

## Hotspots Highlight and Analysis

- In August 2007, the number of hotspot increases significantly. In August 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> period, number of hotspot has reached 5,509 nationally. However, the number of hotspot in this period is still lesser than 2006's hotspot in same period, which reached 48,943. The August period was the peak of hotspot in 2006.
- The hotspot in August 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> period mostly took place in Kalimantan and Sumatra, with the greatest one occurred in West Kalimantan Province (2,356), followed by South Sumatra (1,054), Jambi (668) and Riau (594) Provinces.
- In same period, the hotspot was indicated in other ASEAN countries, such as Malaysia (Malaysia Peninsula 226, Sabah & Sarawak 887), Vietnam (187), and Thailand (12).
- Hotspot analysis in Riau (1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August period) was shown data as follows:  
Based on concession area, the hotspot was distributed on oil palm concession (29%), industrial timber plantation/ HTI concession (21%), and other land use (49%). The oil palm companies identified significant hotspot were PT. RAR and PT. SSJ, meanwhile the HTI companies were PT. MPL and CV. RBI  
Based on soil type, 60% of hotspots were detected on peat land area, and 40% of hotspots were on non peat land area.  
Districts in Riau Province having the great number of hotspot were Pelalawan (33%) and Indragiri Hulu (32%).

## Titik Panas Utama dan Analisis

- Di bulan Agustus ini, terjadi peningkatan jumlah titik panas secara signifikan. Sejak 1 sampai 24 Agustus jumlah titik panas secara nasional adalah 5.509. Meskipun demikian, jumlah titik panas ini masih jauh dibawah jumlah titik panas pada periode yang sama tahun 2006, yang mencapai 48.943. Bulan Agustus merupakan periode puncak terjadinya titik panas tahun 2006.
- Titik panas pada bulan Agustus ini sebagian besar terdapat di Sumatera dan Kalimantan, dimana jumlah titik panas terbesar terdapat di Provinsi Kalimantan Barat (2.356), disusul oleh Sumatera Selatan (1.054), Jambi (668), dan Riau (594).
- Pada periode yang sama, negara-negara ASEAN yang terindikasi memiliki titik panas adalah Malaysia (Semenanjung Malaysia, 226; Sabah dan Sarawak 887), Vietnam (187), dan Thailand (12).
- Analisis titik panas di Provinsi Riau pada periode 1-14 Agustus menunjukkan data sebagai berikut:  
Berdasarkan areal konsesi, titik panas terdistribusi pada perkebunan kelapa sawit (29%), HTI (22%), dan areal lainnya (49%). Di antara areal konsesi tersebut, perusahaan perkebunan sawit yang terindikasi mempunyai titik panas yang signifikan adalah PT. RAR dan PT. SSJ, sementara perusahaan HTI adalah PT. MPL dan CV. RBI.  
Berdasarkan jenis tanahnya, titik panas yang terdeteksi di lahan gambut sebesar 60% dan non gambut 40%.  
Kabupaten/Kota di Provinsi Riau yang mempunyai jumlah titik panas yang besar adalah Kabupaten Pelalawan (33%) dan Indragiri Hulu (32%).

## Current Weather Situation

- Generally, a large part of Indonesia has begun to enter the "hot" dry season in this August, although it hasn't reached the heat level yet as dry season in last year. Rainfall still occurs in several locations, but its intensity is still low and sporadically.
- Researcher from Meteorological Department, Bandung Technology Institute (ITB), predicts that air temperature in part of Indonesia will increase, particularly in Kalimantan and Java. Whereas, other location, such as East Nusa Tenggara, will has high rain potential. Thus, their impacts must be anticipated, such as dryness (lack of water, fire risk) in one location, whereas flood and landslide risks in other location.

## Keadaan Cuaca

- Secara umum, di bulan Agustus ini sebagian besar wilayah Indonesia sudah mulai memasuki musim kemarau, meski belum belumlah sekerang musim kemarau tahun lalu. Hujan masih terjadi di beberapa tempat, tapi intensitasnya tidak terlalu besar dan sporadis.
- Peneliti dari Departemen Meteorologi ITB memperkirakan akan terjadinya peningkatan temperature udara di sebagian wilayah Indonesia, terutama Kalimantan dan Jawa. Sedangkan di sebagian wilayah lainnya, seperti NTT, akan terdapat potensi hujan yang tinggi. Dengan demikian, dampak yang harus diwaspadai adalah adanya kekeringan (kekurangan air, potensi kebakaran) di suatu wilayah, sedangkan potensi banjir dan longsor di wilayah lainnya.

