

Strengthening the Implementation of West Kalimantan Governor Regulation No. 33 of 2022 on the Development of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) as a Driving Force for the Forest-Based Economy in West Kalimantan

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Summary

Increasing the commercial value of non-timber forest products (NTFPs), such as illipe nuts (tengkawang), wild honey, kratom, and rattan, offers a powerful economic mechanism to enhance regional development, create local jobs, and boost smallholder incomes. Crucially, by turning standing forests into long-term sources of revenue, this approach provides a compelling financial incentive to protect forest ecosystems rather than converting them into monoculture agriculture or industrial palm oil plantations. Expanding sustainable NTFPs commercialization directly supports and scales smallholder agrobiodiverse production systems, such as traditional Dayak agroforestry (tembawang). These diverse farming systems intercrop cash commodities with wild fruits, medicinal plants, and native tree canopies, replicating natural ecosystems to improve soil fertility, pest resistance, and climate resilience.

West Kalimantan has established a crucial legal framework through Governor Regulation No. 33/2022 and Governor Regulation No. 7/2024 to promote the sustainable management of NTFPs, improve community well-being, and strengthen the role of farmers and NTFP business operators. This regulatory intervention comes at a critical juncture as over-exploitation, deforestation, and climate change severely threaten the province's forest ecosystems. In response, NTFPs offer

a compelling solution by driving a forest economy that generates local value-addition while keeping forests standing. At the policy level, NTFPs have also begun to be integrated into the agendas of forestry business transformation, the green economy, and regional development.

The regulations mandate comprehensive institutional support for local farmers and business operators to actively incentivize NTFP development. Under this policy framework, the provincial government is committed to facilitating smallholder success by providing high-quality seedlings (such as rubber and illipe nut), technical training, capacity building, and processing technologies (oil-extraction equipment) to help communities transition from low-value raw material extraction to high-value product processing. However, preliminary findings from a desk study (Adhiguna et al. 2025) reveal that significant implementation gaps remain between policy design and field-level execution. While provincial planners have embraced the regulations, outreach to forest-dependent communities remains limited. Furthermore, structural bottlenecks persist due to a lack of consolidated provincial operational guidelines (such as Governor Decisions on priority locations and commodities), fragmented inter-agency coordination, high interior logistics costs, and inadequate access to market certification. This has ultimately prevented these regulatory incentives from delivering their full economic potential at the grassroots level. Indeed, further case study research conducted by the authors confirm that while

sustainable NTFP enterprises like illipe nut processing effectively buffer smallholder incomes and incentivize forest protection, their full potential can only be unlocked when government support for processing technology, quality certification, and local market infrastructure is fully operationalized.

West Kalimantan Governor Regulation No. 33 of 2022 is adequate as a normative foundation, but it is not yet robust enough as a regional economic implementation system to change land use practice. It remains weak in terms of implementing regulations, NTFP priority setting, data integration, cross-sectoral coordination, and value chain support. If these gaps are not addressed immediately, the regulation risks remaining a normative document lacking strong economic enforcement power for the community and smallholder farmers.

The urgency of strengthening implementation is heightened because NTFP commercialization is not merely a forestry issue but also concerns regional economic development, product competitiveness, social legitimacy, and access to premium markets. Without accelerating the issuance of implementing regulations, data digitization, and post-harvest infrastructure support, the Governor Regulation risks failing to generate significant economic impact, and West Kalimantan's NTFPs may remain stuck at the level of low-value raw materials or stagnate leading to continuing deforestation.

Recommended Immediate Next Steps

1

Issue a Governor's Decree establishing the West Kalimantan Provincial Non-Timber Forest Products Development Coordination Team

2

Identify up to 5 priority Non-Timber Forest Products commodities

3

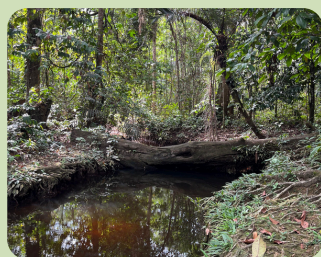
Approve the 2026–2030 NTFPs Regional Action Plan (RAD) as the operational instrument for implementing the Governor's Regulation.

