

An aerial photograph showing a large-scale deforestation project in a tropical forest. The image is dominated by a dense canopy of green trees. In the center, a large area of forest has been cleared, revealing brown earth and scattered tree stumps. Several yellow excavators are visible, actively working in the cleared area. The text 'INDONESIAN FOOD ESTATE' is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters across the middle of the image. Below this, a light green rectangular box contains the main title and subtitle in black text. The background image is framed by a white circular arc that passes behind the text.

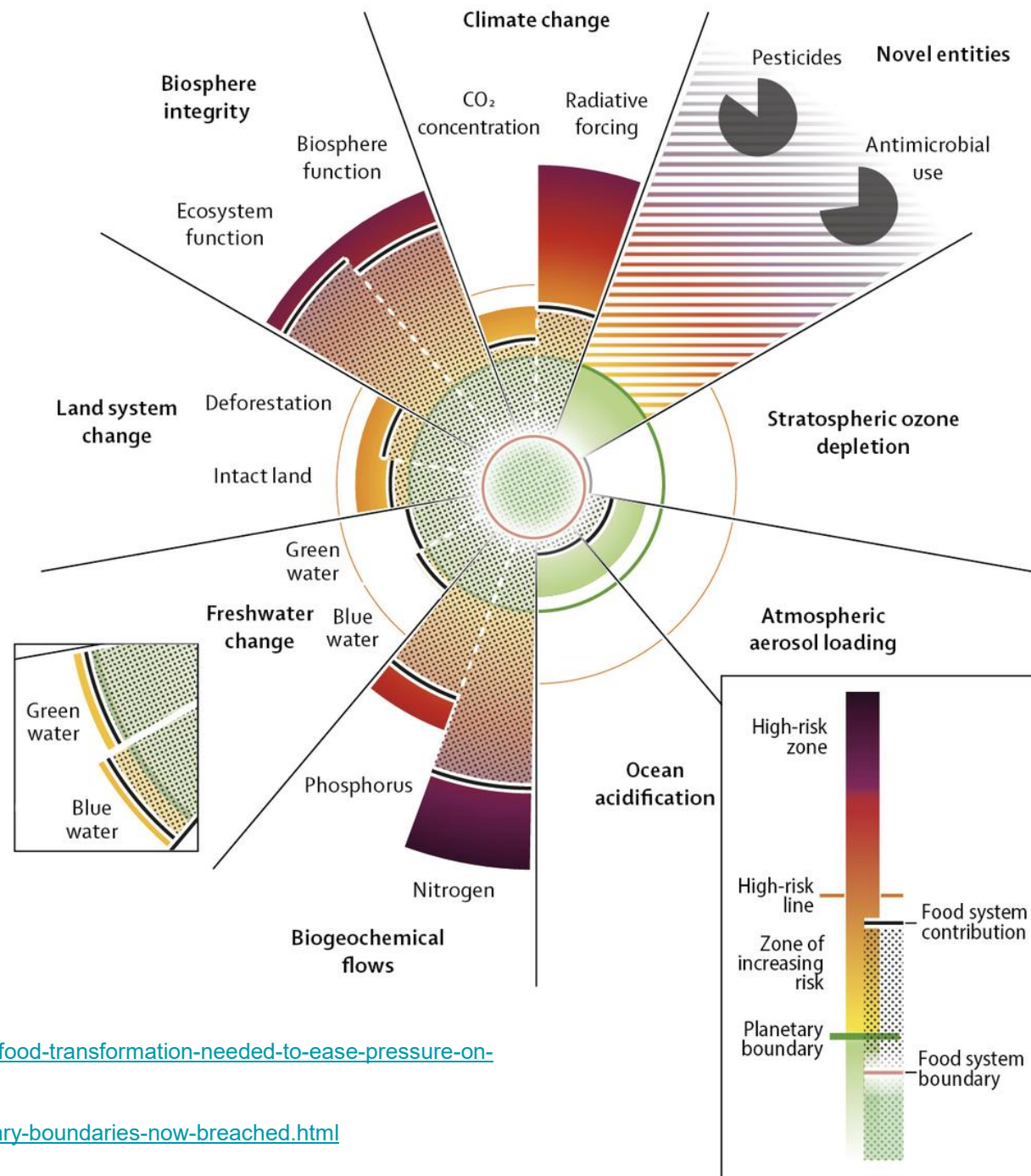
INDONESIAN FOOD ESTATE

**The largest planned deforestation project in
the world?**

Food, Forests, Climate, Militarisation and Rights

“Five of the seven breached planetary boundaries are linked to food systems” according to the 2025 EAT-Lancet Commission.

