

**PUBLIC SUMMARY OF SURVEILLANCE 1 AUDIT OF
KEDAH FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

Certificate No : FMC 0003
Date of Surveillance Audit : 30 September - 03 October 2013

Certification Body:

**SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd
Block 4, SIRIM Complex
1, Persiaran Dato' Menteri
Section 2, P. O. Box 7035
40700 Shah Alam
Selangor, MALAYSIA**

**Tel: +60 3 5544 6400
+60 3 5544 6448
Fax: +60 3 5544 6763
Email: radziah_mohd.daud@sirim.my**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Kedah Forest Management Unit (hereafter referred to as 'the Kedah FMU') was awarded the *Certificate for Forest Management* against the MC&I (2002) following the Stage 2 audit that was conducted on 17 – 22 November 2009. The first Surveillance audit was conducted on 1 - 4 November 2010, while the second Surveillance audit on 14 - 17 November 2011. Following this, the Recertification audit on the Kedah FMU was conducted against the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest) from 23 - 27 September 2012. The Surveillance audit on the Kedah FMU was conducted on 30 September - 03 October 2013 to assess the continued overall management system and practices within the FMU against the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest).

This Surveillance audit was conducted by a two member team comprising Mr. Khairul Najwan Ahmad Jahari (Forester) and Dr. Samsudin Musa (Forester). The audit team was accompanied by a trainee auditor, Mohd Razman Salim from SIRIM International QAS Sdn Bhd. The audit commenced with an opening meeting on 30 September 2013 at the Kedah State Forest Department's (KSFD's) Head Office, Alor Setar.

The scope of the Surveillance audit was limited to the forest management system and practices of the natural forest within the FMU.

The FMU had complied with all the federal, state and local laws in its operation. It had also demonstrated an understanding of the international agreements relevant to forest management. Various committees had been established to maintain a continuous communication with local communities to resolve any issues that were raised.

The FMU had adopted the guidelines for reduced/low impact logging in its operation. Protection of riparian buffer belts and steep areas were observed. An EIA report has been completed for the area and environmental management monitoring was maintained as specified. Efforts are being undertaken to develop a new management plan for the period 2016-2025 which incorporated growth plots data to replace previous *Forest Management Plan for Kedah FMU 2006 - 2015*. The growth plot analysis is being undertaken by the Forestry Department (Headquarters) Peninsular Malaysia and the results will be used to assess growth and recovery of the forest which includes dynamic species composition of flora on a peninsular wide basis. High conservation value forest (HCVF) sites had been identified and monitored.

In general the FMU had conformed to the requirements in the MC&I (Natural Forest) Standard, with four (4) minor NCRs and five (5) OFIs raised at the end of the audit. The FMU is recommended for continued certification to the MC&I (Natural Forest) after the audit team had reviewed and accepted the corrective actions on 6 November 2013 submitted by the FMU on the non conformities and opportunities for improvements raised during the Surveillance audit.

2. GENERAL SUMMARY

2.1 Name of FMU

Kedah FMU

2.2 Contact Person and Address

YM Ku Azmi bin Ku Aman
Director of Forestry
Kedah State Forestry Department
Level 8, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Halim
Jalan Sultan Badlishah
05000 Alor Setar,
KEDAH

Phone : 04-733 3911
Fax : 04-731 0610
E-mail : ymkuazmi@kedforestry.gov.my

2.3 Date of Surveillance Audit

30 September - 03 October 2013 (12 auditor days)

2.4 Audit Team

Mr. Khairul Najwan Ahmad Jahari (Lead Auditor)
Dr. Samsudin Musa (Auditor)
Mohd Razman Salim (Observer)

2.5 Standards Used

Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)]

2.6 Stakeholder Consultation

A one-month stakeholder consultation was conducted on 17 July 2013 to solicit feedback from stakeholders on the continued compliance of the Kedah FMU to the requirements of the MC&I(Natural Forest). However, no comments were received from any stakeholder over the consultation period.

