

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

Date of Public Summary: March 2008

Certification Body

Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC)
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Assessor

The assessment of Perak 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)
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Date of Assessment

Assessment: 7-8 and 11-15 September 2006
Verification Visit: 12-16 November 2007

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, 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)

Perak FMU

2.2 Manager of the FMU (Client)

Mr. Masran Md. Salleh
Director

2.3 Contact Address

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Perak State Forestry Department
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2.4. Size of the FMU

880,388 ha

2.5 Forest Resource

The Perak Forest Management Unit (FMU) consists of 880,387.89 ha of Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF). Of the total PRF, 839,085 ha are classified as dry inland forests and the remaining 41,302 ha are mangrove forests. The dry inland forest is being managed under the Selective Management System (SMS) following a 30 year rotation cycle while the management of the mangrove forest in Matang is guided by a 10 year Forest Working Plan. The Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the Perak FMU under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (2006-2010) as decided by the National Forestry Council amounts to 7,700 ha a year.

Administratively, the Perak FMU is being delineated into 5 forest districts, with the Hulu Perak Forest District having the largest extent of forest totalling 317,488 ha and the Kinta Manjung Forest District with the smallest area at 103,828 ha. A total of 117,500 ha of forests in Hulu Perak Forest District have been gazetted as Royal Belum State Park.

3. ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND CERTIFICATION DECISION

The assessment of the Perak FMU for forest management certification against the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)* was conducted on 7-8 and 11-15 September 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 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 *MC&I(2002)*, resulting in the issuance of three (3) Major and seventeen (17) Minor Corrective Action Requests (CARs).

The draft *Report on Assessment of Perak 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. After taking into consideration the comments made by the Client and the Peer Reviewers, the assessor has agreed to remove one Minor CAR related to assessment and demarcation on maps of HCVF. The finalized Assessment Report [Ref: MF 04003 dated 17 June 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 three Major CARs were issued, the Committee concurred with the recommendation made by SIRIM QAS that the Perak FMU was not eligible to be awarded a new *Certificate for Forest Management* against the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)*.

The Perak 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 a verification assessment by the independent assessor to close-out the three Major CARs could be undertaken.

The verification assessment of Perak FMU to address the Major and Minor CARs was conducted by SIRIM QAS on 12 - 16 November 2007. As a result of the verification assessment, a total of three Major and eleven Minor CARs were closed-out. As the remaining five Minor CARs do not preclude the FMU from being recommended for certification, SIRIM QAS has recommended that the Perak FMU be issued with a new *Certificate for Forest Management* against the requirements of the *MC&I(2002)*.

The *Report on the Verification Assessment of Perak FMU for Forest Management Certification* [Ref: MF 004003 dated 11 January 2008] was tabled for the consideration of the Forty-Fifth Meeting of the MTCC Certification Committee held on 19 February 2008. The Certification Committee concurred with the recommendation made by SIRIM QAS and agreed to issue a new *Certificate for Forest Management* to the Perak 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 Perak 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 close-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	Close-Out Details
PER-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 <i>MC&I</i> (2002) have not been fully communicated to the logging contractors and other stakeholders, thus affecting their long-term commitment towards the implementation of these policies.	The FMU had held further discussions with and conducted briefings for the field staff and logging contractors, as well as held meetings with the State Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) and Department of Environment. The field staff are now more aware of the specifications of <i>MC&I</i> (2002). Minor CAR PER-01 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-02	3: Indigenous Peoples' Rights	3.3.1: Availability of appropriate procedures within current administrative processes for identifying and protecting such sites and provisions for rights of access to these sites by indigenous people within relevant national and state legal frameworks or by mutual agreement.	Minor	Not all local communities were consulted on matters related to sites of ecological or religious significance prior to harvesting operation. This has resulted in damages to a burial ground of Orang Asli settlement in Kampung Tekam.	At the state level, there is now a map showing the locations of Orang Asli villages, which included water intake points, Orang Asli regroupment areas, forest reserve and roads, as well as a document containing information on community water supply projects within the forest reserves in Perak FMU. Documentation on cultural, ecological, economic or religious sites of the Orang Asli through formal and informal discussions with the communities was also available. Minor CAR PER-02 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-03	4: Community Relations and Worker's	4.2.4: Forest managers should maintain up-to-date safety records in	Minor	Up-to-date safety records for contract forest workers were not maintained.	The District Forest Offices of Kuala Kangsar and Hulu Perak had required the licensee to maintain a register of its

