

# Forest Fire Policy Impact to Traditional Land Clearing in Ogan Komering Ilir District, South Sumatera Province, Indonesia

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Forest fire is a common phenomenon that occurs around the world, especially in tropical hemisphere which has a relatively long dry season, including Indonesia. Recent forest fires happened in Indonesia were located in Sumatera and Kalimantan Island. One of the most severe affected province by the latest forest fire events in 2015 was South Sumatera, with the highest recorded hotspots in Ogan Komering Ilir District which is located southeast of Palembang City. Record shows that the estimated losses and damages from forest fires and haze in 2015 for South Sumatera itself was around 3.9 USD trillions, and it was the highest figure compared to other provinces in Sumatera and Kalimantan Islands.

Most of forest fire incidents were man-made fires for land-clearing activities from both plantation companies and smallholder farmers. Forest fires that were initiated by smallholders farmers is a longstanding tradition by traditional slash and burn activities applied to fertilize the soil. Slash and burn ban proven to be not a right on target solution because of numerous family who depend on traditional farming way, have their livelihood hampered because of the slash-and-burn ban. Therefore, the making of forest fire management policies proved to be challenges for policymakers, as the new policy always creates new problems.

This study explores the impacts of implementation various forest fire policies that affect local farming communities that follow traditional land clearing way. This study is expected to formulate the recommendation for gaining mutual balance between forest fire management and the improvement of local livelihoods, especially from the farming communities. Prior to the analyses, literature review on forest fire managements is presented. The analysis were conducted qualitatively by interviewing various stakeholders that were involved in forest fire management, disaster prevention, and also from the local farming communities; and quantitatively by measuring livelihood indicators from secondary sources, such as revenues from farming and plantation sector of economic.

Keyword: Forest fire, slash and burn, land clearing, south sumatera, ogan komering ilir