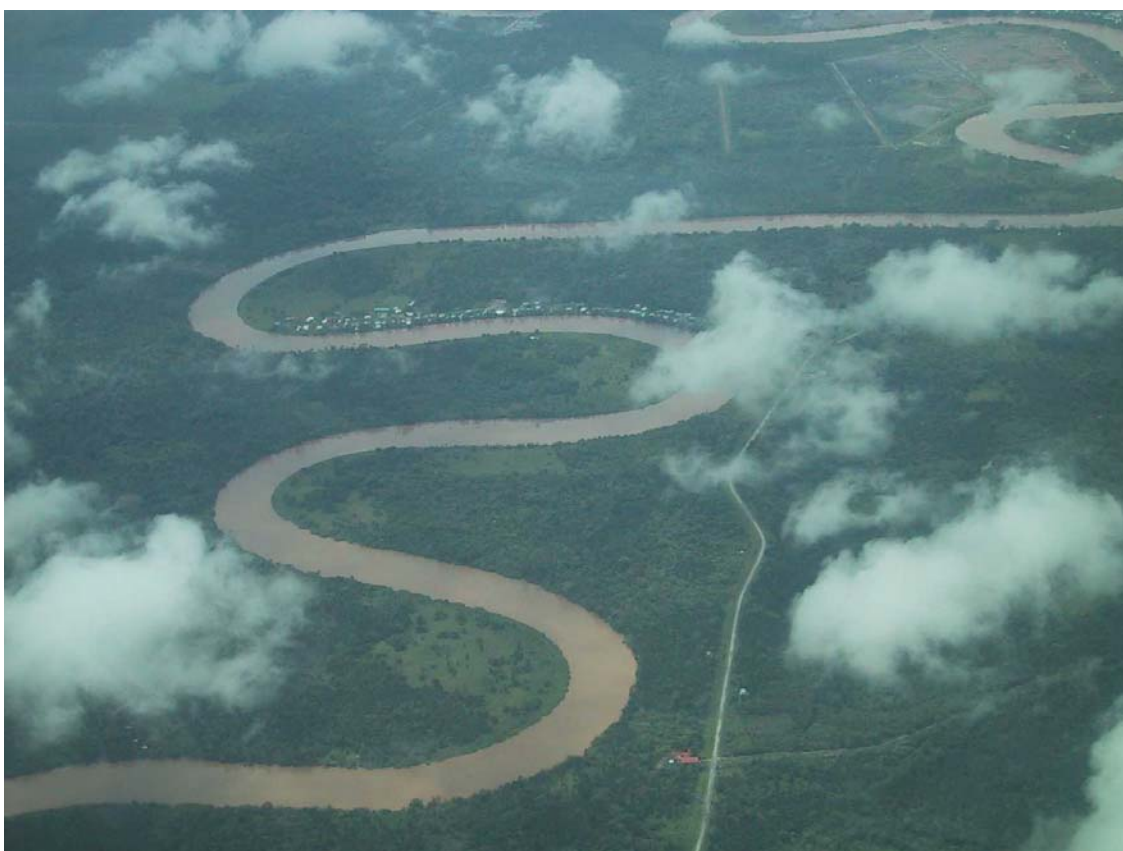


EUROPEAN COMMISSION INCO-DEV

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT: 1.12.02 TO 30.11.03

**Strategies for implementing sustainable management of
peatlands in Borneo**

CONTRACT NO: ICA4-CT-2001-10098



Report collated and prepared by Dr. Henk Wösten, Project Co-ordinator

Alterra, Wageningen, the Netherlands

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**Title : STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE
MANAGEMENT OF PEATLANDS IN BORNEO**

Project homepage : <http://www.strapeat.alterra.nl>

Keywords : peat swamp forest, biodiversity, carbon, sustainability, wise use

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**AGENCY FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND APPLICATION OF
TECHNOLOGY, INDONESIA**

Report collated and prepared by Dr. Henk Wösten, Project Co-ordinator
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SUMMARY

- 1. General.** During this second year of the project the main emphasis was on the collection of additional missing information. This is the follow up on the year one activity on the establishment of the state of knowledge on the key elements of sustainable management of tropical peat and on the identification of knowledge gaps including a prioritization of these gaps. As a result partners carried out various field and laboratory experiments. These newly collected data, together with the data reported in the state of knowledge report, form a wealth of information on tropical peatlands. At the same time a start is made with the evaluation and integration of the different types of information. Also relevant stakeholders have been informed regularly at various meetings about the synthesis of the collected information into a comprehensive strategy for sustainable management of peatlands in Borneo. Collaboration on the Borneo island of researchers from Indonesia and Malaysia continued to be mutually stimulating and resulted in an active exchange of ideas and practices. No major problems have been encountered and the output in terms of conference and symposium presentations as well as high quality scientific papers has been considerable.
- 2. Scientific benefits for Asian researchers.** As clearly expressed by several Asian researchers in a presentation of STRAPEAT to EU officers in Brussels in April 2003, the project offers to them a window of opportunities of doing high quality research, exchange ideas with fellow researchers from different institutions and interact with stakeholders at different levels. As such the project creates a stimulating environment for both their scientific and personal career as it creates an international platform for research into various aspects of sustainable management of tropical peatland.
- 3. Facilities in Indonesia and Malaysia.** The Centre for International Co-operation in Sustainable Management of Tropical Peatland (CIMTROP) and the Natural Laboratory for Sustainable Management of Tropical Peat Swamp Forest (NAMTROP) of the University of Palangka Raya as well as MARDI's Tropical Peat Research Station in Sessang, Sarawak, continue to offer excellent research facilities on the island of Borneo, Moreover they stimulate exchange of ideas and expertise among Indonesian and Malaysian partners in the project.
- 4. Work Package 1000: Project Management.** All management, financial, monitoring/reporting and communication/dissemination systems continue to be operational. They are coordinated from Alterra in the Netherlands in close cooperation with the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom and are guided by the Management Team of senior representatives of all partners involved in the research programme. Several meetings were held of the Management Team but communication on a more regular basis was achieved by electronic means (email/internet) and fax/telephone. Despite the fact that this relatively large group of 12 collaborating partners is quite demanding in terms of management, overall coordination is effective and efficient.
- 5. Work Package 2000: State of Knowledge.** The State of Knowledge established during the first year on the key topics: hydrology, ecology, socio-economics and human settlement, land use and land use change, carbon, forestry, restoration, peatland sector management/utilization, peat soil, biodiversity and peat swamp forest

