



# Independent Forest Monitoring

## The Indonesian Experience

Mardi Minangsari/Kaoem Telapak  
Forest Governance Forum  
Washington, D.C. 1 May 2024

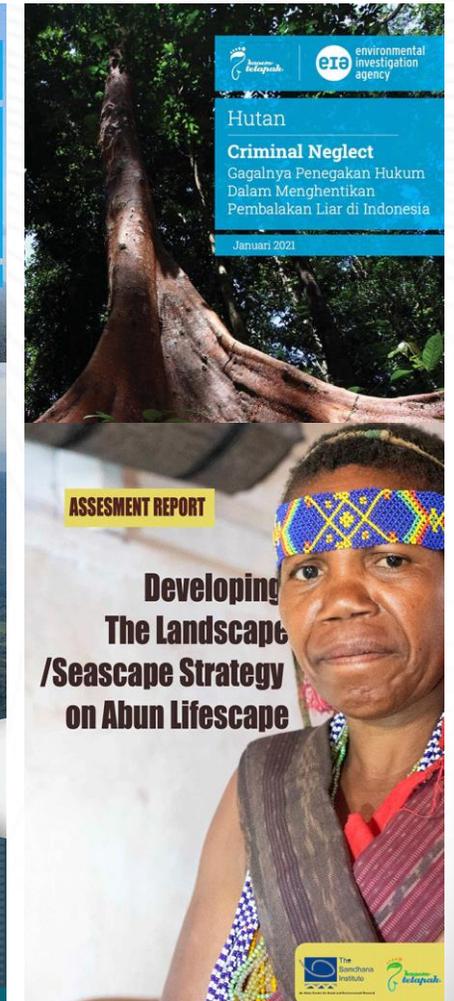




# Introduction

Kaoem Telapak: Established in Bogor, Indonesia (2016)

- Transformed from an original entity founded in 1996
- Vision: just and sustainable natural resource management in Indonesia
- employs a two-parallel approach: halting destructive practices through campaigns and advocacy; and promoting community-led sustainable initiatives.
- Renowned for combating illegal logging and promoting forest governance through evidence-based campaigns
- Enhances local CSOs' skills in documentation, investigation and forest monitoring
- Launched JPIK (Independent Forestry Monitors Network) in 2010, with 28 other organizations
- Initiated IFM Funds in 2017 with 5 other organizations





