

**RSPO**  
Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

## HCV Toolkit for Smallholders: Relevance in a rapidly changing landscape, Tripa, Aceh, Indonesia

 **RT10** Resorts World  
2012 Singapore  
AN EVENT BY **RSPO**

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 CERTIFIED SUSTAINABLE PALM OIL  
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Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil

## Context (1)

Project developed to: *establish a palm oil estate according to RSPO Principles and Criteria on semi-degraded, unproductive land in Aceh Province, Indonesia (resolution at GA3, 2006)*

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## Context (2)

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At GA5 a second resolution passed whereby the RSPO would take action to help stop the destruction of the Tripa peat swamps by oil palm companies.



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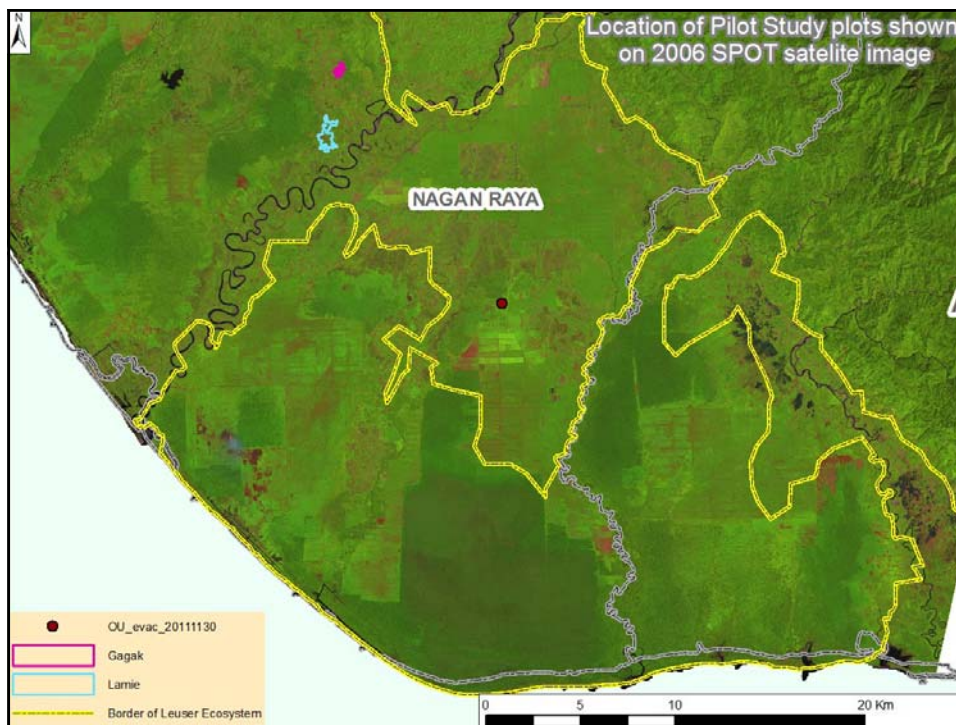


## Location:

- Smallholder Oil Palm Pilot Study following RSPO P&C developed on degraded mineral soils, outside but close to Tripa peat swamps on west coast of Aceh, Sumatra.
- Supporters include: PanEco Foundation, YEL, ICRAF, PT Socfindo, LESOS, BACP, Cordaid, Yves Rocher

