

SWISSCONTACT INDONESIA
NEWSLETTER

SWISS
FOUNDATION
FOR TECHNICAL
COOPERATION

EDDY

Edition 3
July 2025



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Dear readers,

We are delighted to present the latest edition of our newsletter. Thank you for joining us again!

While 2025 may have presented challenges for many of us, here at Swisscontact Indonesia, we embrace challenges as opportunities and celebrate every victory, no matter how small. In the first half of the year, the key milestones of our projects could be summed up in two words: climate consciousness.

To us, being climate conscious is about more than just protecting the environment. It reflects our commitment to inclusive economic development, which aims to improve people's livelihoods and empower local stakeholders. From smallholder farmers in Aceh to hospitality experts in Lombok, we have learned that sustainability initiatives take many forms, bringing us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

None of this progress would be possible without your unwavering support and partnership. Thank you for being part of this journey. Together, let us continue creating opportunities for a more sustainable future.

Warm regards,

Karen Alexandria
Country Director
Swisscontact Indonesia



Futureproofing Indonesia's Growth: Swisscontact's Commitment to Sustainable Impact

Futureproofing is essential to nurturing Indonesia's vast potential for sustainable growth. As the country continues to advance its economy and address pressing development challenges, investing in approaches that build resilience, promote inclusivity, and safeguard natural resources is more crucial than ever. Preparing today for tomorrow's challenges—whether they relate to climate change, evolving labour markets, or shifting trade dynamics—ensures that Indonesia's progress remains robust and benefits communities across generations.

Swisscontact recognizes this imperative. Deeply rooted in partnerships with the private sector and other key actors, Swisscontact Indonesia is taking deliberate steps to become increasingly climate conscious across its diverse portfolio: from fostering sustainable agriculture that conserves biodiversity and improves farmers' livelihoods, to advancing skills programs that incorporate green competencies, and supporting trade initiatives that help small and medium enterprises compete in markets where sustainability standards are rising.

This evolution also underscores Swisscontact's global Sustainability Strategy 2024-2028, particularly its *handprint concept*. Unlike a footprint, which measures harm, a handprint captures the sum of an organization's positive impacts on the environment, society, and governance. Swisscontact's goal is to grow its handprint, which expands the benefits its projects create, in contributing to enhancing biodiversity, building green skills and preparing young people for green jobs, and fostering a more competitive, sustainability-aware market environment. We are committed to working hand-in-hand with government institutions, businesses, communities, and civil society organizations to create a shared pathway toward a greener, more equitable, and resilient Indonesia.

Driving Change Through Green Skills: How Tourism Actors in Lombok Are Advancing Sustainable Hospitality

Within six months after completing the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) training and certification, Holiday Resort Lombok has introduced a circular waste management system.

Holiday Resort Lombok's General Manager I Ketut Murta Jaya Kusuma, also known as Jaya, is instrumental in introducing the action plan. Now GSTC-certified, Jaya and Front Office Manager Abdul Rahim initiated a sustainability team of 18 staff members from various departments to implement environmentally friendly practices.

“Through the GSTC training, we garnered in-depth understanding of the global standards of sustainable tourism that helped us identify priority areas, improve existing processes, and ensure our program is measurable, integrated, and has clear guidelines.”

I Ketut Murta Jaya Kusuma
General Manager, Holiday Resort Lombok



Currently, Holiday Resort Lombok has processed over 2,000 kilograms of organic waste on-site and turned it into compost. The compost is then used to fertilize the greenhouse that grows vegetables and herbs, bringing the farm-to-table concept to life. The circular waste management process has not only reduced their environmental footprint, but also lowered the resort's operational costs by decreasing reliance on external purchases of produce supplies.



Photo credit: Holiday Resort Lombok

Holiday Resort Lombok's accomplishment in implementing sustainability practices highlights the growing demand for workers with green skills in the hospitality industry. This aligns with tourism polytechnics in Bali and Lombok's focus on educating future graduates with relevant knowledge and skills for sustainable hospitality.

"We are determined to prepare our students for such demands by providing them with a learning experience in the classroom and in the workplace, equipping them with the skills they need to take advantage of new green job opportunities," said Dr Ali Muhtasom, Director of the Lombok Tourism Polytechnic, who has also received GSTC certification.

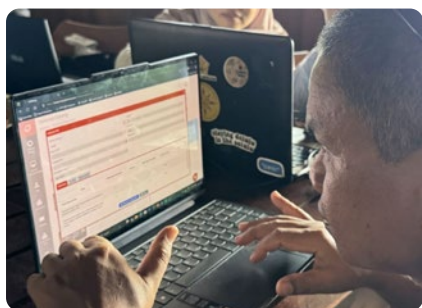


Through trainings such as GSTC, the Sustainable Tourism Education Development (STED) and Skills for Competitiveness (S4C) Project not only supports companies to integrate sustainability into their business. The project also aims to strengthen polytechnics' capacity for curriculum development, so that the future workforce is well-equipped with relevant green skills for the future green jobs that await them.



