

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT OF KEDAH 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 of Kedah FMU for forest management certification was conducted by an independent assessor registered with MTCC:

SGS (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. (“SGS”)
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Assessment Team

Assessment:

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Verification:

Mr. Salahudin Yaacob (Lead auditor)
Mr. William Maynard

Date of Assessment

Assessment: 28 October – 1 November 2001
Verification: 6-10 April 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)

Kedah FMU

2.2 Manager of the FMU

Mr. Che Hashim Hassan

2.3 Contact Address

State Forestry Department, Kedah
8th Floor, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Halim
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Email: ppnked@forestry.gov.my
Website: <http://kedforestry.cjb.net>

2.4. Size of the FMU (Gazetted Permanent Reserved Forest)

344,530 ha

2.5 Forest Resource

The total forested area of Kedah FMU amounts to 347,299 ha. Of this total, 344,530 ha were gazetted as Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF), with the remaining areas categorized as Stateland Forest. The PRF comprises 333,809 ha of Dry Inland Forest, 8,257 ha of Mangrove Forest and 2,464 ha of plantation forest.

3. ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CERTIFICATION DECISION

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

The assessment of the Kedah FMU for forest management certification was conducted on 28 October to 1 November 2001 by an assessment team comprising of four auditors. The scope of the assessment was confined to forests located in the PRF of the Kedah 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 three Major and four Minor CARs.

The Kedah FMU Assessment Report [F122_130 dated 16 July 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 Third Meeting on 29 August 2002.

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 Kedah 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 Kedah 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 three Major CARs raised could be undertaken.

The verification of corrective actions taken by the Kedah State Forestry Department to address the Major and Minor CARs raised was undertaken by SGS on 6-10 April 2003.

Based on the Verification Report [Ref: F122_218 dated 28 August 2003], three Major and three Minor CARs were closed-out, a Minor CAR remained outstanding and an additional four Minor CARs were issued. Though there were still five Minor CARs (comprising one outstanding and four 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 Kedah FMU be eligible for the *Certificate for Forest Management* to be issued by MTCC.

Based on the verification conducted by SGS and SGS's recommendation for the issuance of the *Certificate for Forest Management*, the MTCC Certification Committee during its Fifth Meeting on 18 September 2003 decided to award the *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Kedah FMU under the MTCC scheme. The *Certificate for Forest Management* bearing certificate No. **FMC 005** dated 6 October 2003 will be valid for 5 years, with surveillance audits carried out once annually to ensure continued compliance to the *MC&I*.

A summary of the CARs raised and their closed-out details is as 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
KED-001	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	Major	Lack of demonstration that annual volume removed is less than the Mean Current Annual Increment (MCAI) stated to be based on annual average or as described in the Forest Management Plan (FMP). Similarly, lack of demonstration that residual trees above 30 cm dbh remain after harvest is more than 32 trees/ha.	A new policy to limit extraction rates from regulated forest is in place. Post-Felling inventory showed consistent availability of at least 32 residual trees per hectare and the results of post-F were found to be reliable. Major CAR KED 001 was closed-out on 10 April 2003.
KED-002	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.2: Quantity (volume) of wood and important non-wood forest products harvested for each forest type	Minor	Production data of non-timber forest products and mangroves are not available.	Production data of non-timber forest products and mangroves were made available. Minor CAR KED-002 was closed-out on 10 April 2003.
KED-003	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Major	Inconsistencies in recording and implementation of pre-harvest plans which should demonstrate compliance to the <i>MC&I</i> requirement reflecting pre-determined skid trails, area loss below 30% and harvest estimate within sustainable level.	Pre-harvest plans contain pre-determined feeder road, skid trails, log landings which allow for calculation of area loss. Estimate of area loss calculation made in the pre-harvest plan (RMH) was demonstrated to be consistently below 30%. Major CAR KED-003 was closed-out on 10 April 2003.

KED-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	Harvest planning, harvest operation and post harvest operations which reflects Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) are not adequately implemented.	<p>Procedures for RIL that include harvest planning, harvest operations were observed to be adequately implemented particularly on pre-determined skid trails, erosion controls during and after harvest.</p> <p>Minor CAR KED-004 was closed-out on 10 April 2003.</p>
KED-005	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.	<p>There are still inadequate procedures and implementation for assessing changes of biodiversity in logged-over forests. Though there is a lot of data being collected both at the pre-Felling and post-Felling stage, it is not clear how far these data are being fully analyzed or if the data sets collected are designed to be comparative.</p> <p>Minor CAR KED-005 remains outstanding.</p>
KED-006	5: Soil and Water	5.3: Percentage of length of edges of watercourses, waterbodies, mangroves and other wetlands protected by adequate buffer strips	Minor	Inadequate identification and protection of areas for conservation based on slopes > 40° and buffer zones for protection of riparian areas.	<p>It was observed during the verification exercise that areas > 40° slope and riparian zones were marked on the FMU, district forest map and the pre-harvest plan. Bufferzones were marked on the ground and no trees were tagged for harvest inside the bufferzone.</p> <p>Minor CAR KED-006 was closed-out on 10 April 2003.</p>

KED-007	5: Soil and Water	5.5: Availability and implementation of guidelines for forest road lay-out, including drainage requirements and conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers	Major	Inconsistent compliance to road specification especially on specification for camber, side drainage, erosion control, earthwork and slope protection as well as excessive blading of skid trails.	Feeder roads were constructed according to specifications especially on the requirement for camber, side drainage, erosion control, earth-work and slope protection. Efforts were made to pre-determine the skid trails and to peg the alignment on the ground. Major CAR KED-007 was closed-out on 10 April 2003.
KED-008	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 formal endorsement and implementation of national guidelines on maximum harvest level within regulated forest.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.
KED-009	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.2: Quantity (volume) of wood and important non-wood forest products harvested for each forest type	Minor	Lack of baseline data to prove annual volume of Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFPs) harvested is less than annual increment.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.
KED-010	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Minor	Lack of utilization of tree tagging card (tree location map) for locating skid trails and inconsistent pegging of skid trails on the ground.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.

KED-011	5: Soil and Water	5.5: Availability and implementation of guidelines for forest road lay-out, including drainage requirements and conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers	Minor	Inconsistency in implementing requirement for minimal blading of skid trails.	New Minor CAR raised during Verification.
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