	Rights	compliance with all applicable laws and/or regulations covering health and safety of forest workers.			workers and a record of their health situation (<i>Daftar Perkerja dan Rekod Kesihatan</i>). Such register and records should be maintained and updated regularly for all districts of the FMU. Minor CAR PER-03 is maintained.
PER-04	4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights	4.2.4: Demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials.	Minor	There is no demarcation of suitable storage sites or provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials such as fuel and used engine oil.	A centralized diesel supply system had been instituted in Temenggor and Korbu Forest Reserves. An empty drum had been used to contain any spillage at the fuel pumps in the field. Minor CAR PER-04 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-05	4: Community Relations and Worker's Rights	4.4.1: Forest managers should evaluate, through consultations, social impact of forest operations directly affecting communities, and the people and groups directly affected by the forest operations should have access to information on the results of the social impact evaluations.	Minor	There is a lack of evaluation of social impacts of forest harvesting activities on local communities resulting in discontentment among the Orang Asli villages in Kg. Tekam.	During the verification the audit team confirmed that forest managers had consulted local villagers prior to the commencement of harvesting activities. Actions were taken to protect the interests of the communities and to ensure benefits for the local villagers. For villagers in Kg. Tibang, the informal social impact assessment took place before, during and after harvesting activities in 2007. A social impact assessment report was prepared by the Kuala Kangsar District Forest Office in 2007 for harvesting in Korbu Forest Reserve. The assessment included the consultation between the forest managers, the Orang Asli leaders in Legap Regroupment Scheme and the logging contractor. Minor CAR PER-05 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.

PER-06	5: Benefits from the Forest	5.3.2: Application of log extraction operations that minimize product wastage, degrade and foregone revenue opportunities.	Minor	Large sections of felled trees were left behind following harvesting resulting in wastage of resources.	<p>Inspection of the harvesting compartments of Temenggor, Bubu and Korbu Forest Reserves during the verification had noted this issue was addressed with all felled logs taken out from the forest.</p> <p>Minor CAR PER-06 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.</p>
PER-07	6: Environmental Impact	6.1.2: Assessment of environmental impacts are carried out, including the potential impacts on endangered, rare and threatened species of flora and fauna, and the need for biological corridors in the PRFs for Peninsular Malaysia and forest management areas for Sabah and Sarawak, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management.	Minor	The study on Environmental Impact Assessment has just been initiated with the signing of a contract with a consultant. It will only be completed early next year.	<p>An EIA report was presented during the verification and it had included consideration of rare, threatened and endangered species. Appropriate monitoring procedures for assessing ecological and environmental impacts had also been developed for implementation.</p> <p>Minor CAR PER-07 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.</p>

PER-08	6: Environmental Impact	6.5.2: Implementation of reduced/low impact logging to minimize damage to the environment.	Major	Implementation of RIL to minimize damage to environment not fully enforced in the construction and maintenance of feeder roads.	<p>During the verification, inspections conducted on 7 feeder roads and 13 skid trails in Temenggor Bubu and Korbu Forest Reserves indicated overall improvement in road construction and water dispersion system. There were cross drains of iron or PVC pipes, side drains constructed with sumps for sediment retention according to the specifications of RIL. Along steep stretches of skid trails earth bunds were constructed and woody debris spread on their surfaces to further reduce water flow thus soil erosion. Blading was also reduced along more gentle trails. In Temenggor Forest Reserve there was an increase use of the modified excavator with a cable system for harvesting which reduced the extent of skid trails and soil compaction.</p> <p>Major CAR PER-08 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.</p>
PER-09	6: Environmental Impact	6.5.3: Availability and implementation of guidelines for forest road lay-out and construction, including log landings and drainage requirements.	Minor	Guidelines for the construction of roads and bridges not fully complied with.	<p>During verification, inspections of forest roads conducted in Temenggor, Bubu and Korbu Forest Reserves found the construction of these roads to be in conformance with the guidelines of RIL. Excess soil was pushed to the sides of roads as bunds and compacted. Side and cross drains were constructed along these roads. Sediment sumps were also dug along the roads to retain eroded soils. Bridges were properly constructed across rivers and their sidewalls reinforced with logs to prevent collapse.</p> <p>Minor CAR PER-09 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.</p>

