

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

Date of Public Summary: August 2003

Certification Body

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)
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Assessor

The assessment and verification of Perak 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. Rick Gregory

Date of Assessment

Assessment: 8-13 October 2001
Verification: 10-14 March 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)

Perak FMU

2.2 Manager of the FMU

Dato' Azahar Muda

2.3 Contact Address

Perak State Forestry Department
Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang
30000 Ipoh

Tel: 605-2550020/2550021

Fax: 605-2553644

Email: azahar@forestry.gov.my

Website: <http://perhutanan.perak.gov.my/mukautama/hutanperak.html>

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

884,205 ha

2.5 Forest Resource

The total forested area in Perak FMU amounts to 1,050,225 ha. Of this total, 884,205 ha were gazetted as Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF), 117,500 ha designated as the Royal Belum State Park, 7,413 ha as Wildlife Reserve, and the remaining areas of 41,107 ha categorized as Stateland Forest. The PRF comprises two main natural forest types, namely 961,554 ha of Dry Inland Forest and 40,151 ha of Mangrove 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 Perak FMU for forest management certification was conducted on 8-13 October 2001 by an assessment team comprising of three auditors from SGS (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. ["SGS"]. The scope of the assessment was confined to forests located in the PRF of the Perak FMU.

Based on the assessment, the auditors had identified several aspects of the forest management practices which were deemed not in compliance with the requirements of the *MC&I*, resulting in the issuance of three Major and five Minor CARs.

The Perak FMU Assessment Report [Ref: F122_114 dated 10 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 Perak 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 Perak State Forestry Department was therefore requested to take 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 could be conducted.

The verification of corrective actions taken by the Perak State Forestry Department to address the Major and Minor CARs raised was undertaken by SGS on 10-14 March 2003.

Based on the Verification Report [Ref: F122_209 dated 28 August 2003], three Major and three Minor CARs were closed out. As all the Major CARs had been closed-out, SGS recommended that the Perak FMU be eligible for a *Certificate for Forest Management* to be issued by MTCC.

Based on the verification carried out by SGS and SGS's recommendation, the MTCC Certification Committee during its Fifth Meeting on 18 September 2003 decided to award the *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Perak FMU. The *Certificate for Forest Management* bearing certificate No. **FMC 006** dated 6 October 2003 will be valid for five years, with surveillance visits carried out once annually to ensure continued compliance with the requirements of 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
PER-001	1: Enabling Conditions for Sustainable Forest Management	1.2: Degree of public participation in forest management, such as in planning, decision making, data collection, monitoring and assessment	Minor	Existing fora used to enable public participation in forest management is inadequate and formal proactive communication is lacking whereby communication occurs only after issues are raised.	<p>The evidence obtained by the audit showed that information was exchanged with the local community prior to harvesting. An active two-way communication was demonstrated between the forestry department and the community. A suitable forum is being used to facilitate the debate and settle disputes and records of communicative action were available for review.</p> <p>Minor CAR PER-001 was closed-out on 14 March 2003.</p>
PER-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	Major	Lack of demonstration of annual volume removed is less than the Mean Commercial 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.	<p>A new policy is in place to limit extraction rate from regulated forest to 61 m³/ha. Post-Felling forest inventory and sample plots established after harvest demonstrated availability of at least 32 residual trees per hectare. The verification of the Post-Felling forest inventory data showed that results were accurate and reliable.</p> <p>Major CAR PER-002 was closed-out on 14 March 2003.</p>
PER-003	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Major	Forest harvesting plans prepared are not adequate to reflect pre-determined skid trails, area loss below 30% and harvest estimate within sustainable level.	<p>It was observed that pre-harvest planning documents (RMH) contain pre-determined alignment of feeder roads and skid trails. The extent of skid trails and feeder roads are planned in such a way not to exceed the requirement. With pre-determined feeder roads, log landings and skid trails, the calculation of potential area loss in the whole area is now possible.</p> <p>Major CAR PER-003 was closed-out on 14 March 2003.</p>

PER-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 (RIL) 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 were no measure of 30% area loss and field operations differed significantly from harvest plans. Most of the skid trails were bladed which is contrary to the road guidelines and result in significant impact.	RIL guidelines in place, area loss is pre-determined, mitigation measures are being practised and a system to record progress has been implemented. Minor CAR PER-004 was closed-out on 14 March 2003.
PER-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 species are inadequate.	Various studies on wildlife and biodiversity have been conducted in Perak, especially as part of scientific expedition in Belum Forest Reserve. A scientific expedition to Matang mangrove forest was conducted between 20-25 October 2002 as part of an effort to compile the list of fauna and flora found in the area. Recently, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) has been entrusted to head a Committee to look into the issue. Minor CAR PER-005 remains outstanding.
PER-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.	Forestry Department Headquarters is planning to develop project for analyzing biodiversity changes in logged-over forest. A project concept for the study has been developed and being refined prior to implementation. Analysis of Pre-F, Post-F and VJR studies are on-going. In a joint-programme with FRIM, four plots have been established in Perak for inventory of biodiversity. Minor CAR PER-006 remains outstanding.

PER-007	5: Soil and Water	5.2: Extent and percentage of area to be harvested which has been defined as environmentally sensitive (e.g. very steep or erodible) and protected before harvesting	Minor	Areas above 40° slope within a production area are not identified and demarcated on the ground.	Any areas of high slope will not be licensed for harvesting. These areas will be marked on the map and excluded from production. Pockets of high slope area within the licensed area are not physically marked on the map and on the ground, but trees (above the cutting limit) will not be marked for felling. Some of these trees are marked as protected trees or seed trees. Felling of untagged trees is illegal and damage of protected trees or seed trees will be fined. Minor CAR PER-007 was closed-out on 14 March 2003.
PER-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	Major	Feeder roads were not constructed according to specifications especially on requirement for camber, side drainage, erosion control, earth work and slope protection.	Observation made during the visit in general showed the use of proper equipment for road construction which allows formation of road camber, effective side and cross drains as well as proper maintenance. Proper bridge and culverts were also evident across streams and waterways. Major CAR PER-008 was closed-out on 14 March 2003.
PER-009	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Minor	Inconsistent marking (or pegging) of proposed skid trail locations/alignment on the ground.	New Minor CAR raised during verification.
PER-010	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.3: Existence and implementation of: (a) forest management plans, and (b) forest harvesting (operational) plans	Minor	Inaccuracy in recording of infrastructures developed, particularly skid trails, in the logging blocks and their incorporation into progress and close-out reports.	New Minor CAR raised during verification.

PER-011	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.7: Availability and implementation of guidelines for reduced/low impact logging to minimise damage to residual stand	Minor	Inadequate training of staff and loggers on the concept and implementation of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) methods.	New Minor CAR raised during verification.
PER-012	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 of minimal blading of skid trails and construction of water bars (bunds) to mitigate soil erosion after harvest. Adequate and conscious effort must be made to ensure that skid trails constructed are pre-pegged on the ground based on topography and actual site condition. Water bars were evident however not consistently implemented in all areas.	New Minor CAR raised during verification.