4

Launch the NTFPs Smart Database and Geolocation Clinic in the first year.

These four recommendations are central to the implementation because they directly address the most critical gaps: the lack of a single operational instrument, the absence of formal provincial priorities, the absence of an integrated data system, and the lack of effective cross-sectoral governance.

Key Findings



1) Policy Understanding Remains Uneven Across Levels

Planning actors at the provincial level generally understand the direction of the transition from timber to non-timber forest products, but at the technical and community levels,

knowledge regarding legality, quality, and institutional opportunities remains limited and not widely disseminated. Many business operators are more familiar with assistance programs than with the underlying regional policy framework.



2) Implementation of the Governor's Regulation is underway but remains fragmented

The development of non-timber forest products has legal mandate, yet implementation on the ground remains fragmented. Information on potential, commodity distribution, and managing groups is still scattered across various agencies and has not been consolidated into a single integrated data system. Consequently, program interventions and logistical support are not yet fully grounded in structured regional planning.

3) The largest gaps lie in operational instruments, data, and the value chain

The primary implementation gap is the absence of a single Governor's Decree regarding priority locations and the collective designation of flagship commodities. At the same time, the lack of independent statistical tracking for the NTFPs sector and the absence of post-harvest infrastructure—such as honey dehumidifiers—leads to unfocused investment and products that often fail to meet market standards.

4) The commodity potential is clear, but formal provincial recognition is still lacking

The analysis identified honey in Kapuas Hulu, Ketapang, and Sintang Regencies; tengkawang in Sanggau, Bengkayang, Sekadau, Sintang, and Kapuas Hulu; kratom/purik along the Kapuas River, particularly in Kapuas Hulu; rattan and bamboo in Kubu Raya, Landak, and Bengkayang; and damar and frankincense in Melawi and Kayong Utara. However, as of early 2026, there has been no single Governor's Decree legitimizing this list of priority commodities at the provincial level.

5) Best practices are available and can be replicated

The desk study confirms that Kapuas Hulu has produced several pilot clusters that are recognized both nationally and internationally. This indicates that West Kalimantan's problem is not a lack of models, but rather the failure to scale up through more decisive and coordinated provincial policies.

Proven Best Practice

► APDS – Sentarum Lake Honey

The Sentarum Lake Periau Association (APDS) is the most established model for the management of non-timber forest products in Kapuas Hulu Regency. Its best practices include organic certification and geographical indications, a sustainable harvesting system based on customary laws, a production facility for filtering honey to export standards, and the processing of beeswax. This model is also closely tied to the support provided by the Riak Bumi Foundation, which equips communities with knowledge and skills for sustainable honey management while fostering the establishment of APDS institutions down to the village level—a system that strengthens community-level governance. Average production reaches 20–30 tons per year, involving more than 300 households. “However, certain challenges to the business's sustainability do exist, such as market access”, told Mr. Alexander Burung, KTH Madu Hutan Danau Sentarum, in an interview with the Riak Bumi Foundation.

► Sahan and Nanga Lauk – Tengkawang

The village of Sahan in Bengkayang Regency and Nanga Lauk in Kapuas Hulu Regency demonstrate the success of social forestry based on non-timber forest products (NTFPs) through partnerships with off-takers, a mini-factory processing tengkawang seeds into tengkawang oil, and the allocation of a portion of the profits to the village treasury and forest patrols. Their tengkawang oil has entered the supply chain of the premium cosmetics industry in Europe and Asia.