Global food systems are major contributor to pressures on all nine planetary boundaries, but in particular climate change, biodiversity loss, freshwater use, nutrient cycles, and pollution. The green circle represents the safe operating space, the red line marks the safe limits for food systems, and the dotted black wedges show the share of each boundary’s pressure caused by food systems.



<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/research-stories/2025-10-03-eat-lancet-2025-global-food-transformation-needed-to-ease-pressure-on-the-planet-and-save-millions-of-lives.html>

<https://www.stockholmresilience.org/news--events/general-news/2025-09-24-seven-of-nine-planetary-boundaries-now-breached.html>

Food Context of recent versions of the Food Estate



In March 2020, as the world faced a frightening new pandemic, the G20 held a virtual summit. At this meeting, the **UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) issued a warning that quarantine restrictions could disrupt global food production and distribution.**

The 2022 UN Food Security Report identifies climate extremes as a major driver of global food insecurity.

Globally, climate change is causing more frequent and severe droughts, floods, and heat waves, which can have devastating impacts on food production systems.

Food productivity declines are predicted.

➔ *A convenient rationale:* responding to the fear of the food crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, anticipating climate change impacts, and reducing import dependency.

Using the 'food crisis' narrative..

- has emerged several times to justify peatland conversion, land grabbing, and military co-operation with agribusiness oligarchs to create and expand 'food estates'.
 - **Food self-sufficiency, security, sovereignty:** the Food Estates *may* increase national self-sufficiency but are contrary to food security and sovereignty, especially for Papuans



Short History of the Food Estate



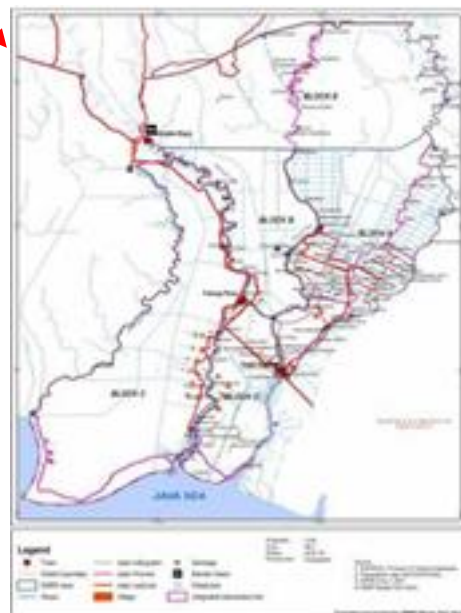
East Kalimantan (now Nth Kalimantan) -
Delta Kayan Food Estate - 50k ha. 2011



Papua - MIFEE 1.2 million ha
2006 - 2015



Central Kalimantan
PLG project 1 million
ha 1995-1999



Ketapang Rice Field
100,000 ha 2012-2014



Repeating the Failures of the Past?



President Soeharto

The 1 million hectare project in Central Kalimantan.

Failed in 1998 and is a catastrophe to this day.



President SBY

- MIFEE Project Papua (2010)
- DeKaFe, Bulungan, North Kalimantan (2011)
- Ketapang Food Estate, West Kalimantan (2013)



President Joko Widodo

- MIFEE Merauke, Papua (2015)

Other Food Estates:

- Central Kalimantan
- North Sumatra
- Papua
- South Sumatra

Failure of the Central Kalimantan Mega Rice Project

1. Draining and development of 1.4 million hectares of peatland using reforestation funds and costing the state budget up to Rp1.6 trillion, the project left 187 km of primary and secondary canals.
2. Failed and caused severe forest fires in 1997 and throughout 2015-2019 there were 465,003 ha burnt.
3. Various attempts at rehabilitation without success



