



Green Livelihood Access for Central Kalimantan's Inclusive Environmental Response to Climate Change (GLACIER)

Development Objective:

Improved access to sustainable livelihoods for local communities in the Ex Mega Rice Project area in Central Kalimantan through supporting implementation of Presidential Instruction (2/2007) and the Master Plan for the Rehabilitation and Revitalization of the EMRP.

Key Outputs:

1. Demonstration on environmental infrastructure investments that support responses to climate change using participatory local resource-based approaches and techniques to improve access to sustainable livelihoods.
2. Increased capacity of communities and local authorities to improve access to socio-economic facilities and markets in rural areas in support of sustainable livelihoods through meaningful participation in decision-making processes and local resource-based strategies.
3. A participatory model for green value chain development and sustainable livelihoods is introduced through improving the capacity of local stakeholders.

Key Partners:

- Joint Secretariat for REDD+ in Central Kalimantan
- Provincial Commission on REDD+
- Provincial and District Offices of the Ministry of Manpower and Transmigration
- Provincial and District Offices of the Ministry of Public Works
- Indigenous Peoples' Organizations
- Employers' Organizations
- Workers' Organizations

Duration:

1 year (September 2012 - August 2013)

Geographical Coverage:

The project is based in Central Kalimantan and works with five villages, including Aruk, Lawang Kajang, Bereng Bengkel, Tumbang Nusa and Pilang. The project cooperates with districts including Kota Palangka Raya, Pulang Pisau and Kapuas.

Donor:

UNDP with funding from the Government of Norway

Partner Agency:

United Nations Office for Coordination on REDD+

Budget:

USD 1,398,517

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Project Background

In 1995 President Suharto ordered over one million hectares of peat swamp in Central Kalimantan to be drained for conversion to rice growing agricultural areas. This was known as the “mega rice project”. After the peat was drained and canals built, it was found that the soil conditions were not suitable for supporting intensive agriculture. The canals have since been used for transportation of timber and much of the peatland is either abandoned, being turned into palm oil plantations or being used by indigenous people for smallholder agricultural purposes. The degraded land burns frequently, leading to trans-boundary haze, high levels of greenhouse gas emissions and increases in livelihood vulnerability.

The ex mega rice project (EMRP) area faces many challenges that stem from high incidences of poverty and poor access to sustainable livelihoods, as well as severe environmental degradation. Forest and peatland restoration is needed in order to support sustainable livelihoods in local communities and to increase biodiversity levels so that the long-term productivity of the forest and peatland is maintained and enhanced for provision of eco-system services. However there are many challenges to sustainable development in Central Kalimantan, include illegal logging, fire management, drainage of peatland, sustainable cultivation, plantation expansion, encroachment on protected and conservation areas and illegal mining.

Project Strategy

In acknowledgement of the great need for preventing further degradation and deforestation in the ex- mega rice project areas, President Yudhoyono issued an instruction in 2007 (2/2007) requiring the rehabilitation and conservation of the Ex Mega Rice Project (EMRP) area. In 2008 a comprehensive EMRP Master Plan was drafted to achieve this goal. The Master Plan for the Rehabilitation and Revitalization of EMRP in Central Kalimantan has identified six main programmes to support sustainable development in the area, namely:

- (1) Fire prevention and management;
- (2) Spatial management and infrastructure;
- (3) Sustainable peatland management and conservation;

- (4) Agricultural revitalization;
- (5) Community empowerment and socio-economic development; and
- (6) Institutional development and capacity building.

To each of these six main programme areas the International Labour Organization can bring strategies and methodologies which will optimize employment and income generations impacts for the local population. In line with the EMRP's Master Plan, the pilot project will draw on traditional knowledge and practices to promote environmental restoration activities, green value chain, and local economic development. ILO Core Conventions and focus on social justice will provide the framework for the consultation with and the participation of communities in the design and implementation of activities. In particular, Convention 169 on the Rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, as well as the Free and Informed Prior Consent (FPIC) framework, will provide the guiding principles for working with communities.