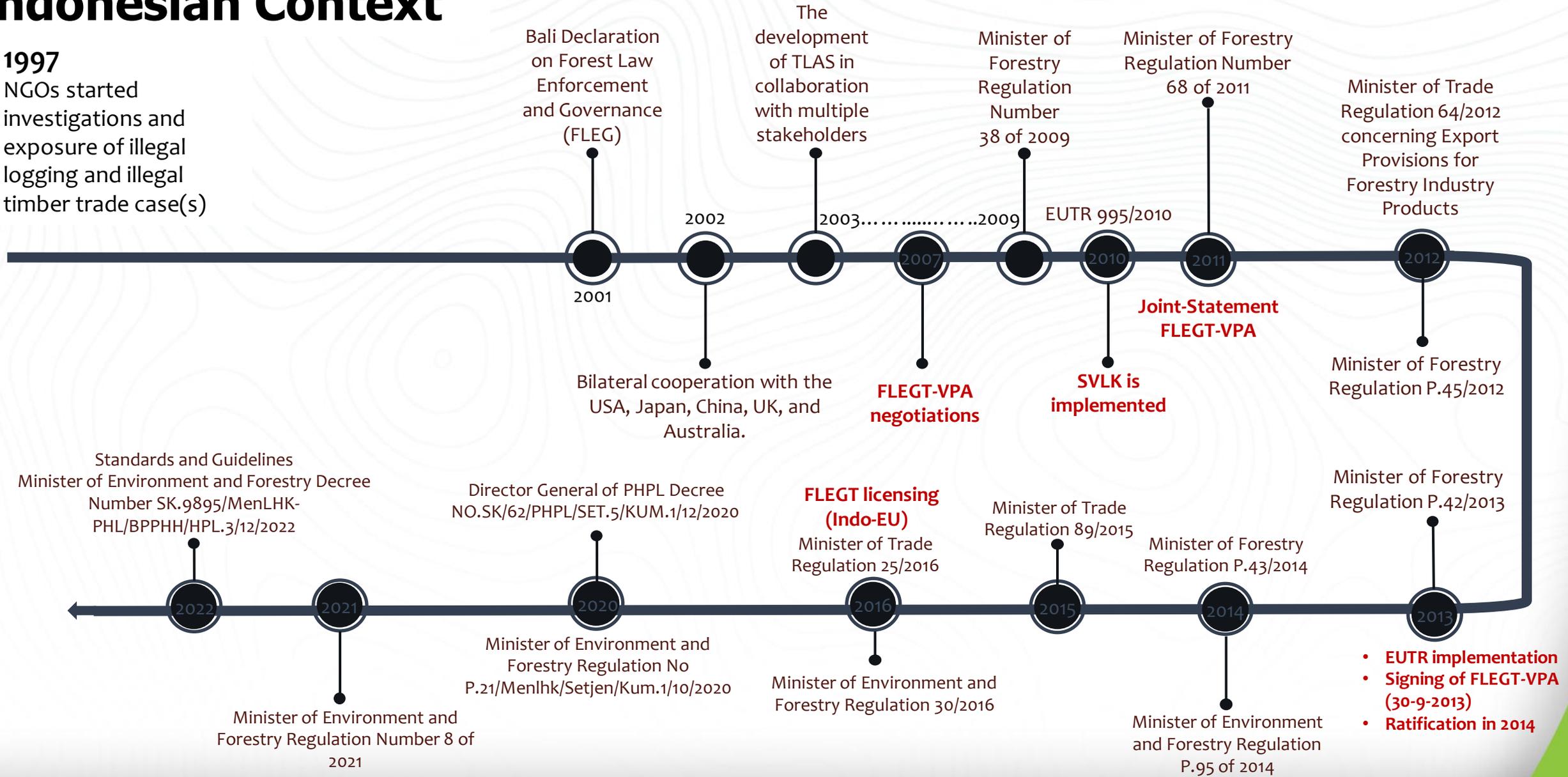
# Independent Monitoring (IM)/Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM) in Indonesia – A Snapshot

- **WHAT ARE IFM?** independent monitoring of forestry-related operations by civil society to ensure compliance with laws and regulations
- **ACTIVITIES:** desk research, field monitoring, documentation of violations, report submission to relevant agencies, advocacy for policy reforms
- **IM function** is formally embedded in the national system for legality and sustainability (SVLK) verification for the first time in 2009, which contains provisions on IM and independent monitors
- Currently the scope of monitoring has already gone beyond SVLK verification/certification

# Indonesian Context

1997

NGOs started investigations and exposure of illegal logging and illegal timber trade case(s)

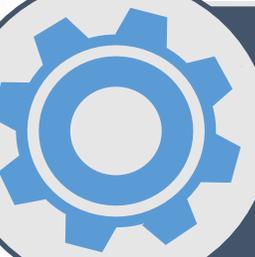


# Legal Framework for IMs

**IM is an integral part of the SVLK**



The role of Independent Monitors (IMs) in the SVLK implementation is recognized in the Ministry of Environmental and Forestry (MoEF) Regulation No.30/2016 jo. Regulation No.21/2020 and the last Regulation No. 08/2021



Decree of the Minister of Environment and Forestry Number SK.9895/2022 concerning Standards and Guidelines for Implementing SVLK (Annex 9)

Good Forest Governance  
and Improve Law  
Enforcement

Lending Credibility,  
Strengthen  
Accountability, and  
Integrity

IMs are NGOs with Indonesian legal status, communities living in proximity of the forests or any concerned citizen. They monitor compliance of operators with legal requirements and overall implementation of the SVLK system (accreditation, verification and export licensing processes).

## Rights of IMs

- a. Obtain data and information in hardcopy and/or softcopy format, as well as access to online and offline data and information systems of the parties directly involved in the SVLK process and relevant agencies, in accordance with the regulations.
- b. Receive protection from physical and verbal threats while conducting monitoring.
- c. Gain access to monitoring locations. If necessary, this can be supplemented with a letter of introduction from the Ministry or the Ministry's Technical Implementation Unit.