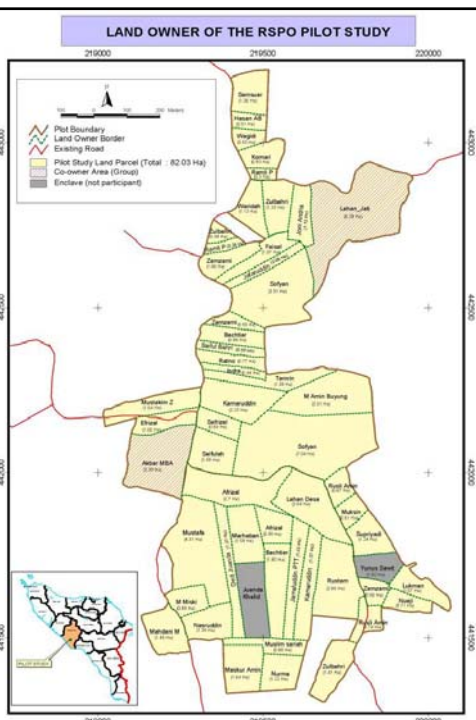


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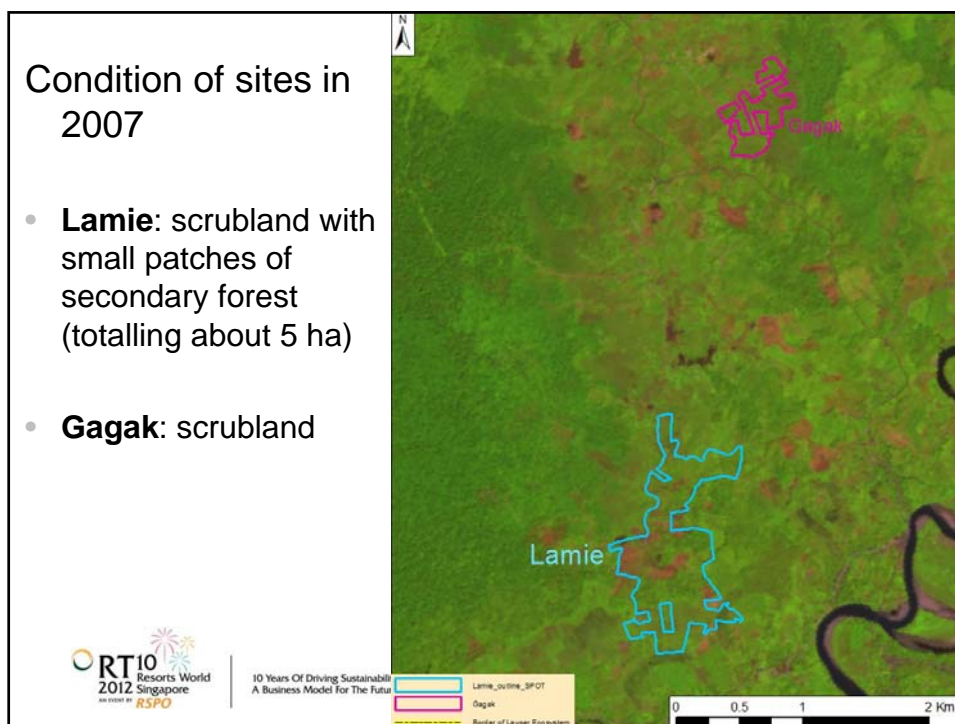


2 sites:

- **Lamie:** 45 smallholders with 67 ha planted (oil palm) and growing, with 2.3 ha of “conservation forest” set aside by mutual consent of smallholders.
- **Gagak:** 15 smallholders and 22 ha planted with oil palm, rubber, mahogany and banana.



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## Environmental / HCV Surveys

- Baseline survey: Nov/Dec. 2008
- Follow-up surveys: Nov. 2010; Apr. 2011
- Next planned: Dec. 2012.
- Surveys included: Mammals, birds, reptiles/amphibians, insects, flora, soil and water quality.

## Major findings:

- Some protected/threatened species found to occur in sites:
  - 3 *Nepenthes* spp.;
  - Large Green Pigeon, *Treron capelli* (IUCN Vu; only seen in 2008);
  - Whitehead's spiny rat, *Maxomys whiteheadi* (IUCN Vu);
  - Malayan porcupine, *Hystrix brachyura* (IUCN LC, major pest of young palms).
  
- Bird diversity has declined over period of surveys:
  - In 2008, 13 Vu or NT species encountered
  - In 2011, 5 Vu or NT species encountered



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## HCV Assessment Conclusions:

- Sites have limited HCV, but if “conservation forest” maintained, existing values should be saved.
  
- Bird diversity decline almost certainly linked to habitat conversion in the wider surrounding landscape, including increased use of chemicals in agriculture.