Food Estate Locations

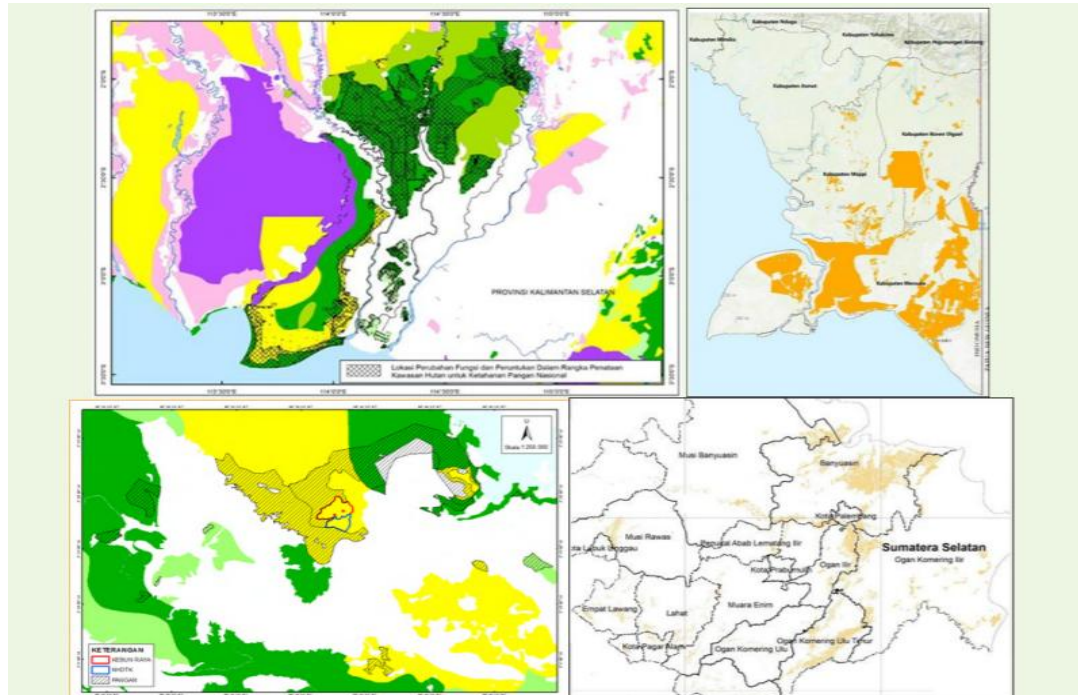


Map: Provinces where food estate Areas of Interest, both civilian and military, have been announced since 2020.

Forest cover in the Food Estate

Food Estate Area of Interest (AOI) 1. Papua with an area of 3.2 million hectares (2) Central Kalimantan with an area of 311 thousand hectares, (3) North Sumatra with an area of 61 thousand hectares, (4) South Sumatra with 32 thousand hectares.

Natural forest cover in area of interest (AOI)



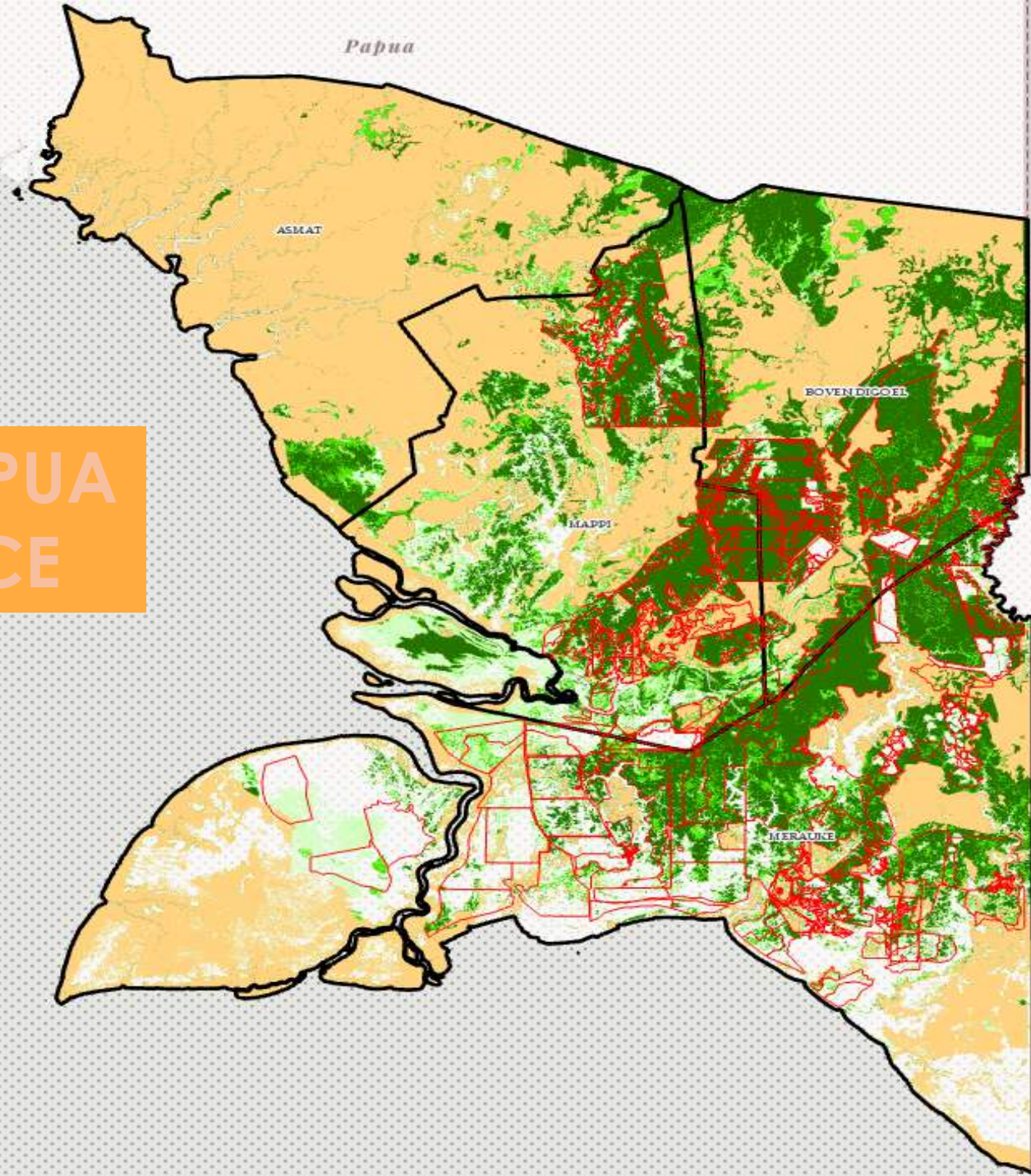
Gambar 1. Area AOI Food Estate Kalimantan Tengah, Papua, Sumatera Utara dan Sumatera Selatan Berdasarkan Publikasi Dirjen PKTL

