



Forest Fire Disaster In Riau And Indonesian Government Responsibility Reviewed From ASEAN Agreement of Transboundary Haze Pollution

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Abstract. Because of the way that forest fires affect the world’s largest source of oxygen—our forests—they have drawn the attention of the international environmental community. Since these woods generate oxygen, they are essential to human life. However, smoke from forest fires is typically unhealthy for humans because it can lead to respiratory ailments. Transboundary Haze Pollution is the term used to describe the movement of people caused by forest fires from one country to another. Air quality and visibility in the Sumatera and Kalimantan regions, which include Malaysia, Singapore, and portions of Thailand, have decreased as a result of forest and land fires in Riau, Indonesia. The haze has also strained diplomatic ties between nations, underscoring the significance of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. Countries who ratify this agreement are required to adopt a number of actions to prevent, respond to, enforce, and collaborate on cross-border air pollution. The nations of Southeast Asia may continue to live in peace and security by putting this agreement into effect. To address the problem of transboundary air pollution, many independent and cooperative projects and joint ventures have been launched. There are issues with the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution that need to be resolved, one of which being the dedication of each state member. While some forms of government have a greater influence on the issues they manage, others have less.

Keywords: ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, Forest and Land Fire, Environmental Law.

1 Introduction

Given that humans have always relied on nature for resources and a place to dwell, a healthy ecosystem is essential to human life. A crucial part of the ecosystem, forests offer several advantages to people. More than 70 million people, including many Indigenous communities, live in forests, and over 1.6 billion people rely on them for food and fuel. We can get jobs, air, shelter, food, fuel, and water from forests. Because so many people depend on trees, the future of the woods directly affects us. In addition to favorable natural circumstances, a healthy living environment is also influenced by how individuals, communities, and nations preserve the environment for the benefit of all people. Countries have adjacent countries, just as we have neighbors in our everyday

lives. We have a societal responsibility to keep amicable relationships with our neighbors. Environmental issues that affect nearby nations have the potential to escalate hostilities and sour diplomatic ties. Sustaining positive ties is essential because every nation has its own interests and depends on outside assistance to survive.

It is impossible to overestimate the significance of keeping positive ties with our neighbors. A concept found in international law is called "good neighborliness," which states that a nation should not act in a way inside its borders that could annoy neighboring countries. One such example of this is pollution, which can spread across borders and have an effect on adjacent nations. Whether it comes from indoor or outdoor sources, air pollution can seriously harm people's health. While indoor pollution can originate from things like cigarette smoke and inadequate ventilation, outside pollution is frequently caused by industrial and traffic activity. As a result, governments must assume accountability for the effects of air pollution, particularly when those effects extend to other nations.

Today, forest fires are a major global environmental and economic problem. In addition to causing massive costs to the nation they occur in, these fires have a negative ecological influence on nearby nations. Generally speaking, forest fires are only deemed problematic when they cause contamination of transboundary smoke. The people strongly objected to the Indonesian government because it was seen as the one in charge of addressing the issue of smoke from forest fires [1]. Natural events like lightning, volcanic or coal eruptions, as well as human activity like careless burning to make way for habitation or other land preparation, can all result in forest and land fires. In addition, weather factors like temperature, humidity, precipitation, and wind speed can affect how dry the fuel is, how much oxygen is there, and how quickly a fire spreads [2]. These forest fires can produce smoke and pollutants, which can have an impact on the nation and neighboring countries.

Southeast Asia is where Indonesia is situated on the Asian continent. Southeast Asian states formed the Association of Southeast Asian states (ASEAN) in order to improve diplomatic ties with their neighbors. Because of the great distances between the countries, transboundary haze pollution has been an ongoing issue in these regions. In 1985, ASEAN declared transboundary haze pollution to be a regional issue. For information on transboundary air pollution and its effects on the environment, consult the 1985 Agreement on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. With this agreement, the ASEAN region's problem with haze pollution will now be addressed jointly. According to the agreement, every signatory nation must take action to safeguard genetic variety, conserve vital ecological processes and life support systems, and guarantee the sustainable use of natural resources that have been extracted and fall under their purview. One of the topics covered by the agreement is the protection of flora and forest resources, especially with regard to avoiding and managing forest fires. For example, one of the causes of transboundary haze pollution that affects neighboring nations like Malaysia and Singapore is the forest fires in Riau. The Indonesian government came under scrutiny for the Riau fires, and as a result, it bore a large portion of the blame for the aftermath. State sovereignty, which limits a nation's jurisdiction by its borders, is a key component of international law. This idea is being called into doubt, though, when a nation's actions cause harm to neighboring nations or areas that