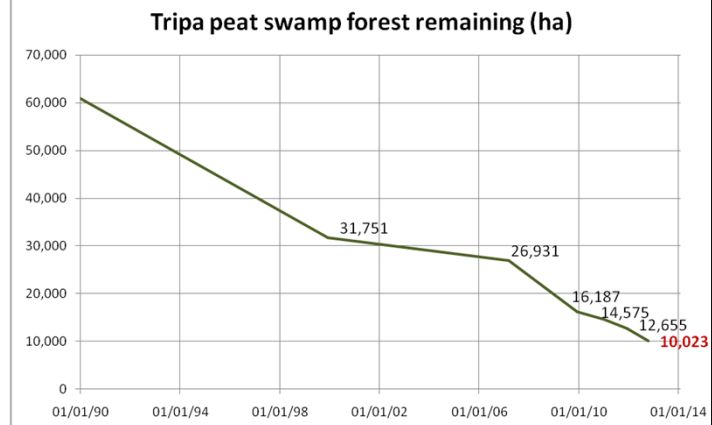
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## Changes in Wider Tripa Landscape

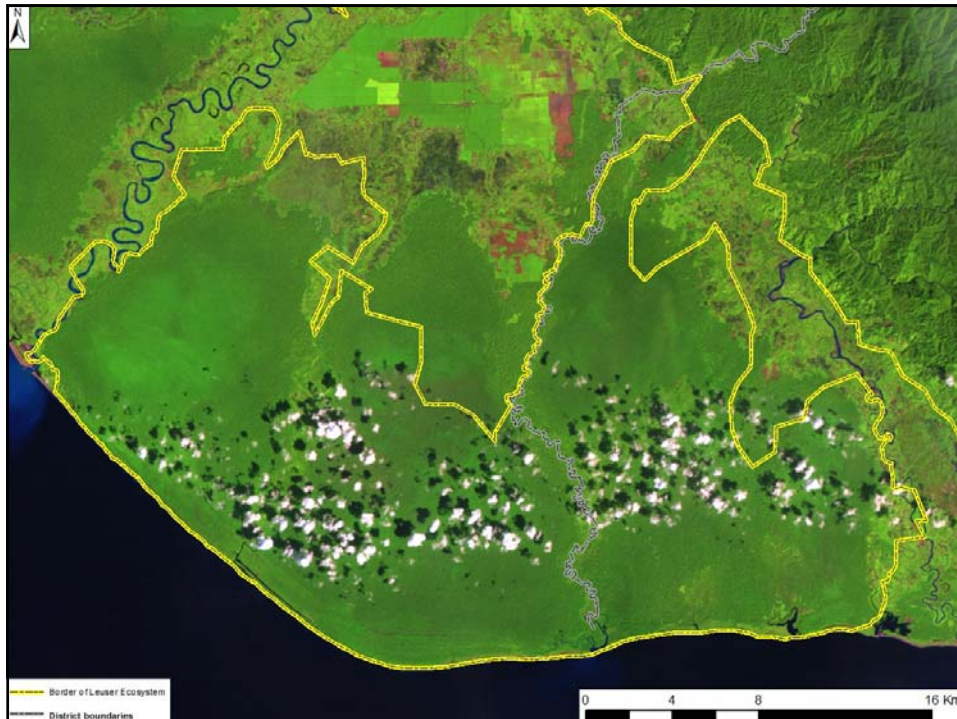