Tabel 4. Sebaran tutupan hutan alam 2019 pada setiap provinsi AOI Food Estate (dalam hektare)

	Kalimantan Tengah	Papua	Sumatera Selatan	Sumatera Utara	Total
Hutan Alam Primer	6.927	635.355	2	35	642.319
Hutan Lahan Kering Primer		323.475	2	35	323.512
Hutan Mangrove Primer		31.959			31.959
Hutan Rawa Primer	6.927	279.921			286.848
Hutan Alam Sekunder	140.526	748.023	527	42.696	931.771
Hutan Lahan Kering Sekunder	20.271	449.746	3	42.696	512.716
Hutan Mangrove Sekunder	3.936	9.833	382		14.151
Hutan Rawa Sekunder	116.319	288.443	142		404.904
Total	147.453	1.383.377	529	42.731	1.574.090

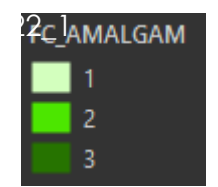
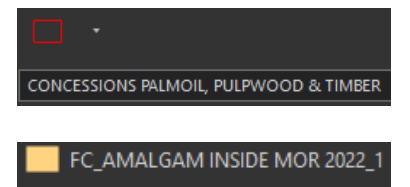
Sumber: Data tutupan lahan 2019 dan AOI Food Estate KLHK, Diolah