3. Kedah Forest Management Unit

The Kedah FMU is managed by KSFD. It covers an area of 300,046 hectares located between latitudes 05' 05" and 6° 33' 44" N, and longitudes 11' 01" and 101° 07' 24" E.

The FMU is classified as Permanent Reserve Forest (PRF) under the National Forestry Act 1984 Section 7 to Section 13 constituted in 24 December 1984. During the recertification audit in 2012, 7,000 ha has been excluded from the certification scope, making the total area certified to 300,046ha. However, the Forestry Department has identified nine (9) forest areas totaling 35,567 hectares to be proposed for

gazettement as PRF in addition to the existing PRF. The PRF comprises mainly inland Dipterocarp forests covering an area of 300,845 hectares of PRF or 33% of the State's total land area of 942,600 hectares whilst the remaining PRFs covering 6,201 hectares consist of mangrove forests.

The administration of the FMU had been divided into three forest districts namely the North, Central and South Kedah Forest Districts. The map of the FMU is shown as **Attachment 1**.

The Forest Management Plan for Kedah FMU 2006 - 2015 will be revised and replaced with a new management plan for the period 2016 - 2025. Growth plot analysis is being undertaken by the Forestry Department Headquarters and the results will be used to assess growth and recovery of the forest which includes dynamics species composition of flora on a peninsular wide basis. High conservation value forest (HCVF) sites had been identified and monitored.

4. SUMMARY OF SURVEILLANCE AUDIT FINDINGS

The Surveillance 1 Audit included the conduct of verification on minor non-compliance and opportunities for improvements raised during the Recertification Audit in 2012. As a result of the Surveillance, a total of 4 minor non-conformities and 7 OFIs raised were closed-out, 2 OFIs maintained and 1 OFIs raised to a minor non-compliance. In addition, a total of four (4) minor NCRs and five (5) OFIs were raised during the Surveillance audit. The audit team has reviewed and accepted the corrective actions submitted by the FMU on the non-conformities and opportunities for improvements raised during the audit. Details of the status of the NCRs and OFIs raised during the Surveillance audit is shown in **Attachment 2**.