### Forest cover

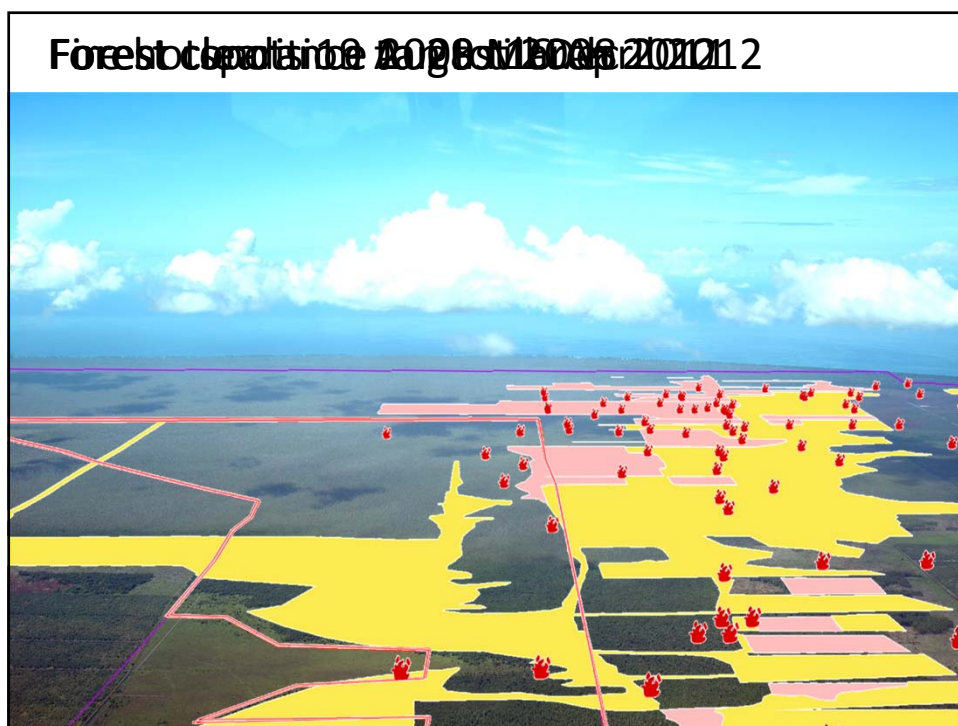
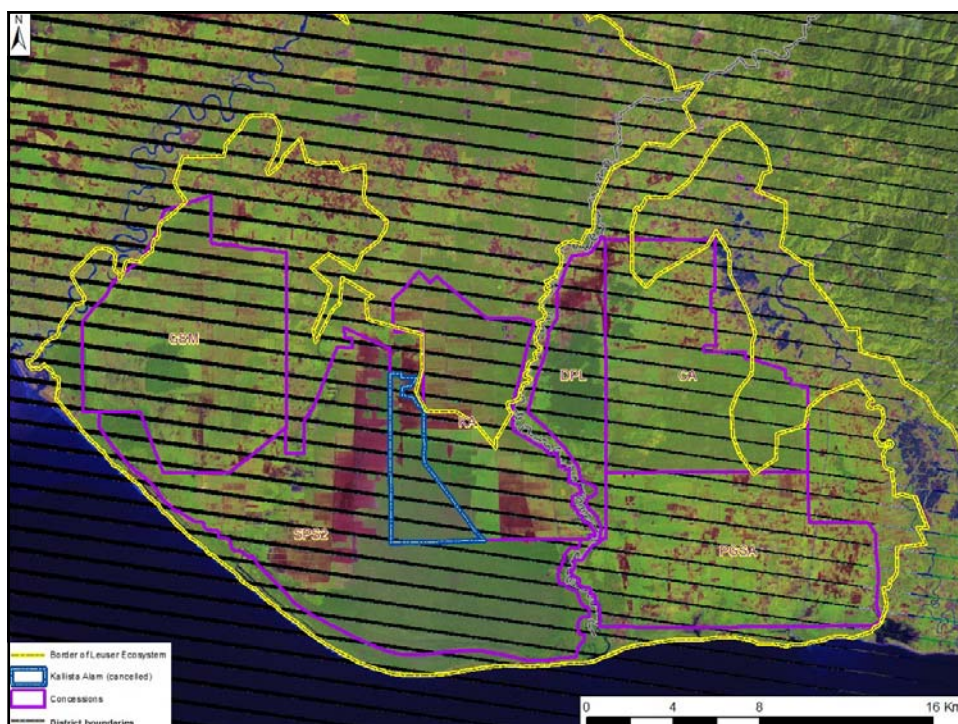
**21 Dec 1989:**  
**60,994 ha**

