



Sustainable Livelihoods

CASE STUDY 3



Most forest fires are caused by slash and burn, a process of land clearance traditionally used by farmers to make space for new agriculture. To improve fire prevention in Indonesia, this root cause must first be addressed. The Fire Free Alliance (FFA) is working closely with local communities, helping them develop more responsible practices and alternative livelihoods. In this endeavor, the FFA utilizes three key strategies: Land intensification, economic empowerment, and support for responsible land clearance.

Firstly, improved land intensification helps to raise agricultural production per unit of inputs (this can be labor, land, time, fertilizer, seed, feed, or funding). Secondly, economic empowerment enables smallholders and other farming communities to diversify their livelihoods into other commodities, such as fisheries, alternative crops, or animal husbandry. Thirdly, FFA members may help by providing the heavy machinery and manpower needed to prepare agricultural land responsibly, without the need for fire. Crucially, this does not involve deforestation or the removal of standing trees.

Alongside their work with local communities, FFA members cooperate with village-level and sub-district government (Muspika) for needs assessment, along with technical support for monitoring and site visits. This also helps to align FFA activities with the needs

of the community and existing government programs. In addition, the Alliance helps smallholders meet the standards required for official sustainability credentials (such as the RSPO), guiding them through the process of certification from start to finish.

Through a combination of outreach, engagement, and involvement with local stakeholders – especially smallholders and farmers outside of concession areas – FFA members are able to identify the common causes of fires and co-design interventions with communities to ensure long-term viability. By identifying and then bridging information gaps with scientific knowledge and thought leadership, the FFA is facilitating more sustainable livelihood practices at the village level, which support long-term fire prevention efforts on a much bigger scale.



Members' Activities: Facilitating a More Sustainable Future

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legality, facilitating certification, and providing expert advice, as well as long-term support based on research and expert knowledge. FFA member initiatives provide the building blocks for development in local communities, through responsible agriculture practices and sustainable livelihoods.



KPN Plantations

KPN Plantations provides a number of CSR activities focused on economic empowerment for local communities.



These strategies combine intensification, animal husbandry, and fisheries, with an emphasis on Ring 1 communities. Focus group discussions (FGD) are held with communities to assess their needs and gauge their interest in potential alternative livelihood projects. Then, targeted support is provided in the form of resources (such as livestock, seeds, and equipment) and knowledge transfer (from agronomists and sustainability experts).

These interventions are followed up with regular monitoring, to ensure communities have everything they need and to help the new projects take root. From cow breeding in Saka Palas Village, Riau to catfish operations in Sungai Rengit Village, KPN is providing local communities with viable and sustainable alternatives to burn agriculture, thereby reducing the risk of fires and also supporting long-term socio-economic development for farmers and their families.



We have received 12,000 catfish and equipment, and are looking into expanding the business with chickens and ducks. We are really thankful for the support from KPN as a part of smallholder empowerment.

Suhami - Head of Kelompok Mina Mandiri, Sungai Rengit Village



IOI

Working via the South Ketapang Landscape Initiative, IOI works with local government, villages, and PT SNA to help communities develop more responsible land clearing practices and diversify into alternative sources of income.



This includes needs assessment prior to implementation, provision of seeds and fertilizer during the start-up phase, and continuous monitoring of land usage thereafter.

IOI also helps with product distribution, connecting smallholders with markets for the new commodities they have created. This helps to ensure that sustainable practices offer

viable and attractive economic alternatives to the more destructive, short-termism of slash-and-burn agriculture. IOI has also created the eco-friendly Supply Our Own Food campaign, which provides local produce for employees and communities through sustainable farming in the area.



APRIL

APRIL's sustainable livelihood activities can be divided into two key areas of focus: Responsible land preparation and good agricultural practices.



APRIL has facilitated discussions between landowners, enabling them to form cooperatives and apply for assistance in opening or clearing their land. Following further collaboration with, and approval from local government, APRIL then utilizes its heavy machinery to assist in the preparation of land for new agriculture in a more responsible manner. This saves farmers money, while also avoiding potentially dangerous slash-and-burn techniques.

The resulting rice fields, chili plantations, orchards, and horticulture projects are then supported by agronomists provided by APRIL. In one illustrative example, APRIL recruited

an expert from Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) to support chili and corn plantations in Teluk Meranti, Riau. With expert guidance, farmers were able to overcome their previous difficulties with soil alkalinity and pests. APRIL sees sustainable livelihood as a long-term program. The group currently monitors five villages as pilot projects, assisting farmers with responsible land clearance and empowering local people to cultivate their lands in a safer, more sustainable way.

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I felt the benefit of the program right after experiencing the support for land clearance. I hope the program will still continue in the future.

