



Michael Berger
 Secretary General, PEFC International
 ICC Building C
 Route de Pré-Bois 20
 Case Postale 1862
 1215 Geneva 15
 Switzerland

28 January 2026

Re: PEFC Forest Management certification issued to PT Mayawana Persada and PT Industrial Forest Plantation, Indonesia

Dear Mr Berger,

The undersigned 18 organisations represent civil society groups from Indonesia, the US, EU and UK active in protection of natural forests and Indigenous rights. We note with concern and alarm that the two companies responsible for more clearance of natural forest than any others in Indonesia's industrial plantation sector this decade, PT Mayawana Persada and PT Industrial Forest Plantation, have both been granted Forest Management certification under the PEFC-endorsed Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation (IFCC).

We argue that this certification is highly inappropriate, given the immense and ongoing damage that both companies have inflicted on natural forests in Borneo and the local and Indigenous people that rely on them, and the absence of any meaningful attempts to rectify this harm.

We are aware that a PEFC [investigation](#) into forest management activities in Indonesia is underway, while a [periodic review](#) of IFCC was due to commence on 25 January 2026. We urge you to take this opportunity to revoke certification of major deforesters; to amend PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Requirements to explicitly exclude a company from certification if it or any company in

its corporate group has cleared natural forest since 2010; and to suspend endorsement of IFCC until its standards are aligned with this change.

Timber plantation company PT Mayawana Persada controls a concession covering more than 138,000 hectares (ha) in West Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo. The company cleared more than 34,000ha of natural forest in its concession between 2021 and 2024, more than any other company in Indonesia in this period. Approximately two thirds of this forest clearance was on peat, turning a critical carbon sink into a major emitter of carbon. This deforestation destroyed habitat for the critically endangered Bornean orangutan and triggered ongoing conflict with the Indigenous Dayak community. The company's activities have been extensively covered in both Indonesian and international media, including a [front-page story](#) in the New York Times in August 2025.

Indonesia's Ministry of Forestry issued an order to PT Mayawana Persada to cease logging and halt its activities in March 2024. The company [continued](#) to plant acacia on recently deforested land after this, in apparent violation of the government order.

PT Mayawana Persada was issued with Forest Management certification (certificate number SFM-IFCC-MUTU-017) on 13 October 2025 by certification body PT Mutuagung Lestari Tbk (also known as Mutu International). The audit report from Mutu International explicitly acknowledges that 34,740ha of natural forest were converted in the concession after 31 December 2010.

Timber plantation company PT Industrial Forest Plantation controls a concession covering more than 100,000ha in Central Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo. The company cleared more than 14,000ha of natural forest in its concession between 2021 and 2024, ranking second after only PT Mayawana Persada for area of forest cleared across Indonesia's industrial plantation sector.

PT Industrial Forest Plantation is located in a critical stronghold for Bornean orangutans, and a 2022 [report](#) estimated that around half of the concession's area was orangutan habitat. The company's activities have triggered ongoing conflict with local communities, which have led to confrontations involving police forces and threats of legal action.

PT Industrial Forest Plantation was issued with Forest Management certification (certificate number LSSFM-001/MUTU/IFCC-016) on 18 November 2024 by PT Mutuagung Lestari Tbk / Mutu International. The audit report explicitly acknowledges that the company cleared 29,075ha of natural forest between April 2010 and June 2024. It also notes that the company cleared 334ha of forest after August 2023, when the company [committed](#) to complying with the IFCC ST 1001:2021 Standard, which should prohibit clearance of natural forest. The certification was issued despite this non-conformity.

Previous statements from PEFC International have made clear that this certification is considered consistent with PEFC standards and procedures, as it excludes those areas of the concession which were deforested after 2010. However, we argue that allowing partial certification of a company's concession where there has been extensive and highly damaging deforestation elsewhere on its land in the recent past, whose impacts are ongoing, undermines the purpose and spirit of sustainable forest management certification; creates a severe risk of mixing and laundering; and amounts to greenwashing of some of the industry's most environmentally and socially damaging actors.

In a [December 2025](#) article, your Head of Advocacy Thorsten Arndt argued that PEFC certification as thus applied "draws on line" under "unacceptable practices" and ensures that future forest management abides by strict environmental and social rules. This argument dismisses the recent activities of these companies as "legacy deforestation."

Yet the actions of PT Mayawana Persada and PT Industrial Forest Plantation are not ‘legacy’ issues – this is very recent, industrial-scale forest destruction which has triggered ongoing, unresolved conflict with local and Indigenous populations. Cleared peatland continues to emit vast quantities of carbon, an ongoing impact which could be addressed by rewetting and reforestation. PT Industrial Forest Plantation was [selling conversion wood](#) produced through land clearing in its concession in 2024, thereby benefitting materially from deforestation in the same year it was granted PEFC certification.

PEFC standards as thus applied create very little incentive for a company to protect natural forest in its concession. A company can clear as much forest in its concession as it is legally permitted to, and once this is finished can obtain sustainable forest management certification almost immediately for the remainder of its land without any requirement to redress the harm of its actions.

The possibility of PEFC certification has not been the trigger for these companies to finally pause deforestation. PT Mayawana Persada was ordered to do so by the government, in recognition of the immense harm it was causing. Yet PEFC’s current approach allows the company to immediately pivot to marketing itself as sustainable without any requirement to restore destroyed forest or redress social harms, masking the reality of its activities and allowing it to evade the consequences of its actions. This is greenwashing.

Moreover, allowing partial certification of a concession, where some areas of forest are supposedly excluded, creates a very significant risk of mixing of wood from certified and non-certified areas. This in turn creates a major risk for EU importers of PEFC-certified wood, who may be exposed to product that is not compliant with the EU Deforestation Regulation, and face significant penalties as a result.

The major flaws in this approach have been acknowledged by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which instead applies a Policy for Association approach, which ensures a company is excluded from certification if any company within its corporate group has engaged in activities which violate FSC standards. This creates a far stronger incentive for companies to act sustainably across their operations.

The recent PEFC certification of not just companies involved in recent deforestation but the very companies responsible for the *most egregious deforestation* seen across Indonesia’s entire industrial plantation sector this decade undermines the purpose and spirit of sustainability certification; severely damages the integrity and reputation of PEFC; and risks misleading customers who assume the PEFC label excludes suppliers complicit in environmental harm.

Given these points, we urge you to:

- Immediately revoke certification of PT Industrial Forest Plantation and PT Mayawana Persada;
- Amend PEFC Sustainable Forest Management Requirements to explicitly exclude any company that has cleared natural forest anywhere on its land since 2010, and thereby stop partial certification of companies involved in recent deforestation;
- Adopt a Policy for Association approach which would exclude a company from certification if any company in its corporate group has violated PEFC standards;
- Suspend endorsement of the Indonesian Forestry Certification Cooperation until its standards are amended to reflect the above

Kind regards,

AMAN Kalimantan Barat
Auriga Nusantara
Earthsight
Environmental Paper Network
Fern
Forest Watch Indonesia
Friends of the Earth
Greenpeace Indonesia
Hutan Kita Institute (HaKI)
Jaringan Pemantau Independen Kehutanan (JPIK)
LBH Pontianak
Link-AR Borneo
Mighty Earth
Rainforest Action Network
Save Our Borneo
Satya Bumi
WALHI
Yayasan Masyarakat Kehutanan Lestari (YMKL)