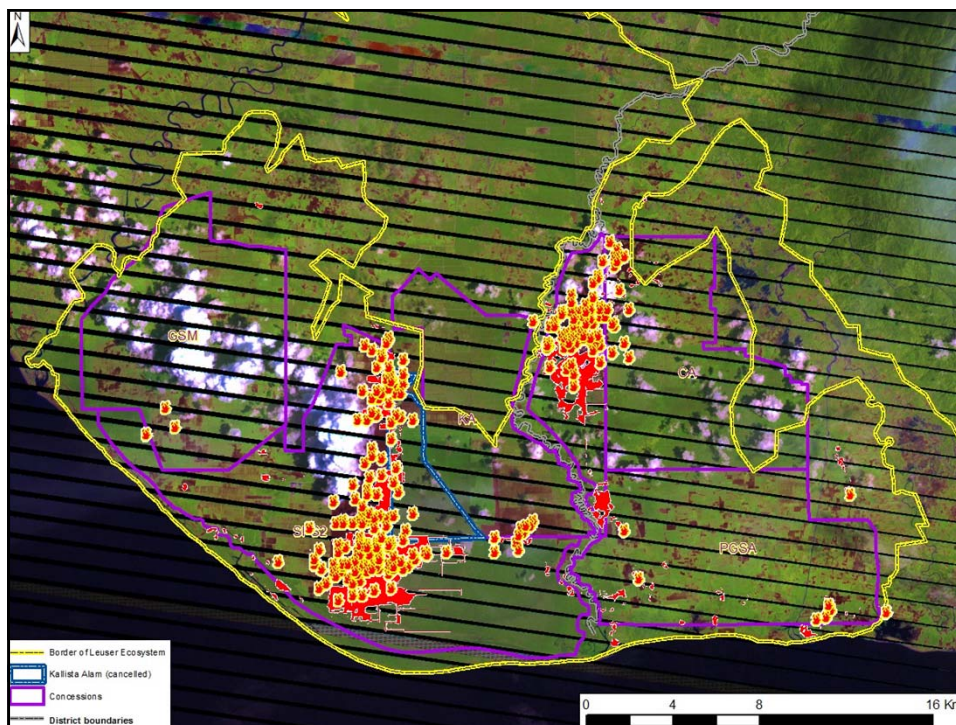
**9 Oct 2012:**  
**10,023 ha**



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## Forest loss in Tripa 2012

Concession/Area	Kabupaten/District	Luas (Ha)	%
PT.Surya Panen Subur 2	Nagan Raya	1524	57.9%
PT Dua Perkasa Lestari	Abdya	735	27.9%
PT Kallista Alam (cancelled concession)	Nagan Raya	136	5.2%
Non concession areas	Nagan Raya and Abdya	117	4.4%
ex PT Patriot Guna Sakti Abadi	Abdya	92	3.5%
PT Cemerlang Abadi	Abdya	29	1.1%
<b>Total</b>		<b>2632</b>	<b>100%</b>



## Fire hotspots in Tripa in 2012

Mth.	Outside HGU	PT Gelora Sawita Makmur	ex PT Patriot Guna Sakti Abadi	PT Kallista Alam	PT Cemerlang Abadi	PT Kallista Alam (cancelled concession)	PT Dua Perkasa Lestari	PT Surya Panen Subur 2	Total
Jan	1				2		1		4
Feb				1				5	6
Mar	1				2	9	9	82	103
Apr									0
Mei				3			2		5
Jun	2			3	7	9	25	32	78
Jul	1	1		1		1	4	13	21
Agu	1		2		1		5	1	10
Sep		1	4		3		19	1	28
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>255</b>

All oil palm companies in Tripa have broken laws: using fire....





The last remaining critically endangered Sumatran Orangutans become trapped and isolated, and eventually die if not rescued.