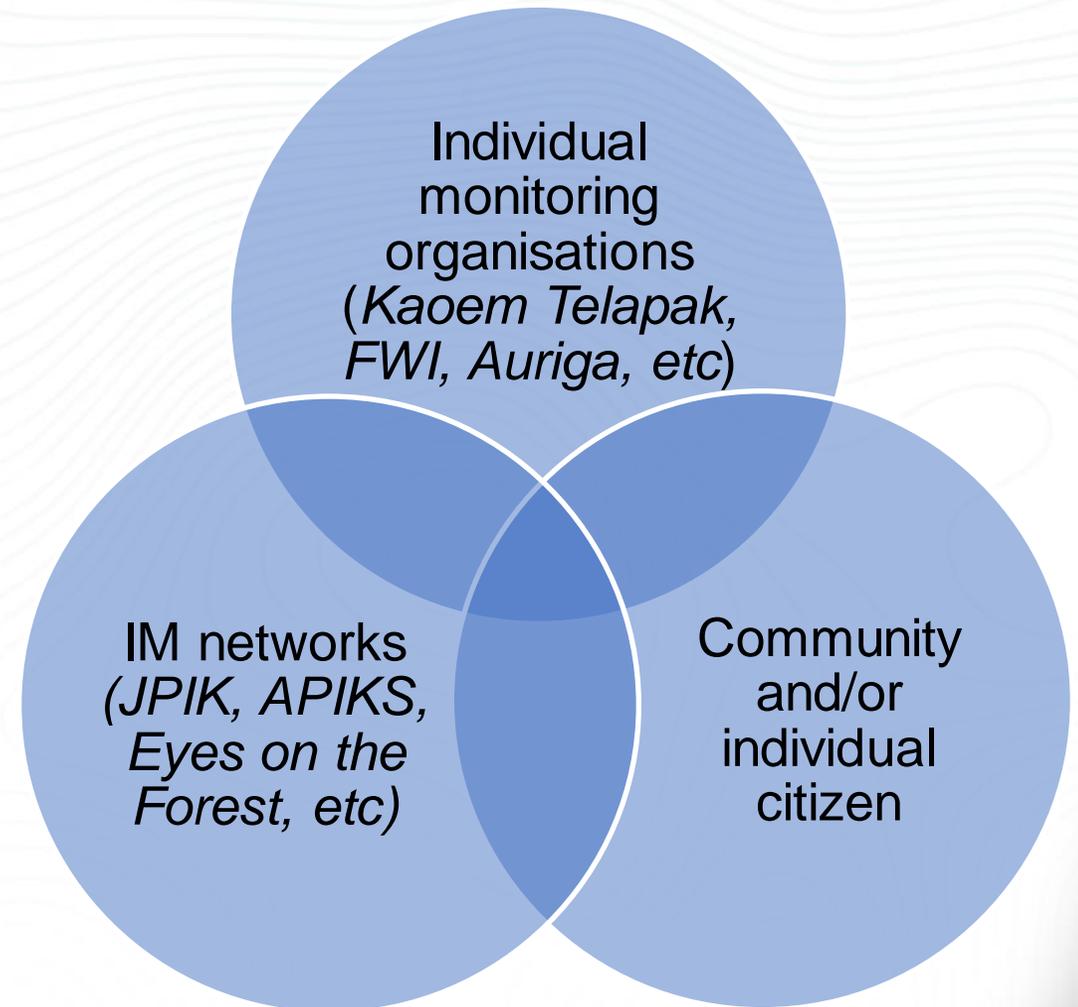
*“Independent Monitors who carry out monitoring activities in accordance with the provisions of the regulations cannot be prosecuted criminally or sued in a civil court.”*

## Obligation of IMs

- a. Show proof of identity or affiliation with the monitoring network organization when entering specific locations in connection with monitoring tasks.
- b. Maintain and protect public information by signing a data and information use agreement format in a responsible manner, in accordance with the data and information use agreement format according to the information request flow.
- c. Report or distribute the results of monitoring information while excluding/considering parts of data and information that are confidential, in accordance with regulations related to public information disclosure
- d. Report to the data and/or information provider regarding the use of the data and/or information obtained.
- e. Clarify with the LPVI and/or Ministry regarding information that will be disseminated to the public. In the event that there is no response to the clarification request within 7 (seven) calendar days, the independent monitor may disclose the information to the public.
- f. Follow the provisions on the use and reporting of state finances when obtaining access to financing from the state.
- g. Submit the final results of the handling of complaints submitted to the LPVI and copied to the relevant agencies.

