

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF FIRST SURVEILLANCE VISIT OF SELA'AN-LINAU FMU FOR
FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

Date of Public Summary: December 2005

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Date of Surveillance Visit

10-18 October 2005

Result of Surveillance Visit

Based on the *Report of First Surveillance Visit of Sela’an-Linau Forest Management Unit for Forest Management Certification* [Ref: SQAS/FC/MTCC(FMC)-2 dated 14 December 2005], three Minor CARs were closed-out while two remained outstanding. The outstanding Minor CARs however, do not preclude certification, but the Sela’an-Linau FMU is required to take appropriate actions to address these CARs before the next Surveillance Visit.

As no Major CAR was raised during the First Surveillance Visit, SIRIM QAS has recommended that the *Certificate for Forest Management* issued to the Sela’an-Linau FMU be maintained.

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

Note: For general information on the FMU and the assessment process under the MTCC scheme, please refer to the “Public Summary of Assessment of Sela’an-Linau FMU for Forest Management Certification”.

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

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.	<p>Examination of Block 17, which was closed in March 2004 did not detect any large openings along main skid trails. Conditions of the skid trails were in conformance with the specifications of RIL requirements with cross drains and sediment traps constructed at appropriate places. Ground vegetation had also established except in small stretches with deeper blading. Improved skid trail construction was also observed in Block 18, which is undergoing active harvesting. The skid trails were found to be following pre-determined direction as marked out in the Detailed Harvesting Plan. Potential Crop Trees were found to be labeled and during skid trail construction these trees were not damaged.</p> <p>Minor CAR SEL-01 was closed-out on 18 October 2005.</p>
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.	<p>Salts licks had been marked out, mapped and protected in Blocks 10, 14 and 21. Camera trapping exercise had been conducted in these salt licks. To further protect these sites, a buffer belt of 50 m wide was established around each of the salt licks. These sites were away from the main roads or feeder roads.</p> <p>Minor CAR SEL-02 was closed-out on 18 October 2005.</p>
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	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.	<p>A map entitled "Forest Functions based on the Wildlife Conservation in T0412A" had been produced detailing the core protection zone, low-use production zone and production zones. Ongoing studies by Wildlife Conservation Society of New York (WCS) had established transects in the whole FMU for assessing sites of high animal activity. Subsequently a map showing these transect lines had been</p>

		flora and fauna; and (c) protect features of special biological interest, such as seed trees, nesting sites, niches and keystone species.			produced. Salts licks had also been identified, marked in maps and protected by the FMU. Minor CAR SEL-03 was closed-out on 18 October 2005.
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.	Based on the WCS Transition Phase Report (July 04 to June 05) recommendations were made to establish ecological plots in the FMU for long-term monitoring changes in logged and unlogged sites. This report further recommended that these plots could only be initiated in January 2006 following the preliminary assessment. Minor CAR SEL-04 remains outstanding.
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	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. 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.	Consultations were held with a majority of the local communities, mainly Penan, within and on the periphery of the FMU. FMU management documentation was also checked. In the majority of cases, it is clear that there has been due regard for legal and/or customary rights within the framework of the <i>MC&I 2001</i> , although there is room for improvement in community development programmes. The management of the FMU has respected the blockade and not made any attempts to breach it, or take it down, although its presence has meant that a large proportion of the FMU is inaccessible to operations. They have also made some approaches through third parties claiming to have a solution, but to no avail. The management of the FMU has thus far respected the blockade in not breaching it nor taking any actions against it, nor has it sought to increase the harvest elsewhere in the FMU. For these reasons, the auditors believe that the continued existence of the blockade merits a minor CAR, that is, a matter to be resolved rather than a major CAR, that is, a disqualification from forest certification for

				<p>breach of a major criterion.</p> <p>Currently, minutes of the Liaison Committee are extended to the local communities in English and Bahasa Melayu. In addition, it is recommended that in future minutes of Liaison Committee meetings be translated into local languages. It is further recommended that the proceedings of Liaison Committee meetings be taped (audio or video) and supplied to the local communities as documentary proof of the proceedings to settle claims of distortions or mistranslation, etc.</p> <p>During the Surveillance Visit, the situation with the blockade remains unchanged. The unmanned blockade continues to be respected by Samling Plywood (Baramas) Sdn. Bhd. Several attempts have been made to reach a mutually agreeable and beneficial outcome. As yet, there has been little progress. In January 2005 a letter signed by several Penan headmen requesting that MTCC withdraw the certificate awarded to Samling Plywood (Baramas) Sdn. Bhd. During the consultations with the local communities three of the headmen adopted the position that the request for withdrawal of certification should be put on hold pending further consultations.</p> <p>Actions had been taken to resolve the issues identified during the Main Assessment Report. Recommendation made to extend participation in the Liaison Committee meetings to specifically include the communities of Lg Sepigen, Lg Kerong and Lg Sait has been carried out. Lg Sabai continues to be left out, primarily for logistics reasons. It is recommended that, despite the difficult logistics, Lg Sabai should be included in the future, as should the communities of Ba Ajeng and Lg Kepang.</p>
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