

**TOWARD STANDARD
FOR
DEFORESTATION
ON
TROPICAL PEATLAND**

**by :
Bambang Setiadi**

**NATIONAL STANDARD AGENCY OF INDONESIA
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I. INTRODUCTION

Tropical peat is a significant local, regional and global carbon store. Climatic scenarios in South East Asia show increase in temperature and variability of rainfall that are likely to have negative impacts on peat net carbon balance. Land reclamation decreases forest area and thus increases loss of carbon stores and causes biotic impoverishment. Sustainable peat management has potential to significantly reduce carbon losses and extend peat resource lifespan.

Deforestation, fires and peat fires significantly contribute to greenhouse gases. Fire became the most dangerous threat to Indonesian forests and peatlands in the past 15 years . Results after the fires : 32% of investigation area burned, of which 92% was peatland , fire-damaged peatland area comprised 47% peat swamp forest (mainly logged-over & Fragmented), 53% deforested peatland, and only 5% of pristine, unlogged forest was burnt. (Siegert...)

According to an article by Van der Werf et al (2009), deforestation is the second largest anthropogenic source of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere, after fossil fuel combustion. Therefore a measurement standard for deforestation is definitely needed in order to know the carbon emission resulting from deforestation.

In June 2007, the illegal logging issue was again discussed at the G8 Summit of the leaders of the wealthiest nations. The G8 Summit Declaration linked illegal logging, deforestation and climate change, stating that the world leaders would “support existing processes to combat illegal logging”, noting that it is “one of the most difficult obstacles to further progress in realizing sustainable forest management and therefore, in protecting forests worldwide.”

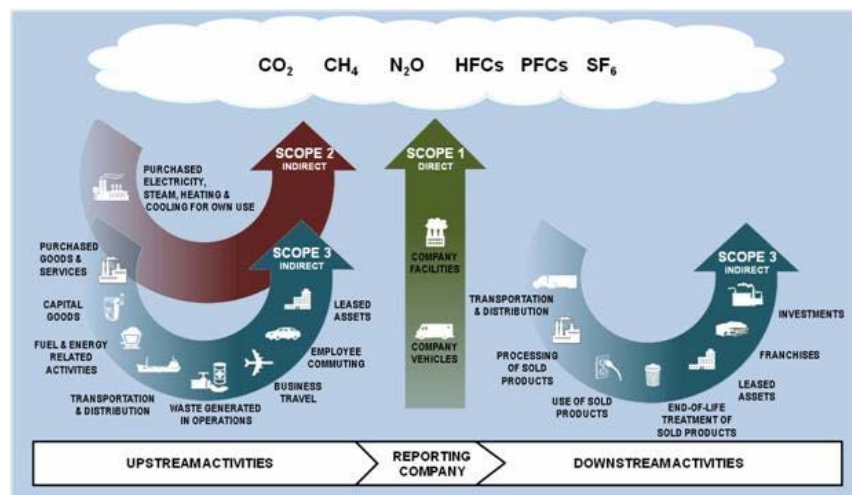
To avoid or minimize the emission of carbon dioxide the maintenance of large stores of carbon in tropical forest and deforestation should be a priority in terms of GHG management. The Indonesian Government has indicated a commitment that the country would cut emissions down to 26 percent from projected levels by 2020, and possibly further down to 41 percent if supported by industrialized countries. According to data from the World Resources Institute, more than 80 percent of Indonesia's emissions resulted from deforestation and degradation of carbon-rich ecosystems such as peatlands

II. DEFORESTATION AND STANDARDS

The ISO 14064:2006 series and the ISO 14065:2007 standard provide an internationally agreed framework for measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and verifying claims made about them so that “ a tonne of carbon is always a tonne of carbon ”. They support programmes to reduce GHG emissions as well as emissions trading programmes. (Frost, 2012)

The ISO 14000 family is the most visible part of ISO’s work for the environment. In addition, however, ISO offers a wide-ranging portfolio of standardized sampling, testing and analytical methods to deal with specific environmental challenges. It has developed more than 650 International Standards for the monitoring of aspects such as the quality of air, water, soil and nuclear radiation. These standards are tools for providing business and government with scientifically valid data on the environmental effects of economic activity. They may also be used as the technical basis for environmental regulations. Other environment related work includes standards for designing buildings, or retrofitting existing ones, for improved energy efficiency.

In accordance to GHG Protocol Initiative 2004, the sources of the GHG emission are from direct emission (such as: Company Vehicles, Fuel combustion, Fugitive emissions) and the indirect emission (such as: Purchased Electricity for own use, Employee business travel, Waste disposal, Contractor owned vehicles, Production of purchased materials and outsourced activities). The question is : where is deforestation ?



Source : Anne Sjolander (2011)

Setiadi (2011) observation on standard series of ISO 14064 concluded that:

1. Those standards only focus on how to manage GHG emission from the activities of industry and transportation.
2. The standards have not yet considered managing GHG emission as the result of deforestation and forest degradation.
3. In fact, GHG emission from deforestation and forest degradation may contribute up to 20% of the total emission, despite, on the other hand, forests having the ability of removing or absorbing CO₂ in combating climate change.

In fact, we have already known that tropical countries do not have deforestation standards. The consequences then possibly are:

1. Each country will make its own formula to measure GHG
2. Any agencies will measure the GHG emission by their own method .
3. Deforestation is becoming a big issue without any method of measurement to solve the problem.

