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LOWRENTZ LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE



The Lorentz Lowlands Landscape is one of six LESTARI landscapes in Indonesia. This landscape in Southern Papua comprises Mimika and Asmat Districts, which share many characteristics such as similar ecosystems and culture. Lorentz National Park is partly situated within the two districts and provides the centerpiece for the landscape.

ABOUT

The Lorentz Lowlands Landscape located in South Papua comprises Mimika and Asmat Districts, combining the contiguous forest within the two districts into a single value landscape. These two districts and the landscape are characterized by a large lowland area of Lorentz National Park. The landscape consists of largely intact dryland (mineral soil) forests in the northern parts of the landscape, extensive lowland swamp forests along the central belt, and the world's most rich and intact mangrove ecosystems on the southern coast. These mangroves, that are the focus of much of the LESTARI activities in the landscape, stretch along 500 km of coastline and cover over 400,000 ha. The bordering freshwater swamp forest (approximately 1M ha) is important for maintaining the mangroves and together harbor some of the highest carbon stock and biodiversity per hectare of similar forests on the

planet. These assets need to be managed sustainably to mitigate vast GHG emissions and conserve its important endemic biodiversity and environmental services that local communities enjoy.

Lorentz National Park covers an area of 2.35 million hectares, making it the largest conservation area in Southeast Asia. It contains an outstanding range of ecosystems, as 34 vegetation types and 29 land systems have been identified within the park along with some 123 recorded mammal species. In addition, it is home to a large number of restricted range (45) and endemic (9) bird species. The park has remarkable cultural diversity, with seven ethnic groups maintaining their traditional lifestyles. The highland communities include the Amungme (Damal), Dani Barat, Dani Lembah Baliem, Moni, and Nduga, whereas in the lowlands there are Asmat, Kamoro, and Sempan communities.

KEY ACTIVITIES IN LORENTZ LOWLANDS LANDSCAPE

LESTARI's overall vision for this landscape is to reduce degradation and future deforestation of primary forest and mangrove and improve biodiversity conservation through sustainable co-management, improved spatial planning, and CA management. This is to be achieved through the following priority initiatives:

IMPROVED CA MANAGEMENT

The threats posed to the integrity and the preservation of Lorentz National Park include illegal logging and non-sustainable forest utilization. To address this, LESTARI supports the implementation of the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT). This aims to improve the capacity of park management authorities to quantify and monitor management performance and optimize the use of resources to better protect the CA's natural assets. In conjunction, LESTARI supports SMART-based patrols that utilize data and mobile technology to optimize ranger patrols in strategic locations in order to detect and mitigate threats.



Mangrove forests in Mimika harbor enormous carbon stocks and biodiversity values, while providing key environmental services that local communities depend upon for their livelihoods.

COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT

The conservation of the Mimika and Asmat Mangroves and bordering swamps is LESTARI's priority landscape initiative in the Lorentz Lowlands. Unfortunately, these important ecosystems are under threat due from a number of sources. The conversion of swamps to oil palm plantations threatens the hydrological sustainability of the system, and future conversion of mangroves for fishponds aquaculture may cause significant ecosystem loss. Such unsustainable land use changes negatively impact local livelihoods and increase vulnerability to flooding. Hence LESTARI facilitates co-management agreements with local communities and the private sector in order to secure their commitments to sustainably managing forests and mitigating future threats. Multi-Stakeholder Forums in

both Mimika and Asmat support this process, bringing together community, local government, and private sector actors to discuss and coordinate action on mangrove and key species conservation.

SPATIAL PLANNING

Spatial Planning is an important instrument to support the improvement in adapting to and mitigating climate change. To support such an effort, it is necessary to align the policy of the government at all levels and open access to the public to provide input into the land use decision-making process. LESTARI encourages the revision of public policy on land use that allows for deforestation and degradation while promoting low emissions development strategies that balance conservation and development objectives.

LESTARI works with local government to revise the spatial plan and incorporate key SEA and LCP recommendations. This works towards mitigating impacts of development projects proposed or already under way, such as oil palm plantations and the proposed copper smelter project. In conjunction, LESTARI works to strengthen Spatial Data Infrastructure developed under IFACS, with updated data from mapping and assessments, and Sustainability Screening Tool used to improve the environmental sustainability of decisions being made in the landscape.

Operational Landscape Area (ha)	Value Landscape Components (ha)
4,795,848	1,419,904 (Primary Dryland Forest)
	262,785 (Secondary Dryland Forest)
	2,000,617 (Primary Swamp Forest)
	299,908 (Secondary Swamp Forest)
	360,675 (Primary Mangrove)
	31,105 (Secondary Mangrove)
	158,305 (Non-Forested Peatland)
	4,533,299 (Total Value Landscape)
Protected Areas	
Lorentz National Park	The national park was gazetted in 1997 (SK No. 154/Kpts- II/1997) with an area covering 2,450,000 ha. Lorentz is Indonesia's and Southeast Asia's largest National Park. 1,019,682 ha of lowland forest ecosystems lie within the LESTARI landscape.
Rawa Baki – Vriendschap	An area covering 122,738 ha that has been nominated as a new protected area of cultural significance to be managed locally through strengthened traditional management. The area has not been granted formal status but has a recommendation from the Bupati that allows changes to future spatial plans (SK No. 522.13/129/BUP/VIII/2014).
Mimika – Asmat Mangroves	An area covering approximately 400,000 ha of mangroves currently under protection forest and as the focus of conservation efforts and potentially setting up as a conservation area. The mangroves will be jointly managed by Local Mangrove Working groups (KKMD) in Mimika and Asmat.

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