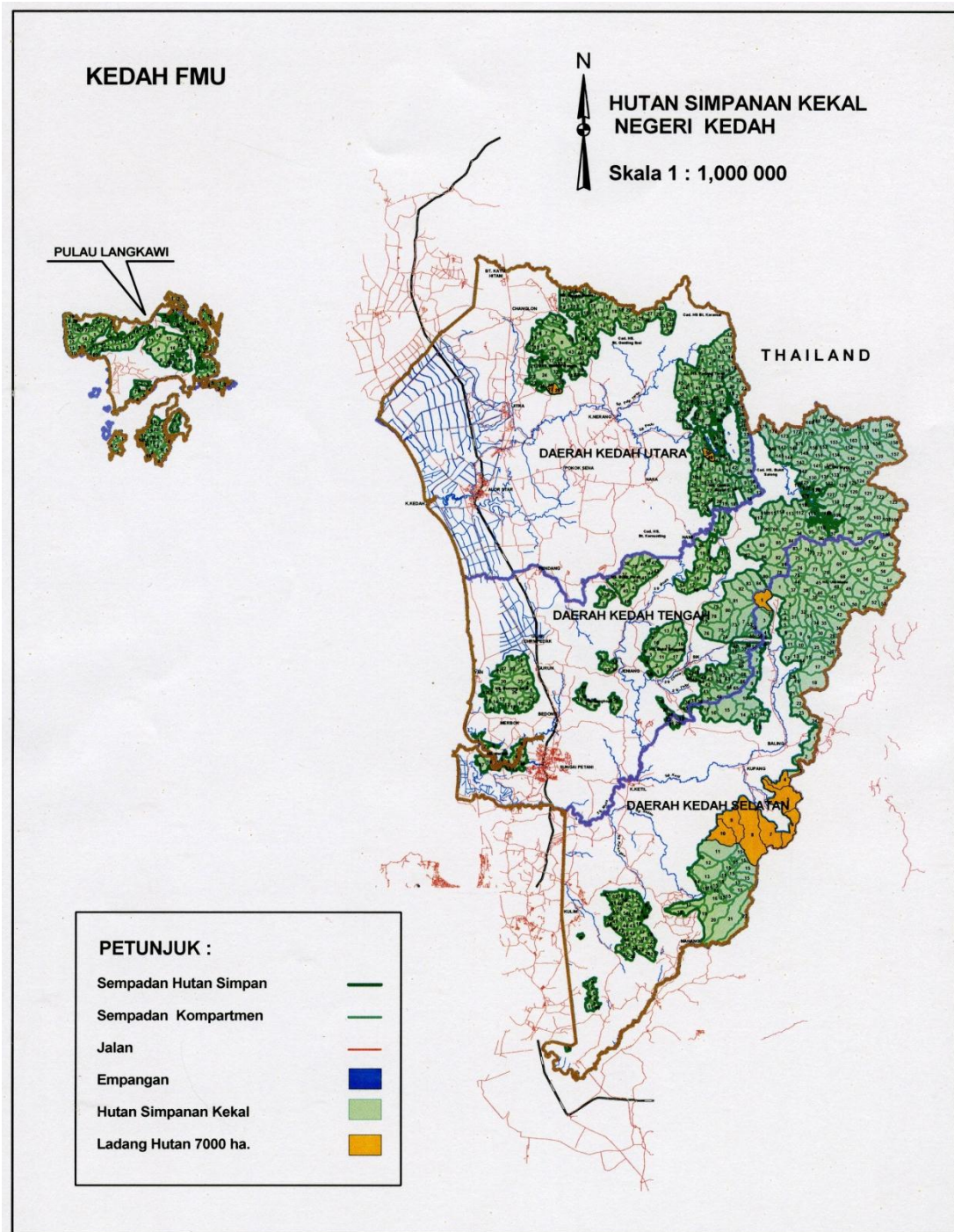
With regard to Criterion 6.10, there had been no new issue related to conversion of the natural forest to forest plantations/non-forest land use.

On indigenous peoples' right, the Kedah FMU has established various committees to maintain a continuous communication with local communities to resolve any issues raised on matters affecting their customary, legal and use rights as a result of the forest management operations including logging activities. It was noted that there was no recorded civil court case pertaining to legal or customary tenure or use rights within the FMU.

The KSFD had submitted a corrective action plan on 06 November 2013 to address the minor NCRs and OFIs that were accepted by the audit team leader. The corrective actions to address the minor NCRs and OFIs shall be verified by the audit team during the next surveillance audit in 2014.

As there was no major NCR raised and all the corrective action plans to the minor NCRs raised during the Surveillance audit had been accepted, it is therefore recommended that the *Certificate for Forest Management* awarded to the KSFD be maintained.

A Map of the Kedah FMU



Attachment 2**Verification on Corrective Action Taken on NCR raised during Recertification Audit against the MC&I(Natural Forest)****NCRs**