SOUTH PAPUA PROVINCE



Potential Forest Cover Loss
between 2.6M Ha -
4.2M Ha

Most of it inside
Concessions/Food
Estates



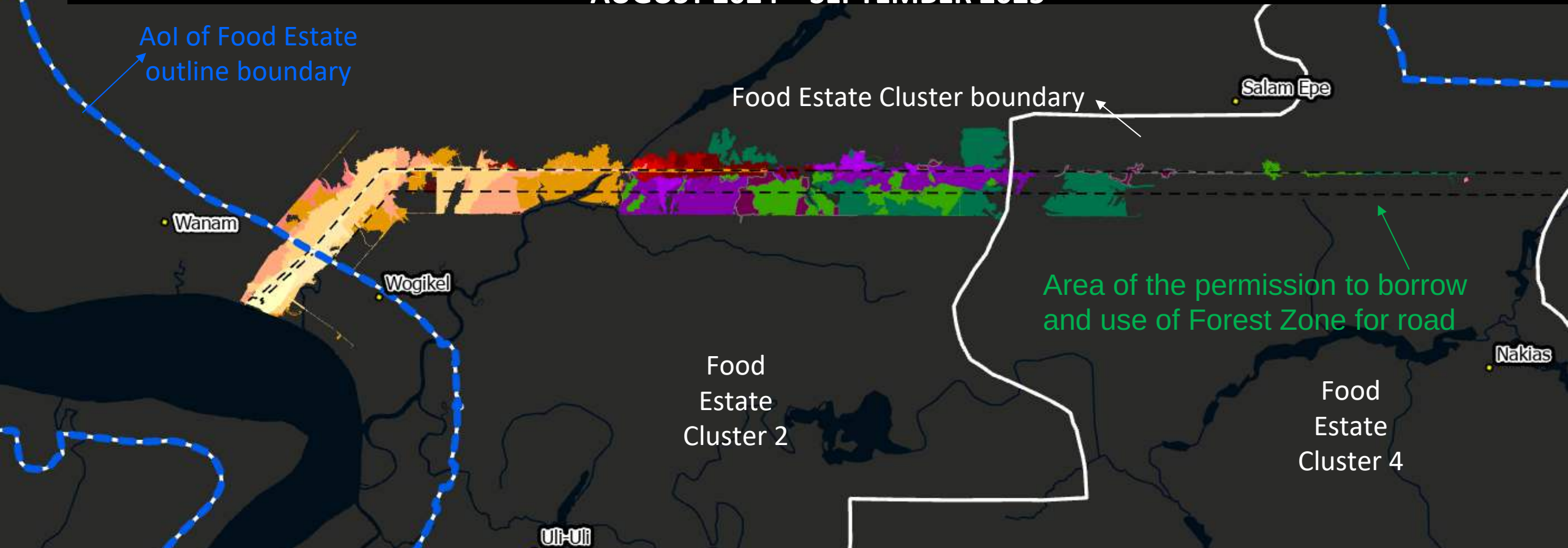
Arafuca
Sea

Area of Interest (AOI) FOOD ESTATE MERAUKE 2024



- 1. Wanam
- 2. PT Global Papua Abadi
- 3. PT Murni Nusantara Mandiri

1 ILWAYAB – NGGUTI DISTRICTS PADDY FIELDS AND NEW ROAD – MONTHLY LAND CLEARING MONITORING AUGUST 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2025



No.	Monthly Land Clearing	Hectare
1	August 2024	224
2	September 2024	455
3	October 2024	1.439
4	November 2024	815
5	December 2024	1.302

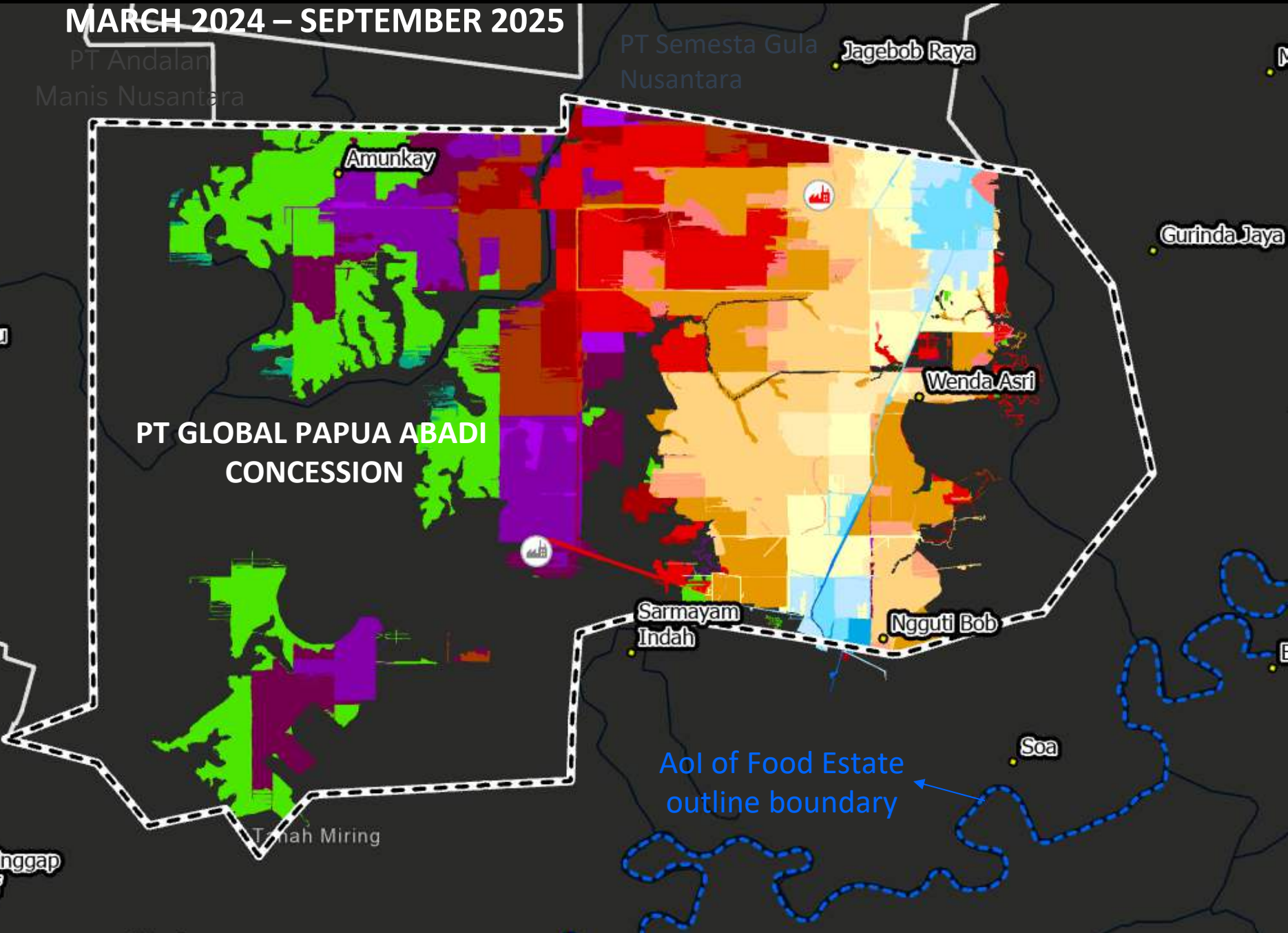
No.	Monthly Land Clearing	Hectare
6	January 2025	162
7	February 2025	51
8	March 2025	179
9	April 2025	343
10	May 2025	323

