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**THE ROLE OF INSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT FOREST FIRE AND MANAGE
PEATLANDS IN INDONESIA**

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The recent forest fire crisis has caused massive damage in Indonesia and neighbouring countries in the region, socially and economically. Socially, forest fires cause deterioration in the health and wellbeing of people in the affected region. Economically, fires cost twice as much as a tsunami clean-up. Therefore, preventing forest fire becomes a crucial issue to discuss. In that context, management of peatlands is a very important topic because more than half of these fires have occurred on peatland areas. By putting peatland management onto the agenda, we can prevent forest fires in the future. This paper tries to explore the role of institutions to prevent forest fires. Furthermore, the focus lies on how institutional settings in Indonesia could be arranged to manage peatlands and prevent peatlands from burning. Institutions can serve as players in national legislation, institutional set-ups and inter-institutional coordination, monitoring mechanisms and law enforcement to create constraints and incentives for human behaviour that will lead to fewer forest fires. Most of the studies that have been done focus on technical issues and studies that emphasize the role of institutions are relatively few. Therefore, discussing issues of forest fires and peatlands management from the institutional perspective will advance, both theoretically and empirically, the knowledge of forest fire issues in the region.

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