

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF ASSESSMENT OF KEDAH FMU  
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION AGAINST THE REQUIREMENTS OF  
MC&I(2002)**

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Date of Public Summary: June 2008

**Certification Body**

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

The assessment of Kedah FMU for forest management certification against the requirements of the MC&I(2002) was conducted by an accredited certification body:

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**Assessment Team:**

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**Verification Visit:**

Dr. S. K. Yap (Lead Auditor)  
Dr. Rusli Mohd.

**Date of Assessment**

Assessment: 5-9 March 2006  
Verification Visit: 2-6 December 2007 & 18-19 February 2008

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

To qualify for the award of the *Certificate for Forest Management* under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) operated by MTCC, a forest management unit (FMU) must comply with the requirements of the *Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification* [or in short *MC&I(2002)*] based on an assessment conducted by an independent assessor accredited with the Department of Standards Malaysia, the national accreditation body (AB).

This Public Summary contains general information on the FMU, the assessment process involved, information on the Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised during the assessment and verification, as well as the decision on certification under the MTCS. Maintenance of the *Certificate* will be dependent upon the ability of the FMU to continue comply with the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)* to be verified through surveillance visits to be conducted annually.

## **2. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **2.1 Name of the Forest Management Unit (FMU)**

Kedah FMU

### **2.2 Manager of the FMU (Client)**

Mr. Kassim Osman  
Director

### **2.3 Contact Address**

State Forestry Department, Kedah  
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### **2.4. Size of the FMU**

342,613 ha

### **2.5 Forest Resource**

The Kedah Forest Management Unit (FMU) consists of 342,613 ha of Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF). Of the total PRF, 336,412 ha are classified as dry inland forests and the remaining 6,201 ha mangrove forests. Administratively, the Kedah FMU is being divided into three forest districts, namely the North, Central and South Kedah Forest Districts with North Kedah Forest District having the largest extent of forest totalling 114,647 ha.

The bulk of the PRF (i.e. 184,832 ha) is being classified as production forest to be managed on a sustainable basis with the balance being designated as protection forests for soil

conservation (23,291 ha), water catchment forest (121,904 ha), virgin jungle reserves (3,676 ha), recreational forest (2,274 ha), education forest (2,999 ha) and research forest (3,638 ha).

### **3. ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CERTIFICATION DECISION**

The assessment of the Kedah FMU for forest management certification against the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)* was conducted on 5-9 March 2006 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 overall forest management system and practices within the PRFs of the Kedah FMU.

Based on the assessment, the auditors had identified several aspects of the forest management practices which were deemed not in compliance with the *MC&I(2002)*, resulting in the issuance of four (4) Majors and fourteen (14) Minor Corrective Action Requests (CARs).

The draft *Report on Assessment of Kedah Forest Management Unit for Forest Management Certification* prepared by SIRIM QAS was subjected to the Client’s comment as well as a review process by two Peer Reviewers, and the outcome of which were submitted for the consideration of the assessor in finalizing the assessment report. The finalized Assessment Report [Ref: MF 06-005 dated 30 May 2007] prepared by SIRIM QAS incorporating the comments of the Client and two Peer Reviewers, were tabled for the consideration and decision of MTCC’s Certification Committee during its Thirty-Seventh Meeting on 18 July 2007. As 4 Major CARs were issued, the Committee concurred with the recommendation made by SIRIM QAS that the Kedah FMU was not eligible to be awarded a new *Certificate for Forest Management* against the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)*.

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 4 Major CARs could be undertaken.

The verification of Kedah FMU to address the Major and Minor CARs was conducted by SIRIM QAS on 2-6 December 2007 and 18-19 February 2008. As a result of the verification, a total of four Major and eight Minor CARs were closed-out. As the remaining six Minor CARs do not preclude the FMU from being recommended for certification, SIRIM QAS has recommended that the Kedah FMU be issued with a new *Certificate for Forest Management* against the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)*.

The *Report on the Verification of Kedah FMU for Forest Management Certification* [Ref: MF 06-005(1/08) dated 24 March 2008] was tabled for the consideration of the Forty-Eighth Meeting of the MTCC Certification Committee held on 4 June 2008. The Certification Committee concurred with the recommendation made by SIRIM QAS and agreed to issue a new *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Kedah FMU which will supersede the existing *Certificate* issued against the requirements of the *MC&I(2001)*.

The Committee also agreed that the new *Certificate for Forest Management* issued to the Kedah FMU will be valid for five years with surveillance visits carried out every twelve months to ensure continued compliance to the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)*.