## Current Fire Activity

- In several locations, fire intensity has begun to increase as well as the level of hotspot number. In South Sumatra, fire occurred on east traffic lane between Palembang and Lampung, abandoned land (Banyuasin District), and Padang Sugihan Wildlife Reserve (Ogan Komering Ilir District). In Jambi, fire took place on Sungai Gelam peat land (Muaro Jambi District), and ex-logging concession.
- Fire in West Kalimantan occurred on agricultural and plantation areas (Pontianak and Landak Districts), and several oil palm concessions. Fire in Riau mostly took place on preparation land for oil palm and peat land located in Pelalawan and Indragiri Hulu Districts.

## Kejadian Kebakaran

- Di beberapa tempat, intensitas kebakaran sudah mulai meningkat sebanding dengan peningkatan jumlah titik panas. Di Sumatera Selatan, kebakaran terjadi di jalur lintas timur antara Palembang dan Lampung, lahan semak belukar di Kab. Banyuasin, dan Suaka Margastwa Padang Sugihan di Kab. Ogan Komering Ilir. Di Jambi, kebakaran terjadi di lahan gambut Sungai Gelam, Kab. Muaro Jambi dan hutan produksi ex HPH.
- Kebakaran di Kalimantan Barat terjadi pada areal pertanian dan perkebunan di Kab. Pontianak dan Landak, dan areal konsesi perkebunan sawit. Kebakaran di Riau sebagian besar terjadi di lahan persiapan pekebunan sawit dan lahan gambut di Kabupaten Pelalawan dan Indragiri Hulu.

## Fire Cause and Local Policy

- Based on fire location, it can be identified the fire cause. Fire in the estate crops and agricultural land areas are mostly caused by burning practice for land clearing. Meanwhile, in logging concession (HPH) and industrial timber plantations (HTI) concession areas, the fires are mostly caused by encroachment the abandoned areas. Forest encroachment is aimed to occupy the forest land by burning practice.
- Local government regulation (Perda) of Riau Province about Guideline of Forest and Land Fires and Environment Controls, that allows land burning practice for local community in their land (2 hectares in maximum), has triggered critical from environmental observers/experts, including Minister of Forestry. They worry about this regulation will be misused by certain community for purposes opposed to environment or it will be exploited by companies in the name of community. Thus, it is as if the fire cause potential in Riau is facilitated by this regulation.

## Penyebab Kebakaran dan Kebijakan

- Berdasarkan lokasi kebakaran, dapat diketahui penyebab kebakaran tersebut. Kebakaran di areal perkebunan dan pertanian sebagian besar disebabkan oleh pembakaran pada proses pembersihan lahan. Sementara di areal konsesi HPH dan HTI, kebakaran pada umumnya disebabkan oleh perambahan kawasan HPH dan HTI yang ditelantarkan. Perambahan kawasan dimaksudkan untuk meng-okupasi lahan dengan jalan membakar areal tersebut.
- Peraturan Daerah (Perda) Provinsi Riau tentang Pedoman Pengendalian Kebakaran Hutan, Lahan dan Lingkungan Hidup, yang salah satu pasalnya (3/3) membolehkan pembakaran lahan bagi masyarakat tempatan sampai maksimal 2 ha, memicu kritik dari para pemerhati lingkungan, termasuk Menteri Kehutanan. Pasal tersebut dikhawatirkan akan disalah-gunakan oleh masyarakat tertentu untuk tujuan-tujuan yang bertentangan dengan lingkungan atau dimanfaatkan oleh perusahaan dengan mengatas-namakan masyarakat. Dengan demikian, potensi penyebab kebakaran lahan dan hutan di Riau seolah difasilitasi oleh Perda.

