

Sustainable Landscape-Based Management for Integrated Fire Prevention By FMUs

The policy and current regulatory framework for integrated fire prevention at FMU level

As a response to the forest fires in the El Nino year 2015 and 2016, a substantial reform of the Indonesian fire prevention approach was initiated by the Presidential Decree on Forest and Land Fire Fighting as well as the Ministerial Decree P32/MenLHK/Setjen/Kum.1/3/2016 of the Ministry for Environment and Forestry (MoEF). Based on these regulations a “Grand Design for Forest and Land Fire Prevention 2017 – 2019” was defined and elaborated with the support of GIZ, CIFOR and the Agricultural Institute in Bogor. The Directorate for Forest and Land Fire Control (of the Ministry of Environment and Forestry) as well as other national institutions such as the Meteorological Service, Disaster Management, Ministry of Agriculture and others are instructed to implement the above-mentioned provisions and to coordinate actions at national, provincial and local levels.

The Ministerial Decree P32/MenLHK/Setjen/Kum.1/3/2016 specifies that the newly established Forest Management Units (Kesatuan Pengelolaan Hutan - FMU) play a key role in fire prevention and stipulate that in addition to good coordination among stakeholders, the establishment of a specific task force at the FMU level, named Brigade Pengendalian Kebakaran Hutan dan Lahan (Forest and Land Fires Control Brigade) is also required.

The FMUs in the context of integrated fire prevention

With the established +600 FMUs over whole of Indonesia, FMUs are the potential institution on the ground that can integrate forest and land fire prevention measures into their activities based on the definition of proper roles and functions as well as efficient coordination. The strategy to support forest and land fire prevention as part of the forest and land fire control mechanisms put in place by the MoEF and the FMUs at the lowest level of the Indonesian forest management system, needs to be clearly defined in standard operational procedures (SOP) and routine job descriptions.



Based on experiences and common understanding, fire prevention is the best way to break the cycle of annual fire occurrence and haze threats in Indonesia. The implementation experience in the GIZ pilot area in West Kalimantan showed that successful approaches and standards have been developed for up-scaling and were considered in the elaboration of proposals for improved regulations. The pilot FMU Kubu Raya has expanded according to its capacities, e.g. in the field of fire information development as well as in the technical field (forest office based fire brigade) and was intensively supported by the FORCLIME component in its further development (personnel, tasks, budgets). In doing so the FMU also plays a recognised pioneering role in the field of fire prevention at the forest office level and represents this in the exchange and coordination with other forest offices in West Kalimantan and at the national level. It became clear that the forestry offices and their FMUs can only be successful in the long term in cooperation and coordination with other authorities, the private sector, the support structures of local NGOs and above all with the rural population of surrounding communities combining fire prevention with livelihood measures. This requires the establishment of appropriate structures for example regarding the mandate of Brigdalkarhutla KPH to go beyond fire prevention and suppression, which were reflected in the developed SOPs and the budgets of the FMU Kubu Raya.

As seen from the ground, challenges lie in coordinating and synergizing actions among the structural institutions as well as temporarily agencies emphasizing the need for clear protocols of coordination, the definition of institutional roles and functions besides clear action planning and SOPs. It can be a regulatory framework or technical guidelines which could be referred to by related parties such as the Forest and Landfires Control Command established by the Dinas LHK on provincial level.



