';</li> <li>2. Once the first set of LiDAR data has been analysed and the outputs reviewed, a systematic analysis should be made of the value of these outputs against the value of outputs from other data sources so that LiDAR can be prioritized where it can give the most useful results; and</li> <li>3. There should be clear communication with stakeholders about (a) priorities and planning for the LiDAR schedule for all supply areas, and (b) policies for sharing of the outputs with external parties (see also the BRG discussion and action plan).</li> </ol>	1.2.2
<b>Developing a Peatland Vision</b>		
<b>Framing the future peatland vision</b>	IPEWGW and senior APRIL management had a very useful brainstorming exercise on the vision for long term, responsible peatland management. The initial inputs will be used to form the scope for ongoing work of IPEWGW and APRIL.	6.1
<b>Outreach and Consultation</b>		
<b>BRG</b>	The discussion with the Head of the BRG and the Head of Program Restoration Research was most helpful and productive. IPEWGW learned of the BRG research priorities and shared an overview of IPEWGW's work. Areas for further discussion were identified including the opportunity for a government convened workshop to share views and information on LiDAR and other methods for collecting data; as well as collaboration on research on alternative species on peat. The IPEWGW looks forward to ongoing dialogue with the BRG.	3.1.1
<b>IPEWGW Meeting Schedule</b>		
<b>Next Meeting</b>	With the Workplan in place, the IPEWGW will use more frequent, shorter interactions utilizing web-based media for communications to support ongoing work, with fewer 'in-person' meetings in Kerinci. The meeting planned for May will be web-based with the next full physical meeting in September	