Indicator	NCR No.	Non-Compliance	Corrective Action Taken	Verification by Auditor
6.5.1	1 (Minor)	<p>a) Availability and implementation of harvesting procedures to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations</p> <p>b) Garis Panduan Jalan Hutan 2010 (Guidelines for Forest Roads 2010)</p> <p>c) Guidelines for Reduced Impact Logging in Peninsular Malaysia 2003.</p> <p>The implementation of harvesting procedures to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations did not follow the requirement.</p> <p>The construction of access roads in the active logging sites in Compartment 77B Ulu Muda Forest Reserve and Compartment 45A Bukit Perak FR did not adhere to the specifications as follows;</p> <p>1. The bridges constructed in the Compartment 77B Ulu Muda FR had no retaining wall to prevent soil from being washed into the rivers.</p> <p>2. Drainage needs to be improved in Compartment 45A Bukit Perak FR with (Kedah Tengah) more lead off drain (parit lencong)</p> <p>3. Additional sumps need to be constructed and maintained in both the above sites</p>	<p>Briefing and letters of instruction have been sent to all contractors to rectify the shortcomings in the construction of bridges. The contractors were required to carry out the improvements within two weeks. The rectification was completed in October 2012.</p> <p>Additional lead off drains were constructed where possible. However, some areas had large boulders which hindered the construction of the drains.</p>	<p>Report consisting of copies of the letters sent and pictures of the rectified bridges in Pedu FR were verified during Surveillance audit.</p> <p>Report consisting of copies of the letters sent and pictures of the lead off drains in Bukit Perak FR were verified during Surveillance audit.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
6.6.2	2 (Minor)	<p>Availability and implementation of guidelines and/or procedures on the use of chemicals in the forest approved by relevant regulatory authorities.</p> <p>The implementation of guidelines</p>	<p>Clean-up operations of the storage facility in Jeniang Range Office has been undertaken. Used chemical containers have been disposed of through approved</p>	<p>Report which includes pictures of cleaned up chemical storage facility was verified during Surveillance audit.</p> <p>During Surveillance audit, it</p>

		<p>and/or procedures on the use of chemicals in the forest approved by relevant regulatory authorities has not been followed:</p> <p>1. The storage of chemical herbicide and sprayers in the Chemical Store at the Jeniang Range Office could be improved further by segregating the chemicals and equipment and enhancing the understanding on the correct usage of these chemicals.</p>	<p>methods.</p>	<p>was found that the store at the Jeniang Forest Ranger Office had been converted to a general store. During the site visit to this Range Office, it was found that no more chemicals were being stored there. All the spraying activities were conducted by contractors. The contractors had instructed to follow the guideline on the handling of chemicals.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
7.2.1	3 (Minor)	<p>Implementation of procedures to periodically revise the forest management plan, incorporating the results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information, the frequency of which shall be appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management operations, so as to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances</p> <p>A mid-term review was not completed for the Forest Management Plan 2006-2015 and results of monitoring or new scientific and technical information was not incorporated.</p> <p>1) A draft mid-term of the FMP was made available. However, it was found to be incomplete and not finalised.</p> <p>2) The revised FMP would have to incorporate all the results from the monitoring conducted as well as new technical information. All the sections described in Criterion 7.1 to be included.</p>	<p>Efforts are being made to complete the mid-term report through compilation of required information from the various districts. The report will be published soon.</p>	<p>A mid-term review on the Forest Management Plan 2006-2015) had been conducted and a draft report on the review had been prepared. However, the draft report had not been finalised as it had not incorporated the results of the monitoring. In view of the limited time as the existing FMP would expire in 2015, the Department therefore had decided to prepare a new management plan for the period 2016-2025. A letter to the Headquarters Office in Kuala Lumpur on the proposal to prepare a new FMP was sent on 21 July 2013 (PHNK 94-2013 (4)) had been presented to the audit team during the Surveillance audit. The Headquarter had given its approval on this proposal in a letter reference JH/51.14 (27) dated 6 September 2013</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
4.4.1	4 (Minor)	<p>Forest managers shall evaluate, through consultations, social impact of forest operations directly affecting communities, and the people and groups directly affected by the forest operations shall have access to information on the results of the social impact evaluations.</p> <p>Forest planning and management</p>	<p>Social impact assessment has been conducted by district forest officer at all districts.</p> <p>During any briefing activity to logging contractors, local communities will also be invited to participate.</p>	<p>During Surveillance audit, audit team had consulted the Chairman (Mr. Mohd Isa) of JKKK in Kampung Batu 60, Tanjung Pari, Weng in the Kedah Selatan Forest District indicated that regular consultation had been conducted by the Weng Forest Range Office with the local communities. The</p>