**Kolose Manalu - APRIL Community Partner
in Kelurahan Pangkalan Kerinci Timur**



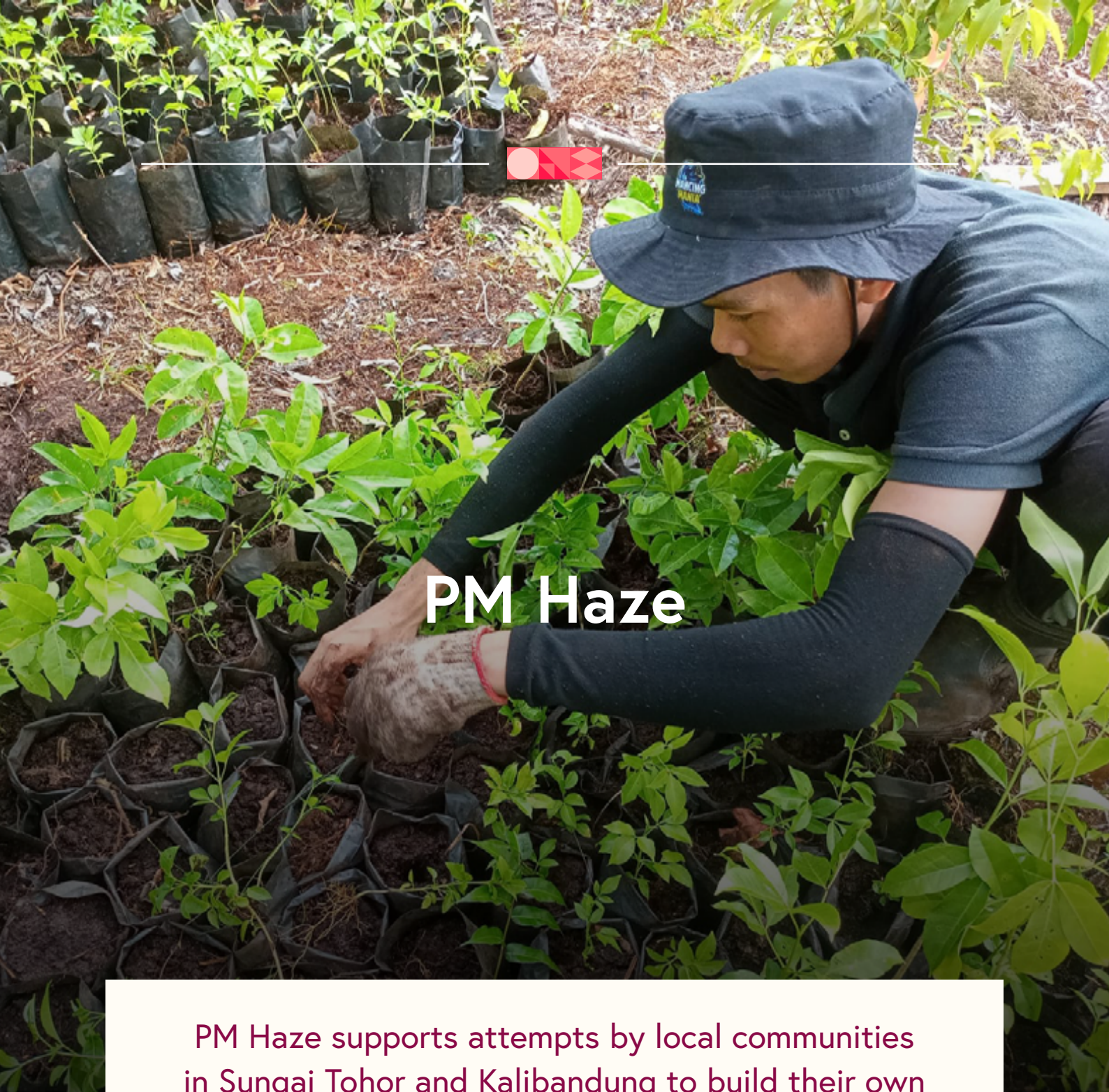
Musim Mas

To support land intensification, Musim Mas provides technical guidance and training on farming to smallholders.



By sharing information and knowledge related to best agronomy practices, environmental management, waste control, and occupational health and safety, the company is providing thought leadership in communities and facilitating sustainable development for farmers. These approaches have been consolidated into two main streams, aimed at improving the livelihoods of independent smallholders: first, direct training for smallholders; and second, training for trainers through Smallholders Hubs, whereby local government agricultural officials – known as Village Extension Officers (VEOs) – are trained to support smallholders in their jurisdiction. Musim Mas also helps smallholders gain access to finance.

The *Koperasi Kredit Primer Anggota* (KKPA) and *Kebun Kas Desa* (KKD) programs promote economic independence and support the welfare of communities in Sumatra and Kalimantan. As of December 2019, 3,571 smallholders and 16 villages benefit from these programs, which cover over 5,796 ha of planted area. A community fund has also been established, which enables the construction of roads, schools, religious sites, and community enrichment facilities such as indoor sports centers.