Therefore, tropical countries will always be unsure and unconfident on carbon emission calculation or measurement in all international meetings

Summary and recommendation from the conference on climate change – deforestation and standardization are (Setiadi, 2011) :

1. The participants recognize the importance of developing guidelines for standardization in deforestation.
2. The participants propose to develop at least three topics of standard guideline which include: (i) monitoring focusing on the use of satellite imagery for monitoring land use cover and forest cover changes, (ii) measurement focusing on the use of technologies for measuring emission from peat fire and (iii) estimation focusing on methodology for estimating emission from deforestation in line with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) guidelines and United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) guidance.
3. The proposed guideline is not intended for establishing one standard of technology or methodology for measuring or estimating deforestation, but it is for harmonizing the framework of the methodology on deforestation.

4. Indicators and parameters on deforestation should acknowledge the national circumstances.
5. Draft outline of a new standard has been discussed and supported by participants including representatives from Colombia, Uganda, Papua New Guinea and Japan. The standard guideline may also facilitate the development of technology profile catalogues enabling users to bridge with the technology providers.
6. BSN will send a formal proposal to ISO TC 207 to register new work item proposal (NWIP) on deforestation management.

III. PROGRESS OF NEW WORK ITEM PROPOSAL ON DEFORESTATION

The Indonesian delegation attended in ISO/TC 207 17th Plenary Meetings on July 11-17, 2010 in Leon, Mexico. Indonesia also shared about the deforestation standard in the Meeting and sent formal proposal to ISO TC 207 to register new work items on deforestation management. (Setiadi, 2012). As a result of Mexico meeting there are several important resolution for Indonesia : The Resolution about Deforestation is Resolution 13 : “ISO/TC 207 thanks Dr. Bambang Setiadi of BSN (Indonesia) for his letter regarding ISO/TC 207’s potential contribution to addressing climate change and deforestation issues and encourages ISO/TC 207/SC 7 to explore specific standards needs.”

ISO/TC 207/SC7 established an Ad Hoc Group led by Indonesia to study the subject of GHG monitoring/ measurement methodologies, especially the potential of standardization work in the subject. It was also decided that Australia and Indonesia would submit a New Work Item Proposal on Land Degradation and Desertification

Ad Hoc Group to study GHG monitoring/ measurement methodologies, led by Indonesia Australia and Indonesia were to submit New Work Item Proposal on Land Degradation and Desertification.

During the meeting of Chairs of the Advisory Group in Hanoi, January 2011, New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) Land Degradation and Desertification was approved. Indonesia and Australia were requested to draft a document to outline the content of the proposed standard. New Work Item Proposal (NWIP) Land Degradation and Desertification was approved

During the ISO/TC 207 Plenary Meeting in Oslo, Norway, the Ad Hoc Group on Land Degradation met and resolved to to develop a working draft on “Guidelines on Establishing Good Practice to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification” . The proposed standard itself is meant to be best practice guidelines, not a sectoral application of a management system

standard. The proposed standard should be applicable to land management practices in agriculture and forestry, both in arid/semi-arid and non arid areas

SC7 Greenhouse gas management and related activities

SC7 accepted the report of the Ad Hoc Group on *GHG Measurement/monitoring Methodology*

SC7 requests contribution from SC7 experts to contribute to the preparation of an NWIP on GHG Measurement/monitoring methodology to be submitted by Indonesia.

Two teams have been set up in BSN to elaborate the working draft and write the NWIP. Members of teams include Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, LIPI, BMKG, Universities. New members are still welcome. Meetings and workshop have been done by BSN and Ministry of Forestry to gather input from various stakeholders.

There was a meeting in Botswana, end January 2012 to discuss “Guidelines on Establishing Good Practice to Combat Land Degradation and Desertification” To decide whether NWIP Land Degradation may continue From 11 November 2011 – 11 February 2012. Requirements for approval: **At least 5 P-member nominate experts to contribute**, Simple majority by P-members voting

IV. THE RESULT

From 76 P-members of ISO/TC 207, 56 of them were casting votes. This is surprising, as the active members in the Ad Hoc Group were less than 10 countries. This shows that deforestation has gained attention from most countries. (Setiadi, 2012)

From this 56 votes, 38 agree to continue. Only three countries disagreed, because of disagreement with principles in the draft (Argentina), too much content from UNCCD (India), and not clear whether standard or Technical Report (USA). Also, 17 members nominate experts, and this includes Argentina.

Although the result of the ballot is positive, the result also describes the challenges ahead :

First of all, it is still an early stage. There will be another ballot for Committee Draft, Draft International Standard, and Final Draft International Standard. It may need another 2 or 3 years.

Second, the comment from members means there is still room for improvement of the draft document.

Also, more members will participate in the group, which means more works to do for the convenor as well as for the participants. And this also means we need consolidation among stakeholders to get more input which is beneficial for all of us.

An Ad Hoc Group meeting was held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 30 January to 3 February 2012. It was attended by eight countries : Australia, Botswana, China, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, South Africa and Tanzania. The meeting was successful in resolving some issues regarding regional matters. Since each member country has different conditions, they have different needs to be addressed in the standards. Some definitions were also discussed and agreed to describe the variety of conditions in each regions. Looking at the progress so far, the group was optimistic that the draft would be finalised by next year.

CONCLUSION

Target to develop standards for deforestation in tropical peatlands have found the direction, but still a long way to make it happen. Now, that is needed a constructive input and helping the measurement of deforestation in tropical peatlands.

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