		<p>practices have yet to consider and incorporate the results of such evaluations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the outcome of social impact evaluation was yet to be prepared by the two forest districts after social evaluations were conducted. • Since no report was prepared, the findings were not incorporated in forest planning and management practices. 		<p>Chairman indicated that the local communities have established good relations with the KSFD and he has no problem consulting with them when the need arises. Social impact evaluation was conducted using “<i>Borang Panduan Maklumat Kajian Impak Sosial Dalam Sektor Pembalakan</i>”. The analysis on the findings and report on the social impact evaluations were incorporated in forest planning and management practices.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
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OFls

Indicator	OFl No.	Summary of OFI	Verification by Auditor
1.1.1	1 (OFl)	<p><u>Records and availability of up-to-date applicable federal, state and local laws, and regulations and policies, in particular those related to forest management (New Requirement under MC&I (Natural Forest))</u></p> <p>Collection of documents (copies) on all relevant laws, policies and regulations stipulated in the MC&I (Natural Forest), fundamental for the management of the FMU in the KSFD in Alor Setar was not updated. For example, Environmental Quality (Scheduled Wastes) Regulations, 2005, Fisheries Act, 1985, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia Act, 1999, International Trade in Endangered Species Act, 2008, Occupational Safety and Health (Notification of Accident, Dangerous Occurrence, Occupational Poisoning and Occupational Diseases) Regulations, 2004, Pesticides Act, 1974, Waters Act, 1920 and Wildlife Conservation Act, 2010, were not included in the collection.</p>	<p>The documentations were made available during the Surveillance audit.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
1.3.1	2 (OFl)	<p><u>Forest managers are aware of all binding international agreements relevant to forest management (New Requirement under MC&I (Natural Forest))</u></p> <p>Some recent additions of international agreements relevant to FMU management were not included in the document collection of the KSFD in Alor Setar. These included the United Nations Convention on</p>	<p>Copies of these documents were made available in the State Forestry Department’s head office in Alor Setar and to the senior forest managers. It was also observed that they had a relatively adequate understanding on these conventions and their main intentions related to forest management.</p>

		Biological Diversity, 1992 and United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, 2007. The recent documents are necessary in ensuring awareness among forest managers on updates of binding international agreements.	Status: Closed
8.3.1	3 (OFI)	<p><u>Forest managers shall provide relevant documents for identifying all forest products leaving the area to be certified so that their origin could be easily determined.</u></p> <p>Field information on some felled trees in Sub-compartment 77-B of Ulu Muda PFR, under licensee KS 01-54-2011, differed from records examined in the <i>Tree Tagging and Timber Production Control Book</i> in Weng mobile checking station. The field information on three felled trees and corresponding record in the tree tagging control book (in bracket) are as follows: 1. KCE5715, Kempas, (kembang semangkok); 2. KCE5755, tulang daing, (gerutu); and 3. KCE5712, meranti sarang punai, (meranti tembaga).</p>	<p>Field information on some felled trees in 4A Chebar Kechil PFR, under licensee KT 01-17-2012, matched the records examined in the Tree Tagging and Timber Production Control Book in Gulau checking station during the Surveillance audit.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
6.2.1	4 (OFI)	<p><u>Availability and implementation of guidelines to identify and protect endangered, rare and threatened species of forest flora and fauna, including features of special biological interest such as seed trees, nesting and feeding areas in the PRFs</u></p> <p>Selection of mother trees in Compartments 77B Ulu Muda FR and Compartment 45A of Bukit Perak FR should be improved with better quality trees with good form and full crowns marked as mother trees.</p> <p>During the document review it was found that WWF had identified two salt licks present in the FMU namely Sira Batu dan Sira Air Hangat in Ulu Muda FR.</p> <p>During the consultation with PERHILITAN it was found that they have information on salt licks as potential HCVF site.</p> <p>There was no evidence of efforts to protect both these areas or to assess if such areas may be identified as potential HCVF sites.</p>	<p>During site inspection in Surveillance audit, audit team observed selection of mother trees in Compartment 71A Ulu Muda PRF and Compartment 4A, Chebar Kechil PRF had been improved with better quality trees with good form and full crowns marked as mother trees.</p> <p>During this surveillance audit (2013) it was found the Salt licks are located in the watershed protection forest in Ulu Muda PRF, thus the area are protected by the FMU as reflected in the FMP.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
6.3.1	5 (OFI)	<p><u>Availability and implementation of management guidelines to assess post-harvest natural regeneration, and measures to supplement natural regeneration, where necessary, in the FMU</u></p> <p>Document on the analysis of post-F and pre-</p>	<p>A review by the state silviculturist indicated that the previous analysis was indeed incorrect. The new analysis on an additional set of 10 compartments was presented and found to be correct. The report of the analysis showed that there were differences in the number of trees between pre-F and post-F. However, the data</p>

