

LTKL. Lingkar Temu Kabupaten Lestari is an association of district governments, formed in 2017 and run by the districts themselves with support from APKASI and development partners.

Members. Siak in Riau, Musi Banyuasin in Sumatera Selatan, Aceh Tamiang in Aceh, Sintang, Sanggau and Kapuas Hulu in Kalimantan Barat, Sigi in Sulawesi Tengah, and Gorontalo and Bone Bolango in Gorontalo.

Commitment. Under the Kabupaten Lestari 2030 Vision the members pledged to protect at least 50 percent of their important ecosystems, including forest and peat, and to improve the welfare of about one million families living around them.

Data. Burned area is the official burn scar series from SiPongi, Kementerian Kehutanan, mapped from Landsat imagery with field verification. The 2026 figures cover January to July, before the peak of the season in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

Peat matching. Each member is compared with non-member districts on the same island group whose share of peat is close to its own.

FIRES IN SUSTAINABLE DISTRICTS

When it is Sustainable, It is Fire-Resistant

Sustainable district governance reduces fire most where it matters most, on peat. Siak shows the result.

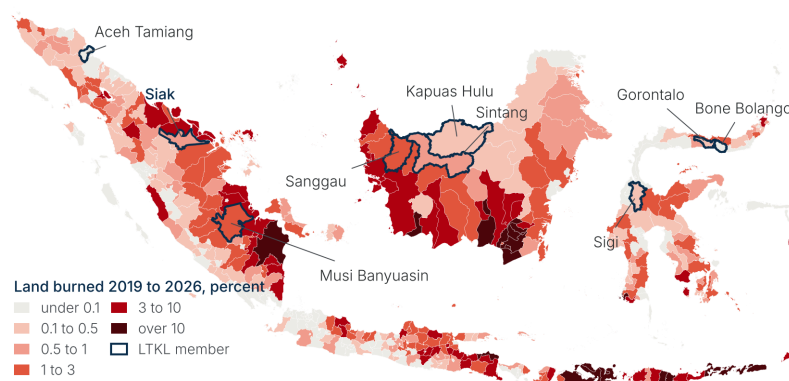


Figure 1. Share of each district's land burned from 2019 to 2026, with the nine LTKL members outlined. The 2026 figures cover January to July. Source: SiPongi burn scar data by kabupaten; district land area from geoBoundaries.

DISTRICT	PROVINCE	PEAT	2015 HA	2023 HA	2026 HA	PEERS ABOVE
Siak	Riau	60	6,888	38	281	75
Musi Banyuasin	Sumsel	26	40,256	4,255	228	29
Kapuas Hulu	Kalbar	16	1,373	2,189	450	66
Aceh Tamiang	Aceh	14	0	4	1	84
Sanggau	Kalbar	10	468	7,490	621	39
Sintang	Kalbar	8	6,139	6,360	140	35
Gorontalo	Gorontalo	1	427	107	112	60
Sigi	Sulteng	1	561	220	8	65
Bone Bolango	Gorontalo	0.5	229	13	9	73

Table 1. Burned area of the LTKL members. Peat is the percent of district land, from the Global Forest Watch peatland layer. Peers above is the percent of non-member districts with similar peat cover that burned a larger share of their land in 2015, 2019 and 2023.

99.5 percent

FALL IN SIAK'S BURNED AREA, 2015 TO 2023

- LTKL members hold 5.3 percent of Indonesia's land and 0.9 percent of its 2026 burned area.
- Siak ranks second of 23 peat-majority districts of Sumatra and Kalimantan for the least land burned since 2019.
- Musi Banyuasin has cut its El Niño burning by 89 percent since 2015.
- Six of the nine members burn less than most districts with similar peat.



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The record of the LTKL members

The nine LTKL districts hold 5.3 percent of Indonesia's land but only 0.9 percent of the area burned in 2026, 1,850 ha of 202,011 ha. None of them is among the 33 districts that have burned more than 1,000 ha this year. Together they have burned 0.02 percent of their land, against 0.7 percent in a typical district now fighting fire.

Peat explains much of this gap, because seven members have little peat. Against districts of similar peat cover, Siak burned less than three in four of its peers in El Niño years. Musi Banyuasin cut its burned area by 89 percent from 2015 to 2023, faster than the 71 percent of its peers. Aceh Tamiang, Bone Bolango, Gorontalo, Kapuas Hulu and Sigi also burn less than most of their peers.

The lesson for other districts

The strongest results come where sustainability commitments reach the peat itself. Siak turned its policy into water management and village action. Sanggau and Sintang, where burning has grown since 2015, have the most to gain from the same approach.

Siak and the Other Members

Siak shows what a peat district can achieve after a disaster. The other eight members show a wider range, from steady gains on peat to rising fire on mineral land and new pressure from drought.