No.	Monthly Land Clearing	Hectare
11	June 2025	1.288
12	July 2025	373
13	August 2025	1.001
14	September 2025	1.866
	Grand Total	9.821

PT GLOBAL PAPUA ABADI (SUGAR CANE) – MONTHLY LAND CLEARING MONITORING

MARCH 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2025

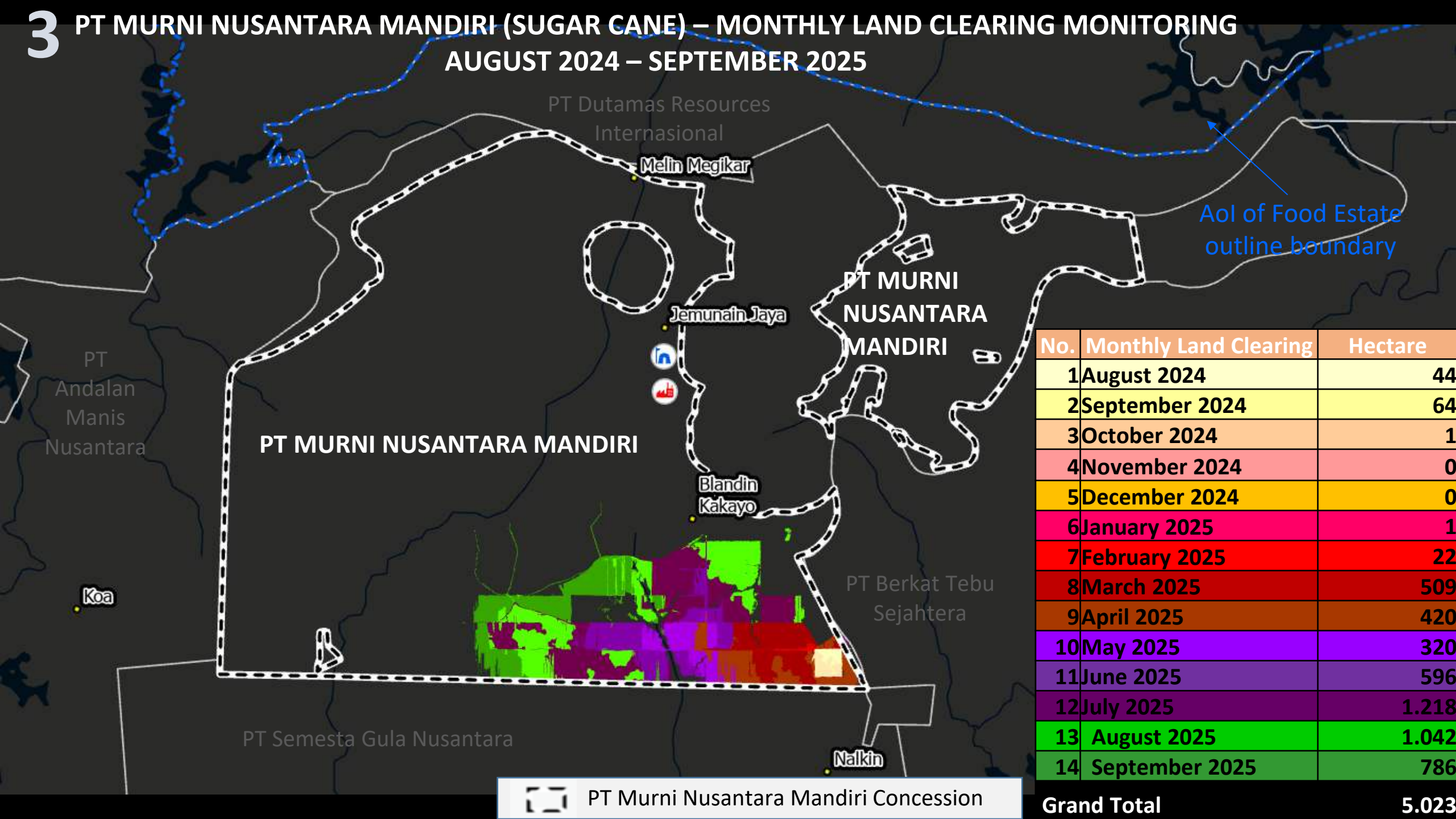
No.	Monthly Land Clearing	Hectare
1	March 2024	8
2	April 2024	13
3	May 2024	62
4	June 2024	435
5	July 2024	424
6	August 2024	1.046
7	September 2024	479
8	October 2024	2.527
9	November 2024	395
10	December 2024	1.945
11	January 2025	290
12	February 2025	1.815
13	March 2025	803
14	April 2025	933
15	May 2025	192
16	June 2025	1.646
17	July 2025	1.196
18	August 2025	3.070
19	September 2025	95
Grand Total		17.374






