First training session on spatial decision-making for REDD+ policy makers

This deliverable provides documentation of the first training on the interactive websites “Suitability Mapper” and the “Forest Cover Analyzer” for the Indonesian government as part of the country’s REDD+ policy makers. The websites presented are updated versions of the beta websites presented in Deliverable 5, which has been revised based on feedback collected from 100+ representatives from across the palm oil supply chain, governments, and civil society. The website was developed by the World Resources Institute (WRI) under BACP Grant WRI-008 “Preserving Biodiversity through Responsible Development of New Oil Palm Plantations.”

This training session is the first of its kind for both websites to the Indonesian REDD+ policymakers. It was conducted at the Indonesian National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas) headquarters in Jakarta on August 13th, 2012. This was the first of a planned series of training sessions targeting national-level policy makers involved in spatial decision making at the intersection between economic development and environmental commitments. Bappenas is a national government agency in charge of medium-term and long-term development planning of the country. The agency was instrumental in designing the action plans toward Indonesia’s 26%/41% emissions reduction targets (also called RAN-GRK and the RAD-GRK) as well as the Master Plan for Indonesia’s Economic Expansion (MP3EI).

This document provides a summary of experience, challenges, lessons learned, and steps for improving future trainings sessions. The training materials, attendance list, and summary of updates to the Suitability Mapper are also included as an appendix.

Summary of Experience

This first training session aims to introduce Bappenas’ environmental and agricultural team to the Suitability Mapper and the Forest Cover Analyzer. WRI’s efforts to directly engage Bappenas is an important outreach aspect for Project POTICO, which aims to bring this innovative tool to those who would be able to utilize it towards generating the greatest policy impacts. Training sessions for the Suitability Mapper are included as part of Bappenas’ endorsement of WRI’s work in helping Indonesia achieve its emissions reduction targets in the forestry and plantations sectors. Although the web applications are still in their beta phases, the training session provided a useful live introduction to their basic capabilities.

The training session introduced both web applications to Bappenas’ environmental and agriculture departments. It also served as a discussion platform on how to best integrate the tools into Bappenas’ environmental and economic development plans.

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1. Training of the Suitability Mapper to the RSPO was conducted on June 21st, 2012 as part of BACP Grant-008 Deliverable 8.
2. Currently available at (Suitability Mapper) http://www.wri.org/media/maps/oil-palm-sustainability/ (Suitability Mapper) and http://www.wri.org/media/maps/forest-cover-monitoring/ (Forest Cover Analyzer).
3. Contact: Beth Gingold, World Resources Institute, Washington D.C., United States +1 202 729 7826 bgingold@wri.org.
4. The RAN-GRK document (English version) can be accessed at http://www.bappenas.go.id/get-file-server/node/11437/
5. MP3EI is Indonesia’s Masterplan to Accelerate and Expand Economic Development, providing a blueprint for the country’s economic growth and infrastructure plans up to 2025. http://mp3ei.com/beranda
6. See WRI Grant 008 Deliverable 8 to learn more about the Forest Cover Analyzer.
Bappenas representatives attending the training session reacted quite positively overall, showing enthusiasm regarding how the training sessions would move forward following website’s launch in October. Internet access at the training venue enabled a live demonstration of the websites, which generated exciting discussions among the participants.

**Challenges**

Challenges from the training session were mainly due to the temporary functional limitations of the beta version of the Suitability Mapper, which was undergoing final updates before its official launch at the RSPO Round Table 10. These limitations prevented the participants from experiencing the full capabilities of the website. Map functionalities that could not be displayed included:

- **Limited functionality in the “View Maps” function:** The “consideration maps” was not available, preventing the demonstration of how the different available maps overlap with each other
- **General error messages:** Indication that our website development partner was currently working on the beta website
- **Suitability analysis results:** The tab at the bottom of the website currently did not display the user’s custom suitability results.

**Lessons Learned**

These are the major lessons learned from this training session:

1) **Both the Suitability Mapper and the Forest Cover Analyzer are directly applicable to the Indonesian government’s emissions reduction effort.**

   Although still in its beta phase, both web applications were well received by Bappenas, the government agency in charge of Indonesia’s 26%/41% emissions reduction targets (RAN-GRK) and the Medium-term Economic Development Masterplan (MP3EI). Throughout the workshop, participants repeatedly mentioned that the webtools can directly contribute to the agricultural targets of the RAN-GRK and the greater land use dimensions of the MP3EI.

2) **Policymakers outside of REDD+ are also highly relevant stakeholders.**

   Bappenas is an official part of the REDD+ Task Force, but also works closely with other ministries that are less directly involved in the group, yet are still highly relevant in the REDD+ circles, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Coordinating Ministry of Economic Affairs, and Ministry of Public Works. WRI’s engagement with Bappenas creates opportunities for increased engagement with these agencies.