fall outside of its borders. As a topic of international law, Indonesia is a nation where forest fires occur, causing harm to neighboring countries. It also has rights and obligations under international law. International environmental law's "sic utero tua ut alienum non laedas" concept, which forbids nations from participating in or permitting actions that could endanger other nations, is in conflict with the air pollution caused by forest fires. The wonderful neighbor principle, which states that nations should not allow other nations to encroach on their territory, is another issue that worries Indonesia. Malaysia and Singapore have raised concerns with Indonesia regarding the adverse impacts of the haze on the health, tourism, and economies of their citizens. It is the government's duty to safeguard the well-being of its people, both domestically and internationally. Article 28H paragraph (1) of the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia emphasizes this responsibility, stating that "Every individual has the right to live in physical and spiritual prosperity, to have adequate housing, and to enjoy a safe, healthy, and comfortable environment, as well as access to health services."

While cross-border pollution, particularly air pollution, happens within a nation's borders, atmospheric and biological conditions can cause it to affect other nations [3]. The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution was reached by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in order to solve the problem of transboundary haze pollution that has a detrimental impact on neighboring countries. It is crucial to look at how Indonesia manages the consequences of transboundary haze pollution

2. Research Methods

In order to find legal doctrines, rules, and principles to address legal issues pertaining to legal issues, this research employs a normative legal method [4], transboundary haze pollution in this instance, specifically from forest fires in Riau that affect the ecology in nearby nations like Malaysia and Singapore. The paper examines Indonesia's policy on responsibility for transboundary haze pollution, in compliance with the ASEAN Agreement on the subject. In order to improve understanding of the legal system and relevant norms, the research makes use of legal analytical techniques, literature, and critical thinking. The data used is secondary data from multiple rules regarding transboundary haze pollution in the form of primary legal content. Articles pertaining to research titles, secondary legal materials, and tertiary legal resources are examples of secondary materials. To gather the necessary information and theoretical framework for the discussion, a documentary study pertaining to the research issue was conducted as part of the data collection process.

3. Result and Discussion

3.1. Impact of Transboundary Haze Pollution Due to Forest Fires in Riau to Other ASEAN State

There are both natural and human-caused causes that contribute to the frequency of land and forest fires in Indonesia. The burning of woods and land for plantations by foreign firms is one of the main human drivers behind these tragedies. Land and forest

fires can also result from the protracted dry seasons that some areas, like Kalimantan and Sumatra, suffer. Typically, these flames originate from wood that catches fire on the trees in the forest, grow across the forest, and eventually result in massive fires. In Indonesia, these kinds of accidents are common, particularly in the dry season (usually August, September, and October) or during the transition period. Forest and land fires have serious negative effects because they exhaust oxygen supplies and release smoke, which lowers air quality and increases air pollution, endangering human health. Respiratory conditions such as acute respiratory infections, asthma, pneumonia, and other complications—including fatal ones—can be brought on by breathing in contaminated air [5]. Additionally, air pollution lowers vision, which affects land and air transportation and driving safety and raises the possibility of accidents.

In Indonesia, forest and land fires are a common issue, especially in the provinces of Riau and Jambi. The primary causes of these fires are human activities like clearing land for plantations, forestry, and agriculture. El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) is a natural phenomena that frequently makes these fires worse. It has been discovered that forest and land-clearing activities are nearly always associated with hotspots in the field. This suggests that Indonesian laws pertaining to land-clearing are not being properly implemented. The primary cause of forest fires in Riau is unintentional burning of land to make room for future growth [6]. Despite the fact that a number of studies have been carried out to identify the primary cause of these fires, the lax enforcement of regulations has prevented the implementation of viable solutions.