An aerial view of forest clearance and sugarcane plantation development in PT. Global Papua Abadi (GPA) in Senayu village, Sermayam district, Merauke regency, South Papua province on September 18, 2025.
© Ulet Ifansasti / Greenpeace

3 PT MURNI NUSANTARA MANDIRI (SUGAR CANE) – MONTHLY LAND CLEARING MONITORING AUGUST 2024 – SEPTEMBER 2025



No.	Monthly Land Clearing	Hectare
1	August 2024	44
2	September 2024	64
3	October 2024	1
4	November 2024	0
5	December 2024	0
6	January 2025	1
7	February 2025	22
8	March 2025	509
9	April 2025	420
10	May 2025	320
11	June 2025	596
12	July 2025	1.218
13	August 2025	1.042
14	September 2025	786

 PT Murni Nusantara Mandiri Concession

Grand Total **5.023**

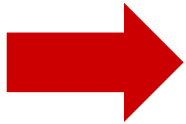


An aerial view of forest clearance and sugarcane plantation development of PT Murni Nusantara Mandiri (MMA) in Blandin Kakayo village, Jagebob district, Merauke regency, South Papua province on September 17, 2025
© Ulet Ifansasti / Greenpeace

Climate Impacts

23% of

total human greenhouse gas emissions come from agriculture, forestry and other land uses.



BAU, estimated agricultural emissions are projected to increase by

58% globally with an additional 56 million hectares of land converted to cropland (by 2040)

- Food Estates are a climate bomb
- Massive emissions from deforestation and peatland conversion - 100s millions of tons of carbon
- Instead of reducing emissions in line with the Paris Accord, Indonesian greenhouse gas emissions will increase (Indonesia/SBY committed to a 29% unconditional reduction by 2030)

