

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT OF NEGERI SEMBILAN FMU  
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

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Date of Public Summary: December 2003

**Certification Body**

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)  
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**Assessor**

The assessment and verification of Negeri Sembilan FMU for forest management certification was conducted by an independent assessor registered with MTCC:

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**Assessment Team**

**Assessment:**

Dr. Kevin Grace (Lead auditor)  
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**Verification:**

Dr. Kevin Grace (Lead auditor)  
Mr. Salahudin Yaacob  
Ms. Aida Adnan

**Date of Assessment**

Assessment: 5-8 November 2001  
Verification: 15-17 April & 17-18 June 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)**

Negeri Sembilan FMU

### **2.2 Manager of the FMU**

Mr. Mahdan Bongkik

### **2.3 Contact Address**

Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department  
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### **2.4. Size of the FMU (Gazetted Permanent Reserved Forest)**

167,801 ha

### **2.5 Forest Resource**

The total forested area in the Negeri Sembilan FMU amounts to 171,697 ha. Of this total, 167,801 ha were gazetted as Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF) and the balance 3,896 ha categorized as Stateland Forest. The PRF comprises 162,058 ha of Dry Inland Forest, 204 ha of Mangrove Forest and 5,539 ha of Forest Plantations.

### **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 Negeri Sembilan FMU for forest management certification was conducted on 5-8 November 2001 by an assessment team comprising of four auditors from SGS. The scope of the assessment was confined to forests located in the PRF of the Negeri Sembilan FMU.

Based on 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 two Major and eight Minor CARs.

The Negeri Sembilan FMU Assessment Report [Ref: F122\_146 dated 22 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 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 Negeri Sembilan FMU has 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 Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department was therefore requested to take the appropriate actions to address the Major and Minor CARs raised and inform MTCC once action has been taken so that verification by the independent assessor to close out the two Major CARs could be conducted.

The verification of corrective actions taken by the Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department to address the Major and Minor CARs raised was undertaken by SGS on 15-17 April and 17-18 June 2003.

Based on result of the Verification [Ref: F122\_224 dated 15 September 2003], two Major and five Minor CARs were closed-out, three Minor CARs remained outstanding and a new Minor CAR issued. Though there were still four 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 Negeri Sembilan 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 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 Negeri Sembilan FMU under the MTCC Timber Certification Scheme. The *Certificate for Forest Management* bearing certificate No. **FMC 007** dated 6 October 2003 will be valid for five 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**

<b>CAR No.</b>	<b>Criterion</b>	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Status of CAR</b>	<b>Nature of CAR</b>	<b>Close-Out Details</b>
NS-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.	<b>Major</b>	Lack of demonstration of sustained yield based on annual volume removed is less than 61 m <sup>3</sup> /ha or a residual stand containing 32 sound commercial trees/ha.	Average level harvested in year 2001 and 2002 was less than 61 m <sup>3</sup> /ha. A new policy is in place to limit cutting to maximum 85 m <sup>3</sup> /ha in the productive area so that the net harvest is less than 61 m <sup>3</sup> /ha. Sample plots established in areas after harvest consistently showed availability of more than 32 trees/ha.  <b>Major CAR NS-001 was closed-out on 17 April 2003.</b>
NS-002	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans.	Minor	Inadequate planning and implementation of pre-determined skid trails, recording of deviation and determination of area loss due to harvest operation.	Pre-harvest plans contain predetermined feeder road, skid trails and location of matau, however not as on the ground. No evidence of pegging of skid trails alignment on the ground.  <b>Minor CAR NS-002 remains outstanding.</b>
NS-003	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans.	Minor	Monitoring reports were inadequate to verify progress and activities conducted by the logging contractor.	Monthly monitoring report contains progress map which record progress made by the loggers. Form A, B, C, D was completed. The map prepared for closed-out was found to be adequately reflective of actual ground condition.  <b>Minor CAR NS-003 was closed-out on 17 April 2003.</b>

