INDONESIA: Civil Society Platform for Safeguarding Community Rights in RED

In May 2010 the governments of Norway and Indonesia announced a new bilateral partnership on REDD. As part of it, Norway will provide up to US$1 billion through a fast-track financing scheme in proportion to any reductions in greenhouse gas emissions achieved by slowing deforestation in Indonesia. Later in the year the Australian government joined the partnership, contributing US$45 million.

The Letter of Intent formalizing the partnership between Norway and Indonesia pledges "a two-year suspension on all new concessions for conversion of peat and natural forest." This places a temporary freeze on the expansion of oil palm plantations and other large-scale agriculture, now the main drivers of deforestation in Indonesia.

Indonesian civil society is seriously concerned that unless the core issue of forest tenure rights and safeguards are first addressed, this and other REDD schemes will exacerbate already intense forest conflicts. The Indonesian Civil Society Forum for Climate Justice (which includes RRI collaborators HuMa, Sawitwatch, and AMAN among its membership) is pushing for stronger rights for forest-dependent communities in the proposed forests-for-carbon schemes. The Indonesian government's own data and the World Bank show that more than 25,000 villages and an estimated 50-70 million people (nearly one-fourth the total population) live in and around "state forest land"—only 12% of which has been properly gazetted, thus making the remaining area uncertain in legal status—yet the country's draft national REDD strategy does not recognize the importance of a rights-based framework.

_____

Click here for the full report "PUSHBACK: Local Power, Global Realignment," which takes stock of the current status of forest rights and tenure globally, assesses the key issues and events of 2010 that shape possibilities to improve local rights and livelihoods, and identifies key questions and challenges that the world will face in 2011.