



Pro Wildlife · Engelhardstrasse 10 · D-81369 Munich

To the Board of Directors of
 First Resources Limited
 Mr. Lim Ming Seong
 Mr. Ciliandra Fangiono
 Mr. Fang Zhixiang
 8 Temasek Boulevard
 #36-02 Suntec Tower Three

Singapore 038988

Fax: 0065 – 6333 6711

16 November 2020

Dear Mr. Seong,
 dear Mr. Fangiono and Mr. Zhixiang,

The undersigning wildlife and nature protection organisations would like to express our grave concern that your company is indirectly involved in the deforestation of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in Eastern Borneo, through the activities of your Indonesian subsidiary PT Wahana Prima Sejati, which plans to install a palm oil refinery, a biodiesel factory, and related infrastructure.

The HCVF of concern is an area of coastal forest in the Balikpapan Bay, at the Sanro Mutti Beach (Area Penggunaan Lain) on the eastern coast of Borneo. Since the beginning of 2020, approximately 86 hectares of valuable habitat for proboscis monkeys, Malayan pangolins, clouded leopards, sun bears, re-introduced orang-utans, and many other threatened species, have already been cleared and flattened. All the species listed above are classified by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species either as Critically Endangered or Endangered.

While bushfires and deforestation for palm oil plantations have been the biggest threat to Borneo's rainforests and wildlife in the past, infrastructure projects relating to the palm oil industry now pose the biggest ongoing threat.

First Resources Limited is a leading palm oil plantation operator in Indonesia. Since 2008 it has been a member of the Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). Your company is therefore bound to the RSPO's Principles and Criteria, and specifically the principle of environmental responsibility and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. While the destruction of HCVF in Balikpapan Bay

may be in line with Indonesian law – given that a valid and correct Environmental Impact Analysis has reportedly been conducted, as a precondition for a concession – we would strongly argue that it is not in line with the RSPO requirements.

Furthermore, in 2015, your company committed to eliminate deforestation and rights abuses from its supply chain. Your website lists *“to be an environmentally and socially responsible corporate citizen”* as one of your missions.

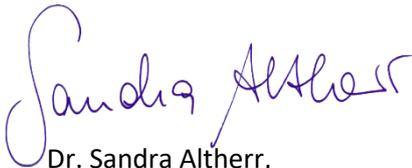
We strongly believe that any processing of palm oil in the planned refinery in Balikpapan Bay would not qualify for RSPO certification, and would be in breach of your own company’s guidelines because of the deforestation involved.

For these reasons we strongly urge First Resources Ltd. to instruct its subsidiary PT Wahana Prima Sejati to immediately halt the construction of the palm oil refinery and the biodiesel factory, and request the restoration of the deforested area. We also urge you to ensure that any similar present and future plans involving First Resources Ltd. or any of its subsidiaries are reconsidered.

We will be informing the RSPO of our concerns.

We look forward to your prompt reply and thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. Sandra Altherr,
Co-Founder of Pro Wildlife

In the name of

- Zuzana Burdova, Aegis – For Wild Nature, Slovakia
- Almuth Ernsting, biofuelwatch
- Dr. Mark Jones, Born Free Foundation
- Ericka Ceballos, CATCA Environmental and Wildlife Society
- Peter Gerhard, denkhausbremen, Germany
- Lesley Suttly, Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness
- Brett Mitchell, Elephant Reintegration Trust, South Africa
- Heike Henderson, Future for Elephants, Germany
- Nicola Beynon, Humane Society International - Australia
- Ericka Ceballos, International Aid For Animals Foundation
- Courtney Vail, Oceanic Preservation Society, USA
- Maria Abadilla, Orangutan Alliance, Australia
- Julia Cissewski, Orang-Utans in Not
- Greg Tully, Pan African Sanctuary Alliance
- Prof. Dr. Miroslav Svoboda, Remote Primary Forest, Czech Republic
- Marianne Klute, Rainforest Rescue
- Charlotte Nithart, Robin des Bois, France
- Lars Gorschlüter, SAVE –Wildlife Conservation Fund
- Knud Vöcking, urgewald, Germany
- Belinda Wright, Wildlife Protection Society of India