NS-004	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.4: Existence of long-term projections, strategies and plans for production, including the use of tree plantations.	Minor	Inadequate long term projection of production and yield from production forests logged under SMS and MUS systems, plantation resources and non-wood forest products.	Long term projections of production and yield from production forests logged under SMS and MUS systems, plantation resources and non-wood forest products are adequately provided.  <b>Minor CAR NS-004 was closed-out on 17 April 2003.</b>
NS-005	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.7: Availability and implementation of guidelines for reduced/low impact logging to minimise damage to residual stand.	Minor	Harvesting planning and practices do not adequately reflect reduced impact to residual forest stands for areas under production.	Pre-harvest plan includes identification of non-productive areas, steep slope, bufferzone and road survey data. However the planning does not make use of tree block map for plotting roads and skid trail alignment. Inconsistent identification of old logging roads/skid trails on the pre-harvest plan. Evidence of inadequate tree tagging to reflect RIL and trees were felled into buffer zone, conservation and areas outside the licence area.  <b>Minor CAR NS-005 remains outstanding.</b>
NS-006	4: Biological Diversity  Keurhout Schedule of Conditions # (iv)	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.  Clearly defined procedures for reduced impact logging that minimises damage to the	Minor	Lack of adequate assessment and analysis of biodiversity changes occurring in the production forest following harvest.	There is evidence of trial analysis of pre-F and post-F data but require more baseline data on fauna, NTFPs etc at the level of individual FMU. Site specific details on baseline information and monitoring requirements to be included in Forest Harvesting Plan (RMH). Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department is planning to develop projects for analyzing biodiversity changes in logged over forest.  <b>Minor CAR NS-006 remains outstanding.</b>

		residual stand based on prescribed limits and damage from forest road construction and appropriate slope limitations for specified harvesting techniques.			
NS-007	5: Soil and Water	5.1: Extent and percentage of total forest area managed primarily for the protection of soil and water.	Minor	Inadequacy in identifying very steep slope (above 40 degrees) or erodible areas to be protected before harvesting either at FMU level or logging block level.	Steep areas above 40° (C7 areas) are identified on the FMU map. Areas with steep slope exclude from harvest in the Forest Harvesting Plan (RMH). Directive, issued by State Director of Forestry to identify trees on areas above 40° slope as protected trees.  <b>Minor CAR NS-007 was closed-out on 17 April 2003.</b>
NS-008	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.  5.6: 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.	Major	Inadequate implementation of road guidelines procedures especially on requirement for camber, side drain, compaction, erosion control, earth work, slope protection and blading of skid trails.	Observations made in 5 licensed areas during the verification visit demonstrated adequate compliance to road specification and measures to mitigate erosion during and after harvesting. Feeder roads were with camber and proper drainage requirement. Water bars were constructed on skid trails and roads to mitigate soil erosion.  <b>Major CAR NS-008 was closed-out on 18 June 2003.</b>

NS-009	Keurhout Schedule of Conditions # (iv)	Clearly defined procedures for reduced impact logging that minimises damage to the residual stand based on prescribed limits and damage from forest road construction and appropriate slope limitations for specified harvesting techniques.	Minor	Lack of finalised Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) document for implementation throughout the FMU.	RIL document is in final form awaiting official endorsement and adoption.  <b>Minor CAR NS-009 was closed-out on 17 April 2003.</b>
NS-010	Keurhout Schedule of Conditions # (vii)	Give initial impetus for acceptable level of participation by local stakeholders, in particular the Orang Asli and NGOs, in the forest management process.	Minor	Lack of new initiative by the Forestry Department to actively address the concerns and provide for acceptable level of participation by local stakeholders in particular the Orang Asli and NGOs, in the forest management process.	Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department has undertaken active dialogue with the Orang Asli and local communities that are long term residents of forest reserve areas. The State Forestry Department is in the process of verifying areas occupied by the Orang Asli and local communities as well as in providing forest resources such as clean running water, petai, etc. The State Forestry Department is also planning to degazette long term encroached areas.  <b>Minor CAR NS-010 was closed-out on 17 April 2003.</b>
NS-011	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	Inconsistent accuracy of Post-Felling forest inventory data. Incorrect use of license area instead of net production area for calculation of limiting extraction rate of 85 m <sup>3</sup> /ha.	<b>New Minor CAR</b> raised during Verification.