



*Picture: Restoration in Tanjung Rangas, Seruyan, Central Kalimantan*

## SUMMARY

# 2024 ANNUAL UPDATE

### **THE RSPO JURISDICTIONAL APPROACH TO CERTIFICATION IN SERUYAN DISTRICT, CENTRAL KALIMANTAN, INDONESIA**

As one of the three pilots globally for the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil's (RSPO) Jurisdictional Approach to Certification, 2024 was a transformative year for Seruyan District, which is in the province of Central Kalimantan in Borneo, Indonesia. We would like to highlight the main achievements of the pilot district in 2024, and encourage you to reach out to learn more about the initiative.

## WHAT IS THE RSPO JURISDICTIONAL APPROACH TO CERTIFICATION

The jurisdictional approach to certification aims to simplify and reduce the costs of certification thus expanding RSPO coverage while improving social and environmental outcomes. The approach has two main elements:

- 1 Landscape-level principles and criteria:** The principles and criteria for protecting forests and peatland as well as human rights are applied at the district (jurisdictional) level through regulations and decrees. Local governments are responsible for the assessments and implementation of these principles, building an inclusive approach to ensure that producers who wish to be certified can be part of the process within the district, while improving the sustainability of the district.
- 2 A jurisdictional entity for group certification:** A district (jurisdictional) level association, called a Jurisdictional Entity, has been set up to support producers to get certified. Membership of the association is voluntary, and open to all palm oil producers in the district, and only members who comply with the RSPO principles and criteria will be able to sell certified palm oil. The association will become a member of RSPO and support its members through certification audits.

The model is designed to easily incorporate other commodities and their certification schemes. We are currently working to expand jurisdictional certification in Seruyan to incorporate forestry and aquaculture certification.



Picture: A smallholder harvesting oil palm trees in certified plantations in Lada Mandala Jaya village, Pangkalan Lada, West Kotawaringin.



Picture: The RSPO JA Meeting in Bali

## THE ROLE OF THE DISTRICT GOVERNMENT IN DRIVING CHANGE

The achievements of 2024 would not have been possible without the steadfast support and leadership of the Seruyan District Government. Their commitment to creating an enabling environment has laid the groundwork for collaboration across government, communities, NGOs, and private sector actors. The district government has been pivotal in advancing policy reforms, championing indigenous peoples' rights, and resolving historical land conflicts.

The district government has also played an instrumental role in facilitating public consultations, endorsing regulatory frameworks like Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2024 on Protection and Recognition of Indigenous Communities in Seruyan, and driving the formation of the Jurisdictional Entity in Seruyan District, called Bapakat Sustainable Palm Oil Association (Asosiasi Bapakat Sawit Berkelanjutan). These initiatives reflect the district government's dedication to ensuring inclusive and sustainable outcomes for all stakeholders.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2024

### HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV) AREAS:

A total of 969,690.9 hectares of indicative HCV areas have been identified in 2024. The HCV areas located in the State Forest Area (875,729.24 ha in the Concessions Areas of 27 Palm Oil Plantations), Areas for Other Purposes or APL (76,040.78 ha), and Water Body (17,801.84 ha). The HCV areas include HCV categories 1 through 4, while HCV categories 5 and 6 are still undergoing analysis.

The method used to indicate HCV areas is HCV Screening, consisting of 6 steps recommended by HCVN, namely: (1) Define Purpose and Scope: DDDTLH approach, using HCV 1-4 description, supporting land-use planning management, jurisdiction certification, and supply chain risk management; (2) Gather Information: includes literature review, spatial analysis, stakeholder and expert consultation; (3) Determine Presence; (4) Determine Threats; (5) Determine Priorities: by producing probability maps, priority map and threats that effectively differentiate its class (high, medium, low); and (6) Present Result: HCV will be presented and can utilize or modify as needed. Integrating HCV Screening with DDDTLH was later conducted to contribute to the HCV into the DDDTLH process. HCV Screening verification is also carried out to obtain final verified indications using the ground truthing method. The screening process starts in May 2023, and the first draft was issued in June 2023.

The maps of village-level HCV areas were produced using satellite imagery and several other secondary data in collaboration with HCVN. The HCV areas are present in 91 villages. Of the 91 villages, as many as 85 villages carried out participatory mapping and verification processes based on the HCV area maps produced together with HCVN. This bottom-up approach ensures inclusive decision-making for Go and No-Go Areas.