## Current Haze Situation

- As the impact of forest and land fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan, several locations have begun to affect haze, such as Jambi (Jambi), Palembang (South Sumatra), Pekanbaru (Riau), and Pontianak (West Kalimantan). In Jambi and Palembang, the haze situation are worsen than Pekanbaru, even part of this haze has reached Riau area. In Pontianak, the haze has caused bad impacts, in particular to people health and land transportation. In such locations, the haze has not brought significant impact to air transportation yet.

## Situasi Kabut Asap

- Akibat dari peningkatan kebakaran hutan dan lahan di Sumatera dan Kalimantan, maka kabut asap pun semakin meningkat di beberapa wilayah tersebut, seperti di Jambi, Palembang (Sumatera Selatan), Pekanbaru (Riau), dan Pontianak (Kalimantan Barat). Di Jambi dan Palembang situasi kabut asap lebih buruk daripada di Riau, bahkan sebagian bergerak ke wilayah Riau. Di Pontianak, kabut asap juga berdampak buruk, terutama terhadap kesehatan dan transportasi darat. Di beberapa lokasi tersebut, kabut asap belum berdampak signifikan terhadap transportasi udara.

## Related Activities

- WWF-Indonesia organized The Judicial Workshop in dealing with Fire Cases, in Pekanbaru (Riau Province), on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This event was attended by local government unsure, law institutions (local police, attorney, and court instance), NGOs, law environment and fire experts. This workshop aimed to identify problems faced in fire cases from initial handling to the last judgment. It also found efforts to support case handling by better judgment.
- Second Regional Dialogue on Trans-boundary Haze was held in Singapore at August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007. This event was organized by Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), and International Studies of Malaysia. The delegates, including those from the WWF-Indonesia, Greenpeace, Center for International Forestry, and Representatives from five South East Asian countries along with Japan and Australia were highlighted the connections between the regional haze pollution (fires) and the global challenge of climate change. Other issues that arose include raising the awareness of the eco-system and creating stronger political willingness from the government to implement the preventive measures.

## Kegiatan Terkait

- WWF-Indonesia menyelenggarakan Judicial Workshop Penanganan Kasus Kebakaran Hutan dan Lahan, di Pekanbaru (Riau), tanggal 24 Juli 2007. Acara ini dihadiri oleh unsur pemda Riau, aparat hukum (polda, kejaksaan, dan pengadilan), LSM, ahli hukum lingkungan dan pakar kebakaran hutan. Workshop ini bertujuan mengidentifikasi masalah-masalah yang selama ini dihadapi dalam menangani kasus kebakaran hutan dan/atau lahan dari saat permulaan hingga pada putusan akhir. Juga berusaha menemukan upaya-upaya yang bisa dilakukan untuk dan mendorong proses penanganan kasus dengan peradilan yang baik.
- Second Regional Dialogue on Trans-boundary Haze diselenggarakan di Singapura pada tanggal 20 Agustus 2007. Acara ini diselenggarakan oleh Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), dan International Studies of Malaysia (ISM). Para delegasi, termasuk dari WWF-Indonesia, Greenpeace, Center for International Forestry (CIFOR), perwakilan dari negara-negara ASEAN Jepang dan Australia menyoroti hubungan antara polusi asap lintas batas (kebakaran hutan dan lahan) dengan tantangan global terhadap perubahan iklim. Isu lainnya yang muncul adalah adanya kesadaran terhadap lingkungan dan dorongan kemauan politik dari pemerintah untuk melakukan upaya pencegahan (kerusakan lingkungan).

## Media Activity

- **Harian Terbit**, 15/08/07, Land and forest fires, which were stated as environment disaster in 1997, is still going on until now, even hotspot spreads on larger fire prone area. "The problem is insufficient of law enforcement to overcome fire cases", said Dedi Hariri, Forest Fire Monitoring Officer WWF Indonesia, in Jakarta, yesterday. Besides that, Dedi said, the government must tighten license for oil palm and industrial timber plantation concessions conversing virgin forest, including stopping peat land conversion.
- **The Straits Times**, 21/08/07, SOUTH-EAST Asian leaders were urged Monday to muster the political will to deal with the problem of forest fire haze that blankets the region regularly during their summit in Singapore later this year. 'The dialogue called for ASEAN leaders to give attention to the haze,' said Simon Tay, chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, which co-organised the event. He said the delegates welcomed the intention of the ASEAN leaders to focus on environmental issues at their summit in Singapore in November. Mr Tay said the delegates, including those from the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace and Center for International Forestry, 'highlighted the connections between the regional haze pollution and fires and the global challenge of climate change'

