

Forest Area Boundary Situation Survey: A National Land Strategic Program to Support Land Tenure Security in Indonesia

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SUMMARY

Land tenure insecurity due to increasing agrarian conflicts and land disputes may be compounded by unclear boundaries of forest areas. There is a debate on how to reduce agrarian conflicts and improve land tenure security around forest areas in Indonesia. This paper investigates the implementation progress of forest area boundaries survey in five provinces implemented by the Ministry of Land Affairs and Spatial Planning / National Land Agency (ATR/BPN). The paper employs study literature and analysis of several project implementations in five provinces in Indonesia. The paper identified that forest boundary demarcation maps in Indonesia are issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forestry (KLHK). ATR / BPN uses the map to support its national land administration program. However, land conflicts often occur in the areas near the forest boundary due to the unavailability of coordinate marks and the differences in the map scale used by the KLHK and ATR / BPN. The unclear forest area boundaries led to the issuance of certificates in forest areas that violated Law Number 41 the Year 1999 concerning Forestry. The analysis of the project implementation found the existence of technical, social, and coordination challenges. The paper suggests that the publication of forest area boundaries should be a priority activity in the national priorities for agrarian reform in Indonesia.

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