## The journey of IFM in Indonesia

- 1990s- Early IFM efforts by national NGOs like WALHI, Telapak, etc
- 2000s- Capacity building of local CSOs by Telapak and EIA – audio visual documentation, investigative research
- 2010- Formation of national IFM network JPIK by Telapak and 28 other organisations
- 2000 up to now - Use of tech like satellite data, GPS and drones for documentation
- 2020 up to now - Growing role of community-based monitoring initiatives





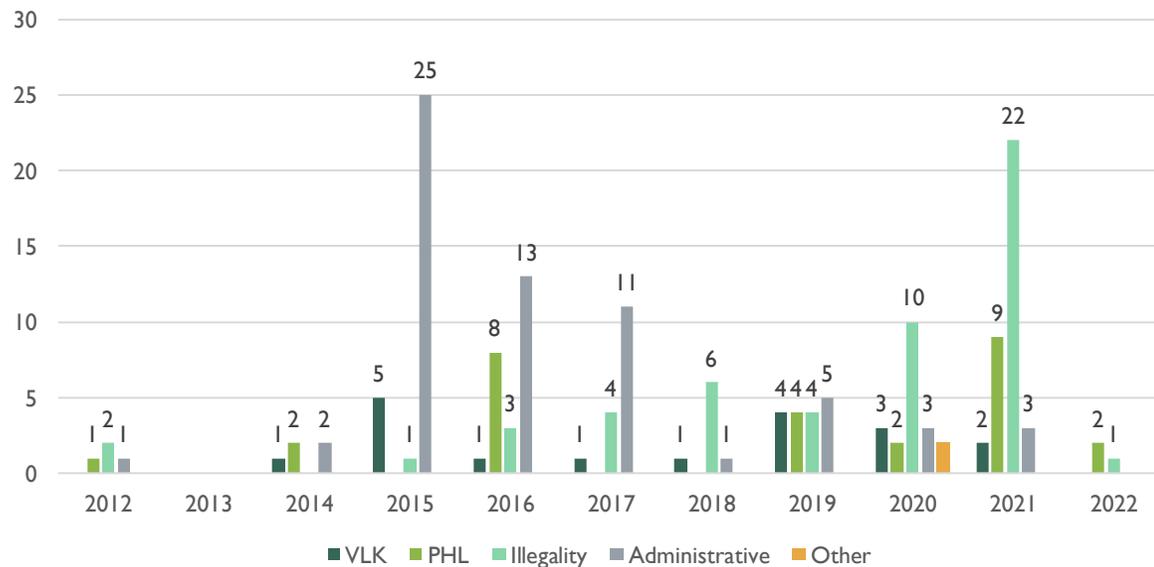
# Notable Achievements of IFM in Indonesia

- Exposed and helped enforcement of major case like Labora Sitorus in 2013.
- Improving NC portal within SVLK information system
- Strengthening of relevant laws for enforcement, ie. Anti Money Laundering Law



