

This case study is one of several produced by the **CLARA** network to coincide with the publication of the IPCC Special Report on Land. We're showcasing **CLARA** member climate solutions which demonstrate the **rights-based, low-emission development pathways** needed for reducing emissions while **promoting livelihoods** and **ecosystem integrity**.

Social Forestry as A Rights-Based Climate Action

Communities in Indonesia benefit socio-economically whilst sustainably managing forest resources

Organisations and individuals involved

Forest frontier communities throughout Indonesia.

This submission is from WARSI, an NGO focused on community conservation in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

Komunitas Konservasi Indonesia WARSI

Emmy Primadona Than

Kecamatan Telanaipura Jambi 36124

+62 741 66678 / +62 741 66695

Emmy.than@gmail.com

Location

Jambi Province, Sumatra, Indonesia, in villages surrounding Kerinci Seblat National Park

AT LEAST 38 MILLION households in Indonesian forest-frontier areas are highly dependent on forest resources, whilst 10 million people in these areas live under the poverty line. At the same time, due to exploitation of natural resources, deforestation rates in Indonesia have remained high.

Social forestry—where local communities hold forest management rights—is one of the Indonesian government's strategies for poverty alleviation, food security, resolving forest conflicts and improving the ecological function of the forest. In Indonesia, 12.7 million ha are to be allocated under five schemes (village forestry, community forestry, community timber plantations, co-management with private partners, and customary forests). The first four schemes enable communities to manage lands for at least 35 years. Customary forests allows indigenous groups to manage lands under communal ownership.

Lubuk Beringin village in Jambi, Sumatera is a success story. Communities' legal rights were recognized in 2009; four other villages followed. Local communities work to combat illegal logging and forest fires, by organizing patrols. The area which is still forested is protected from all activities except harvesting non-timber products. Other forest areas are being restored with high economic-value trees, such as durian, cocoa, cardamom, 'dragon blood' fruit, and rubber. Agroforestry enables communities to diversify their sources of income, and sustains ecosystems. Since the implementation of social forestry there is no deforestation in that area.



Social forestry schemes have also helped with alternative income generation: harvesting non-timber forest products, and creating eco-tourism opportunities. Sungai Buluah village forest in West Sumatera attracts tourists to enjoy nature.

Until recently the government has legalized 2.6 million ha under community management, but more is to be done. A common challenge is the overlapping claims on land, and lack of clarity regarding administrative areas.

Local communities still face limitations in accessing information, capital, technology, and training. We hope that the success story in parts of Jambi Province can be duplicated in other Indonesian provinces.

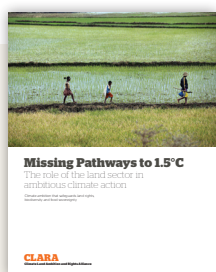
Testimony

Emmy Primadona Than, WARSI

"It is important for us as a civilized nation to secure community rights over forests and their natural resources. Handing over massive amounts of forest area and exploiting forest resources for the sake of economic interest triggers conflicts with forest-dependent people. Social forestry not only respects and enriches traditional values of local community but also most importantly reduces the risk of 'land-grabbing', and protects remaining rainforest in Indonesia".

'Missing Pathways' to climate action

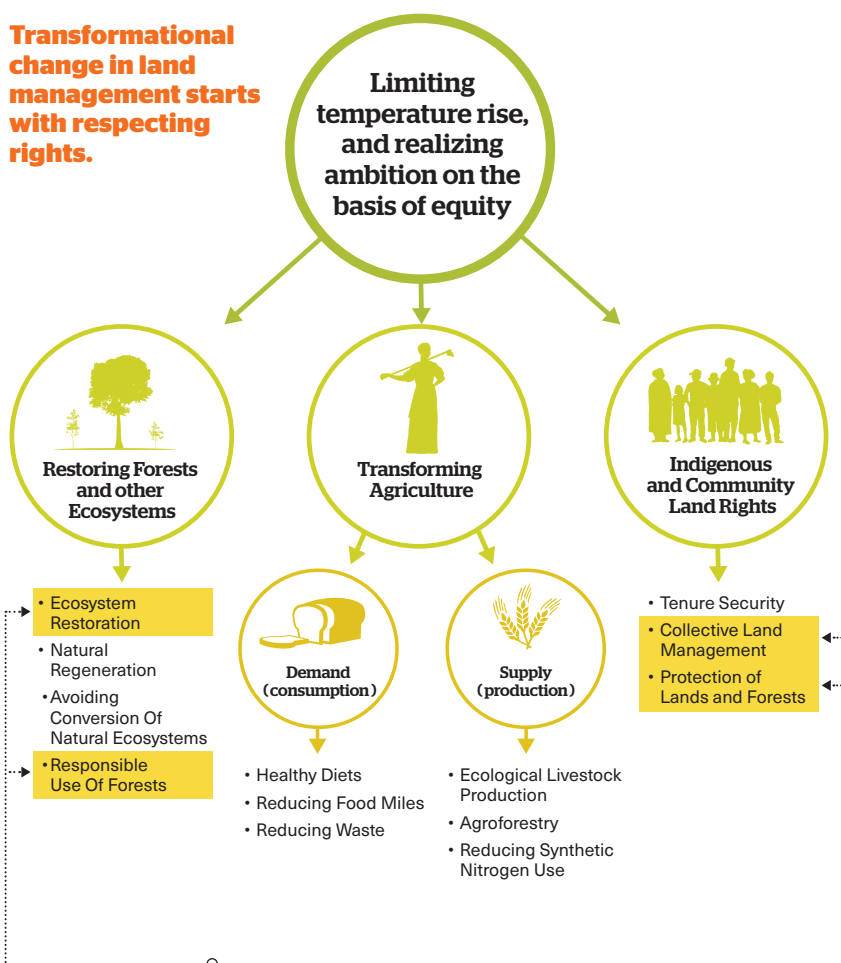
Last year, CLARA published the report **'Missing Pathways'**, identifying areas of global mitigation ambition rooted in land rights, restoration, agroecology, and food system change.



This example follows **'Missing Pathways'** to climate action by...

Enabling communities to take control of sustainable forest management where central government management cannot do enough. Empowering communities with legal access to manage the forest and providing them with technical support ensures long-term benefits to both communities and nature. Perhaps most important is the reduction in the risk of 'land-grabbing'. Furthermore, land right entitlements allow people to manage their environment in order to adapt to climate change, with agroforestry as a key strategy. Social forestry ensures the legality of local community actions to manage the forest, and strengthens the use of local wisdom and indigenous management techniques.

Transformational change in land management starts with respecting rights.



WARSI supports communities in a range of goals ranging from the **protection of lands and forests through ecosystem restoration and responsible use of forests**, to **collective land management** by local communities and indigenous peoples.

Contact CLARA

Media: Don Lehr (CLARA) / dblehr@cs.com / +1 917 304 4058

Network Coordination:

Peter Riggs (Pivot Point) peteriggspivotpoint@gmail.com / +1 360 426 0959

Twitter: @CLARA_Alliance