



**PUBLIC SUMMARY
STAGE 2 ON
RAPLEX FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

**Certificate Number: FMC-FP 00122
Date of First Certification: 28th June 2019
Audit Date: 18th – 22nd March 2019
Date of Public Summary: 19th July 2019**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	3
1 INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1 Name of FMU.....	4
1.2 Contact Person and Address	4
1.3 General Background on the Raplex FMU	4
1.4 Date First Certified	4
1.5 Location of the FMU	4
1.6 Forest Management System	4
1.7 Annual Allowable Cut/Annual Harvest under the Forest Management Plan	4
1.8 Environmental and Socioeconomic Context	5
2. AUDIT PROCESS.....	5
2.1 Audit Dates.....	5
2.2 Audit Team	5
2.4 Stakeholder Consultations	5
2.5 Audit Process	5
3 SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS.....	6
<u>Attachment</u>	
Map of Raplex FMU	11
Experiences and Qualifications of Audit Team Members	12
Comments Received from Stakeholders and Responses by Audit Team Leader	15
Stage 2 Audit Plan	16
Details on NCRs and OFIs Raised During this Stage 2 Audit and Corrective Actions Taken.....	18

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Stage 2 audit of the Raplex Sdn Bhd – Raplex Forest Management Unit or Raplex FMU was conducted from 18 to 22 March 2019. This was an audit of the overall forest management system and practices within the FMU against the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest) stipulated for Sarawak. The Raplex Sdn Bhd – Raplex FMU is operating under the Forest Timber License (FTL) No. T/0560 issued to Raplex Sdn Bhd, a 100% subsidiary of Ta Ann Holdings Berhad. The scope of this stage 2 audit was limited to the forest management system and practices Management of natural forest in the Raplex Forest Management Unit, 63,993 hectares located in the Mujong-Merirai Protected Forest and stateland, Kapit Division

This stage 2 audit was conducted by a 3 -member team comprising Mohd. Razman Salim (Lead Auditor), Ismail Adnan Abdul Malek (Auditor), and Dr. Nazre Saleh (Auditor).Dr. Paul Porodong participated in this stage 2 audit as a technical expert.

Based on the findings of this stage 2 audit, it was found that Raplex FMU had complied with the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest). This stage 2 audit had resulted in the issuance of 1 (one) and 3 (three) major and minor Non Conformity Reports (NCRs) respectively.

This public summary contains the general information on the Raplex FMU, the findings of the stage 2 audit, NCRs raised as well as the decision on the certificatin of the FMU.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name of FMU

Raplex Forest Management Unit

1.2 Contact Person and Address

Name : Mr. Nelson Bijack James Chas
Designation : Forest Manager
Address: : No 6, Lot 9, Lorong Pedada 20A2,
Jalan Pedada
P.O. Box 1489
96008 Sibul
Sarawak.

Phone # : (+60-84) 312 299
Fax # : (+60-84) 349 813

1.3 General Background on the Raplex FMU

Raplex Forest Management Unit (FMU) is located in the central region of Sarawak within Kapit Division. The area covers about 63,993 hectares and lies between latitudes 2° 0' 13" and 2° 00' 39" N, and longitudes 113° 00' 07" and 113° 00' 46" E. It consists of logged-over lowland mixed dipterocarp forest (MDF) with elevation from 90 to 750 m above sea level. The FMU covers 32,860 ha of Mujong-Merirai Protected Forest (53%) and 31,133 ha of stateland area (47%). The Raplex Sdn Bhd – Raplex FMU is operating under the Forest Timber License (FTL) No. T/0560 issued to Raplex Sdn Bhd, a 100% subsidiary of Ta Ann Holdings Berhad. The FTL was issued on 2 February 1977.

The FMU covers 45,150 ha (70%) are production areas, 16,962 ha (27%) are set aside for community use areas and 1,881 ha (3%) are conservation areas. The FMU shares a common licence boundary with Forest Timber Licences T/0518 (STIDC-Song Logging Company SB), T/3064 (Sut Sawmill SB), T/3353 (Jayatiasa SB), T/3290 (Polymore Timber SB) and T/3291 (Polymore Timber SB). It has two camps called Sg. Pila camp and nursery camp.

A map of the FMU showing the significant features of the forest is attached in **Attachment 1**.

1.4 Date First Certified

28th June 2019

1.5 Location of the FMU

The FMU is located between latitudes 2° 0' 13" and 2° 00' 39" N, and longitudes 113° 00' 07" and 113° 00' 46" E.

1.6 Forest Management System

The FMU had followed the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) and the requirements of the Licence Agreement of the State government. The Forest Management Plan of Raplex FMU (2018 – 2028) was presented during this audit.

1.7 Annual Allowable Cut/Annual Harvest under the Forest Management Plan

The initial calculation of the AAC for 25 years cutting cycle was at an average of 99,488 m³/year or not more than 1,895 ha/year.

