

Interactive comment on “Minimum forest cover for sustainable water flow regulation in a watershed under rapid expansion of oil palm and rubber plantations” by Suria Tarigan et al.

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Regarding to the proposed further research questions:

1) Where forest areas should be protected most urgently

In term of hydrological functions, the main role of forest is to increase water recharge. Increased water recharge will further reduce flooding during wet season and increase baseflow during dry season. For water recharging purposes, protected forest area should be situated at the upper part of each sub-watershed normally characterized by steeper slope and lighter soil texture.

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2) How we can implement policies of minimum forest cover without excluding vulnerable social groups from the possibilities to access and benefit from their natural resources.

This is an integrated research question requiring contribution from ecological, social and economic aspects.

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C2