structure, agriculture use, peat and peatland resources, guided the collection of additional, new information during this second year of the project.

6. **Work Package 3000: Data and Information Acquisition.** Guided by the knowledge gaps and their prioritization, all partners continued to acquire additional, new information. At the Tropical Peat Research Station in Sessang, Sarawak, after some technical difficulties, facilities are operational for the measurement of greenhouse gas emissions under different types of land use. The acquisition of additional information on biodiversity, tropical peat characteristics, ecological functioning and peatland hydrology continues. Where appropriate collaborative research is carried out with partners from Malaysia, Indonesia and Europe in line with the identified knowledge gaps. Data collected is being transferred to the central relational database.
7. **Work Package 4000: Data Evaluation and Integration.** Integration of information is taking place on for example peat thickness, land use, hydrology and meteorology in the form of relational, interactive databases using GIS. Modeling components are operational for the production of GIS graphs indicating the consequences of certain types of land use (e.g. maintaining peat swamp forest or agricultural use). The results will be used in workshops to discuss with stakeholders the different options for sustainable management of peatlands.
8. **Work Package 5000: Strategies for Implementation.** During this second year stakeholder meetings in the region on 'sustainable development of peatland in Borneo' were held in Palangka Raya in August 2003 and in Kuching in September 2003. At both occasions local governments showed a keen interest in the outcome of the project.
9. **Work Package 6000: Information Dissemination and Training.** Intensive staff training programmes continued. The Msc and Ph.D candidates from UNPAR continued their doctoral courses at UNINOT. Two short courses and a workshop were held at UNPAR in August 2003 organised by UNINOT, UNILEI and UNPAR on the topic 'Wise Use of Tropical Peatlands' and 'Natural Resource Functions of Tropical Peatland'. In addition, communication with and publicity from press, radio and television continues in various countries. The website has been updated and a full color leaflet highlighting the different project activities has been reprinted.
10. **Work programmes for Year 3.** In this last year of the project emphasis will be on the integration of the large amount of information collected on the different subjects into an overall strategy for sustainable management of tropical peatlands. Next this strategy will be communicated with the different relevant stakeholders in order to assist them in a better planning for these areas. Therefore 'synthesis of information in the form of strategies' and 'communication on strategies' are the key issues for the coming year.
11. **Problems and Prospects.** There were relatively minor logistical problems this year relating to delays in funding and the political situation in Iraq. Due to this war situation a number of visits had to be postponed to later in 2003. A few partners were late in their annual reporting due to their workloads. Peat fires caused severe haze and smoke problems in Central Kalimantan in the second half of 2003. These problems hampered field work in that period of the year.

SCIENTIFIC ANNUAL REPORT

Content

During the second year covered by this report all of the project partners carried out their respective operations and were involved in their Work Packages and Tasks. All of the partners engaged the various staff for whom they had received funding and several project management and research collaboration meetings were held. Preliminary information from the project was presented at several conferences, seminars and workshops.

As in the first year, much time was spent by the coordinators in managing the project for monitoring and financial control, task reporting, international scientist collaboration and field research. Coordinating 12 different partners is a considerable task, this despite the fact that an effective and efficient management system is in place. The war situation in Iraq caused a delay to the end of 2003 of a number of visits to Borneo scheduled for early 2003. In a meeting at the EU in Brussels in April 2003 researchers from Indonesia and Malaysia clearly expressed their appreciation for the opportunities this project offers them in doing research on tropical peatlands as well as collaborating with partners from other institutions and countries.

Based on the compiled Status Report with chapters on different key issues in peatland management, this years emphasis was on the collection of additional information as well as on the integration of the information. Results of these activities were presented at Partners Meetings held In Nottingham on 19th December 2002, Brussels on 8th April 2003 and Kuching on 29th September 2003. During the year stakeholder meetings were held in Palangka Raya in August 2003 and in Kuching in September 2003.

The Centre for International Co-operation in Sustainable Development of Tropical Peatland (CIMTROP) and the Natural Laboratory for Sustainable Management of Tropical Peat Swamp Forest (NAMTROP) in Central Kalimantan and MARDI's Tropical Peat Research Station in Sessang, Sarawak, make major contributions to the field, laboratory and administrative work of the project. These facilities continue to be of great importance in transferring expertise to the Indonesian and Malaysian counterparts during the project.

In the third and last year of the project emphasis will shift from 'Data and Information Acquisition' and 'Data Evaluation and Integration' towards 'Strategies for Implementation'. At the same time interaction with stakeholders will continue in order to assist them in using the strategies for a better planning of their tropical peatlands. Findings of the project will continue to be published, presented at workshops and conferences, and made available to the press.

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