

President of the Republic of Indonesia
Joko Widodo
Jl. Medan Merdeka Utara, RT.2/RW.3,
Gambir, Kota Jakarta Pusat,
Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta, Indonesia
10110

Tuesday, 9 October 2018

Attn: The President of the Republic of Indonesia

Attn: Minister for Environment and Forestry, Siti Nurbaya Bakar

The critically endangered Sumatran elephant population of Seblat, North Bengkulu, Sumatra is under renewed threat due to the coal mining company PT INMAS ABADI trying to obtain 600 hectares of this protected forest to expand their coal output. This process is happening through local government avenues and we request immediate intervention from the highest levels of office in Indonesia to help maintain TWA Seblat Conservation and Landscape Area as it is intended to be. A habitat for the Sumatran elephant and many other endangered species.

TWA SEBLAT CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE AREA

The TWA Conservation and Landscape Area located in Seblat North Bengkulu is the last remaining habitat for an estimated 37 critically endangered wild elephants along with many other endangered species such as estimated two Sumatran tigers within the 7000 hectare protected forests of TWA Seblat. TWA Seblat is also home to ECC, the Elephant Conservation Center, the home of 12 captive Sumatran elephants where for more than 25 years conservation efforts have taken place to ensure the elephant population of North Bengkulu remains protected. The ECC is also under threat as PT INMAS ABADI have plans to relocate the elephants and the camp in December, 2018 if the 600 hectares of protected forest is handed over.

BONA THE ICON OF BENGKULU AND THE ECC

The ECC (Elephant Conservation Center) is home to 12 captive elephants. Bona is the youngest and is an 8 year old orphaned Sumatran elephant calf in the care of the Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC) in Seblat, North Bengkulu, Sumatra. Bona survived from an early age due to the amazing efforts from a team of passionate supporters from all over the world helping Bona by providing life saving milk supplements and has now become one of Bengkulu's tourist icons to visit in the province of Bengkulu. On behalf of all of our global and local supporters, we are shocked to hear the ECC in Seblat Bengkulu will be relocated along with Bona and the 12 elephants to accommodate an expansion of coal mining in the protected TWA Seblat Conservation and Landscape Area.

Bona and the ECC in the past 6 years has become a big part of the growing tourism for the Bengkulu province. Together with tourism bodies and local communities each year tourism to ECC has increased and eco tourism in the surrounding villages has become part of the sustainable income plan for the region. Moving the ECC camp will destroy all this hard work and remove one of the tourism icons from Bengkulu 2020. The ECC stands out as a facility that is doing the right thing by their elephants in a country where Sumatran elephant populations are rapidly declining.

THE GREAT WORK IN CONSERVATION

Over the last 25 years many local and international NGO's have assisted with the work in conserving the critically endangered elephant and many continue to do so recognizing the great crisis that this endangered species as well as many other species face. Many local and international NGO's continue to work with the local conservation agency directly inside the ECC and TWA Seblat Conservation and Landscape Area. From breeding programs to elephant patrol units helping protect the conservation area. The work and efforts of many over many years will vanish upon issuing the more than 600 hectares of protected forest and the relocation of the elephants from ECC.

Local and or internal NGO's developing projects and assisting with the conservation of the Sumatran elephant directly inside the ECC/PLG Seblat. Whose many years and great effort will be reversed upon the relocation of the ECC elephants.

1. Yayasan Berdiri Nusantara Sejahtera
2. Komunitas untuk Hutan Sumatera
3. Animal Sanctuary Trust Indonesia
4. Bengkulu Heritage Society

THE ECO TOURISM POTENTIAL

Eco-tourism is rapidly becoming a popular tourist attraction in South East Asia. As more people prefer to visit elephant sanctuaries and conservation projects caring for elephants in their natural habitat. Sumatra could therefore consider being the forefront of Eco-tourism, instead of pushing the elephants of ECC Seblat aside to make way for coal mining inside the protected TWA Seblat Conservation Area we should be learning to celebrate these amazing animals and conserving the protected habitats for future generations. Not destroying for short term gain while compromising the plan to conserve this protected species. The location of ECC should remain where it has been for decades and the elephants should not be relocated in order to continue providing support for the local community. By doing the right thing and leaving TWA Seblat and the ECC untouched, Indonesia may keep its International image as a country trying to preserve its natural environment and wildlife and not a country exploiting it.

Local and or internal tourism agents working towards building a sustainable future for eco tourism in Seblat, North Bengkulu.

1. PT Alesha Wisata	8. ASPPI DPD Bengkulu	15. PT Sanindo Wisata
2. KPPL Bengkulu	9. PT Idaman Tour	16. PT Anugerah Albiro
3. Elephant Care Community (ECC) Seblat Bengkulu Utara	10. PT Airlangkap wisata	17. Tourism departement (UPW) Smkn 1 Bengkulu
4. Bengkulu Heritage Society	11. PT Swadaya Bengkulu	18. PT Benkulen Tour & Travel
5. PT Danau Holidays	12. PT Mumtaztravel Bengkulu	19. PT Kendi Mitra Wisata Tour & Travel
6. DPD HPI Bengkulu	13. PT Mulia lte Mandiri	20. PT Bengkulu Express Tour
7. CV Armina Holiday Bengkulu	14. PT Wahyu Septyan Prima	21. Tourism departement (UPW) Smkn 7 Bengkulu
		22. PT AQM Bengkulu

Should Bona, ECC and TWA Seblat Conservation Area remain untouched, many people local and international will continue to provide financial support for the development of the ECC conservation and tourism projects surrounding Seblat. We fully support Bona's important role as an ambassador for Eco Tourism in the province of Bengkulu and of course as part of the patrol team protecting TWA Seblat from deforestation continuing the important role of conserving the surrounding wild habitat for the remaining wild herds. Her species are critically endangered, it's very important to Bona's friends around the globe that the Sumatran elephant is protected for the sake of the future generation. Bona has already raised significant awareness by her story, and we strongly believe that the ECC should continue to use her story for the benefit of the survival of her species through eco-tourism and conservation patrols.

We kindly ask for you to implement the following IMMEDIATELY:

1. The Indonesian Minister of Environment and Forestry Siti Nurbaya to maintain Seblat Conservation and landscape forest area to be the home to the charismatic Sumatran elephant in

Bengkulu region and refuse all requests from PT Inmas Abadi to obtain a borrowing permit to use the forest areas for mining.

2. The Acting Governor of Bengkulu, Rohidin Mersyah, to revoke PT Inmas Abadi's Mining Business License (IUP) and to conduct a moratorium on granting the IUP mining in Bengkulu Province.

3. The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources to revoke PT Inmas Abadi's CnC status.

4. Stop PLTU Coal Mining Teluk Sepang, Bengkulu and transition to clean energy.

Tourists love to visit Bona at the ECC and see her enjoying life with the other camp elephants, this would be a respected move by the authorities of Indonesia to bring about this change.

Thank you for your attention in this important issue. **We urge you to do the right thing by helping conserve the last remaining Sumatran elephant species and their precious habitat.**

Kind Regards,

ADDRESS 1 - THE PRESIDENT

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ADDRESS 2 - ENVIRONMENT MINISTER

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