

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

### Optimising the policy and institutional settings for community-based forestry in Indonesia

#### Description:

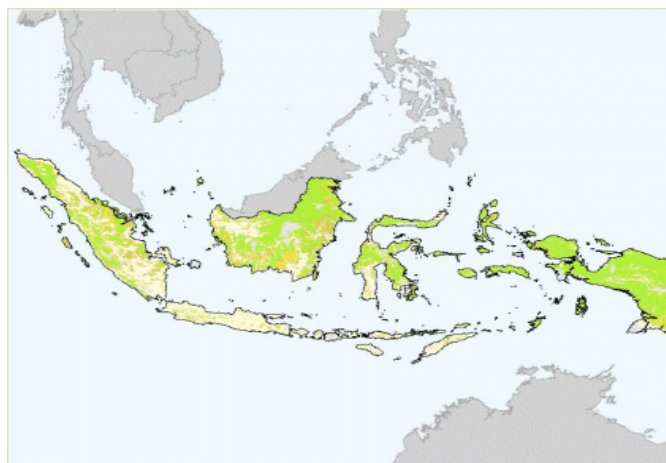
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**Start and end date:** March 2008 – February 2011

#### Overview:

Community-based forest management (CBFM) is a popular concept in many countries, covering over 400 million hectares worldwide. In Indonesia, CBFM is viewed as an important component of the forestry sector – with the government's goal to establish 5.6 million ha of CBFM by 2011 (twice the area of industrial plantation forests).

Despite the government's ambitious goal for CBFM, there are several challenges, such as the entrenched poverty of many rural communities, imperfect forest product markets, and high administration costs for smallholders. Also, policies are not always consistent and supportive of CBFM at both the national and district levels of government – causing concern that Indonesia may not have the necessary policy and institutional context for CBFM to be successful.



*Map of Indonesia*

#### Objectives:

This research aims to analyse the different models of CBFM being developed in Indonesia, and the extent that the most popular models are likely to achieve the goal of CBFM – to reduce deforestation and rural poverty, and build a sustainable resource to supply industry. This research will also explore the interlocking areas of government policy – between and within levels of government that influence CBFM and provide recommendations on optimising the policy and institutional context.



*Typical agriculture-forest interface on the frontiers of natural forests in Indonesia.*

#### Methods:

The methodology for this research includes a qualitative analysis of government policy (eg. review of key documents, interviews with senior policy-makers) and institutions – the agencies responsible for implementing CBFM (eg. interviews with program managers and field officers).

In-field analysis of selected CBFM models will be undertaken to gauge the extent on-ground activity matches the policy intent and expectations of a range of stakeholders (eg. interviews with rural villages, agency program managers and field officers, industry representatives).

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