1.8 Environmental and Socioeconomic Context

The Raplex FMU Forest Management Plan had incorporated information from assessment of environmental impacts as seen in Chapter 7 - Environmental and Social Impact Assessment. An EIA report was made available titled 'Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Timber Harvesting Project in the Raplex FMU under Forest Timber Licence (FTL) No. T/0560 in the Upper Batang Rajang area, Kapit Division, Sarawak – August 2017 was conducted as required under item 2(i) of the First Schedule of the said Order (Section 11A (1) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Ordinance). The EIA report was approved by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) on 8th December 2017.

Based on Social Impact Assessment report in March 2017 indicates that the FMU has 5 local communities living inside the FMU and 20 other communities that are considered to be Project-Affected Communities (PACs) as they are located within 3 kilometres from the FMU boundaries (Refer to Appendix II). Ethnically, most communities are Iban, Punan and Sekapan while other races are Kenyah, Tanjong and Kayan. The FMU has established an SOP titled 'Compensation for commercial utilization of traditional forest related knowledge'.

2. AUDIT PROCESS

2.1 Audit Dates

18 – 22 March 2019 /15 auditor day

2.2 Audit Team

1. Mohd Razman Salim (Lead Auditor)
2. Ismail Adnan Abdul Malek (Auditor)
3. Dr. Nazre Saleh (Auditor)
4. Dr Paul Porodong (Technical expert)

The details on the experiences and qualifications of the audit team members are as in **Attachment 2**.

2.3 Standard Used

Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest) [MC&I (Natural Forest)] using the verifiers stipulated for Sarawak

2.4 Stakeholder Consultations

A stakeholder notification was issued in February 2019 for a period of one month inviting relevant stakeholders to give comments on the FMU. There were 2 response with comments received from the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak and Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) on Raplex Sdn Bhd – Raplex FMU during the period. Detail of the comment as stated in **Attachment 3**.

2.5 Audit Process

The audit was conducted primarily to evaluate the level of compliance of the Raplex FMU's current documentation and field practices in forest management with the detailed of the standard of performances (SOPs) listed in the MC&I (Natural Forest), using the verifiers stipulated for Sarawak.

For each Indicator, the auditors had conducted either a documentation review, consultation with the relevant personnel of the FMU, local community or stakeholders or field audit or a combination of these methods. Depending on the compliance with the verifiers for a particular indicator, the auditors then decided on the degree of the FMU's overall compliance with the indicator and decided whether or not to issue a major or minor NCR or an OFI which is defined as follows:

- (i) a major NCR is a non-compliance with the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest);
- (ii) a minor NCR is a deviation or a lapse in complying with the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest); and
- (iii) an OFI is a situation where the auditor has noted an area of concern on the capability of the forest management system to achieve conformance to the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest) but without sufficient objective evidence to support a non-conformance.

Consultations were held with the local communities in Rh. Ajai, Rh. Mero, Rh. Empang, Rh. Long Dungan, Rh. Sekapan Panjang, Rh. Sekapan Piit, Rh. Dari Jelawing, Rh. Punan Sama and Rh. Tanjong.

The coverage of this stage 2 audit is as shown in the stage 2 Audit Plan in **Attachment 4**.

The Raplex FMU had sent a corrective action plan to the audit team to address the major and minor NCRs which the audit team had reviewed and accepted them. The audit team had prepared an interim stage 2 audit report and sent it to the Raplex FMU for comment. A second draft stage 2 audit report which had incorporated the comments received from the Raplex FMU was then prepared and sent to two peer reviewers for independent reviewing. A final stage 2 audit was prepared after incorporated the comments from peer reviewers.

3 SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

Based on the findings of this stage 2 audit, it was found that the Raplex FMU had managed the Raplex FMU in compliance with most of the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest). This stage 2 had resulted in the issuance of 1 major, and 3 minor NCRs. The details on the NCRs/OFIs raised are shown in **Attachment 5**.

The audit team had reviewed, accepted and verified the corrective actions taken by the Raplex FMU to address the 1 major NCR raised during this stage2 audit. The audit team was satisfied that the corrective action had been effectively implemented and had therefore closed out this major NCR. The audit team had also reviewed and accepted the Raplex FMU proposed corrective actions to address the 3 minor NCRs. However, these corrective actions shall be verified by the audit team during the next audit.

Mechanism to resolve any conflicts and grievances was established through Communities Representatives Committee (CRC) and sighted SOP titled 'Communication with Natives'. There was no record of conflict and grievance from local communities based on stakeholders' interview and available records sighted at the FMU during this audit.

With regard to Criterion 6.10, there is no conversion of natural forest to plantation or other land use in Raplex FMU.

As the major NCR raised during this stage 2 audit had been closed out, the audit team had therefore recommended that the Certificate for Forest Management be awarded to the Raplex FMU.

