

**Comment on “Palm oil not threat to nature: Research”, Jakarta Post, 18 April 2018.**

The CRC / EForTS project would like to clarify that the article in the Jakarta Post does not adequately represent and document the results of our research. The heading and the text suggests that there are no threats to nature by expanding oil palm plantations and quotes research of the CRC / EForTS project for substantiating this statement. The Joint Management Board of the project stresses that consequences of planting and growing oil palm plantations are complex and include both beneficial and detrimental effects to nature and human society. Mitigating negative and fostering beneficial impacts need consideration of a wide range of ecological and economic functions of ecosystems. It is the aim of the CRC / EForTS project to provide science based knowledge on these functions in a comprehensive way focusing on transformation of rainforest into plantation systems including oil palm but also rubber. In doing so, more than 100 scientific papers have been published by the project (as of May 2018), calling for the adoption of a range of strategies for improving the benefits and minimizing the negative impacts associated with transformation processes of tropical lowland ecosystems.

The Joint Management Board of CRC 990 / EForTS