

## Executive Summary

### *Roadmap towards Sustainable Peatland Management for Pulpwood Plantations in Indonesia*

The increasing demand for cheap paper products has accelerated pulp wood production in Indonesia. Favorable government policies, resource availability and economic conditions have facilitated this growth. Initially mainly fed with natural forest fibre, currently most pulp is sourced from Industrial Forest Plantations (HTI) from Acacia trees. For over several decades, this has threatened forests and peatlands leading to forest cover loss, biodiversity decline, peat subsidence and related flooding, peat fire and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In addition, plantations are generally

established without consent of local communities leading to social conflicts over land and resources.

Current policies, including the recent Inpres No. 8/2015 on the Moratorium of New License in Natural Forest and Peatlands and PP No. 71/2014 on the Protection and Management of Peatlands Ecosystem have not proven to be proficient in protecting natural forest and peatlands in Indonesia. This is mainly due to loopholes in the policies and lack of law enforcement.

Over the past decade, Indonesian NGOs have argued to increase

sustainability in Indonesia's peatlands and now have provided their inputs in this Roadmap. This Roadmap calls upon all stakeholders including pulp and paper companies, governments and NGOs to collaborate and take their responsibility for improving sustainable management of forest and peatlands. The Roadmap will assist government and HTI companies to realise conservation and sustainable management of peatlands, to prevent future flooding and unproductivity of HTI and to cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

#### Objective and Target

##### Objectives:

- To stop development and expansion of HTI in natural forest and peatlands.
- To adjust current management to enable long-term productivity in peatland landscapes that assures economic, ecologic, and social sustainability.

##### Targets:

1. Stop conversion of natural forest and peatlands to HTI plantations, and maximize the utilization of non-forest and non-peat area.
2. Understand impacts and level of peatland degradation (including peat and forest fire, GHG emissions, peatland subsidence, flooding, sea water intrusion, loss of productivity) caused by HTI and determine its alternative management.
3. HTI companies should plan and implement responsible phasing out of drainage based plantations to stop subsidence and GHG emissions from peatlands.
4. HTI companies should implement sustainable peatland management targeting the full Peat Hydrological Unit (KHG), using hydrological restoration and cultivation of commercial species that are native to peatlands (paludiculture).
5. Ensure conservation, habitat availability and sufficient buffer zones for biodiversity around HTI plantations.
6. Stop forest and peat fire, and minimize water pollution from HTI activities in peatlands.
7. Acknowledge the right of indigenous/local people on natural resources including land and take this into account during plantation planning, development and management.
8. Enhance good governance for management of HTI in Indonesia.

# Strategy and Milestone

This roadmap consists of 7 (seven strategies) with milestones and time frame that are presented as follows:

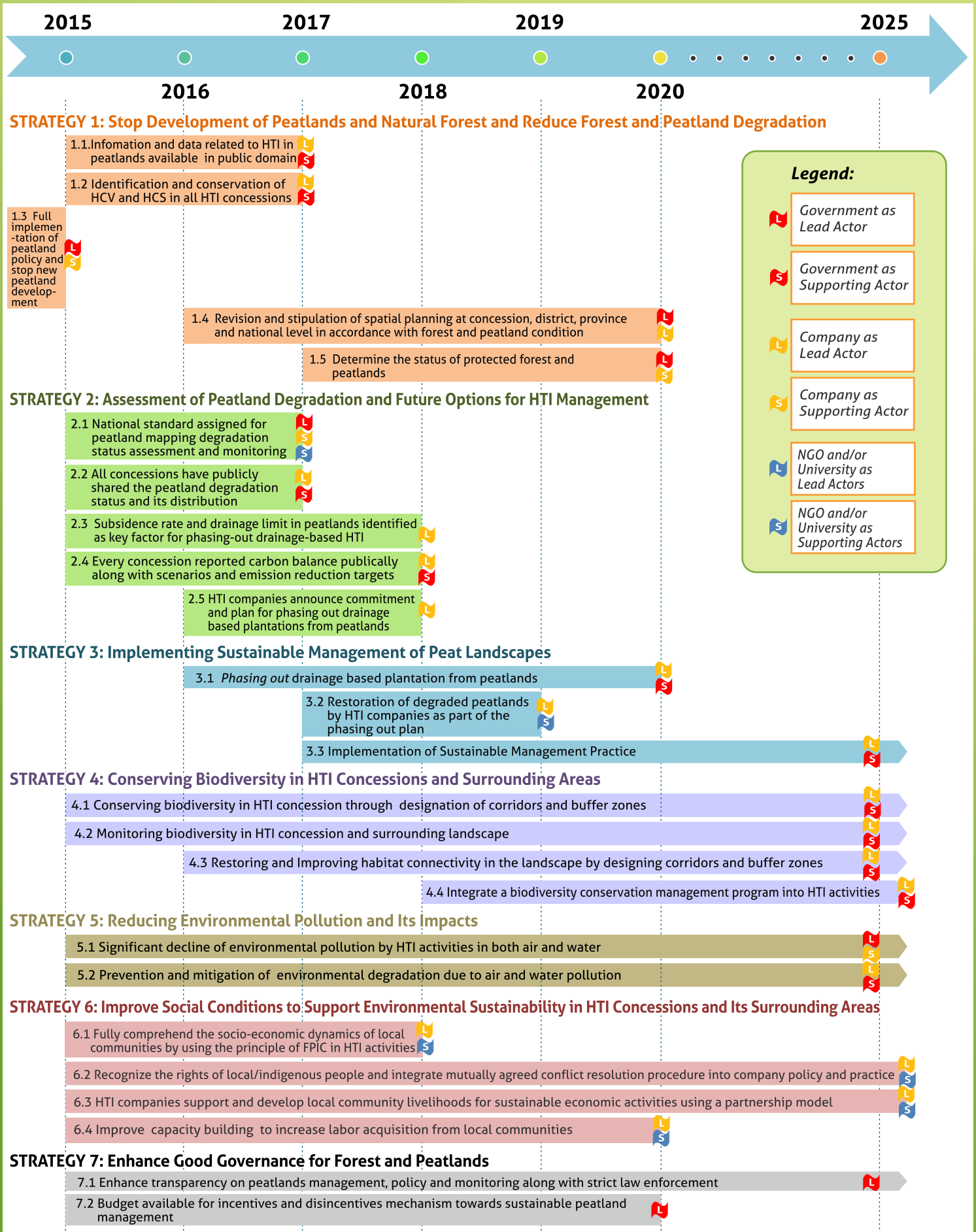


Figure 1. Strategies and milestones of Roadmap towards sustainable peatland management for pulpwood plantations in Indonesia



The aforementioned strategies entail rapid actions to meet the main objectives. To show commitment to the Roadmap, companies and government should stop any new HTI development on peatlands and protect and restore undeveloped peatlands.

Meanwhile, phasing out drainage based plantations on peatlands will need to be planned, starting with the most important areas and upscaling to whole landscapes. The

peatlands will need to be hydrologically restored, through canal blocking and used sustainably by cultivating species that do not require drainage (paludiculture). This will curb peatland subsidence, avoid flooding, and prevent loss of peatland productivity.

Furthermore, fire prevention and control must be improved so that the risks of forest and peat fire are minimized.

Above all, the strategies need to ensure that activities of HTI in Indonesia consider social and environmental aspects and facilitated by improved governance, as presented in the flowchart (Fig. 2). It should be questioned if the current model of large-scale plantations can accommodate this.

