James Whitehead

Forest Peoples Programme

Working with forest peoples to secure their rights
How community-company conflicts should be considered by operators
Kalimantan – customary land
“We’re not going to entertain these companies any more. They’ve been coming here for years with false promises.”

Community member Oct 2018
Situating conflict – customary land rights & concessions

Timber concession maps in Mahakam Ulu regency (2016)
Situating conflict – customary land rights & human rights abuses

• Land grabs trigger resistance & repression: companies pay police
• Killings and violence
• Destruction of properties
• Deprivation of livelihoods
• Criminalization of subsistence
Situating conflict: Political Economy Analysis
Insufficient proxies – VPAs
Insufficient proxies – certification schemes
Considerations for operators –
Install your own alarm bells
Thank you

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