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)**

CAR No.	Principle	Indicator	Status of CAR	Nature of CAR	Progress/Close-Out Details
KED-01	1: Compliance with Laws and FSC Principles	1.6.2: Policies or statements are communicated throughout the organisation and contractors, and are made available to the public.	Minor	Policies related to the requirements of the <i>MC&amp;I(2002)</i> have not been fully communicated throughout the FMU including the contractors, thus affecting their long-term commitment towards the implementation of these policies.	The staff members of the FMU have demonstrated improvement on their understanding of the requirements of <i>MC&amp;I (2002)</i> . However, this was not shown by all the workers of the logging contractors.  <b>Minor CAR KED-01 is maintained.</b>
KED-02	4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights	4.2.4: Forest managers should maintain up-to-date safety records in compliance with all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of forest workers.	Minor	Up-to-date safety records for contract forest workers were not maintained.	Logging contractors have yet to maintain records on safety and health of their forest workers. Fatality cases were recorded when accidents occurred.  <b>Minor CAR KED-02 is maintained.</b>
KED-03	4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights	4.2.5: Demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials.	Minor	There is no demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials.	Inspection of logging camps confirmed the practice of placing container under the outlet hose of each diesel storage tank to prevent fuel spillage. In Compartment 11C Rimba Teloi Forest Reserve refueling of field machinery was done through a mobile tanker, instead of the normal stationary fuel tanks.  <b>Minor CAR KED-03 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>
KED-04	6: Environmental Impact	6.5.2: Implementation of reduced/low impact logging to minimize damage to the environment.	<b>Major</b>	Implementation of RIL to minimize damage to environment not fully complied. Excessive earth work in road construction resulting in soil erosion and silting of forest streams.	Inspection of 10 feeder roads and 22 skid trails in 4 forest reserves indicated improvement in road construction in accordance with stipulated specifications. Side drains were constructed and excess soil during construction was made into

KED-05	6: Environmental Impact	6.5.3: Availability and implementation of guidelines for forest road lay-out and construction, including log landings and drainage requirements.	<b>Major</b>	Construction of roads had resulted in excess soil being pushed into buffers and stream.	<p>earth bunds along the length of these roads. Deviations in the alignment of skid trails from that marked by the Engineering Unit in Ulu Muda FR and Sungai Badak FR, have been submitted and approved by the State Forestry Department Director following the inspection by the Engineering Unit. The Forest Harvesting Plans had been amended to indicate the actual locations of all the skid trails. The density of roads was found to be within that specified by the Forestry Department. Water bars were also constructed along steep skid trails as specified by the Engineering Unit.</p> <p><b>Major CAR KED-04 was closed-out on 19 February 2008.</b></p>
KED-06	6: Environmental Impact	6.5.4: Availability and implementation of guidelines for conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers.	<b>Major</b>	Trees in buffer strips of waterways were felled and not cleared from these buffer strips.	<p>Earth bunds were constructed along the feeder roads using the excess soil from the road construction. Sediment sumps were also constructed along the steeper slopes together with side drains to channel excess water.</p> <p><b>Major CAR KED-05 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b></p> <p>Inspection of the buffer belts in Compartment 89A Ulu Muda Forest Reserve (FR), Compartment 47C Gunong Bongsu and Compartment 11C Rimba Teloi FR showed that buffer belts were marked 10 m from the streams. No activity was carried out within these belts.</p> <p><b>Major CAR KED-06 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b></p>

KED-07	7: Management Plan	7.1.1: Implementation of forest management plan prepared in accordance with existing regional guidelines and relevant provisions listed in Principle #1 covering items (a) to (i) in Criterion 7.1.	Minor	Not approved Forest Management Plan for period 2006-2015.	The finalized <i>Forest Management Plan 2006 to 2015</i> for the Kedah FMU covering the pertinent items was presented during the verification visit.  <b>Minor CAR KED-07 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>
KED-08	7: Management Plan	7.4.1: A summary of the primary elements of the forest management plan as prepared and implemented under Indicator 7.1.1 should be made available to the public.	Minor	No public summary of Forest Management Plan made available to the public.	The public summary for the <i>Forest Management Plan 2006 to 2015</i> is now available in the web page of the State Forestry Department <a href="http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/home/mc.asp">http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/home/mc.asp</a> .  <b>Minor CAR KED-08 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>
KED-09	8: Monitoring and Assessment	8.1.2: Forest managers should identify and implement appropriate monitoring procedures, in accordance with the scale and intensity of the forest management operations, for assessing social, ecological, environmental and economic impacts.	Minor	Social impacts component not included in the monitoring procedure.	A forum for discussing forest harvesting activities has been instituted at the district level through the District Development and Action Committee. Consultation with local communities affected by logging was conducted prior to the start of forest operation. However, this committee does not monitor but only discuss potential social issues related to forestry if and when they are brought up.  <b>Minor CAR KED-09 is maintained.</b>
KED-10	8: Monitoring and Assessment	8.2.1: Forest managers should gather the relevant information, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations, needed to monitor the items (a) to	Minor	Not all components required by Criterion 8.2 have been gathered by forest managers.	An inventory of the diversity of flora and fauna was conducted by the panel of experts from the universities, research institutions, NGOs and governmental agencies during the expedition to Ulu Muda in 2003. Water quality of selected rivers in the area was also determined. A Growth and Yield Plot had been

