



## **The 7th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk**

Baku, Azerbaijan, 29 June 2019

### Resolution

### **On the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra (Indonesia)**

We, the Civil Society Organizations who have attended the 7th International NGO Forum on World Heritage at Risk organized by World Heritage Watch on 29 June in Baku, Azerbaijan, coming from 19 countries in 5 continents including Indonesia, as active and concerned citizens dealing with Natural and Cultural World Heritage properties at different places, would like to bring the following to the attention of the World Heritage Committee:

1. Noting that, when the TRHS was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2004, the World Heritage Committee encouraged the State Party (Indonesia) to extend the property to include other parts of the Leuser Ecosystem (28 COM 14B.5);
2. Noting also that the TRHS was inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger in 2011 because of threats that included road construction, illegal logging and encroachment (34 COM 7B.14, 35 COM 7B.16);
3. Noting also the recommended corrective measures and the set of criteria for the Desired State of Conservation for Removal of the TRHS from the List of World Heritage in Danger (42 COM 7A.40);
4. Noting also that these corrective measures include the carrying out of 'rigorous Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs)' for all proposed developments 'within the property (e.g. road improvement projects) and its vicinity (e.g. roads, mining, geothermal and hydro dam projects), with particular attention to the Leuser Ecosystem National Strategic Area, to ensure that these do not have a negative impact on the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the property' (42 COM 7A.40);
5. Noting also that three major dam projects (Tampur Lesten, Jambo Aye and Kluet) are proposed within the vicinity of the Leuser Ecosystem National Strategic Area and that environmental assessments have not adequately assessed impacts on OUV;
6. Noting also that a major dam project has commenced in the Batang Toru Ecosystem, stronghold of the critically endangered Tapanuli orangutan, first described as a new species only in 2017;
7. Noting also the documented Outstanding Universal Value of the Batang Toru Ecosystem;
8. Noting also the inevitable and severe impacts on lowland rainforest and key species, including orangutans, tigers and elephants, if any of the above dams proceed;
9. Noting also the continued poaching, illegal logging, road construction and loss of forests described by the Indonesian Government in its 2019 State of Conservation Report for the TRHS;

10. Calls on the Indonesian Government to nominate the Batang Toru Ecosystem and the entire Leuser Ecosystem as extensions to the TRHS World Heritage property;
11. Calls on the Indonesian Government to prohibit further works on the proposed Batang Toru, Tampur Lesten, Jambo Aye and Kluet dams;
12. Calls on the Indonesian Government to tackle illegal logging, poaching, road construction and encroachment within the TRHS and the wider landscape by carrying out the corrective measures identified in decision 42 COM 7A.40;
13. Calls on international finance and construction corporations to cease involvement with and to disassociate themselves from the proposed Batang Toru, Tampur Lesten, Jambo Aye and Kluet dams;
14. Calls on the World Heritage Committee to remind the Indonesian State Party of its obligation to carry out rigorous EIAs on all proposed projects, including roads and dams, within the TRHS and its vicinity, including the Leuser Ecosystem National Strategic Area, and to explicitly identify the proposed Batang Toru, Tampur Lesten, Jambo Aye and Kluet dams as requiring such EIAs, and that impacts on OUV must be assessed as part of those EIAs;
15. Calls on the World Heritage Committee to adopt draft decision 43 COM 7A.1 and, in particular, to retain the Tropical Rainforest Heritage of Sumatra on the List of World Heritage in Danger.

Baku, 29 June 2019