



Jakarta, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023

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

Econusantara is pleased to publish the sixth 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.

We are encouraged by progress in PT Mamuang where the communities, led by the village leader and the village elder, are in constructive dialogue with us, and verification is moving ahead. One individual has yet to be interviewed, however, we are striving to continue the communication through any possible channels. We continue to encourage the individual to come forward in the interests of all concerned.

In PTT Lestari Tani Teladan, we continue to clarify claims and are listening closely to the communities. These will be taken seriously as we move to a point where we can provide clarity on individual and group claims.

Progress in PT Agro Nusa Abadi remains a challenge. However, we were able to communicate with related parties very productively, but some of the groups submitting claims were reluctant to indicate the location of the land being claimed. At some points, there are overlapping claims between community groups on the same location of land.

We also re-emphasise that ours and AAL's doors remain open to discussion with all interested parties including civil society to engage with us in determining the most beneficial outcome for the communities around the plantations concerned. We want to stress that this assessment process is not an end – it is a beginning of problem solving with the fairest identification and verification, which is one we believe is best done in concert with all parties. As we have stated before the report of this process will be made available to all.