KED-11	8: Monitoring and Assessment	8.4.1: Forest managers should incorporate the results and findings of the monitoring activities into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan.	Minor	Results and findings of the monitoring activities not incorporated into the Forest Management Plan.	<p>established in Ulu Muda Forest Reserve together with 9 Growth Plots in 7 forest reserves and 4 Continuous Forest Inventory plots in 4 forest reserves had been established. Analysis of the growth plot data was completed and made available during the verification (<i>Analysis of Growth Plots Data for the State of Kedah June 2007</i>).</p> <p>However, there is still a lack of information related to the environmental and social impacts of forest harvesting operations, environmental and economic cost benefit analysis.</p> <p><b>Minor CAR KED-10 is maintained.</b></p> <p>In view that the FMP has been finalised and some of the monitoring activities have yet/just been initiated, it is proposed to close this Minor CAR. However, results of monitoring of all indicators as listed in Criterion 8.2 must be incorporated into the revision of the FMP.</p> <p><b>Minor CAR KED-11 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b></p>
KED-12	8: Monitoring and Assessment	8.5.1: A summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2, should be made available to the public.	Minor	Public summary of results of monitoring indicators are not available.	<p>The public summary has been made available in the web page of the State Forestry Department. In addition, information on HCVF and results of analysis of Growth Plots have also been placed on the website.</p> <p><b>Minor CAR KED-12 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b></p>

KED-13	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.2.1: Forest managers should provide the assessors with a list of relevant stakeholders who have been consulted regarding the HCVFs.	Minor	List of relevant stakeholders who had been consulted not made available.	Consultation with stakeholders and a list of these stakeholders have to be documented. The list has yet to be made available.  <b>Minor CAR KED-13 is maintained.</b>
KED-14	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.2.2: Forest managers should demonstrate that the forest management operations consider and protect areas of high conservation value in the PRFs for Peninsular Malaysia and forest management areas for Sabah and Sarawak.	<b>Major</b>	HCVF had not been considered and protected in the forest operations as specified under <i>MC&amp;I 2002</i> .	The need to protect HCVF and its attributes are documented under Section 5.5.1 of the Forest Management Plan. The action plan of the FMU on HCVF is outlined in the same document. An area of 14,712 ha in Pedu Forest Reserve has now been demarcated as an HCVF site in the FMU. A map indicating the boundary and compartments of the area is also made available.  <b>Major CAR KED-14 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>
KED-15	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.3.1: Measures to demarcate, maintain and/or enhance the HCVF attributes are documented in the forest management plan and effectively implemented.	Minor	Measures to demarcate, maintain and enhance HCVF attributes are not documented in the Forest Management Plan.	Specific measures to demarcate, document natural resources appropriate as attributes of HCVF and management prescriptions including monitoring are now available and incorporated under section 5.5.1 of the Forest Management Plan.  <b>Minor CAR KED-15 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>
KED-16	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.3.2: These measures should be included in the forest management plan summary made available to the public.	Minor	Public summary of the Forest Management Plan with HCVF measures not available.	The public summary of the Forest Management Plan has been made available in the web page of the State Forestry Department which includes a section on HCVF. The summary also includes an action plan to demarcate and maintain this site.  <b>Minor CAR KED-16 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>

KED-17	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.4.1: Forest managers should conduct, appropriate to scale and intensity of forest management operations, annual monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the measures in the management of the HCVFs in the PRFs for Peninsular Malaysia and forest management areas for Sabah and Sarawak.	Minor	No annual monitoring of HCVF.	As the HCVF site had just been established monitoring has yet to be carried out. This Minor CAR is maintained until the next surveillance visit.  <b>Minor CAR KED-17 is maintained.</b>
KED-18	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.4.2: Forest managers should incorporate the results and findings of the HCVFs monitoring activities into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan.	Minor	No monitoring of HCVF thus no incorporation of results in the Forest Management Plan.	In view that the HCVF site had just been established, monitoring has yet to be conducted and the fact that FMP has been finalised, it is proposed to close this Minor CAR. However, the results of monitoring of HCVFs would have to be incorporated into the revision of the FMP.  <b>Minor CAR KED-18 was closed-out on 6 December 2007.</b>