



Jakarta, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

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

Econusantara is pleased to publish the fourth bi-weekly update on the independent verification of allegations against three of Astra Agro Lestari's subsidiaries, PT Agro Nusa Abadi, PT Mamuang and PT Lestari Tani Teladan.

The second phase of on-the-ground interviews across all three plantations began on Tuesday June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023. These take a twin track approach – for those where data has been logged and where individuals have come forward, the purpose will be to confirm these findings from phase one with the communities themselves, and the local government. The second approach is to attempt to engage again with individuals and communities who have yet been interviewed in phase one. Although there have only been three days of this, there are signs of an improved uptake in consultation.

ENS does not act on behalf of civil society, but we act as an independent assessor of grievances, each of our interview activities is minuted and recorded with the consent of the interviewees and that our objectivity and non-alliance are essential to the goal of reaching a fair and evidence-based conclusion.

We are, continue to strive to involve all parties including members of civil society in Sulawesi who have come forward, and where they have specific data relevant to our work and are acting in support of local communities. This will be extremely helpful to our objectives, and again we invite all other members of civil society to come forward and engage with us, in order to best reflect the interests of all relevant communities.