

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT OF SELA'AN-LINAU FMU
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

Date of Public Summary: October 2004

Certification Body

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)
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The assessment and verification for forest management certification of Sela'an-Linau FMU was conducted by an independent assessor registered with MTCC:

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Assessment Team

Assessment:

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Verification:

Dr. Yap Son Keong (Lead Auditor)
Mr. Mohd. Basri Hamzah

Date of Assessment

Assessment: 16-22 March 2004
Verification: 2-5 August 2004

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)

Sela'an-Linau FMU

2.2 Manager of the FMU

Samling Plywood (Baramas) Sdn. Bhd.

2.3 Contact Address

Samling Strategic Corporation Sdn. Bhd.
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2.4. Size of the FMU

55,949 ha

2.5 Forest Resource

The FMU covers an area of 55,949 ha under Timber Licence No. T/0412 Sector A. About 72 % of the FMU is covered by Mixed Hill Dipterocarp Forest, with the remaining 28 % comprising of Kerangas and Montane Forests. Functionally, the FMU has been categorized into three classes, i.e. 17,082 ha or 31 % under Protection Forest, 34,068 ha or 61 % under Production Forest, and the remaining 4,799 ha or 8 % under Community Use.

3. ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CERTIFICATION DECISION

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

The assessment for forest management certification of the Sela'an-Linau FMU was conducted on 16-22 March 2004 by an assessment team comprising of three auditors from SIRIM QAS International Sdn. Bhd. ["SIRIM QAS"]. The scope of the assessment was confined to the forests located in the forest reserves located in Forest Timber Licence No. T/0412 Sector A covering an area of 55,949 ha.

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 requirements of the *MC&I*, resulting in the issuance of two Major and five Minor Corrective Action Requests (CARs).

Following the issuance of two Major CARs during the assessment, the Sela'an-Linau FMU undertook immediate corrective measures to rectify these major non-compliances. The verification of these corrective measures was conducted by a two-member assessment team from SIRIM QAS on 2-5 August 2004.

As a result of the verification, the assessment team was satisfied with the corrective measures taken by the FMU and hence decided to close-out the two Major CARs raised. There being no Major CARs, SIRIM QAS has recommended that the Sela'an-Linau FMU be eligible for the *Certificate for Forest Management* to be issued by MTCC.

The Assessment Report incorporating comments of the Client and two Peer reviewers as well as the results of the Verification for Sela'an-Linau FMU prepared by SIRIM QAS, together with the Evaluation Report prepared by the MTCC management were tabled for the consideration and decision of the MTCC Certification Committee during its Tenth Meeting held on 18 October 2004.

Based on the verification carried out by SIRIM QAS and SIRIM QAS's recommendation to issue the *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Sela'an-Linau FMU, the MTCC Certification Committee decided to award the *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Sela'an-Linau FMU under the MTCC Timber Certification Scheme. The *Certificate for Forest Management* bearing certificate No. **FMC 009** dated 18 October 2004 will be valid for five years and surveillance visits will be carried out annually to ensure the FMU's continued compliance to 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	Status/Close-Out Details
SEL-01	3: Flow of Forest Produce	3.7: Availability and implementation of guidelines for reduced/low impact logging to minimise damage to residual stand.	Minor	A large gap exceeding the acceptable 500 m ² was created during harvesting in Block 5. Marked potential crop trees (PCTs) that are to be protected were difficult to locate thus could be damaged during harvesting.	Minor CAR SEL-01 remains outstanding.
SEL-02	4: Biological Diversity	4.1: Existence and implementation of procedures to identify endangered, rare and threatened species of forest flora and fauna.	Minor	No markings of salt licks, mud flats, mud volcanoes, caves, pheasant dancing grounds, pig wallows, Banting wallows and rhinoceros wallows as specified in RIL guidelines.	Minor CAR SEL-02 remains outstanding.
SEL-03	4: Biological Diversity	4.2 Existence and implementation of guidelines to: (a) keep undisturbed a part of each production forest; (b) protect endangered, rare and threatened species of forest flora and fauna; and (c) protect features of special biological interest, such as seed trees, nesting sites, niches and keystone species.	Minor	Besides marking out terrains of Class IV and above for the protection of soil and water, selection of protection area in the Detailed Harvesting Plan has not taken into consideration wildlife habitat zonation as stated in the FMP.	Minor CAR SEL-03 remains outstanding.
SEL-04	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	No ecological plots in harvesting areas that are kept undisturbed for comparative study with logged-over forests. The FMU has permanent and temporary sample plots established in harvested areas. There is a need to establish ecological research plots as required by this Indicator.	Minor CAR SEL-04 remains outstanding.

SEL-05	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	The marked buffer belt along a permanent waterway in Block 5 was infringed with large volume of soil being pushed down to the buffer resulting in trees falling across the river. A large gap was created in the buffer belt.	<p>During the close-out assessment, the auditors were able to examine the buffer belts along the rivers and streams of Blocks 5 and 7. It was found that the buffer belts were clearly marked with white paint on trees at the boundary and were within the specified width except for a stretch in Block 7. Survey plans of these buffer belts were also made available to the auditors. These procedures are in conformity with the specification of <i>MC&I</i>. It was also observed that the fallen trees found within the buffer belt in MT2 of Block 5 documented during the main assessment had been cleared and the landslide causing erosion of earth into the river along this same trail had also been cleared and planting of Engkabang seedlings carried out by the FMU.</p> <p>Major CAR SEL-05 was closed-out 5 August 2004.</p>
SEL-06	5: Soil and Water	<p>5.6 Availability and implementation of harvesting procedures:</p> <p>(a) to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery, and</p> <p>(b) to protect the soil from erosion during harvesting operations</p>	Major	The construction of the skid trail in Block 5 did not adhere to the specifications of RIL. The skid trail exceeded the stipulated length of 1 km, with steep and high embankments. The trail was observed to deviate from the marked alignment in many stretches. Deep blading resulted in compaction of soil and excess soil being pushed to the edge burying trees.	All the new skid trails that had been established following the main assessment and those in the process of being opened for harvesting in Block 7 were examined by the auditors. Appropriate actions had been taken to reduce the amount of earth cutting along the skid trails except for one that was following part of an old trail. Less damage was observed on the marked residual trees as closer supervision was imposed. Under brushings and clear markings of the trails before the actual opening of the trails were also carried out in Block 7. Closed skid trails are now covered with debris and branches which could reduce erosion. The skid trail MT2 in Block 5 had been realigned to reduce its length to that specified under RIL and rehabilitation with

					the planting of Kapur seedlings was recorded by the auditors. Major CAR SEL-06 was closed-out 5 August 2004.
SEL-07	6: Economic, Social and Cultural Aspects	6.8 Extent to which forest planning and management practices and processes consider and recognise legal or customary rights with respect to indigenous people and local communities, forest dwellers and other forest-dependent communities.	Minor	<p>There needs to be a resolution of existing grievances and a harmonisation of the rights and claims of the indigenous communities in question and the needs of the FMU management. The continued existence of the blockade and the absence of a clear plan to resolve these issues merit a minor CAR.</p> <p>The Liaison Committee, currently includes only the communities within the FMU with the exception of the Ba' Pengaran communities. It should be extended to include the communities in the periphery as they are clearly stakeholders within the FMU. Specifically, the communities of Lg Sepigen, Lg Kerong, Lg Sait and Lg Sabai are to be included.</p>	Minor CAR SEL-07 remains outstanding.