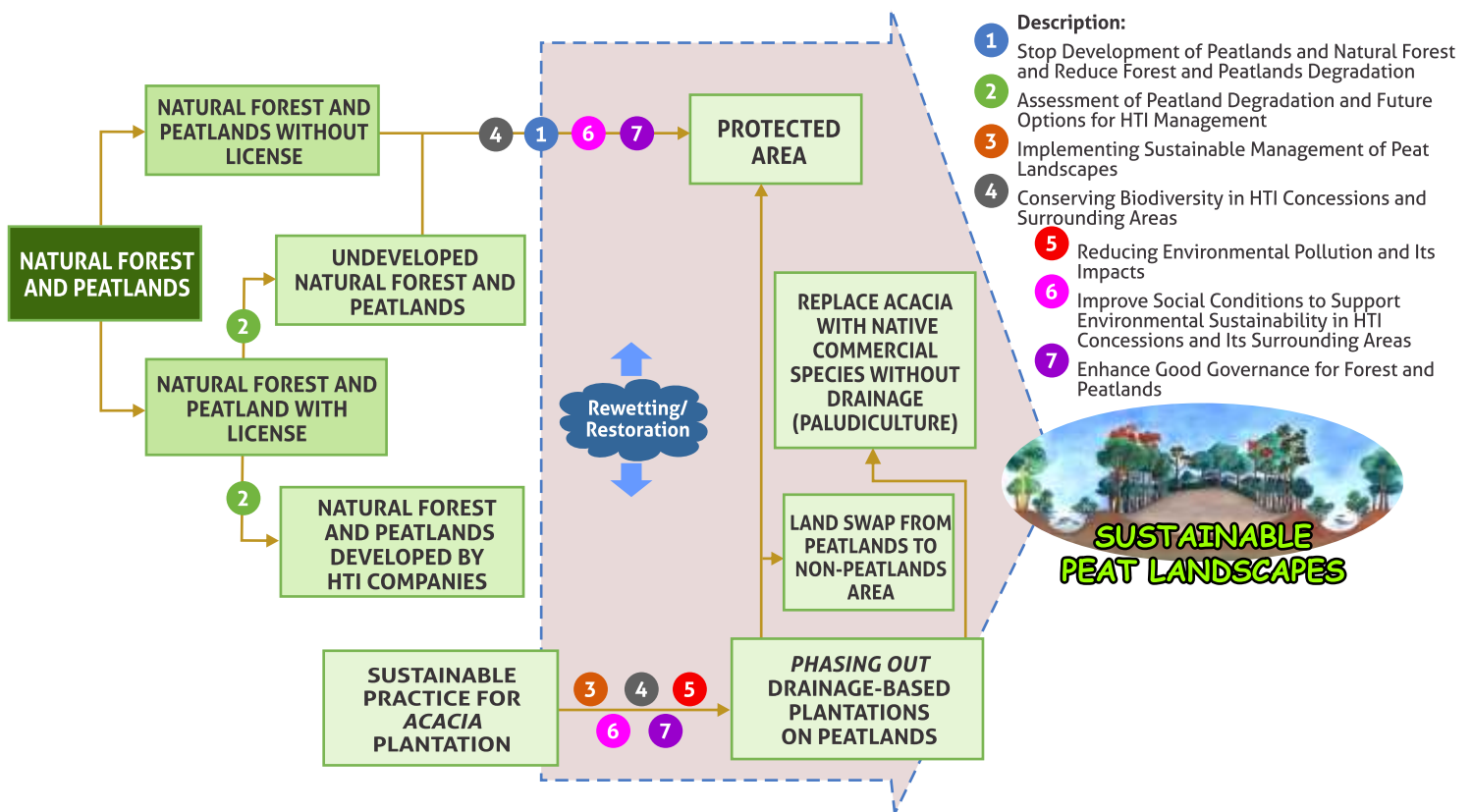


Figure 2. Flowchart of roadmap strategy implementation towards sustainable peatland management for pulpwood plantation in Indonesia

Steps in each of the strategies are mostly to be addressed by HTI concessioners. However, support from government and other stakeholders is required to

enhance successful implementation. Sustainability problems in peatlands compromise a complex set of challenges that do require

involvement and determination of all stakeholder but especially require the industry to take its responsibility.



Drainage canals as boundary of Acacia plantation may impacted intact peat swamp forest  
(Photo taken by I Nyoman N. Suryadiputra, February 2015 in Kerumutan-Pelalawan area, Riau)



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