The pilot project's central theme is sustainable access to more and better livelihoods and its three components support investments in the environment and improvements in connectivity and access to markets. The pilot project proposes to work in five villages in Central Kalimantan in locations that were previously part of the mega rice project area. The five villages identified include Aruk, Lawang Kajang, Bereng Bengkel, Tumbang Nusa and Pilang.

The three components of the project are:

- 1 Demonstration on environmental infrastructure investments that support responses to climate change using participatory local resource-based approaches and techniques to improve access to sustainable livelihoods;
- 2 Increased capacity of communities and local authorities to improve access to socio-economic facilities and markets in rural areas in support of sustainable livelihoods through meaningful participation in decision-making processes and local resource-based strategies; and
- 3 A participatory model for green value chain development and sustainable livelihoods optimization is introduced through improving the capacity of and opportunities for local stakeholders.



The pilot project will be informed by the spatial plans of the Ex-Mega Rice Project area and the community's needs for access to sustainable livelihoods through applying an integrated rural accessibility planning approach that considers the state of transport infrastructure, environmental resources and community assets in order to determine how investments can help to address need for sustainable local social and economic development.

Implementation capacity will be enhanced through skills development and capacity building to improve the quality of both the assets and the skills of government staff, contractors and communities for maintaining their assets. To ensure inclusiveness, the pilot project will adopt a participatory local resource based approach to strengthen local ownership of initiatives and involve employers' organizations and workers' organizations where there are opportunities. To ensure the sustainability of the assets, the pilot project will foster a culture of labour-based maintenance to ensure that assets are not only preserved, but that the period over which the asset can be utilized is extended.

A green value chain approach will be used to assess one to two green sectors that could be further developed, including identification of skills gaps and market linkages that constrain development. The findings from the ILO's Education and Skills Training Project (EAST), which demonstrated that coupling entrepreneurship training with vocational

skills training doubles the likelihood of finding employment or successfully starting a business for trainees, will be considered as best practice. Therefore, capacity building initiatives for green value chain and local economic development will involve (a) selection of one to two target commodities for value chain development, (b) value chain mapping, analysis, and intervention design (c) a skills needs assessment based on an analysis of market potentials, (d) provision of competency-based skills training that are inclusive and incorporate indigenous knowledge and techniques, (e) assessment and certification of people trained, and (f) development of linkages with sources of start-up capital, placement services and technical coaching.

The pilot project design recognizes the importance of empowering women and anticipates its employment-intensive infrastructure investment initiatives and value chain activities will enhance both employment and income generating opportunities of women. The principle of equal access to employment opportunities will be an overarching principle in the pilot project's strategy. Clauses in contractual agreements with service providers and communities regarding this principle of equal access to employment opportunities and a pro-active approach in promoting the participation of women in the workforce seek to support the participation of female workers in the implementation of the pilot project's activities.

Impact

At the end of the project the five targeted villages will have improved capacity to invest in infrastructure that supports responses to climate change and have improved access to markets and socio-economic services to support sustainable green livelihoods. In this “Green jobs through Green works” approach, civil society organizations, including Indigenous Civil Society Organizations, will have increased skill and capacities on community facilitation and have been involved in establishing consultative forums in the targeted villages. Communities will have been trained on local resource-based approaches for environmental and access works and a minimum of 10,000 additional work days will have been generated (30 per cent women, 30 per cent youth and 2 per cent people with disabilities).

In terms of support for green livelihood access, a minimum of 250 people (40 per cent women, 30 per cent youth and 2 per cent people with disabilities) from the targeted villages and selected policy makers and social partners will have improved their skills and capacities for engaging in sustainable livelihoods using the value chain approach. They will have benefitted from relevant skills training in line with the needs of the green economy and assessments of social, economic and environmental infrastructure within and surrounding their communities and be more resilient to the impact of climate change on their communities. At least 50 per cent of successful trainees will be expected to be employed or have started a business three months after provision of training on green livelihoods.

These activities will provide the REDD+ initiative with lessons learned on how to create alternative livelihoods while reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. A model for green livelihood development will have been documented and a strategy for participatory local resource-based approaches for environmental infrastructure investments that support employment optimization responses to climate change and guidelines on community driven participatory decision-making in the context of REDD+ will have been drafted.



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