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Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono
President, Republic of Indonesia
Gedung Bina Graha Jl. Veteran 16
Jakarta Pusat

20th October 2009

Dear President Yudhoyono,

On behalf of the millions of Greenpeace supporters, activists and staff from Southeast Asia and around the world, please allow me to congratulate your Excellency on the commencement of your second term as the President of the Republic of Indonesia.

On this historic occasion, we wish you courage and good tidings in your resolve to do the right thing for the people of Indonesia as well as for all living things on the planet.

Together with other environmental groups, we welcome the announcement you made last month pledging to reduce Indonesia's carbon emissions by 26% in 2020 and up to 41% with international financial support.

Your announcement has demonstrated the kind of climate leadership urgently needed to overcome the inertia that has so far defined the ongoing climate negotiations. More importantly, it speaks volumes about your government's willingness to help the world avert climate chaos.

Southeast Asia's recent brushes with fierce and extreme weather events gave the world a frightening glimpse of what the future could look like if the world fails to reverse runaway climate change. For a region that counts itself among the most vulnerable yet least prepared to cope with such devastating impacts, we are therefore hopeful that your firmness of purpose on this issue will help protect the interests not only of the Indonesian people but also those of the Southeast Asian community of nations.

Turned into action, your pledge could trigger the much needed but still missing cooperation between developed and developing world on mitigation and adaptation for climate change. As President of the country with the largest remaining tropical forests in the region, your words also offer much promise and respite for the millions of people and the unique biodiversity whose survival depend on the various life support systems provided by these magnificent resources.

We sincerely hope that you will honor your commitments by prioritizing the declaration and implementation of a moratorium on deforestation during the first one hundred days of your second term of office. Towards this end, we urge your government to prioritize the protection of forests in peatland areas and to put a freeze on all planned new developments in these regions. Needless to say, Greenpeace would be willing to work with the government in developing concrete action plans to implement these commitments you have made in Pittsburgh, especially towards effectively stopping deforestation in Indonesia. We are convinced Mr. President, that your actions on this matter especially during the lead up to the climate summit in Copenhagen this December, which we are counting on you to personally attend, could help spell the difference between failure or success in these international negotiations. We wish you all the best in meeting this historic challenge.

Very truly yours,

Von Hernandez
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