



President of Republic of Indonesia  
President Joko Widodo  
c/o One More Generation  
P.O. Box 143627  
Fayetteville, GA 30214

Dear President Widodo,

We are concerned citizens writing to you from around the world because we want to offer you our friendship and pledge our support for the protection of your incredible forests. Today we have been learning from our friends at **One More Generation (OMG)** about the amazing Leuser Ecosystem in Aceh on the island of Sumatra. OMG is bringing us the latest animal conservation information regarding this region. We are so saddened to hear that these forests are facing destruction right now. We are writing to tell you what we have learned and to ask you to work together to protect the Leuser Ecosystem.

We learned that the Leuser Ecosystem is just as vital to the people of Aceh as it is to the animals that live there, providing approximately four million people with clean water for downstream irrigation, agriculture and disaster mitigation. This protection even extends across Indonesia and to all of us around the globe because the forests and peat swamps of the Leuser Ecosystem play a critical role in climate regulation and carbon storage.

Sadly, we also learned that the Leuser Ecosystem is being destroyed at a rapid rate. Two of the biggest culprits behind deforestation in the Leuser Ecosystem are palm oil plantations and road building. Just one example we read about is the tragic burning of the Tripa Peat Swamp Forest to convert it into palm oil plantations. While a greedy few are making big, fast profits from such destruction, the ultimate costs will be too much for any of us to bear.

We are also deeply concerned with what is happening to orangutans and many other species in the area. In 2014, estimates show that there were only about 6,300 Sumatran orangutans remaining in Sumatra. Many experts estimate orangutans could be extinct in the wild in less than 10 years. Never before has their very existence been threatened so severely. Economic crisis combined with natural disasters and human abuses of the forest are pushing one of humankind's closest cousins to extinction.

We hope that you can work together to protect the Leuser Ecosystem against the roads and palm oil plantations, as well as mining, logging, poaching, fires and encroachment. Some key solutions are good governance, sustainable land-use planning with technical experts and strong law enforcement.

Let's join together in a vision for changing the way we live with the natural world: from exploitation to protection; from deforestation to restoration. We hope that you will nominate the Leuser Ecosystem to become a World Heritage Site and cancel the proposed spatial planning law Qanun RTRWA, so Aceh can be enjoyed and revered by the children of future generations.

Warm regards,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Country: \_\_\_\_\_