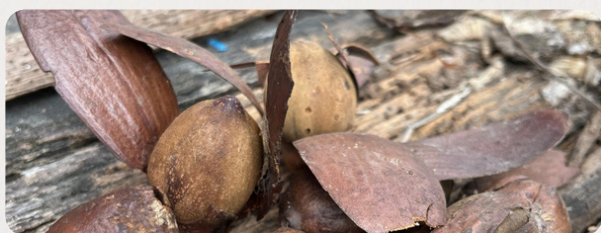
► PT Forestwise Wildkeepers – Green Company Tengkawang

PT Forestwise Wildkeepers in Sintang demonstrates a strong best practice in sustainable illipe nut management by developing a community-based, non-extractive value chain that links wild harvesting with forest conservation and global markets. The company sources illipe nut from local communities through responsible wild-harvesting practices that do not harm the rainforest, while simultaneously establishing forest protection agreements with supplier villages to incentivize conservation. By processing the nuts locally into higher-value products such as illipe butter and ensuring certification standards (e.g., Fair for Life and organic), Forestwise increases the economic value of standing forests and provides sustainable income for over a thousand collectors, thereby aligning livelihood improvement with long-term forest protection and biodiversity conservation in West Kalimantan.

► Sungai Utik Customary Forest

Sungai Utik in Kapuas Hulu Regency serves as an example of how the recognition of indigenous communities can provide a legal basis for the management of customary forests and the sustainable management of non-timber forest products (NTFPs). The official recognition of the Dayak Iban Menua Sungai Utik Indigenous Community provides certainty regarding the management of the customary forest and serves as a national model for NTFP management based on local wisdom.

The policy lessons drawn from these three best practices demonstrate that the success of community-managed natural resources stems from a combination of management rights certainty, strong institutions, maintained quality often through certification and licensing (Home-Based Food Industry, Food and Drug Supervisory Agency, Halal), and market access.



Operational Recommendations

01 Establish the legitimacy and direction of the policy

Issue a decree establishing the Coordination Team, identify 3–5 priority commodities and priority regions, and then draft the 2026–2030 NTFPs Action Plan. This serves as the foundation to ensure that all subsequent programs remain focused.

02 Build data as policy infrastructure

Launch the NTFPs Smart Database and Geolocation Clinic to consolidate data on commodities, business groups, production volumes, legality, and traceability. This system must be used for planning, financing, promotion, and global market readiness.

03 Focus on economic bottlenecks, not just production

Intervention priorities must be directed toward quality standardization, collective certification audits, specific post-harvest tools, and logistics strengthening. For honey, moisture control equipment is crucial; for tengkawang, high-value butter processing; and for kratom, grinding according to export standards.

04 Implement European Union Deforestation Regulation readiness as part of regional governance reform

The five steps already formulated need to be operationalized immediately: Geolocation Clinics, Batch SOPs and data standards, Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points and quality assistance, integrated incentive packages, and district grievance channels. This is important not only for international markets but also for streamlining domestic legality and accountability.

05 Establish a pilot landscape and 10–20 demonstration Social Forestry Business Group

Demonstration groups should be selected based on commodity potential, institutional readiness, land tenure security, logistical access, and the availability of facilitators. This model will serve as the basis for replication in other districts.

Who Should Take Action?

1) Governor/ Provincial Government

Make strategic decisions, establish a Coordination Team, identify priority commodities and regions, and provide political legitimacy to ensure that NTFPs becomes part of the province's green economic agenda.

2) Regional Development Planning, Research, and Innovation Agency

Serve as the hub for coordinating planning, budgeting, downstream processing roadmaps, integrating NTFPs into the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan/Regional Government Work Plan, and developing the provincial data system.

3) Department of Environment and Forestry/ Forest Management Unit/ Extension Workers

Lead technical aspects: group mentoring, legal compliance, quality control, field inventory, Geolocation Clinics, and development of commodity centers.

4) Districts, universities, and development partners

Districts lead local implementation, protection of indigenous communities, and grievance channels; universities and partners such as Riak Bumi, NTFP-EP, Forestwise, and PRCF Indonesia ensure evidence-based recommendations can be practically applied in the field.

5) Concise Financing and Fiscal Benefits

These recommendations have realistic financing pathways. The provincial budget is best suited or regulation, coordination, baseline studies, and some technical training. The provincial funds can be directed toward post-harvest tools and facilities. Cooperatives/village-owned enterprise/investment financing facility for micro, small, and medium enterprises are relevant for strengthening group business models. Other innovative funding (foreign donors/local donors) can be used for logistics hubs, stock consolidation facilities, and quality control.