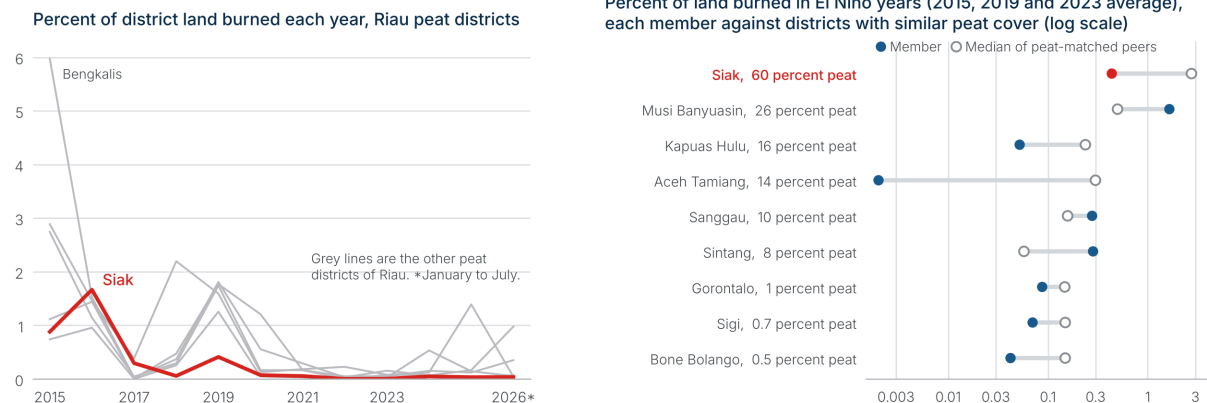


Figure 2. Left, the percent of district land burned each year in Siak and the other peat districts of Riau. Right, the average percent of land burned in 2015, 2019 and 2023 for each LTKL member and the median of non-member districts with similar peat cover. Source: SiPongi burn scar data; Global Forest Watch peatland layer.

Siak's recovery from the 2015 fires

Peat covers 57 percent of Siak. Fire burned 6,888 ha of the district in 2015 and 13,032 ha in 2016, and Siak became known as a haze district. Its answer was the Siak Hijau roadmap from 2016, set in Bupati Regulation No. 22 of 2018. Under Bupati Alfredri the district stopped new oil palm concessions and natural timber logging, and promoted peat-friendly crops such as sago and pineapple. From 2019 to 2026 it burned 0.66 percent of its land, the least of any peat district in Riau and the second least of 23 in Sumatra and Kalimantan.

Peat governance under Bupati Afni Zulkifli

In April 2026 Bupati Afni Zulkifli brought 40 general managers of concession companies to sign a fire prevention integrity pact. She asks that fire risk be judged by peat hydrological unit (KHG), not by hotspot counts. Siak watches peat groundwater with gauges costing about Rp600,000. When a reading turns red the Bupati calls the village head and the canals are blocked. Clearing peat needs a recommendation from a water management expert.

Recovery goes with prevention. Siak planted 5,050 seedlings in July, and in October the Bupati planted forest trees on burned land at Tanjung Buton so it returns to forest rather than oil palm. Siak declared zero firespots on September 13, with 273 ha burned for the year.

Sources and method

Burned area. SIPONGI KEMENHUT, burned area by kabupaten 2015 to 2026, accessed on October 24, 2026; 2026 covers January to July. District land area from geoBoundaries IDN ADM2.

Peat. Global Forest Watch, Global peatland extent v20230315, used for peat share only because it overstates peat in total. Peers have a peat share within 5 points, or a quarter, of the member.

The other eight members

Musi Banyuasin, the other peat member, has made the largest gains in absolute terms. Its burned area fell from 40,256 ha in 2015 to 4,255 ha in 2023, a drop of 89 percent against 71 percent for its peat peers. Its El Niño burning still runs above its peers. BPBD reported about 1,000 ha burned by October 20, mainly in Bayung Lencir and Sekayu, where water for suppression is short.

In Kalimantan Barat, Kapuas Hulu burns less than two in three of its peers and has burned 450 ha so far in 2026. Sanggau and Sintang burn more than their peers in El Niño years. Sanggau's burned area grew from 468 ha in 2015 to 7,490 ha in 2023, and BPBD counted 1,340 hotspots across 15 kecamatan by late July 2026. Sintang sets rules for community land clearing in Bupati Regulation No. 57 of 2018 and has burned 140 ha this year.

Aceh Tamiang has burned 100 ha or less in every year since 2015. Its pressing hazard is flooding, and it is still rebuilding after the floods of late 2025.

Sigi, Gorontalo and Bone Bolango have little peat and burn little. Sigi keeps 70 percent of its area as forest. Gorontalo burned 112 ha by July, more than its peers this year. Drought is the larger pressure, and by mid-October it reached 44 villages in Bone Bolango and 40 in Gorontalo.

Siak. InfoPublik, April 28 and October 4, 2026; Industry.co.id on Siak Hijau; Kontan, January 22, 2025; Kompas Lestari, August 25, 2025; Good News From Indonesia, October 2026.

Other members. Metro TV, October 19 and 20, 2026; RRI, August 1, 2026; IPDN Journal on Sintang; RM.id, December 31, 2025; Mongabay Indonesia, July 14, 2021.