		F was available. Detailed of pre-F and post-F data for 10 compartments was compiled. Preliminary analysis to assess changes of stocking and species composition was conducted by the KSFD through selection of certain plots and certain diameter classes. The comparative analysis was found to be inadequate and biased. A more comprehensive analysis needs to be carried out to assess the changes in stocking and species composition	<p>provided needs to be interpreted and elaborated to assess the changes in stocking and species composition.</p> <p>Since an OFI was previously raised, a minor NCR for Indicator 6.3.1 has been raised during the Surveillance audit.</p>
8.2.1	6 (OFI)	<p><u>Forest manager shall gather the relevant information appropriate to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations.</u></p> <p>Wildlife/ biodiversity inventory analysis and research should be conducted with relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>During Surveillance audit, audit team had verified the wildlife/biodiversity inventory analysis and research was conducted with relevant stakeholders. <i>Records of "Maklumat Data Analisis Inventori Hidupan Liar Negeri Kedah"</i> on 14 July 2013 was conducted at "Rezab Hidupan Liar dan Taman Negara, Sira Gajah/Sira Air Hangat" at Ulu Muda PRF were presented to audit team.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
9.2.1	7 (OFI)	<p><u>Forest managers shall consult with relevant stakeholders on the options to maintain or enhance the identified HCVFs</u></p> <p>The relevant stakeholders were consulted during the establishment of HCVF sites, however the stakeholder list had not been properly updated and records of consultations were not presented.</p>	<p>The updated list of stakeholders and evidences of consultation were verified during Surveillance audit.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
9.4.2	8 (OFI)	<p><u>Forest managers should incorporate the results and findings of the HCVFs monitoring activities into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan.</u></p> <p>Results obtained from monitoring HCVF sites should be incorporated in the revision of the FMP 2006-2015</p>	<p>The results and findings of the HCVFs monitoring activities have not been included into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan. The requirement of this indicator has not been considered to be included in the list of contents for the new management plan.</p> <p>OFI 9.4.2 is retained</p>
7.3.2	9 (OFI)	<p><u>Forest workers shall be trained as to their respective roles in the implementation of the forest management plan.</u></p> <p>Training records for contractors' workers of Compartment 77B, Ulu Muda FR and Compartment 45A Bukit Perangin FR should be more systematically presented.</p>	<p>Records on trainings for the contractors' workers at Compartment 71A Ulu Muda PRF and Compartment 4A Chebar Kechil PRF (SQUAB (M) Sdn Bhd, Wangley Seng Timber Sdn Bhd) were verified and found to be adequately maintained during the Surveillance audit.</p> <p>Status: Closed</p>
8.1.2	10 (OFI)	<p><u>Forest managers shall 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.</u></p>	<p>The forest managers has identified 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. A preliminary draft of procedures to monitor</p>

		<p>Social, ecological, environmental and economic impact evaluation could be improved with standard procedures.</p>	<p>social, ecological, environmental and economic impacts was provided by the Forestry Department Headquarters. However, the draft has yet to be discussed and approved for application to KSFD.</p> <p>Therefore OFI 8.1.2 is retained</p>
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Issuance of minor NCRs and OFIs during Surveillance Audit in 2013