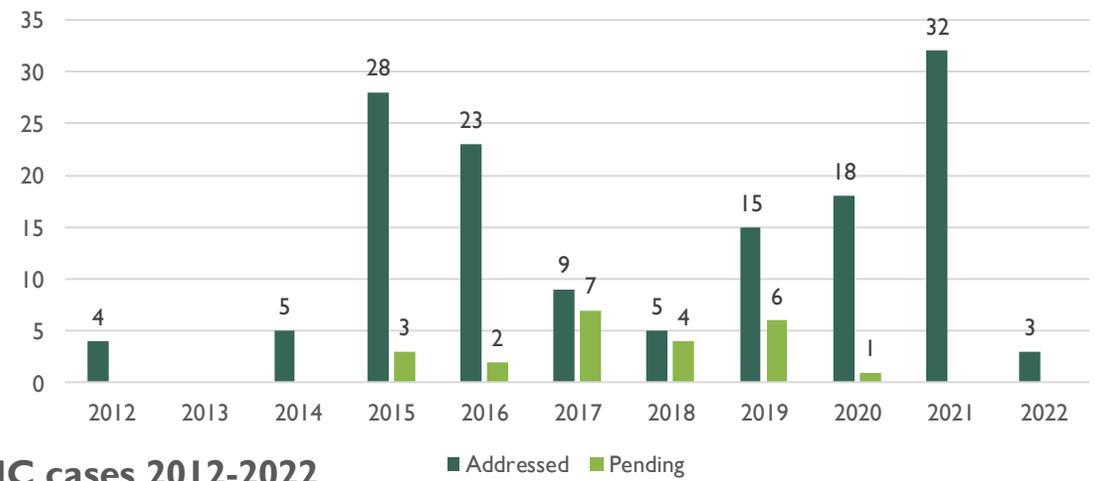
# IFM RESULTS - JPIK

## Suspected NC cases 2012-2022 JPIK

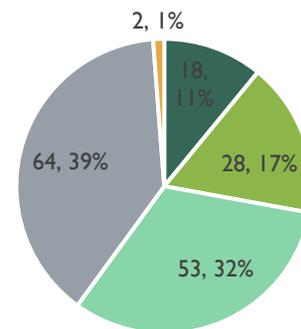


**Note:** VLK – suspected non-compliance in the implementation of the legality standard of SVLK; PHL – suspected non-compliance in the implementation of the sustainability standard of SVLK; illegality – suspected illegalities such as cutting timber outside of concession or falsification of documents; administrative – these are administrative matters by the CAB or the audited company, such as not publishing audit results in a timely manner, lack of certain reports, insufficient use of barcodes on logs, etc. (draft JPIK and EFI brief)

## Status of NC reports/yr



## % of NC cases 2012-2022



**Note:** Addressed means that action is being taken by the authorities by the final outcome is not always known.



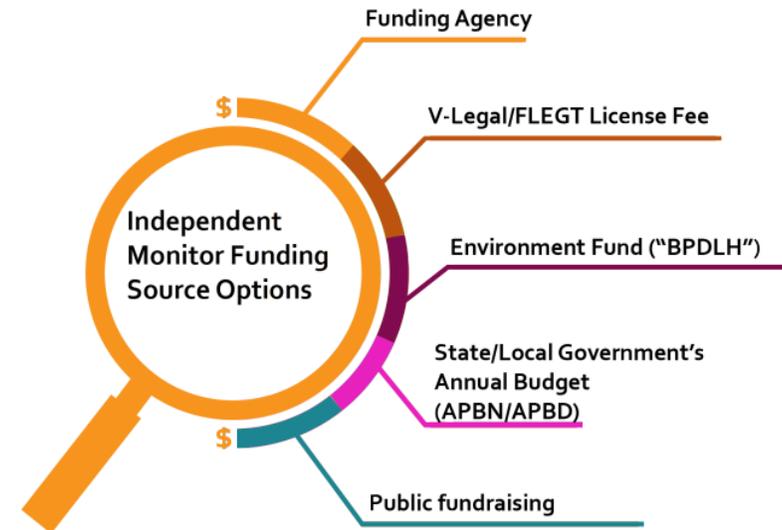


# Challenges of IFM in Indonesia

- Limited access to data and information
- Insufficient numbers of monitors to cover more than 3000 industries and >25 million ha of forests
- Business actors' resistance to civil society monitoring
- Safety and security issues
- Less satisfactory follow-ups to IM reports
- Insufficient funding

# Ensuring Sustainability for Future IFM

- Looking at possible sustainable funding options
- Expanding member networks for strength in numbers and field coverage.
- Continuing engagement with government, private sectors for acceptance and collaboration
- Leveraging low-cost technologies like mobile apps, open data



## The Independent Forest Monitoring Fund (IFM Fund)

The Independent Forest Monitoring Fund (IFM Fund) was set up in 2017 as mechanism to support the grass-root IFM activities in Indonesia while looking at sustainable funding options.



# South-South Cooperation Opportunities

- Knowledge exchange between IFM groups in Asia, Africa, Latin America – including on monitoring techniques and capacity building programs
- Joint advocacy for demand-side regulations in consumer countries
- Cross-border investigations into regional commodity supply chains



# Key Takeaways

- IFM is crucial for exposing illegalities and non-compliances, seeking accountability and pushing policy reforms in Indonesia
- CSO monitors face major challenges but have made important achievements
- Long-term sustainability needs diversified funds, coalitions, use of technology.
- South-South cooperation can amplify IFM's impacts.



# Thank You!

---