



# **Guidelines for the Implementation of Controlled Burning Practices**

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- Drying process
- Fire break and canal
- Water pond
- Planting on peatland in Sungai Selamat, Pontianak, West Kalimantan

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## Message by the Secretary-General of ASEAN

Since the 1997/1998 severe haze episode, ASEAN has instituted a number of measures to prevent the outbreak of fires which contributes to transboundary haze pollution in the region. The ASEAN Environment Ministers adopted the policy on zero burning in April 1999, and agreed to promote its application by plantation companies, timber concessionaires and other relevant parties in the region. Since then, numerous dialogues have been conducted to promote zero burning practices among plantation companies and timber concessionaires in the region. The Guidelines for the Implementation of the ASEAN Policy on Zero Burning have also been published and are being disseminated to promote its application.

In March 2003, the ASEAN Environment Ministers recognised the need for guidelines on controlled burning, where zero-burn techniques could not be practiced, especially by smallholders, farmers and shifting cultivators. These Guidelines are therefore published to serve that purpose.

The Guidelines provide recommendations for the implementation of controlled burning and other related practices and alternatives for smallholders, farmers and shifting

cultivators, to promote sustainable forest management and environment-friendly land management and agricultural practices. The Guidelines were developed from case studies and surveys on current best practices in Indonesia, especially in Sumatra and Kalimantan. Apart from controlled burning practices, the Guidelines also highlight the benefits, prerequisites as well as challenges in implementing controlled burning practices. I hope that these Guidelines will lead to effective implementation of controlled burning by smallholders, farmers and shifting cultivators, and thereby contribute to mitigating the transboundary haze pollution experienced periodically in the region.

I congratulate the ASEAN Working Groups on Sub-Regional Firefighting Arrangements (SRFAs) for Sumatra and Borneo and the Government of Indonesia for taking the lead in developing the Guidelines. Our appreciation also goes to the Global Environment Facility/United Nations Environment Programme and East Asia and Pacific Environmental Initiative/US Department of Agriculture Forest Service for providing financial support, and all those who have contributed to the development of the Guidelines.

**ONG KENG YONG**  
Secretary-General of ASEAN

## Message by the Chairperson of ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment-Haze Technical Task Force

It is an honour for me to give a few words for the publication of the "Guidelines for the Implementation of Controlled Burning Practices". The Guidelines were developed following the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, which was signed on 10 June 2002 in Kuala Lumpur, and recognising the decision of the Tenth ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Haze in March 2003. The Guidelines are considered necessary where zero burn techniques could not be practiced, especially by smallholders, farmers and shifting cultivators.

The tendency of the causes of fire since 1997 up to present has changed. In 1997/1998, fires were mainly caused by open burning practices carried out by plantations. Recently, communities especially the smallholders tend to be the main causes of fire occurrence. Limited funds and technology become the reason that the smallholders are still conducting land preparation with burning. However, no guidelines have been documented so far. Therefore, developing guidelines for

the implementation of controlled burning are important since fire control has become a must.

It has been recognised that most of the traditional communities depend on the use of fire in land clearing and preparation, including those in Indonesia. Since the Guidelines were developed based on intensive literature studies and field work on various burning practices in several areas in Indonesia, especially in Sumatra and Kalimantan, the Guidelines reflect the capability of smallholders in implementing the practices. Hence, I do hope the Guidelines could be a valuable reference for ASEAN member countries with some proper adjustments to accommodate each country's needs and traditional practices.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all who have contributed in the development of the Guidelines. Hopefully, the Guidelines may benefit to the policy makers in further developing technical guidelines.