It is legally forbidden in Indonesia to clear land by burning. Article 50 paragraph (2) letter b of Law No. 41 of 1999 concerning Forestry is amended by the provisions of Article 36 number 17 of the Job Creation Law. This paragraph states that anybody who willfully sets fire to a forest faces a maximum prison sentence of 15 years and a maximum fine of IDR 7.5 billion. The maximum punishment for causing a forest fire via negligence is five years in prison and a fine of IDR 3.5 billion. Article 22, 24 of Law Number 11 of 2020 about Job Creation, which replaces Article 69 paragraph (1) letter h of Law Number 32 of 2009 concerning Environmental Protection and Management of Life, significantly strengthens these legal provisions. Furthermore, it is confirmed by Article 56 paragraph (1) of Law Number 39 of 2014 concerning Plantations that any plantation business actor that uses burning to clear and/or cultivate land would be subject to a possible ten-year prison sentence and a maximum fine of IDR 10 billion. In addition to management punishment, a corporation that commits the offense faces a maximum fine plus one-third of its total value. Moreover, the criminal threat is raised by one-third if the offender is a state official. The rules are intended to stop any kind of forest fire that could endanger the lives of laborers in Indonesia and other nations.

Due to forest fires in the Riau region, Indonesia is experiencing bad air quality, and Singapore and Malaysia, two of its neighbors, are also experiencing similar problems. Local communities have suffered both tangible and intangible losses as a result of the transboundary haze pollution created by the forest fires. This has led to global issues since neighboring countries are impacted by the smoke from forest fires. This pollution is created by one country moving to another, disrupting their output, and is governed under Article 1 number 13 of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze

Pollution. The smoke from land and forest fires in Riau is carried by the wind in an east-southeast direction that then shifts to the northeast until it reaches Singapore. This causes visibility to be reduced and breathing difficulties for residents of surrounding nations. When a smoky haze engulfed the region surrounding Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian government proclaimed a state of emergency. Relationships between Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia are strained as a result of these circumstances. Thus, in order to prevent further disturbances brought on by forest and land fires that lower air quality and visibility in the Sumatra and Kalimantan regions, including Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, and portions of Thailand, Indonesia must have regulations regarding how to account for transboundary haze pollution under ASEAN agreements and international environmental law standards [7].

Transboundary haze pollution is described in Article 1, Clause 13 of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution as “haze pollution whose physical origin is situated wholly or in part within the area under the national jurisdiction of one Member State and which is transported into the area under the jurisdiction of another Member State.” This provision regulates haze pollution that crosses borders within the ASEAN region. Essentially, this refers to air pollution that physically originates within the territory of one nation and spreads into the jurisdiction of another. Therefore, transboundary haze pollution can be understood as air pollution that begins in one country and disperses across borders to affect other nations, as outlined in the agreement.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, Head of the Information and Public Relations Data Center of the National Disaster Management Agency (BNPB), analyzed hotspot distribution, wind direction, smoke distribution from satellites, and air quality. The results showed that the smoke from land and forest fires in Riau travels east-southeast, then northeast, until it reaches Singapore. This has a negative impact on the countries that are adjacent since the smoke makes it harder to see and makes breathing difficult for individuals. Six polluting elements are monitored by the Pollutant Standard Index (PSI), which reached 137 at 12.00 and 143 in Singapore’s north and west at 07.00 local time. A number over 300 is deemed “dangerous,” a number under 200 is deemed “unhealthy,” and a value between 201 and 300 is deemed “very unhealthy.”

Due to the high air quality index of 16, the Malaysian government has sent 500,000 masks to locations impacted by smoke from the Riau fires. In Indonesia, forest fires have caused enormous ecological and socioeconomic consequences. One of the nations most negatively impacted by the smoky haze from these forest fires is Malaysia. It has harmed the economy, negatively impacted public health, and decreased tourism. Due to Malaysia’s criticism of Indonesia for not being able to handle the issue, Indonesia has been forced to compensate Malaysia for the damages the smoke caused. These forest fires have resulted in significant economic losses that are often hard to put a monetary value on.

Smoke from forest fires can seriously affect the local population as well as neighboring countries. Smoking has negative effects on the economy, the environment, and public health. Breathing in smoke can lead to respiratory, cardiac, and neurological complications. It might even result in additional fatalities [8]. Hospitals can get quite busy and people may need extra time to work when there is a lot of smoke present. This

might be quite expensive for the nation. In addition to using more water and power since they had to stay indoors during the two months that this occurred in Singapore in 2015, the cost was 1,83 billion Singapore dollars. Lack of sunshine caused farmers to struggle with agricultural growth and forced children to miss school.

