



**Jakarta, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

### **Progress Update on Independent Third Party Verification**

EcoNusantara (ENS) began the on-the-ground process in Sulawesi on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023 with two days of fact-finding in Palu.

We understand that WALHI has rejected the notion of further investigation. While we respect WALHI's position, ENS had planned to communicate with WALHI at a pre-arranged kick off meeting on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Palu for consultation with two objectives, namely: (a) building a common understanding of stakeholders on the comprehensive verification agenda to be carried out within the next 3 months, and (b) to build effective communication during the verification process.

However, at the last minute, Walhi decided it felt unable to join. ENS deeply regrets that this happened, since the objectives (a) and (b) above may not now be optimally achieved, and this causes us concern that the verification process would potentially be hampered, which ultimately could make the conflict resolution process lengthy and detrimental to the comfort and safety of the community.

Nevertheless, field visits will commence on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to affected communities within the sites of PT Lestari Tani Teladan, PT Agro Nusa Abadi, and PT Mamuang, followed by needs assessments in Toviora village. ENS will provide a progress report on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The rest of June is blocked off for field visits and village needs assessments, and bi-weekly updates to stakeholders will be released regularly.

We welcome any input from stakeholders.