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Proof that Canal Blocking at Peatlands in Sungai Ahas Central Kalimantan not Improve Water Quality

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Abstract: Forest fires and haze always occur during the dry season in a peatland area in Kalimantan, which is not only harm the health and community activities in the region, but also disturbing other neighboring regions. The thick smoke coming from peat fires in the Project PembukaanLahanGambut (PLG) million hectares for agriculture in Kapuas. PLG project was implemented in 1996 to 2009 to the start of the destruction of peatlands in Central Kalimantan and become a serious environmental problem, flooding during the wet season and flammable during the dry season. Errors in water management of peatlands in the past cause a peat loses its ability to hold water during the wet season. Canal blocking is one of the buildings of water that is expected to maintain ground water table in peatlands to prevent forest fires and improve water quality. Water quality in wetlands is mainly determined by the type of soil, from the water quality test results obtained temperature, TDS and DHL according to the standard for agricultural water, only pH that very acidic because the peatlands. The water quality in the channels without canal blocking nearly equal to the water quality in the channel with canal blocking. This proves that the canal blocking does not improve the quality of water in the peat.

Keywords: water quality, canal blocking, peat land, fires.

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