Two recent consequences demonstrate the considerable disruptions in neighboring countries' output caused by transboundary pollution from Riau fires. The connections between Indonesia, Singapore, and Malaysia may suffer as a result of this disturbance. In order to comply with ASEAN agreements and international environmental law norms, Indonesia must create rules to account for transboundary haze pollution. By doing this, it will be ensured that the three nations' relations remain unaffected.

3.2 Indonesian Government Responsibility Based on the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution

Global environmental protection is governed by international environmental law, a subset of international public law. It includes a range of products, practices, and organisations that work to safeguard the environment globally. Countries are required to abide by a number of international legal norms, two of which are especially pertinent to the pollution of transboundary haze. These are the General Prohibition to Pollute Principle and the Principle of Excellent Neighbourliness. Countries must refrain from doing any acts that could upset or contaminate the environment in other nations in order to uphold the good neighbourly ideal. Countries are forbidden by the General Prohibition to Pollute Principle from engaging in any activities that could contaminate the environment worldwide. The intergenerational justice concept, the duty to prevent, the duty to inform, the duty to discuss and collaborate, and the prohibition against abusing rights are all included in this principle. In order to prevent global environmental contamination, nations must take responsibility for it and cooperate with one another. State responsibility is the idea that a state has an obligation to make sure that its actions do not cause harm to other states. Transboundary damage has resulted from the recent forest fires in Indonesia, impacting the health and air quality of surrounding nations. As a result, Indonesia can be held responsible for its inability to stop the flames or lessen their detrimental effects on neighbouring states.

When it comes to the problem of cross-border contamination, the aforementioned concepts are fundamental to international environmental law. According to these principles, states have an indirect obligation to remedy cases of cross-border air pollution that could endanger other countries. In accordance with these principles, nations are required to provide a just and equal distribution of their rights and obligations concerning environmental impact issues that have a transnational influence [9].

The ASEAN countries called a conference to explicitly address this issue because forest fires are common in the region and can cause transboundary haze or cross-border air pollution. As stated in the Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 26 of 2014, Indonesia accepted the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution in 2014. Law No. 26 of 2014, which relates to ratifying this agreement, outlines the advantages

of ratifying the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution for Indonesia. In order to prevent health problems and lower environmental quality, it is important to:

1. support Indonesia's active participation in decision-making with other ASEAN members regarding monitoring, assessment, and emergency response to land and/or forest fires that result in transboundary smoke pollution;
2. Afeguard the Indonesian population from the adverse impacts of transboundary haze pollution resulting from land or forest fires; and
3. Strengthen national regulations and policies focused on preventing, mitigating, preparing for, monitoring, and managing land and/or forest fires that lead to transboundary haze pollution.
4. The measures to prevent, mitigate, and manage land and/or forest fires leading to transboundary haze pollution include the following: d. leveraging existing human resources and equipment within ASEAN member states and from countries outside the region, facilitated through the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Coordinating Center.
5. To increase public awareness and understanding of these matters through ASEAN collaboration and international support in areas such as prevention, mitigation, preparedness, monitoring, management, and control of land and forest fires that result in transboundary haze pollution.
6. fortifying management and capabilities for prevention, mitigation, preparedness, monitoring, control, and control of land and/or forest fires at local, national, and regional levels through ASEAN cooperation and international assistance

A complete regulatory framework covering prevention, monitoring, evaluation, preparedness, response, and cooperation for land and/or forest fires, smoke pollution, and their effects on the environment and human health, is found in the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, which consists of 32 articles. The agreement provides definitions for a number of organizations and technical terminology, including smoke pollution, land and/or forest fires, controlled burning, open burning, focal points, competent authorities, and fire-prone areas. Every nation must set up a National Monitoring Center to keep an eye on areas that are prone to wildfires, forest and land fires, smoke pollution, and environmental factors that contribute to or encourage wildfires.

