CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY & FORESTS

THROUGH ISPO, MSPO AND RSPO

BART W VAN ASSEN, KAYON – EACH TREE MATTERS

KAYON
each tree matters

FORESTS:
PLANTATIONS AND/OR JUNGLES

Picayune Strand State Forest, Florida (USA)

Suka Jaya Makmur, West-Kalimantan (Indonesia)

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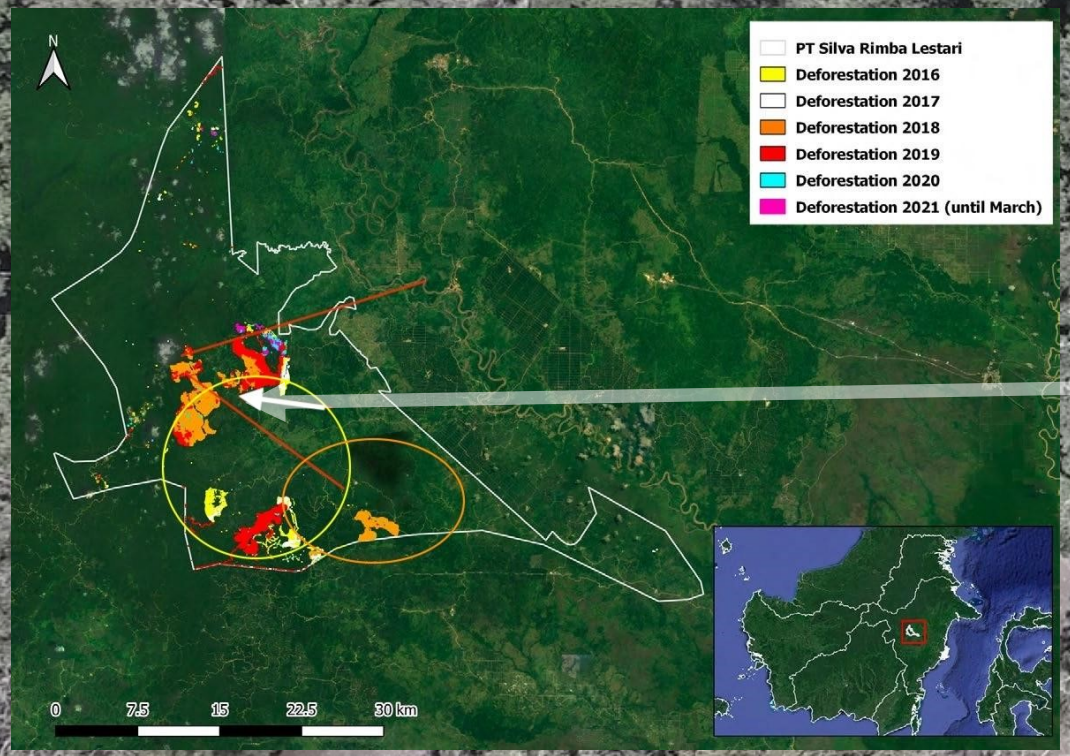
FOREST COVER:
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



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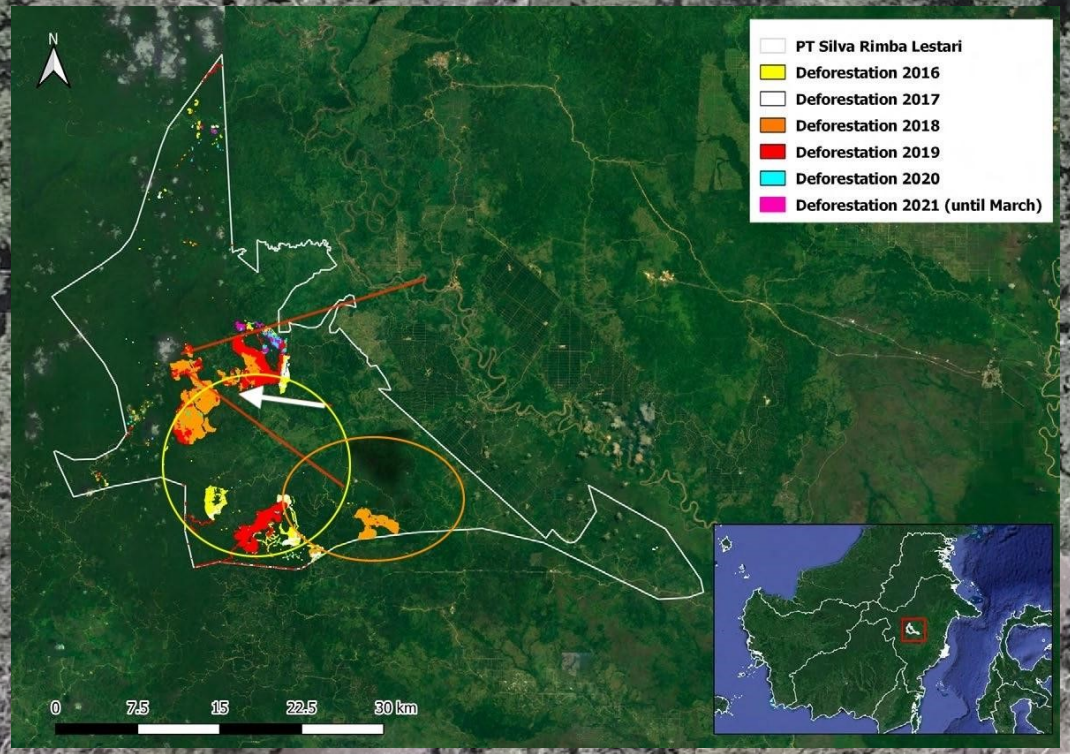
FOREST LOSS: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE



Case Study: Djarum Silva (Aidenvironment, 2021)

- areas in the orange circle appear to have been cleared in 2013/2014
- areas in the yellow circle appear to have been cleared in 2015
- land clearing occurred 4 years prior to deforestation?