Living the Change: Community-Driven Land Use for Climate Action in Aceh

Indonesia's Leuser Ecosystem, containing the highest concentration of terrestrial biodiversity in the world and immense carbon stocks, faces mounting threats from deforestation and peatland degradation, largely driven by unregulated commodity expansion. The Sustainable Landscape Project Indonesia (SLPI) in Leuser Alas-Singkil River-basin (LASR) Landscape demonstrates how locally led solutions contribute to greenhouse-gas reductions while strengthening community livelihoods. There are four pillars of climate-conscious interventions relevant to managing this high-value tropical landscape.



1. Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration & Monitoring

LASR Project convened multi-stakeholder forums that unite local agencies responsible for forest and land management, non-profit organizations specializing in conservation & rural development, and palm-oil companies & end-users committed to sustainable sourcing. The Project launched an MSF Dashboard that brings real-time transparency to the stakeholders' climate-related efforts. This shared platform boosts accountability and aligned all actors behind Indonesia's goal of deforestation-free and sustainable agricultural production.



2. Jurisdictional Approach & Local Land-Use Planning

Community stewardship is foundational to adapting to and being resilient in the face of climate change. With LASR support, 38 villages in the landscape capable to craft formal land-use plans through a Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) process. The designated 26,881 hectares as protected forest, thereby safeguarding vital carbon stocks. Decentralizing land governance embeds climate resilience at the grassroots. Villagers become custodians of their landscapes forested resources, that also grow on top of peatland, a massive carbon sinks, ensuring long-term protection far beyond the project lifespan.

3. Sustainable Commodities and GHG Reduction



Palm oil has been the main driver of land use change in the landscape, leading to large amount of GHG emissions. LASR partners tackle this by integrating seven plantation companies and 5,963 independent smallholders into NDPE (No-Deforestation, Peat, Exploitation) frameworks and the sustainability certifications (ISPO/RSPO). This ensures full traceability for every ton of palm oil that linked back to deforestation-free sources and eventually resulted in 819 smallholders achieved RSPO certification, unlocking premium markets and investing in emission-saving practices. On the other side, corporate pledges protect 10,153 ha of High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock areas including carbon-rich peatlands. Together, these actions curb deforestation-driven emissions, improve plantation efficiency, and shift commodity supply chains toward net-zero trajectories.

4. Alternative Livelihoods & Agroecological Practices

Reducing pressure on forests means offering viable income alternatives. In Aceh Singkil, LASR guided women's farmer groups to diversify away from illegal palm fruit collection by cultivating shallots using regenerative cropping methods that restore degraded soils, establishing collective marketing channels to boost income stability, and training in enhancing crop resilience under shifting climate patterns. These shifts illustrate how ecosystem-based adaptation can both sustain community well-being and preserve forest carbon reservoirs.

LASR's holistic blend of governance reform, market transformation, and livelihood diversification offers a blueprint for mitigating climate change at the landscape level and benefitting local communities. While initiatives to scale its impact are still under way, building on these successes will help the regions to put into effect climate mitigating actions.





SIPPO Prepares Transition to Phase 3, Expects Programme Sustainability through Larger Network of Stakeholders

The Swiss Import Promotion Programme (SIPPO) Phase 2 in Indonesia is ending by the end of 2025, closing another important chapter in its four-years journey. To prepare for its Phase 3, SIPPO Indonesia has finalized their Phase 3 Country Strategy for 2026-2029. The strategy has been approved by Swiss Government's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), and was presented at the SIPPO Global Meeting in June in Zurich, Switzerland.

A key highlight for SIPPO Indonesia's Phase 3 Country Strategy is its approach of working on the ecosystem level, thus involve a wider range of network and encourage the programme's impact to live on. This would include ministries, research firms, certification agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sectors, in addition to having the current Business Support Organizations (BSOs) remain as SIPPO's main partners.



"Working closely with local stakeholders enable us to be both pragmatic and aligned with on-the-ground needs, while also fostering local-led developments to ensure the sustainability of SIPPO's initiatives after the programme is completed," explained SIPPO Indonesia Country Representative Aris Darujo, citing Swisscontact's Sustainability Report's 2024's point that participatory approach to stakeholder engagement is key in empowering local ownership.

Meanwhile, SIPPO Indonesia maintains its focus on strengthening the export promotion services across three sectors: technical wood, fish and seafood, and natural ingredients. This is done through ongoing collaborations with its BSOs: Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises, and the Indonesian Essential Oils Council. SIPPO also envisions improvement for access and participations of Indonesia's export-oriented companies in export markets in Swiss and EU markets as well as regional markets.

To take the focus to results, SIPPO Indonesia highlights three strategic areas for its Phase 3. Firstly, through market intelligence, SIPPO is set to support the export-oriented companies stay ahead by understanding the market trends and entry strategies, consumer behaviour, and more. Then, marketing and promotion are set to assist the BSOs and other actors in preparing their commercial missions and ensuring a well targeted suppliers-buyers matchmaking. Finally, certification and compliance are crucial to share updated information on import regulations and support the companies to meet international buyers' requirements.

As part of this transition, SIPPO will conclude the Phase 2 project by gradually introducing this new approach to the BSOs, identifying key market actors for future collaboration, and finalizing a Phase 3 roadmap to guide SIPPO's long-term exit strategy in Indonesia.



We create opportunities

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