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NEWS RELEASE

* BBCP UPDATES – CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY *

SUPPORTING THE KEE INITIATIVE – BUMITAMA’S CONTRIBUTION TO THE CAUSE

Jakarta, 7 February 2018 – The Bumitama Biodiversity and Community Project (“BBCP”) follows the Green Growth Plan of the West Kalimantan province, as presented by the Governor Drs. Cornelis, M.H. in the recent Governor’s Climate and Forests Task Force (GCP) Annual Meeting. To provide safe guards for our West Kalimantan set-aside areas, we engaged with the regional office of Ministry of Forestry on the Essential Ecosystem Area (*Kawasan Ekosistem Esensial* or “KEE”) initiative. The KEE deals with areas outside of conservation areas, under government – issued business licenses, that are managed and protected following conservation principles in order to maintain the functions of the ecosystems, protect biodiversity and to benefit the surrounding communities. Bumitama officially acknowledged its support to this initiative when the “Mapping protocol” was signed on 12 November 2017.



Subsequently, our team has facilitated an on-site survey for the representatives of Ministry of Forestry at the BBCP Project Area. This location proposed to be included into the KEE protection areas contains a wildlife migration corridor, High Conservation Value areas, High Carbon Stock forests, peatlands and crucial water catchment areas.

As a result, the BBCP project area was confirmed by the decision of the Governor of West Kalimantan as a part of a KEE area called “Orangutan Corridor Landscape Sungai Putri – Gunung Tarak – Gunung Palung”, which will form a safe guard for its conservation. To further

strengthen this status, we have started working with the representatives of the Regional Government, expanding protection onto another administration level. We are hopeful that later this year the Ketapang Government would endorse the designation of this area for conservation by issuing a local regulation.



About BBCP

The Bumitama Biodiversity and Community Project is a landscape-based collaborative programme jointly funded by Bumitama and IDH – Sustainable Trade Initiative that focuses on environmental and socio-economic activities for increased protection of set-aside areas inside and around Bumitama’s plantations in Ketapang district, West Kalimantan. While originally established to preserve the unique biodiversity of a wildlife migration corridor in PT GMS, this project was expanded by the areas of High Conservation Values, peat and High Carbon Stock forest of the recently acquired PT DAS adjacent to it, forming connectivity between the forests of Gunung Tarak and Sungai Putri. Besides the management and reforestation of the set-aside areas the project will involve 8 villages through production-protection-agreements where village level land use plans will link sustainable economic development with the project’s conservation effort. Our other partners in this project are Aidenvironment (“AE”) and Yayasan International Animal Rescue Indonesia (“YIARI”).

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