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FOREST LOSS:
PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Independent sources suggest that we overestimated the forest cover in the older Historical Imagery, especially during 1984-2000 (supplement, part D). For instance, these sources indicate that the large majority (80%) of forests converted to oil palm were (severely) logged before land clearing [7,41]. Our overestimation is likely due to Google Earth replacing the clouds/gaps/striping in (often older) imagery to improve "the contrast, lighting, and consistency" [42] of its Historical Imagery.

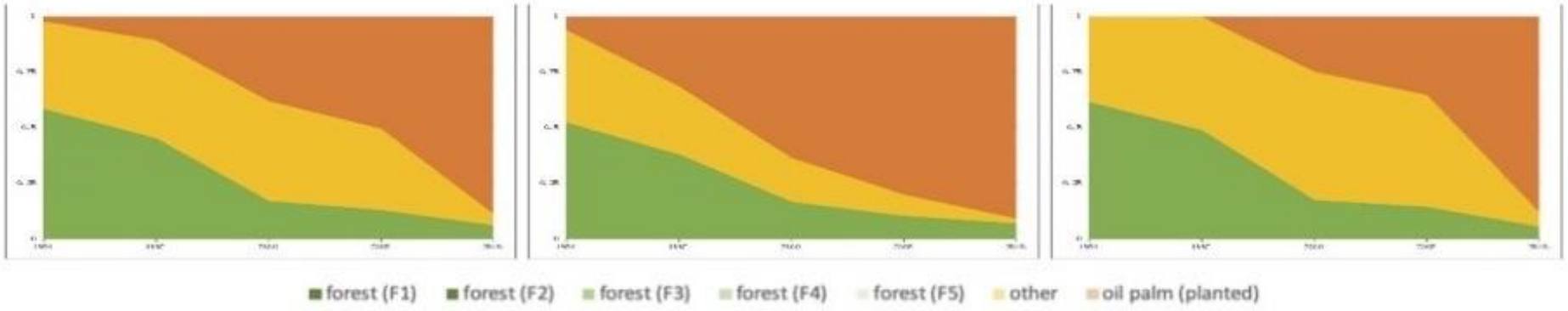

Figure 3. Land use changes in all samples (l), Kalimantan (m) and Sumatra (r) between 1984-2016.

Source: van Assen et al, 2021

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SUSTAINABILITY: GOAL OR PROXY

- sustainability "has become a proxy in recent engagements between certain orangutan conservation organizations and oil palm corporations" (Chua et al, 2020)
- personal observations suggest a similar role between
  - oil palm estates and indigenous/local communities;
  - private and public standards

Source: Hidayat et al, 2018

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SUSTAINABILITY STANDARDS

ISPO, MSPO & RSPO Indicators

(Source: van Assen, 2019)

- document reviews of the institutional settings and other elements of certification initiatives discriminate against less established (often national) initiatives
- analyses of public summaries and/or audit reports pivot around the competence of auditors
- ground-truthing is urgently needed to address the significant language gaps, loan-shifts and speculative/ subjective determiners

- turn standards “upside-down”, focus on indicators
- determine if 5W1H (who, what, where, when, why & how) are clearly identified
- apply a simple RAG (traffic light) rating:
  = many gaps, = few gaps, = no gaps

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CONSERVING BIODIVERSITY

ISPO, MSPO & RSPO Indicators

(Source: van Assen, 2019)

key concern	ISPO	MSPO	RSPO
water management	2.3.1.2/2.3.10.2	4.5.5.1/4.6.1.2	7.8.1/7.8.2
zero burning	2.3.1.3	4.5.7.3	7.1.2
peat conservation	2.3.4.3	4.7.2.1	7.7.1/7.7.2
IPM	2.3.6.4	-	7.1.1
waste management	3.4.3	4.5.3.2	7.3.1/7.3.2/7.3.3
RTE species & habitats	3.7.1/3.7.3	4.5.6.2/4.5.6.3/ 4.7.5.3	7.12.2
GHG emissions	3.8.2/3.8.3/3.8.5	4.5.4.1/4.5.4.2	7.10.1/7.10.2/7.10.3

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CONSERVING FORESTS

ISPO, MSPO & RSPO Indicators

(Source: van Assen, 2019)

- ISPO indicators allow forest conversion, except primary and peatland forests, and require due diligence on HCV areas
- MSPO indicators do not explicitly prohibit forest conversion, and require due diligence on High Biodiversity Values and Environmentally Sensitive Areas
- RSPO benefits from High Conservation Value, High Carbon Stock assessments and New Planting Procedure
  - but at serious cost and risk
  - standards within a standard

key concern	ISPO	MSPO	RSPO
RTE species & habitats	3.7.1/3.7.3	4.5.6.2/4.5.6.3/ 4.7.5.3	7.12.2

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Bart W van Assen

bart@kayon.org | www.kayon.org | @eachtreematters

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