## Kegiatan Media

- **Harian Terbit**, 15/08/07, Kebakaran lahan dan hutan yang dinyatakan sebagai bencana lingkungan pada tahun 1997 sampai hari ini masih terjadi. Bahkan hot spot (titik panas) makin meluas di sejumlah wilayah rawan kebakaran. "Masalahnya minim penegakan hukum yang tegas untuk mengatasi kebakaran hutan dan lahan," ujar Forest Fire Monitoring Officer WWF Indonesia, Dedi Hariri, di Jakarta, kemarin. Selain itu, menurut Dedi, pemerintah harus memperketat izin usaha perkebunan dan hutan tanaman yang mengkonversi hutan alam termasuk menghentikan pembukaan dan konversi lahan gambut.
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This Fire Information Bulletin was prepared and analyzed using information collected from medias, websites, satellites and field findings by WWF-Indonesia. This publication is financially supported by WWF-Netherlands.

- **News Analysis**, 21/08/07, Annual fires and haze resulting from land-clearing in Indonesia portend serious implications for global warming, experts at the second Regional Dialogue on Transboundary Haze concluded yesterday. If the annual haze, mainly from Indonesia, keeps going, the planet is in for a climate crisis, said Associate Professor Simon Tay, chairman of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs, who chaired the 30-man dialogue. "Even a 'green solution' like bio-fuels, if mishandled, can make things worse, pointed out" Mr Fitrian Ardiansyah, programme director of Climate and Energy for World Wildlife Fund Indonesia. Jakarta, keen to exploit palm oil, the price of which has surged because of the interest in bio-fuels, is devoting an additional six million hectares of new land to palm oil.

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## Fire Analysis

- In the same period (August) the intensity of 2007's forest and land fires are lower than 2006. It is indicated by the smaller number of hotspot number. Nevertheless, this situation must be anticipated, because the "hot" dry season is predicted to be going to take place in the future months. In addition, insufficient of prevention effort and stagnancy of law enforcement will cause the greatness of fire potential.
- Fire and haze shouldn't be considered just as local and national problems, but they should reach regional and international attentions. It considers their impacts influencing beyond national jurisdiction, both regionally (trans-boundary haze) and internationally (global warming and climate change).

## Analisis Kebakaran

- Pada periode yang sama (August), intensitas kebakaran hutan dan lahan pada tahun 2007 ini lebih kecil intensitasnya daripada tahun 2006, yang diindikasikan dengan lebih kecilnya jumlah titik panas. Namun hal ini tetap harus diwaspadai, karena musim kemarau yang kering diprediksi akan terjadi pada bulan-bulan mendatang. Selain itu, belum adanya upaya pencegahan yang memadai dan upaya hukum yang masih kurang progressif, menyebabkan potensi kebakaran masih besar.
- Kebakaran dan kabut asap jangan hanya dianggap sebagai masalah lokal dan nasional, tapi harus menjadi perhatian regional dan internasional. Hal ini mengingat dampak kebakaran yang sudah berpengaruh melebihi batas negara, baik secara regional (kabut asap) dan internasional (pemanasan global dan perubahan iklim).

## Notes:

Source/Sumber: ASEAN Haze Action Online; Geophysics and Meteorological Agency (*Badan Meteorologi dan Geofisika/BMG – Indonesia Indonesia*); Directorate of Forest Fire Control, Ministry of Forestry RI (*Direktorat Pengendalian Kebakaran Hutan, Departemen Kehutanan – SiPongi*); MODIS Rapid Response System (NASA-UMD), mass media (*media masa*), and field findings (*dan temuan di lapangan*).

Please check further info and maps on forest and land fires in (*lihat lebih lanjut peta kebakaran hutan dan lahan di*) <http://www.wwf.or.id/fire>

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