The fiscal benefits extend beyond boosting the local economy; they also pave the way for the NTFPs sector to be recognized as a contributor to local government revenue and an indicator of

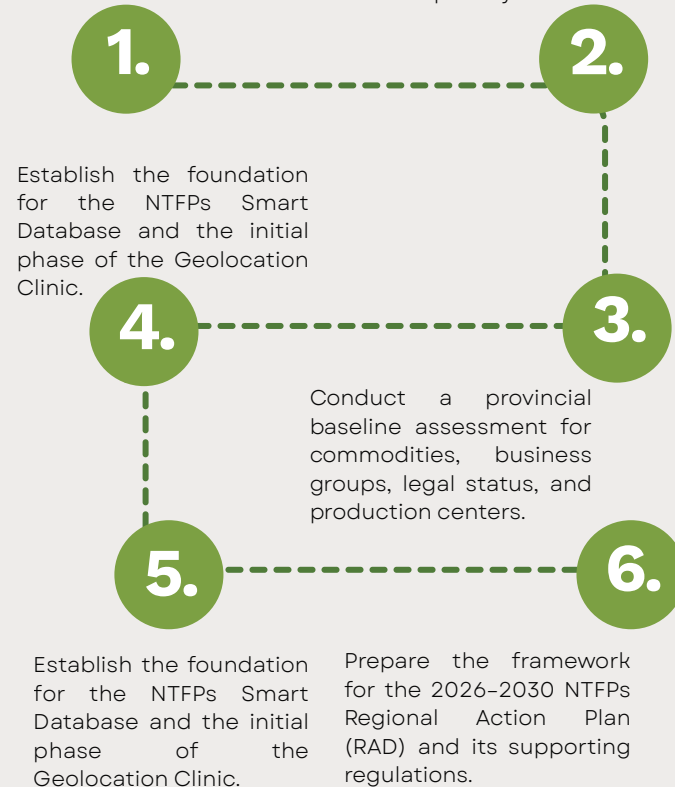
regional macroeconomic development, rather than remaining a low-budget, low-priority sector. This recommendation links the strengthening of the NTFPs sector to Mission 6 and Mission 10 of the Regional Medium-Term Development Plan.



What needs to be done within 100–180 working days?

Form and activate the Provincial NTFPs Coordination Team.

Identify up to 5 priority commodities and priority areas.



This sequence is critical because downstream processing, logistics, and market promotion will be far more effective once operational legitimacy, baselines, and foundational data are in place

Risk of Inaction

- 1) The Governor's Regulation remains a normative document lacking strong economic enforcement power.
- 2) Farmers remain trapped in subsistence-based production patterns vulnerable to price fluctuations.
- 3) The regional brand's reputation weakens, as reflected in the expiration of the organic certification for Danau Sentarum honey since 2019 without adequate recovery support.
- 4) West Kalimantan products risk difficulty entering premium markets, as quality, data, and traceability are not yet ready.
- 5) Social-tenural disparities remain high if spatial legality and grievance channels are not established.

Notes on Limitations of Evidence

It should be noted that this policy brief is based on the results of a desk study that primarily covers the provincial level and Kapuas Hulu Regency, using data from 13 institutions, and has not yet covered all regencies in West Kalimantan due to time and resource constraints. Therefore, these recommendations constitute a robust provincial strategic framework for initial action, but they still need to be enriched through data expansion and cross-district validation in the next phase.

Conclusion

The policy direction needed for West Kalimantan is clear: first, focus on regulations and data; then quality management, legality, and pilot projects; and finally, promote downstream processing, markets, and investment. Through this phased approach, Governor's Regulation No. 33/2022 can evolve from a normative foundation into an effective instrument for green economic development to improve the well-being of communities living near forests, strengthen the local economy, preserve natural resources, and enhance West Kalimantan's credibility in the eyes of the market and development partners.

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