The National Monitoring Center delivers data to the ASEAN Coordinating Center, which uses it to assess environmental and public health risks. Parties are required to take proactive measures, like putting in place a zero-burning policy, identifying regions that are vulnerable, enhancing and strengthening local populations, and upholding regulations pertaining to fire safety and extinguishing capacity. In addition, nations must create plans and strategies for readiness, manage environmental and public health hazards, and set up protocols for both national and regional collaboration. Legislative, administrative, and financial mechanisms should also be in place to mobilize materials, equipment, personnel, and funds in order to carry out national and cooperative emergency response plans. This agreement also requires transit parties to provide the facilities, staff, equipment, and supplies required to provide aid, and it governs the direction and supervision of aid. It also offers exceptions in the form of tax exemptions and facilities. In order to improve readiness and lower threats to the environment and

public health, the ASEAN Coordinating Center supports scientific research and technical collaboration among ASEAN member states.

In the case that transboundary haze pollution results in air pollution in other countries, countries are subject to certain obligations under this agreement. In light of the Riau forest fire disaster, which impacted Singapore and Malaysia, we need to evaluate whether Indonesia has complied with this agreement. It is common knowledge that forest fires commonly affect the Riau and Jambi regions. Riau saw an exceptionally bad year for forest and land fires in 2019, with 6,425.39 hectares of land burning since the year's beginning. These occurrences are frequent enough to affect smoke and air pollution to the extent that they are felt as far away as Singapore and Malaysia.

The Indonesian government put in place a number of procedures to lessen damage and alert local residents during forest and land fires. These precautions include preventative efforts via organizations like Manggala Agni and an early warning system that tracks satellite detection through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Terra Aqua, NPP, and Himawari. The Ministry of Forestry in Indonesia founded the Manggala Agni forest fire control brigade in 2003 to aid in the suppression of wildfires. The brigade is deployed to Pekanbaru, Siak, Dumai, and other regions experiencing intense fires. The community also contributed to the extinguishing of fires. Thus, in terms of the Principle of Parties as stated in Article 3, paragraph 2 of The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, Indonesia has complied with its commitments.

Article 3 paragraph 5 of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution mandates that all relevant parties, such as private corporations, farmers, non-governmental organizations, and local communities, must be involved in helping to solve the issue of transboundary air pollution. The agreement also mandates that nations take part in the development and implementation of legislative and other regulatory measures, as well as programs and strategies to encourage zero burning policies to combat land and/or forest fires that cause pollution across borders. These measures together regulate the establishment of a system to avoid air pollution across borders.

Countries that ratify this agreement are required to cooperate in order to prevent and track cross-border air pollution brought on by land and forest fires. Additionally, Indonesia has carried out the General Obligations as stated in Article 4, which include building early warning systems, limiting fire sources, and monitoring smoke pollution across international borders. Furthermore, by employing Weather Modification Technology (WMT), Indonesia has increased the effectiveness of its efforts to prevent and put out forest fires. With the use of technology, humans are able to regulate atmospheric water supplies, changing the intensity of rainfall in certain locations. Reducing the number of natural disasters brought on by weather and climate is the goal. Indonesia has issued technical guidelines for Zero Burning Land Preparation (PLTB), also known as zero burning, in an effort to lessen the effects of forest fires and take preventative measures to avert them. In addition to not contributing to air pollution and lowering greenhouse gas emissions, the zero burning technology also improves organic material and is less weather-dependent. To lessen the effects of forest and land fires, the Indonesian government has given businesses and individuals guidelines and processes for implementing a Zero Burning Policy. The Indonesian government has

advised preventive measures, but some businesses and individuals have chosen to burn land instead because it is a more practical and efficient way to serve their financial interests. It's crucial to remember that the Zero Burning Policy method takes more time. Nevertheless, it is an essential step in preventing transboundary air pollution and enhancing ties among ASEAN nations.

Indonesia has implemented the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution by adhering to the applicable legislation. Indonesia has integrated the provisions of this agreement into its legal system through laws, presidential decrees, and other legal frameworks because it has legal ramifications for the nation. To avoid international liability, the nation's legal system must adhere to the terms of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution when addressing land and forest fires. In order to guarantee compliance, Indonesia has adopted internal measures, such as expanding the number of agencies and individuals responsible for environmental law enforcement. The nation uses coercive tactics and administrative consequences, ranging from permission suspension to revocation, to incentivize enterprises to prevent and address forest and land fires. If a business continues to disregard the penalties that have been put in place, civil or even criminal proceedings may be initiated. There were 254,444 lawsuits filed in 2019; 4,444 of them were civil cases, and 17 of them involved district court and forest service penalties related to land fire enforcement. Companies whose lands were burned are sued for environmental damages and are required to take particular steps to restore the ecology in order to enforce civil law. The Ministry of Environment and Forestry brought legal action against a number of companies in 2020.

