

Summary

According to the current information we received from BMG (Meteorology and Geophysics Agency) Balikpapan (1-31 May 2003) for the six locations, *Tanjung Redep* is at **Extreme** fire danger level, *Samarinda* is at **High**, *Tanjung Selor* and *Tarakan* are at **Moderate**, *Balikpapan* and *Nunukan* are at **Low** fire danger level (see figure 1-6, FDR). *In Average, the Fire Danger Rating is at a Moderate level. (See figure 7, Average six weather station locations).*

According to the NOAA Satellite Images, which have been processed by UPTD PKHL from the **27th May – 2nd June 2003**, there were **8 (eight) hotspots** detected in East Kalimantan. 4 (four) hotspots detected in the Tarakan area, 3 (three) hotspots in Nunukan area and 1 (one) in the Tanjung Selor area. Please consider that most of the area of East Kalimantan was covered by thick clouds as well as the poor quality of the images, which hampered the hot spots detection.

Current reports from Districts/Municipalities:

☞☞ East Kutai District (Forestry Service/ Dinas Kehutanan)

East Kutai experienced less rain in some of its area for the last week. There was no land/forest fire reported.

☞☞ Balikpapan (Environment Impact Management Agency/ Bapedalda)

Balikpapan experienced less rain for last week. There was no land/forest fire reported.

☞☞ Nunukan District (Technical Implementation Unit of Forest Area Management/ UPTD KPH).

This area still experienced rain last week. There was no land/forest fire reported.

☞☞ Tarakan (Forestry, Estate Crops and Cash Crop Service)

There were some suppression activities conducted:

- ☞ On 29 May 2003, there was a forest fire in the buffer zone area of Pasir Putih, area burned about 3 ha.

- ✍ On 30 May 2003, there was a forest fire in the Juwata Laut area, area burned about 4 ha, the cause suspected was an agriculture fire (land clearing) lit by local community got out of control.
- ✍ On 31 May 2003, there was a fire in the secondary forest area of Juwata Permai, the total area burned is not determined yet, the cause suspected was as well an agriculture fire (land clearing) lit by local community that got out of control.
- ✍ There was a forest fire in the Sesanip area, no further information available yet.

The relative humidity in East Kalimantan in general ranged between 66-80% and for some parts even higher (see figure 19 ; Relative Humidity).

The visibility in East Kalimantan is normal, 5-20 km .(see figure17 ; Visibility).

The “days since rain map” showed that there was no rain over most of East Kalimantan for more than 5 (five) days (see figure 20).

The weather forecast for the next 7 (seven) days, 3-9 June 2003, most of East Kalimantan will be **bright** or **cloudy** and **no rain** (see figure 13-16; Weather forecast).

According those data and additional information, the preparedness level for **Samarinda, Tanjung Redep and Tarakan are at the Alert III level**, while Balikpapan, Tanjung Selor and Nunukan have normal conditions. The preparedness level for the **East Kalimantan Province in general is Alert III level**.

The activities that should be carry out according the Alert III preparedness level:

1. *Patrols or tactical detection should be carried out according to the needs, depends on the local condition.*
2. *Ensure that all the fire equipment and the personnel is ready.*
3. *Continue the fire prevention programmes in the fire prone areas.*
4. *Prepare fire posts for forest and land fires*
5. *Suppresses the fires which are identified as unwanted.*

Brief Info from UPTD PKHL

UPTD PKHL Samarinda conducted an Environment Education activity, especially about forest and land fire on 22-23 May 2003 in Balikpapan. This activity was in cooperation with Tunas Harapan I Kindergarten. This activity has been attended by 175 pupils. There was a presentation about fire causes, impacts and prevention. There was also a Si Pongi (Indonesian's fire prevention mascot) coloring competition for the children.



UPTD PKHL Samarinda in cooperation with the Forest Service of Kutai Barat District, also conducted Environment Education activities, especially about land and forest fires on 27-28 May 2003 in Melak (Kutai Barat). The cooperation included also Yayasan TK. dan SD. Puncan Karna (Education Institution). This activities have been attended by 58 kindergarten pupils and 61 elementary students. There was a presentation about fire causes, impacts and prevention and also a Si Pongi introduction.