### FORMATION OF JURISDICTIONAL ENTITY:

The Bapakat Sustainable Palm Oil Association was legally established on 19 September 2024, with 11 members, including 8 palm oil producers (5 plantations and 3 plantations with mills), and 3 civil society organisations. The association will apply for RSPO membership in 2025 and then support selected members to get certified.

### POLICY AND LEGAL ADVANCEMENTS:

Regional Regulation No. 5 of 2024 on the Protection and Recognition of Indigenous Communities in Seruyan District now provides a legal pathway for Indigenous communities to claim traditional land rights, integrating HCV areas into broader sustainability frameworks.



Picture: Organic Farming in Asam Baru Village, Danau Seluluk Sub-district

## CONFLICT RESOLUTION:

The district government and village government have resolved 8 plantation-related conflicts through proactive mediation, setting a precedent for equitable dispute resolution. Five (5) of these conflicts are overlapping land claims while 3 of these conflicts are plasma. Agreed settlements to these conflicts include monetary compensation, return of land, building public facilities such as water reservoirs, and plasma.

A mechanism for conflict resolution has been established through three regulations: (1) Head of District Regulation No. 11 of 2021 on Conflict Reporting; (2) Head of District Regulation No. 48 of 2022 on Conflict Resolution and Prevention; and (3) Head of District Decree No. 190 of 2023 on the Establishment of the Conflict Task Force. Head of District Regulation No. 48 of 2022 mandates that principles of free and prior consultation are part of the process of permit renewal and corporate activities such as replanting and plantation expansion.

## DIGITAL INNOVATIONS:

The “Bentang Data” digital platform has been developed and will be officially launched to centralize and enhance transparency in plantation and conservation data management. The platform is currently under development and expected to be made available for public in 2025.

Data for this system has been collected but has not been input into the system yet. The data that has been collected are:

- Data on the palm oil supply chain in Seruyan District, including Palm Oil Plantation Cover Data; Palm Oil Plantation "Land Bank" Data; Palm Oil Plantation Company Concession Data; Palm Oil Independent Farmer Land Data; Palm Oil Collector Data; and CPO and PKO Mill Data;
- Environmental aspect data includes Indicative HCV Data from Kaleka & HCVN analysis; Palm Oil Company HCV Data; Monthly Fire Spot Monitoring Data; and Monthly Deforestation Monitoring Data; and
- Social aspect data includes Plantation Business Conflict Data.

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS FOR 2025

As we look to 2025, the continued partnership with the district government will be essential in scaling the Jurisdictional Approach. Key priorities include:

### EXPANDING PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS AND FINALIZING GO AND NO-GO AREA

The Go and No-Go criteria should be set by the JCWG before determining the areas. The area, especially the No-Go, will be integrated into District Spatial Planning (RTRWK) after being discussed and agreed upon by the JCWG. The HCV (which also will be ratified by the Head of District Decree) will be one of the bases for determining Go and No-Go zones.

### STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE CAPACITY OF THE JURISDICTIONAL ENTITY

Strengthening the governance capacity of the Jurisdictional Entity is important to enable the Jurisdictional Entity to become a RSPO member and support members to get certified.

### ADVANCING CRITICAL REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Advancing critical regulatory frameworks, including zero-burning agriculture and enhanced labor protections.

### LEVERAGING DIGITAL TOOLS

Leveraging digital tools to enhance data inclusivity and drive evidence-based decisions.

### DEVELOPING A DISTRICT-WIDE MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN ON THE DISTRICT HCV AREA

Developing a district-wide monitoring and management plan on the district HCV area as the basis for developing the "Integrated conservation and development planning" document as one of the requirements for fulfilling step 2.



Picture: Permanent nursery for MPTS (Multi-Purpose Tree Species) to support tree seedling needs for restoration. Located in Rungau Raya, Danau Seluluk Sub-district.



Picture: Organic Farming in Asam Baru Village, Danao Sejulang Sub-district



## A CALL FOR COLLABORATION

The active participation of all stakeholders, particularly plantation companies and mills, is vital to realizing the full potential of the jurisdictional approach to certification. By working together, we can build a more sustainable future for Seruyan and its communities. For a detailed overview of 2024 achievements and next steps, please refer to the attached document or visit our website at <https://sy.dkpp.seruyankab.go.id/>

For inquiries or to explore collaboration opportunities, please contact:

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