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# MIMIKA GETS ITS ACT TOGETHER TO SAVE WILDLIFE

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*“There are still challenges and obstacles on the ground that we need to tackle in attempts to save wildlife in Papua and combat wildlife trafficking. Therefore, we can’t work alone. We need the government, police, military, quarantine agency, private sector, NGOs, and communities in Mimika to work with us,” said Chief of Conservation Division Region II Timika, Bambang H. Lakuy.*

Papua is home to some of the most iconic species, many of which are illegally trafficked. Wildlife trafficking and smuggling results from the demand for exotic species as pets, souvenirs, and traditional medicine. In order to combat these serious threats, the Multi-Stakeholder Forum (MSF) in Mimika has brought together key stakeholders to develop and coordinate concrete action.

Endemic species are prone to poaching for illegal trade due to their high black market value. Some of the important native species found in Papua include Cassowary (*Casuarius casuarius*), Cenderawasih bird (*Paradisaea Sp*), Black-capped lory (*Lorius lory*), Sulphur-crested cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), Palm cockatoo (*Probosciger aterrimus*), Cuscus (*Phalanger spp.*), Green tree python (*Morelia viridis*) and Pig-nosed turtle (*Carettochelys insculpta*).

These key species are protected under Indonesian Law through Act No. 5/1990 concerning Biodiversity and Ecosystem Conservation and Government Regulation No. 7/1999 concerning Preservation of Wild Fauna and Flora. However, on-the-ground law enforcement still needs to be strengthened to fight wildlife trafficking.

## Call to action

Recognizing the importance of wildlife conservation to healthy and functioning ecosystems, the MSF is committed to saving wild fauna and flora. An upcoming Multi Stakeholder Partnership Agreement Workshop in Timika on May 11-12 will discuss biodiversity conservation strategies and plans.

MSF in Mimika has also developed strategies to protect and conserve wild fauna and flora. These strategies include three main activities: law protection and enforcement, community engagement, and research. The initial step will involve an Education and Advocacy Campaign on Wildlife Conservation that is fully supported by the Papua Natural Resources Conservation Agency, Lorentz National Park Management Section I, Environmental Department of PT. Freeport Indonesia, and USAID LESTARI.

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During the preparation of this campaign, the MSF team printed posters and standing banners with key messages that they disseminated to broader stakeholders. The team made visits to leaders of military and police forces, heads of departments, district agencies, and PT. Freeport Indonesia.

*“We visit these people because we want to get full support from policymakers and related stakeholders. We hope they can pass on this campaign and disseminate this issue to all levels of staff,”* said Bambang.

So far, the MSF has gained full support from the Commander of Timika Air Force Base II, Commander of Timika Naval Base, Commander of Mimika Military District Command 1710, Mimika Head of Transport, Information and Communication Department, Mimika Head of Forestry Department, Mimika Head of Fisheries and Marine Department, Head of Kuala Kencana District, Head of Wania District, Head of East Mimika District, Manager of PT. Freeport Indonesia Environmental Department, and Mozes Kilangin Airport authority. Garnering buy in from government agencies, including those in charge of airports, ports, and other transportation hubs, is crucial to effective monitoring and enforcement to reduce wildlife trafficking.

*“We support the efforts to protect wildlife in Papua. These efforts are in line with the Navy Chief of Staff’s instruction to prohibit bringing protected wildlife on Indonesian navy ships. If we find these animals on board, we will confiscate them and send them to conservation authorities,”* said the Commander of Timika Naval Base Yos Indarto.

Meanwhile at the Mimika Military District Command 1710 headquarters, Captain Munir, representing the office, will hold an internal meeting to socialize and disseminate information on protected wildlife in Papua. *“We will use these banners and*



**Photo:**  
*Increasing community awareness on wildlife conservation issues through a series of discussion which involves media and local communities.*

**Photo:**  
*Multi Stakeholder Forum works together with local government, NGO's, communities as well as local police and military in to protect wildlife in Papua.*



posters as campaign material for our staff," he said.

The manager of PT. Freeport Indonesia Environmental Department, Gesang Setyadi, also showed his support by distributing posters and banners in his office.

The fight against wildlife trafficking would not be sufficient without support from communities at large. Therefore, the MSF invited journalists and conservation supporters to work together for the campaign. The forum held a media and community gathering last March that was attended by various groups including Reptile Timika Communities (RTC), Alam Lestari, Pemuda Indonesia Lawan AIDS (PILA), YOIKATRA, and SAKA Bahari. All parties attending this event agreed on the importance of advocacy to combat wildlife trafficking. They also recommend the adoption of local wisdom when developing advocacy strategies and campaigns.

This is not the first time that cross-sectoral collaboration has occurred in Mimika. A previous partnership between Natural Resources Conservation Agency and PT. Freeport Indonesia resulted in the release of 40,994 animals of 8 protected and endemic species in Lorentz National Park and Rawa Baki marshland in Asmat District. The difference now is that the MSF has managed to embrace broader and newer stakeholders. With this new alliance, a commitment is forged and more impactful action carried out to save wildlife in Papua.