PM Haze

PM Haze supports attempts by local communities in Sungai Tohor and Kalibandung to build their own economic resilience by exploring alternative peat-friendly livelihoods such as sago production, *kelulut* (stingless bee) cultivation, and peatland restoration.



This involves working closely with villagers to understand their needs and tailor capacity-building programs accordingly.



Asian Agri

Asian Agri is committed to economic development and improving the quality of life of the communities surrounding the Company's concession areas.



Aligned with UN SDGs in Indonesia and as part of its own AsianAgri2030 targets, the Company has been assisting local communities in opening land by utilizing heavy machinery in a responsible manner. Working through the Fire Free Village

Program (FFVP), Asian Agri is developing local potential to increase livelihoods. One of their success stories in this endeavor is the development of local beekeeping enterprises.

From Farm to Finance: Impacts of FFA Intervention

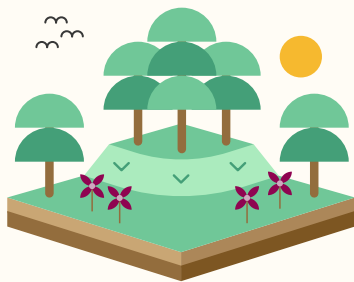
FFA member interventions have had a tangible impact on socio-economic conditions in communities in and around concession areas. Below are just a few examples of developments associated with these investments:

3,571 KKD

beneficiary smallholders covering
5,669 ha (MUSIM MAS)

74 HECTARES

allotted for responsible land
opening (IOI)



6 SMALLHOLDERS HUBS

established with 4,000 VEOs
and more than 5,000 smallholders
trained across 7,800 hectares
(MUSIM MAS)

19,765 NATIVE SEEDLINGS

(including sago) planted at peatland
restoration sites (PM Haze)

36,200 SMALLHOLDERS

trained across 78,000 hectares
in Indonesia (MUSIM MAS)

22.24% IMPROVEMENT

in FFB yields among OP
farmers (MUSIM MAS)



12,000 CATFISH

provided to a local group in
South Sumatra (KPN)

184 PEOPLE

attended training programs
for peat-friendly alternative
livelihoods (PM Haze)



16 VILLAGES

covering a total area of
343,276 hectares
have joined the Fire Free
Village Program (Asian Agri)

5 VILLAGES

part of a sustainable
agriculture pilot
scheme (APRIL)





Fire Free Alliance: The Catalyst for Positive Change

Working in strategic locations throughout Indonesia, FFA members have established long-term partnerships with local communities, providing them with the knowledge, resources, and finance they need.



Through a combination of education, outreach, funding, and physical support, local people have been empowered to raise existing standards and develop new, sustainable livelihoods for themselves.

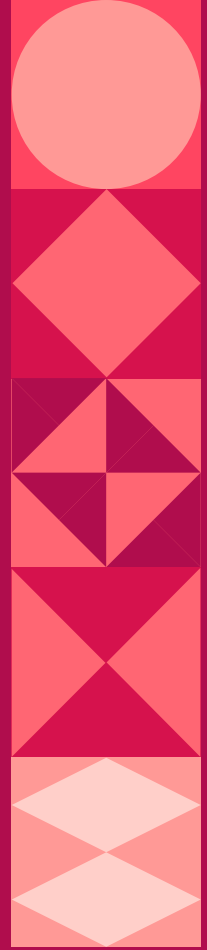
Interventions at the local level have helped to tackle the root cause of land and forest fires, while cumulatively impacting widespread behavioral change. In this way, FFA has been the catalyst for improved communication between stakeholders and enabled various groups to improve their socio-economic well-being.

In particular, KPN Plantations, IOI, APRIL, and Musim Mas have set up sustainable livelihood programs that help local communities to clear farmland responsibly, while also providing long-term financial assistance and technical support. PM Haze has also established sustainable livelihood programs that encourage communities to care for and maintain the health of their peatlands. The FFA leverages its network of experts and agronomists to conduct research and share their knowledge with smallholders, helping sustainable practices to take root and flourish in local communities.

By ensuring that responsible agriculture practices are interwoven with fire prevention efforts, the FFA has positioned itself as a thought leader in local communities, providing examples of good practice and practical solutions to the problems faced by smallholders and farmers. By empowering communities to co-design initiatives, and then supporting them with the funding and expertise they need to make these initiatives work, the Alliance has

facilitated lasting change for people and nature. Whether advocating for fire prevention or providing boots on the ground and in the field, the FFA offers local communities a platform where they can learn and share their experience. The fruits of this endeavor can be seen in the fields surrounding concession areas, where new and sustainable livelihoods continue to flourish, in a landscape that remains free from fires.





firefreealliance.org