PER-10	6: Environmental Impact	6.5.4: Availability and implementation of guidelines for conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers.	Minor	Excessive soil from road maintenance pushed into buffer belts and some trees fallen into buffer belts.	As stated under Indicator 6.5.3 the construction of roads in the compartments inspected had improved. Excess soil had been placed along the roads and compacted as protective bunds. As only one buffer belt next to a partially completed feeder road in Korbu Forest Reserve was inspected during verification, this Minor CAR is maintained to ensure such practice is carried out throughout the FMU. Minor CAR PER-10 is maintained.
PER-11	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	Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the period 2006 to 2015 was not finalised.	During the verification a finalized “ <i>Forest Management Plan for Perak State Management Unit 2006 to 2015 (Rancangan Pengurusan Hutan Bagi Unit Pengurusan Negeri Perak Darul Ridzuan Bagi Tempoh 2006-2015)</i> ” was presented. Minor CAR PER-11 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-12	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	A summary of Forest Management Plan was not prepared and made available to the public.	The public summary of the Forest Management Plan has been prepared and placed on the web page of the State Forestry Department. Minor CAR PER-12 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-13	8: Monitoring and Assessment	8.1.2: Forest managers should identify and implement appropriate monitoring procedures, in accordance with the scale and intensity of	Minor	Social impacts component was not included in the monitoring procedures.	The South Perak District Forest District has recorded the impacts of forest management operations before, during and after forest harvesting activities by a contractor on the local communities. Consultations were also held in Hulu

		the forest management operations, for assessing social, ecological, environmental and economic impacts.			Perak and Larut & Matang Forest Districts on issues related to forestry activities affecting the local communities. There is, however, a need to have a more systematic monitoring of social impacts through the development of a record, which could include pertinent changes in village profile. Minor CAR PER-13 is maintained.
PER-14	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.	The FMU has written letters to the various district officers and headmen of neighbouring villages relating to sites identified as HCVFs. There has been some good response and support towards the protection of these sites. A formal list of other stakeholders especially members of the universities, research institutions and NGOs consulted should be prepared. Minor CAR PER-14 is maintained.
PER-15	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.	Major	HCVF had not been considered and protected in the forest operations as specified under <i>MC&I</i> (2002).	A comprehensive document identifying HCVF sites within the FMU has been prepared and presented to the audit team. Each site was demarcated on ground with distinct signage. A map of each site was also provided and a description of the attributes included. The Forest Management Plan has included the establishment and maintenance of HCVF sites. Major CAR PER-15 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.

PER-16	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.	Major	Measures to demarcate, maintain and enhance HCVF attributes are not documented in the draft Forest Management Plan.	The Forest Management Plan presented during the verification had HCVF sites demarcated in a map within the section on <i>Management of Protected Forests</i> . Monitoring and maintenance measures were also described. Major CAR PER-16 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-17	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	A summary of the Forest Management Plan with HCVF measures was not made available to the public.	The Forest Management Plan presented during verification had included a section on HCVFs, including measures for their conservation and protection. A summary of these measures has been made available in the public summary of the Plan, which is now placed on the web page of the State Forestry Department. Minor CAR PER-17 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.
PER-18	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 sites had just been established with their baseline information compiled, continuous monitoring shall be implemented before the next surveillance visit. Minor CAR PER-18 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.

PER-19	9: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forest	9.4.2: Forest managers should incorporate the results and findings of the HCVPs monitoring activities into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan.	Minor	No incorporation of results of monitoring of HCVP in the Forest Management Plan.	<p>During the verification, documentation of HCVP sites was made available, including baseline data determined through field inventories. Continuous monitoring of these sites would be maintained and the results will be incorporated in the revision of the Forest Management Plan.</p> <p>Minor CAR PER-19 was closed-out on 16 November 2007.</p>
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