Indonesia also carries out the law's implementation in accordance with the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution. The ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution's provisions are implemented in the Indonesian legal system by legislation, presidential decrees, or other legal frameworks, realizing the agreement's legal implications. The legal framework connects to matters related to land and forest fires, requiring alignment with the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. Thus, in order to avoid international accountability, internal measures must be implemented. The actions done include expanding the number of law enforcement agencies and environmental law enforcement agents. In order to enhance corporate performance in avoiding and controlling forest and land fires, Indonesia's law enforcement system additionally applies administrative punishments and employs coercive tactics. Additional penalties include permit revocation and suspension. The business will pursue civil or even criminal action if it continues to violate the sanctions imposed. Of the 254,444 lawsuits, 4,444 were civil cases, 4,444 were handled by the General Administration, 4,444 were carried out, 17 involved land fire law enforcement cases punished by district and forest courts, and 8 involved litigation. Filing a lawsuit against the firm whose land was burned in order to obtain ecological improvement and environmental compensation is one strategy to enforce civil law.

There are issues with the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Pollution that need to be resolved, one of which being the dedication of each state party. While some forms of government have a greater influence on the issues they manage, others have less. Whether or not an international agreement guarantees that the target entities within the participating nations follow its requirements is a critical factor in determining the

effectiveness of a given governance system and the agreement that supports it. Essentially, the implementation and enforcement of the laws outlined in an international agreement are critical to its effectiveness as they ensure high compliance from all parties concerned and ultimately lead to the resolution or improvement of the issue at hand. One problem is that there are no true repercussions for breaking it, and not all ASEAN nations have committed to do so. Depending on how effectively they are applied, some laws are more beneficial than others. The degree to which the nations that signed the pact adhere to its regulations will determine how effective it is. There are two things about the deal that should be done better. First, Indonesia, the main contributor of haze pollution in the area, has not committed to implementing the deal until recently. Secondly, there are no particular sanctions for noncompliant nations. While the first issue has been fixed, there is still an issue with the second. The implications of Indonesia's commitment to abide by the agreement will be covered in the next section [10].

The latest available data indicates that forest fires in Indonesia are expanding significantly, consuming nearly twice the amount of tree cover compared to two decades ago. This finding is corroborated by a recent study from researchers at the University of Maryland. The report highlights that annually, forest fires now destroy an additional 3 million hectares of tree cover compared to 2001—equivalent to the size of Belgium. Moreover, over the past 20 years, approximately 25% of all tree cover loss has been attributed to forest fires. These fires, often triggered by the burning of vegetation and peatlands, are commonly used as a method to clear land for agriculture across the ASEAN region. Global efforts to minimize greenhouse gases that cause climate change have been disrupted by this practice, which has resulted in enormous fires and the release of large volumes of carbon dioxide. Approximately 90% of these forest fires are thought to be caused by human activity, and they wipe off the forests and peatlands that help to control the climate, store carbon, sustain biodiversity, provide water, and enhance livelihoods. Here is where the assessment for upcoming enhancements with ASEAN nations is located.

4 Conclusion

Because of the way that forest fires affect the world's largest lung, which are our forests, they have drawn the attention of the international environmental community. Because they generate oxygen, these woods are essential to human existence. Unfortunately, smoke from forest fires is not good for human health since it can lead to respiratory ailments. Transboundary Haze Pollution is the term used to describe the movement of people caused by forest fires from one country to another. Air quality and visibility in the Sumatera and Kalimantan regions, which include Malaysia, Brunei, Singapore, and portions of Thailand, have decreased as a result of forest and land fires in Riau, Indonesia. The Malaysian government consequently proclaimed an emergency in the vicinity of Kuala Lumpur. The haze has also harmed diplomatic ties between nations, underscoring the significance of the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution. Countries who ratify the agreement are required to adopt a number of actions

to prevent, respond to, enforce, and collaborate on cross-border air pollution. This will support keeping Southeast Asian countries safe and secure

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