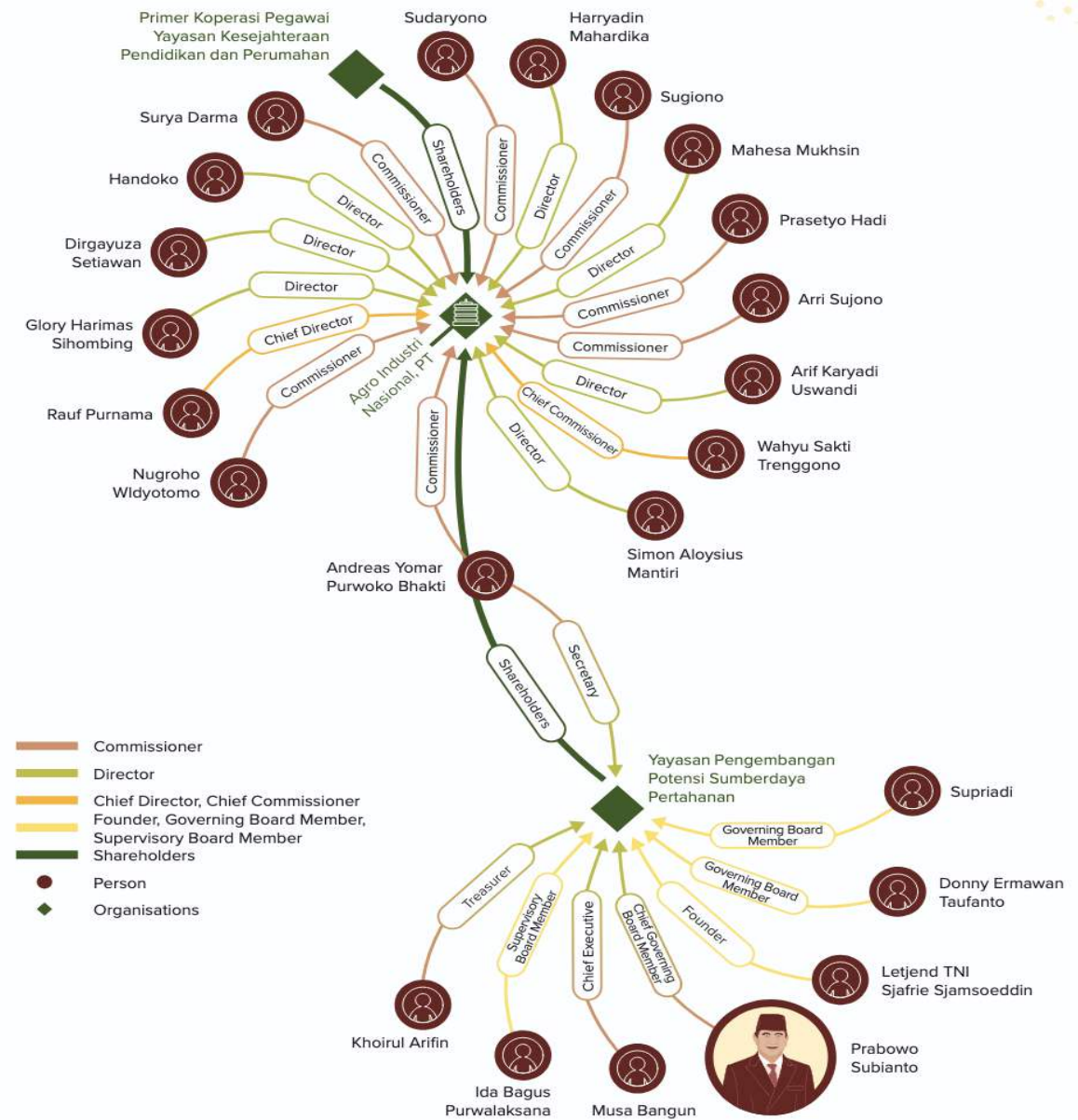


Breaching Rules and Regulations

- The regulation of food estate land provision in forest areas contradicts various regulations: Law 41/1999, PP 6/2007, and PP 3/2008.
- Problems in the Preparation and Implementation of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) with Rapid Methods (Rapid SEA)
 - Lack of clear reference to which activities, plans, programmes?
 - The selection of rapid SEA tends to be speculative and provides a large space for uncertainty considering the lack of data and learning from previous project failures.
- National Strategic Projects and loopholes to circumvent Spatial Planning
 - Food Estate is stipulated in Presidential Regulation No. 109 of 2020 concerning the Third Amendment to Presidential Regulation No. 3 of 2020 concerning the Acceleration of the Implementation of National Strategic Projects (Perpres 109/2020).
 - The Job Creation Law makes it easier to manage National Strategic Projects
- Forest Moratorium
 - Exceptions for food commodities or food estate programmes in primary forest and peatland areas in the Indicative Map for the Postponement of New Permits (PIPIB) area
 - PermenLHK No 24/2020 regulates exceptions in forest areas for food estate programmes

Who is behind the Food Estate project?

- Government (including the military) and company/oligarchy mix, including PT Agro Industri Nasional (Agrinas) - see diagram for President Prabowo's involvement
- Private companies including Jhonlin Group
- International links - e.g to Australia with sugarcane



PT Agrinas management and shareholders diagram. Based on official company and foundation profiles from the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, the majority (99%) shareholder of PT Agro Industri Nasional (Agrinas) on 25 September 2021 was a foundation, Yayasan Kesejahteraan Pendidikan dan Perumahan. That foundation, which has since changed its name to Yayasan Pengembangan Potensi Sumberdaya Pertahanan, has Minister of Defence Prabowo Subianto as its chief and founding board member (ketua pembina).



Militarisation

Military directly involved in developments and a massive military presence that is intimidating for the local community.

- ← Soldiers planting corn in Nggutibob village, Papua, a majority of transmigrant non-Papuan community.

Promotional photo by Military Post 174/ATW, shared to local media April 2022

Local Community and Civil Society Response

- Indigenous communities fighting for their rights e.g. Awyu tribe case in courts #AllEyesOnPapua
- Exposing the impacts and real story behind the Food Estate

https://www.greenpeace.org/static/planet4-indonesia-stateless/2023/03/f754bcf7-food-estate-report_english_new-rev_030723.pdf

<https://pusaka.or.id/en/news/national-strategic-food-and-energy-development-project-in-merauke-potentially-violate-human-rights-and-worsen-the-ecological-crisis/>

<https://news.mongabay.com/2025/06/un-calls-out-indonesias-merauke-food-estate-for-displacing-indigenous-communities/>



Solutions & Recommendations

- Respect Indigenous Peoples' rights - Free Prior Informed Consent, stop criminalisation, provide Direct Access financing to Indigenous communities to protect their forests
- Food - there is no food crisis. Food sovereignty and support local ecological food production, agroforestry, diverse diets for community health, stop using food for energy
- The real crisis is industrial agriculture such as the food estates land grabbing, trashing rights and local livelihoods, destroying forests and our climate
- The Ministry of Defence should play no role in agricultural policy and its implementation. The involvement of the military in land issues leads to fear and acts of coercion in what should be a community domain.



Thank you, Terima kasih.
#AllEyesOnPapua #SavePapuaForests