**LIANA BRATASIDA**

Chairperson, ASOEN-HTTF  
Special Assistant Minister for Global Environment  
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# Table of Contents

Message by the Secretary-General of ASEAN	iii
Message by the Chairperson of ASEAN Senior Officials on the Environment-Haze Technical Task Force	iv
Table of Contents	v
List of Tables	v
List of Figures	v
List of Boxes	vi
1. Introduction	
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objective	2
1.3 Scope and Methodology	2
2. Overview of Controlled Burning Practices	
2.1 Definition	4
2.2 Techniques	4
2.3 Benefits	5
2.4 Potential problems	6
2.5 Prerequisites for effective implementation	6
3. Regulatory Aspects of Controlled Burning Practices in ASEAN and Indonesia	8
4. Selected Controlled Burning Practices in Indonesia	
4.1 Farming/land cultivation system for peatland	12
4.2 Dry land farming/land cultivation system	24
5. Guidelines for the Implementation of Controlled Burning Practices	
5.1 General provisions for controlled burning	40
5.2 Controlled burning techniques for peatland	45
5.3 Controlled burning techniques for dry land	49
6. Recommendations for the Implementation of Controlled Burning Practices	54
<b>References</b>	55
<b>Acknowledgements</b>	58
<b>List of Tables</b>	
1. Time schedule of land cultivation in Pal VIII village, Rejang Lebong, Bengkulu	38
2. Form for reporting controlled burning	44
<b>List of Figures</b>	
1. Ring firing technique	13
2. (a) Ashing process; (b) Seedbeds; (c) Planting on peatland in Sungai Selamat, Pontianak, West Kalimantan	14

3. Flow chart of permanent agriculture practices in Sungai Selamat, Pontianak district, West Kalimantan	15
4. Controlled burning technique using back firing for peatland with canal	16
5. Flow chart of permanent agriculture practices for peatland in Rasau Jaya Umum village, Pontianak district, West Kalimantan	17
6. (a) Smoke produced through land preparation by burning; (b) Water pond; (c) Firebreak and canal; (d) Aloe vera grown on peatland in Rasau Jaya Umum, Pontianak, West Kalimantan	18
7. Flow chart of permanent agriculture practices for peatland preparation in Rasau Jaya III village, Pontianak district, West Kalimantan	20
8. Controlled burning technique in secondary peat swamp forest in Pelalawan, Riau	21
9. Burning technique against the wind (backing fire) in Rantau Rasau village, Jambi	22
10. Burning pattern on an area connected to other areas in Rantau Rasau village, Jambi	23
11. Burning pattern on areas divided by road in Rantau Rasau village	23
12. Burning pattern proceeded by piling the fuels at the centre of the selected area (pile burning)	24
13. Burning method at the slopes of Pelalawan village, Landak district, West Kalimantan	25
14. (a) Burn area to be used for farming; (b) Ex-shifting cultivation in hilly area in Landak district, West Kalimantan	26
15. Burning pattern of <i>ngerantai</i> used by Dayak Kantu tribe in West Kalimantan	28
16. <i>Ngelayang</i> burning pattern used by Dayak Kantu tribe in West Kalimantan	28
17. Burning technique against the wind	30
18. Combination between back firing and ring firing techniques	31
19. Technique combining head firing with ring firing	32
20. Technique of ring firing on 20 ha-land area with a slope level of < 8%	34
21. Burning technique of 4 ha-land area with a slope level of of 7 – 30 %	35
22. Ring firing technique used in Dusun Talang Kedurang, village of Pal VIII	36
23. Pile burning technique	37
24. (a) Drying process; (b) Land preparation; (c) Burn area; (d) Coffee farming in hilly dry land area in Bengkulu, Sumatera	39
25. Samples of traditional fire extinguishing equipment of indigenous people in East Kalimantan	41
26. Organisational structure for controlled burning	44
27. Land prepared for planting (peatland)	47
28. Controlled burning technique for peatland	47
29. Flow chart for preparation of planting area on peatland	48
30. Ring firing technique with 4 torch people	51
31. Ring firing technique with 2 torch people	51
32. Back firing technique	52
33. Pile burning technique	52

#### List of Boxes

1. Various initiatives under the RHAP	9
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