



May 5, 2023

Re: Response to grievance raised to Unilever against Harita Group for violations of indigenous rights

Dear Ms. Ginger Cassady and Mr. Daniel Carrillo,

Thank you for bringing to our attention the allegations of potential violations of the indigenous land rights of the Long Isun community by companies PT. Rodamas Timber Kalimantan (RTK) and PT. Kemakmuran Berkah Timber (KBT).

We acknowledge the grievance and will be providing updates on our [grievance tracker](#) from here on. We have reviewed the grievance in line with our grievance process and would like to provide you with current findings:

Firstly, we would like to confirm that Unilever does not source any materials from PT. Rodamas Timber Kalimantan (RMTK) and PT. Kemakmuran Berkah Timber (KBT). We publish our list of suppliers for wood-based packaging on our website: [Paper and Board suppliers \(2021\)](#).

Unilever does not directly source any materials from Bumitama. However, we may be indirectly supplied materials from Bumitama through our direct suppliers. We disclose our [Palm Oil suppliers \(2021\)](#) and associated [palm oil mills \(2021\)](#).

Despite not being a direct buyer of Bumitama, we have engaged them on the issues you raised in your report. The management of Bumitama have shared our concerns and the grievance raised to the management of the Harita group and the timber companies.

Both Bumitama and Harita Group have emphasized that Bumitama operates purely in the palm oil sector and as a company is independent, publicly listed, and separately managed from the rest of the Harita Group. However, we do note that the companies, considering factors such as beneficial ownership, align with the guiding factors that define "group" affiliation as per the [Accountability Framework Initiative](#).

Considering the group affiliation, we have continued to enquire with Bumitama management on the case. In our investigation and as you already noted, Bumitama has indicated that the timber companies have "taken appropriate steps in providing the local communities the right to give or withhold their consent during the various stages of their engagement and ultimately, upon their request, taken the contested Long Isun community lands out of its long-term work plans and discontinue any activities in the areas."



We encouraged the timber companies, through Bumitama, to release relevant documents that support this position and to respond to the request from Rainforest Action Network to permanently cancel proposed logging operations on the customary lands of the Long Isun community.

We have also reiterated our expectation of all our suppliers to follow not only the law but also our [Responsible Partner Policy](#) and [People and Nature Policy](#), which set out mandatory requirements and expectations to do business with us, including the need to respect and advance human rights and deliver transparent and traceable supply chains.

Where we are unable to verify a suppliers' compliance to our policies, we will act in accordance with the respective policy and in some cases that may entail suspension of those suppliers from our supply chain.

Unilever is continuing to review its policies, protocols, and procedures and in doing so makes sure to take input from a broad range of partners and civil society. Recognising the importance of individuals and communities raising issues, we have a robust grievance mechanism in place and publish a [grievance tracker](#) so that issues are shared publicly.

Sincerely

Martin Huxtable
Sustainable Sourcing Director