

# Fact Sheet

## Resolving Concession Land Conflicts

Supports Principles 1 and 2 of the UN Global Compact

Land disputes within the Government-granted concession areas of APRIL and those of its partner companies fall into any of the following categories:

- Legitimate claims by local community groups including land asserted as subject to traditional rights (tanah ulayat);
- Overlapping land use rights issued by local and national government;
- Illegal land occupation by unscrupulous villagers and settlers.

In the case of genuine claims, APRIL applies a policy of maximum tolerance and peaceable negotiation with land claimants who typically had stayed in the locality before the company got the concession. A preferred resolution option is the formation of joint plantation ventures under the Community Fiber Farm Program. Villagers earn a long-term income, while providing the company with essential fiber supply. Aside from compensating individual or group claimants for the crops and improvements on the land that is converted into fiber plantations, the company also offers assistance through its community empowerment programs.

Another approach to resolution, particularly on land with overlapping use rights, is the delineation of areas under claim as social enclaves for community use. The company may then opt to apply with the Government for a replacement of such land. The delineated social enclaves are left as exclusion zone for company operation subject to conditions mutually agreed upon with land occupants.

However, APRIL takes a firm stand against land speculators who seek to take advantage of the weak law enforcement, and resorts to legal or judicial means to resolve claims of this type.



### Land Dispute Resolution Process

APRIL has put in place a Land Dispute Resolution Process since 1997, which had been independently verified in 1998 and 2000. ProForest UK undertook another audit of the process in 2004. This process is now being refined and strengthened with the help of third-party experts.

The company likewise collaborates with concerned stakeholders in finding fair, peaceful and lawful solution to land conflicts within its legal area of operation. The resolution of the land claim of Lubuk Jering village inside the Mandau Fiber Estate of the company in Siak District, Riau is an illustration. In this case, APRIL is working with local NGOs (WWF, Jikalahari, Hakiki, Community Forestry Dialog or FKKM, and District Communication Forum or FKD), academic experts on social anthropology (University of Indonesia), the community, and concerned local government agencies in effecting a lasting resolution of the land conflict.

#### Key Facts

- APRIL has been settling land disputes within its own concession and works with partner companies to do the same thing in their respective licensed areas.
- In 2003, a total of 3,679 ha out of 14,229 ha claimed by villagers were resolved. The balance and new claims (1,348 ha) that were registered in 2004 have also gone under dispute resolution process which goes on to this time.