

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT OF JOHOR FMU
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

Date of Public Summary: December 2003

Certification Body

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)
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Assessor

The assessment and verification for forest management certification of Johor FMU were conducted by an independent assessor registered with MTCC:

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Assessment Team

Assessment:

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Verification:

Mr. Salahudin Yaacob (Lead auditor)
Mr. Kishokumar Jeyaraj

Date of Assessment

Assessment: 22-26 October 2001
Verification: 24-28 February 2003

1. INTRODUCTION

To qualify for the award of the *Certificate for Forest Management* under the MTCC timber certification scheme, a forest management unit (FMU) must comply with the requirements of the *Malaysian Criteria, Indicators, Activities and Standards of Performance for Forest Management Certification [MC&I]* based on an assessment conducted by an independent assessor registered with MTCC. This Public Summary contains general information on the FMU, the assessment process and certification decision under the MTCC scheme, as well as information on the Corrective Action Request (CAR) raised during the assessment. Maintenance of the Certificate will be dependent upon the ability of the FMU to continue comply with the requirements of the *MC&I* to be verified through surveillance visits conducted once annually.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Name of the Forest Management Unit (FMU)

Johor FMU

2.2 Manager of the FMU

Hj. Mat Salleh Tambong

2.3 Contact Address

State Forestry Department, Johor
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80000 JOHOR BHARU
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Website: -

2.4 Size of the FMU (Gazetted Permanent Reserved Forest)

323,676 ha

2.5 Forest Resource

The total forested area in the Johor FMU amounts to 474,657 ha. Of this total, 356,922 ha were gazetted as Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF), 50,079 ha as national parks/wildlife reserves, and the remaining 67,656 ha categorized as Stateland Forest. The PRF comprises 316,150 ha of Dry Inland Forest, 3,796 ha of Peat Swamp Forest, 16,658 ha of Mangrove Forest and 20,318 ha of plantation forest.

3. ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CERTIFICATION DECISION

The assessment process used is as stipulated in the MTCC document entitled *Procedures in MTCC Timber Certification Scheme*.

The assessment of the Johor FMU for forest management certification was conducted on 22-26 October 2001 by an assessment team comprising of five auditors from SGS (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. [“SGS”]. The scope of the assessment was confined to forests located in the PRF of the Johor FMU.

As a result of the forest management assessment, the auditors had identified several aspects of the forest management practices which were deemed not in compliance with the *MC&I*, resulting in the issuance of a total of one Major and six Minor CARs.

The Johor FMU Assessment Report [Ref: F122_128 dated 30 August 2002] prepared by SGS incorporating the comments of the Client and two Peer Reviewers, together with the Evaluation Report prepared by the MTCC management were tabled for the consideration and decision of MTCC’s Certification Committee during its Fourth Meeting on 23 January 2003.

Based on the recommendations made by SGS as the independent assessor, and those by the MTCC management in its Evaluation Report, the Committee agreed that the Johor FMU had not fully complied with the requirements of the *MC&I* and was therefore not eligible to be awarded with the *Certificate for Forest Management*.

The Johor State Forestry Department was therefore requested to take the appropriate actions to address the Major and Minor CARs raised and inform MTCC once actions have been taken so that verification by the independent assessor to close-out the Major CAR could be undertaken.

The verification of corrective actions taken by the Johor State Forestry Department to address the Major and Minor CARs raised was undertaken by SGS on 24-28 February 2003.

Based on the Verification Report [Ref: F122_205 dated 28 August 2003], one Major and three Minor CARs were closed-out, three Minor CARs remained outstanding and three new Minor CARs issued. Though there were still six Minor CARs (comprising three outstanding and three new Minor CARs), these Minor CARs do not prohibit the FMU from being recommended for certification.

There being no Major CARs, SGS has recommended that the Johor FMU be eligible for the *Certificate for Forest Management* to be issued by MTCC.

Based on the verification carried out by SGS and SGS’s recommendation to issue the *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Johor FMU, the MTCC Certification Committee during its Fifth Meeting on 18 September 2003 decided to award the *Certificate* to Johor FMU. The *Certificate for Forest Management* bearing certificate No. **FMC 004** dated 6 October 2003 will be valid for five years, with surveillance visits carried out once annually to ensure continued compliance to the requirements of the *MC&I*.

A summary of the CARs raised and their closed-out details is shown in **Table 1**.

