

Asia Pulp and Paper (APP) is in reality a nebula of companies, linked by [a complicated and un-transparent corporate structure](#). Some of these companies are included in the Sinar Mas conglomerate, while some of them are formally independent, but still controlled by the Widjaya family, and operating within a single commercial strategy. Asia Pulp and Paper's corporate associations are purposely kept hidden, possibly for commercial or fiscal reasons, but also [to deny links with deforestation](#) or [to keep using the FSC certification](#) after having been banned by that standard. This un-transparent structure has been also used [to avoid the payment of its 13.9 billion of debt](#) when it defaulted in 2001.

On May 30, 2018, Auriga, an environmental organization, reported PT Bumi Mekar Hijau and PT Sebangun Bumi Andalas Wood Industries, which APP claimed are “independently owned and operated”, [actually have apparent close links with the Sinar Mas Group](#), APP's parent conglomerate on their corporate registry documents. The case was further investigated by the forest portal Mongabay, [bringing more evidence](#).