3) **Strong demand for both web tools exists in Sumatra and Sulawesi.**

   Workshop participants mentioned that there would be sufficient added value in expanding scope of the webtools to Sumatra and Sulawesi, two Indonesian islands with significant land use pressures.

4) **Pre-analyzed case studies help promote discussion with workshop participants.**

   The introduction of case studies (PT. SCP oil palm concession for the Forest Cover Analyzer and district suitability analysis for the Suitability Mapper) allowed the participants to grasp the capabilities of the websites through concrete examples. These examples also led to more discussion regarding other functionalities of the websites.

5) **Live demonstration of website is preferable to offline PowerPoint slides.**

   A live demonstration allows dynamic interaction with the audience and the flexibility to communicate in a way that resonates the most with the participants. For example, in this training session the participants particularly liked the “Ministry of Forestry Legal Land Classification” and wanted to view this layer in each example and functionality that was demonstrated.
Steps for Improving Future Training Sessions

In preparation for this training session, the POTICO team undertook steps for improvement based on experiences from a previous training session conducted for the RSPO on the Forest Cover Analyzer, which took place one month prior. The following points were taken from BACP WRI Grant 008 Deliverable 8 and updated in context of the current training session:

1) **Ensure that the live website is available during and immediately after the training session.**

   *Steps taken:*
   - In this training session, we succeeded in getting live internet connection during the workshop, which was instrumental in promoting active discussion during the session. Links to the beta website were also circulated to the participants.

   *Future improvements:*
   - Need to ensure this continues to be the case for future training sessions.
   - Future sessions will need to include demonstration of full mapping functionality, once the website is fully operational.

2) **Provide more case study examples of applications for discussion.**

   *Steps taken:*
   - WRI prepared at least 3 case studies for discussion of the two websites. The participants were very active in suggesting additional cases to look at.

   *Future improvements:*
   - Conduct targeted research to create case studies with relevant messages to connect with the participants of the workshop.

3) **Make the training sessions more interactive.**

   *Steps taken:*
   - This particular training session was very discussion-based and interactive due to the small number of participants (six).

   *Future improvements:*
   - For groups larger than this, we could suggest that each participant bring their own laptops so they can follow along online during the training session.
Appendix

The Updated Suitability Mapper

This training session presented an updated version of the beta Suitability Mapper and Forest Cover Analyzer. This section will focus on the updated Suitability Mapper only. This version was updated with new data and revised based on feedback from 100+ representatives from across the supply chain, governments, and civil society.

The Suitability Mapper will undergo additional changes before its launch at the RSPO RT10. These changes were not reflected at this training session and will therefore be excluded from this deliverables report. The most significant changes since the BACP Grant 008 Deliverable 5 report are as follows:

1) Functioning Analyze Suitability Tab: Added functionality to the Environmental and Economic Criteria of the Suitability Mapper

2) Updated Summary Results: Results to the suitability maps are displayed in the table, showing suitability analysis results for “POTICO Potential” default analysis

Figure 1. Updated Analyze Suitability tab (Environmental criteria).

Figure 2. Updated Analyze Suitability tab (Economic criteria).

For updates to the Forest Cover Analyzer, see BACP WRI Grant-008 Deliverable 8.
Figure 3. Updated Summary Results (with POTICO Potential results displayed)
Training Materials Presented
We used live demonstrations of the Suitability Mapper and the Forest Cover Analyzer websites. In addition, the publication “How to Identify Degraded Land for Sustainable Palm Oil” was also presented and distributed at the session.

Attendance List

Endah Murniningtyas
Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environment
National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
T: +62 21 391 6340
E: endah@bappenas.go.id
I: www.bappenas.go.id

Nono Rusono
Director of Food and Agriculture
National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
T: +62 21 319 34323
E: rusono@bappenas.go.id
I: www.bappenas.go.id

Maliki
Assistant to the Vice Minister
MP3EI (National Connectivity Master Plan) Coordinator
National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
T: +62 812 860 92 071
E: maliki@bappenas.go.id
I: www.bappenas.go.id

Miranti Triana Zulkifli
Analyst, Forestry and Water Resources Directorate
National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
T: +62 812 245 4996
E: miranti.zulkifli@gmail.com
I: www.bappenas.go.id

Dini Maghfirra
Analyst, Food and Agriculture Directorate
National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
E: dini.maghfirra@bappenas.go.id
I: www.bappenas.go.id

Lisa Nisti Afifah
Analyst, Geographic Information Systems
National Development Planning Agency (Bappenas)
T: +62 856 439 096 98
E: Afifah.lisa@gmail.com
I: www.bappenas.go.id

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