**Global public opinion has prompted Government to act in cancelling one permit and investigate other companies operating in Tripa:**



**Court grants Walhi appeal, cancels plantation permit in Aceh**

Sita W. Dewi, The Jakarta Post, Jakarta | Archipelago | Wed, September 05 2012, 9:05 PM



**REDD+ Task Force Hails Medan Court Decision on Rawa Tripa Case.** *Jakarta, September 6, 2012*



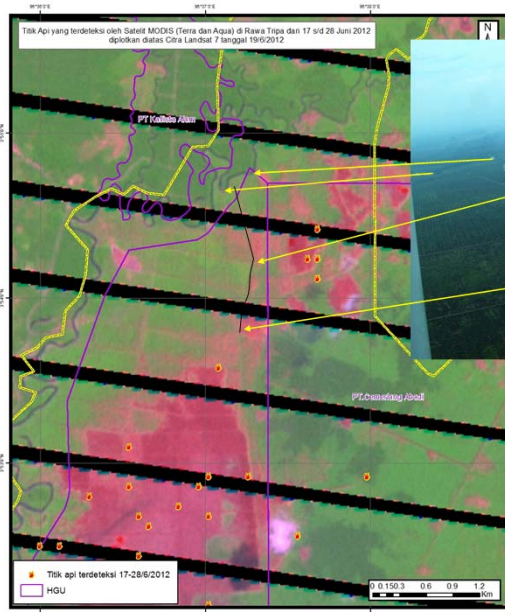
**Walhi Scores Big Win Over Illegal Permit** Fidelis E. Satriastanti | September 06, 2012

- Permit illegally issued by previous Governor in August 2011 has now been revoked by new Governor
- In the field, companies fighting back with intimidation. Government fact-finding team refused access (2 weeks ago). In past companies have illegally used Mobile Police (Brimob) and Army (TNI) for “security”.
- Ministry of Environment investigators and National Police currently conducting civil and criminal investigations into at least 2 companies
- Evidence collection ongoing



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### Cross-referencing of aerial photographs with sat images



This photo looks NNE up the border between the Dua Perkasa Lestari concession (left) and the northern part of the Cemerlang Abadi concession (right). Beyond the river in the distance is part of the Kallista Alam concession.

The black line on the map shows the line of the canal/road visible in the photograph. The yellow arrows provide reference points on the map. The yellow line is the border of the Leuser ecosystem, and all the area except on the far right of the picture (behind the smoke) is in Leuser ecosystem.

Prior to 2008, this area was all covered by peat swamp forest. Clearing began in 2008, and is now virtually complete (this can be shown from Satellite images).

The forest remnants (appearing as dark green on the Landsat 7 satellite image (dated 19/6/2012), are in the right foreground but hidden by smoke.

The whole open area visible is "cleared peatland forest".



Collecting evidence  
of peat depths in  
June 2012

>5m (filmed by NBC)

- Current public perception of oil palm industry is “one” industry dominated by Indonesia and Malaysia. Already abundant evidence continues to mount of rampant malpractice in the field.
- If unchecked by swift and rigorous legal action, current lawless practices of some Indonesian oil palm producers threatens to derail credibility of “sustainable palm oil”.
- Companies and smallholders trying to follow “best practices” in danger of being tarred with the same brush.

- Some signs of hope: Ministry of Environment investigators and National Police currently conducting civil and criminal investigations into at least 2 companies in Tripa

But,

- Agency most responsible for regulating the oil palm growers in Indonesia, the Ministry of Agriculture, has not made any attempt to curb malpractices in Tripa.
- GAPKI has also remained silent about actions of its member companies in Tripa



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- PanEco continues to support smallholders at Lamie and Gagak, and is seeking a specialist buyer looking for a unique (organic) product.
- Environmental monitoring of the pilot study sites also continues to identify benefits conferred by “conservation forest” and organic practices

But

- Time running out for Tripa. Failure to act now could leave a lasting scar on the credibility of the palm oil industry as a whole and of any “sustainable” palm oil product.



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### **Final Comment**

- Attempts to maintain biodiversity via HCVF at the smallholder scale (e.g. the palm oil pilot study) is rendered insignificant and inconsequential in the context of environmental conservation generally when landscape scale devastation such as ongoing in Tripa, is able to proceed unpunished.

THANK YOU