Indicator	NCR No.	Status	Summary of Non-Compliance
6.3.1	1	Minor	<p><u>Availability and implementation of management guidelines to assess post-harvest natural regeneration, and measures to supplement natural regeneration, where necessary, in the FMU</u></p> <p>The analysis of changes of forest stand/species composition in relation to the pre-felling inventories was not adequate</p> <p>Document on the analysis of post-F and pre-F was available. Detailed pre-F and post F data for 10 compartments was compiled. Preliminary analysis to assess changes of stocking and species composition was conducted by the KSFD. The comparative analysis was found to be inadequate as it did not provide any elaboration on the results and subsequent measures. A more comprehensive analysis needs to be carried out to assess the changes in stocking and species. During the previous Recertification Audit (2012) an OFI was issued for this indicator.</p>
6.5.1	2	Minor	<p><u>Availability and implementation of harvesting procedures to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations.</u></p> <p>The implementation of harvesting procedures to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations did not fully adhere to the requirements of the Guidelines for Forest Road 2010.</p> <p>The construction of the main bridge on the access road leading to the active logging site in Compartment 71-A Ulu Muda PRF was found to be damaged and measures taken to prevent soil from being washed into the river was not adequate. It was found that the retaining walls had been damaged and covered with soil washed down from heavy rains. Sumps were filled and needs to be maintained. A road constructed adjacent to the bridge leading to the river will have to be blocked to prevent soil being washed into the river.</p>
6.7.1	3	Minor	<p><u>Oil, fuel, tyres, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes, shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate and legal manner</u></p> <p>Standard operating procedures on waste disposal and re-cycling of liquid and solid non-organic wastes and records of disposal of containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes, including fuel and oil was not available at the Kedah FMU</p>
8.5.1	4	Minor	<p><u>A summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2, shall be made available to the public.</u></p> <p>A summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2, was not made available to the public.</p> <p>The Public summary did not include the research and data collection needed to monitor, the following indicators:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Yield of all forest products harvested. b) Growth rates, regeneration and condition of the forest. c) Composition and observed changes in the fauna. d) Environmental and social impacts of harvesting and other operations. e) Costs, productivity and efficiency of forest management

OFls

Indicator	OFl No.	Summary of OFI
1.1.2	1	<p><u>Forest managers are aware and/or knowledgeable of the applicable federal, state and local laws, as well as the regulatory framework for forest management.</u></p> <p>Forest managers were found to be fully aware of some of the federal and local laws directly related to forestry. However, the records on checklist of the applicable federal, state, local laws and regulations and policies, in particular those related to forest management needs to be improved.</p>
8.1.2	2	<p><u>Forest managers shall 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.</u></p> <p>A preliminary draft of procedures to monitor social, ecological, environmental and economic impacts was provided by the Forestry Department Headquarters. However, the draft has yet to be discussed and approved for application to KSFD.</p>
8.2.1	3	<p><u>Forest managers shall gather the relevant information, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations, needed to monitor the items (a) to (e) listed in Criterion 8.2.</u></p> <p>All the relevant information, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations, needed to monitor the items listed in Criterion 8.2 was made available during the audit. However the results of analysis of growth and yield plots/ growth plots/ continuous forest inventory (CFI) plots was not presented at the time of the audit</p>
8.4.1	4	<p><u>Forest managers shall incorporate the results and findings of the monitoring activities into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan.</u></p> <p>The KSFD decided to conduct a new FMP 2016-2025 instead of a mid-term review. However the results and finding of the monitoring activities was not included in the in the list of contents for the new management plan.</p>
9.4.2	5	<p><u>Forest managers shall incorporate the results and findings of the HCVFs monitoring activities into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan.</u></p> <p>It was found that the results and findings of the HCVFs monitoring activities have not been included into the implementation and revision of the forest management plan as the mid-term review for the Forest Management Plan 2006-2015 was not conducted.</p>

End of public summary