Table 1: Summary of Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Closed-out Details

CAR No.	Criterion	Indicator	Status of CAR	Nature of CAR	Close-Out Details
JOH-001	1: Enabling Conditions for Sustainable Forest Management	1.1 Existence of a framework of laws, policies and regulations	Minor	Non-recognition of overlapping gazettement of PRF and Wildlife Reserve areas [(e.g. Endau-Kluang Wildlife Reserve (WR), Endau Kota Tinggi WR and Segamat WR)].	Johor State Forestry Department has communicated with relevant authorities such as the State Land Office and Wildlife Department to resolve this issue. List of areas overlapping and map showing the location of overlapped areas is available. Minor CAR JOH-001 remains outstanding.
JOH-002	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.1: Estimate of level of sustainable harvest for each main wood and non-wood forest product for each forest type	Minor	Lack of evidence to demonstrate availability of 32 sound commercial trees above 30 cm dbh following harvest.	Summary of Post Felling inventory results conducted in year 2001 and 2002 showed consistent availability of at least 32 residual trees after harvest. Verification of Pre-Felling and Post-Felling Forest Inventory results showed reliability of the results. Sample plots established in areas recently harvested demonstrate consistent availability of at least 32 residual trees per hectare. Minor CAR JOH-002 was closed-out on 28 February 2003.
JOH-003	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Major	Inconsistency in documenting and implementation of pre-harvest plan which does not adequately reflects pre-determined skid trails. Field implementation differed from harvest plan. Monthly monitoring report and closing reports prepared also failed to reflect actual ground condition and demonstrate requirement to the maximum 30% area loss.	Pre-harvest plan showed predetermined skid trails which is pegged on the ground. Details in the pre-harvest plan allow calculation of area loss. Implementation on the ground similar to plan and evidence of deviation made is prior approved, justified and well documented. Major CAR JOH-003 was closed-out on 28 February 2003.

JOH-004	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.7: Availability and implementation of guidelines for reduced/low impact logging to minimise damage to residual stand	Minor	Reduced impact logging for harvest planning, harvest operation and post-harvest operation are not adequately implemented. No demonstration of implementation of reduced/low impact system of harvesting in hill forest areas as there was no measure of 30% area loss and field operations differed from harvest plan.	There was evidence of implementation of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) elements in harvest planning, harvest operation, and post-harvest operation particularly in reducing soil erosion and maintenance of water quality. Area loss is consistently below 30%. Minor CAR JOH-004 was closed-out on 28 February 2003.
JOH-005	4: Biological Diversity	4.1: Existence and implementation of procedures to identify endangered, rare and threatened species of forest flora and fauna	Minor	Procedures for identification, listing and monitoring for the protection of endangered, rare and threatened (RTE) species is inadequate.	No list of RTE species available at national level but a Committee has been formed to look into the matter led by Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM). Scientific studies are being conducted by various parties. Protected trees are identified and marked at logging block level. Minor CAR JOH-005 remains outstanding.
JOH-006	4: Biological Diversity	4.3: Existence and implementation of procedures for assessing changes of biological diversity of the production forests, compared with areas in the same forest type kept free from human intervention	Minor	Inadequate procedures and implementation for assessing changes of biodiversity in logged-over forests.	Project concept has been developed by the Forestry Department for analyzing biodiversity changes in logged over forest. Minor CAR JOH-006 remains outstanding.
JOH-007	5: Soil and Water	5.5: Availability and implementation of harvesting procedures: (a) to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery, and (b) to protect the soil from	Minor	Inadequate maintenance and implementation of road construction specifications particularly for soil erosion control measures.	Use of proper equipment for road construction and evidence of adequate implementation and maintenance of feeder road. Minimal blading of skid trails. Minor CAR JOH-007 was closed-out on 28 February 2003.

		erosion during harvesting operations			
JOH-008	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.1: Estimate of level of sustainable harvest for each main wood and non-wood forest products for each forest type	Minor	Inconsistent accuracy of Pre-Felling and Post-Felling Forest Inventory records.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.
JOH-009	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Minor	Inconsistent accuracy in recording and incorporation of infrastructure developed in the logging block, particularly skid trails, into the progress and closing report.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.
JOH-010	5: Soil and Water	5.5: Availability and implementation of harvesting procedures: (a) to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery, and (b) to protect the soil from erosion during harvesting operations	Minor	Inconsistencies in construction of cross drains, sumps, water bars to mitigate erosion in hilly areas as well as direct discharge of surface runoffs into stream.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.