The summary on the findings of the Stage 2 audit on the Raplex FMU against the requirements of the MC&I (Natural Forest) are as follows:

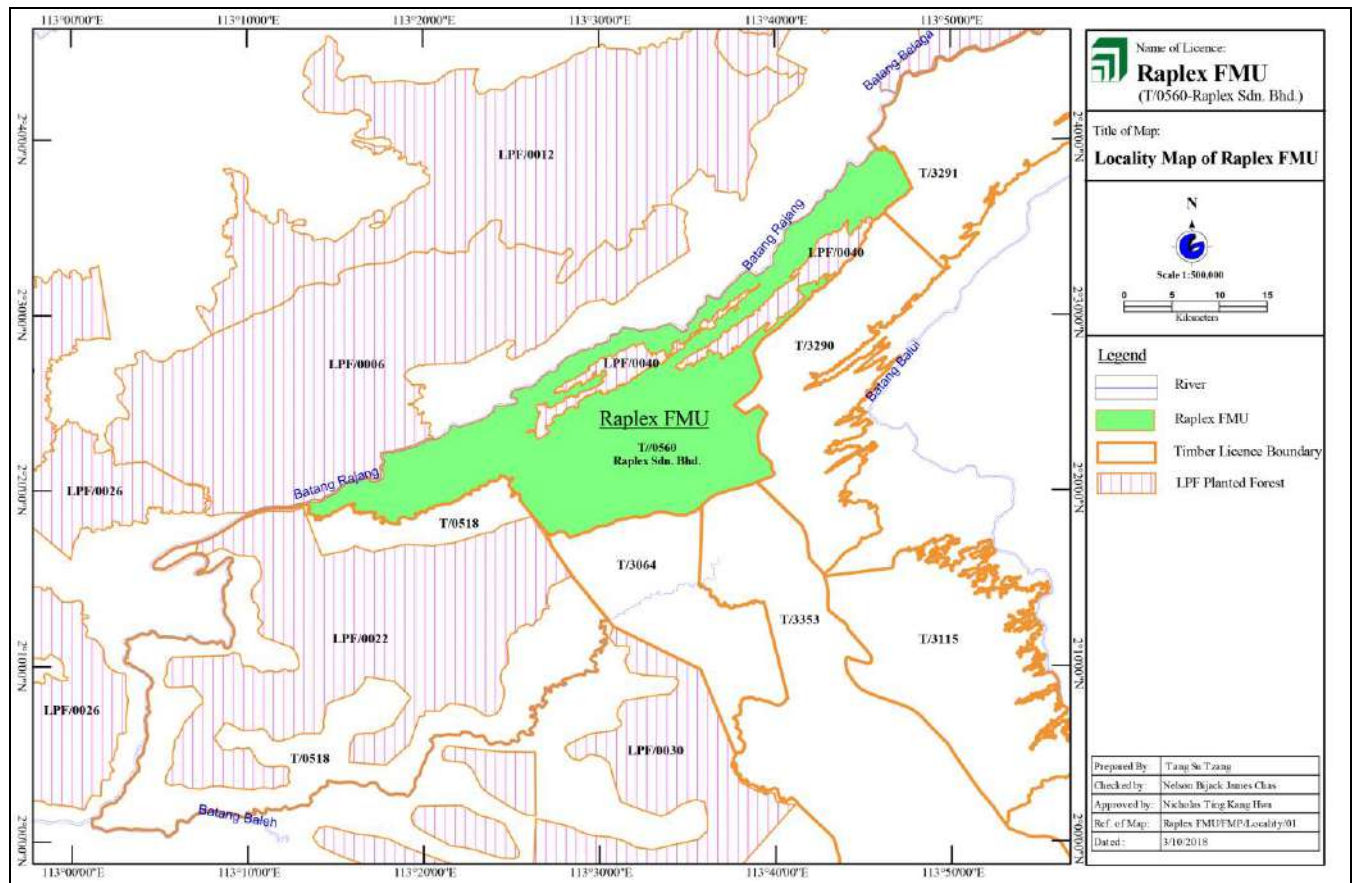
Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Principle 1 Compliance With Laws and Principles</p>	<p>The forest management of Raplex FMU had maintained records of all relevant national, local laws, regulations and policies related to forest management.</p> <p>The senior forest managers had demonstrated knowledge of the federal, state and local laws and regulatory framework.</p> <p>There were no conflicts documented between these Principles and Criteria, laws and regulations. The forest managers had expressed their willingness to participate in resolution of such conflicts if they arise.</p> <p>Legal provisions were available for the establishment and protection of the FMU.</p>	<p>There was no negative findings</p>
<p>Principle 2 Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities</p>	<p>Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources has been clearly defined, documented and legally established. Forest Timber Licence No. T/0560 issued to Raplex Sdn Bhd on 22 January 2019 and valid until 1 February 2020.</p> <p>Forest managers had continued to recognise, respect and collaborate with holders of duly recognised legal or customary tenure or use rights of the local communities.</p> <p>There were mechanisms in place at various levels for use to resolve disputes over tenure and use rights.</p>	<p>There was no negative findings</p>
<p>Principle 3 Indigenous People's Rights</p>	<p>The relevant documents on the customary rights of indigenous peoples' lands were kept at Sg. Pila Base Camp office. Map depicting locations of longhouses, burial ground and water catchment within and adjacent to the FMU was available.</p> <p>There were appropriate mechanisms in place for resolving conflicts with regards to tenure claims, use rights and other complaints. There was no record of conflict and grievance from local communities</p> <p>The FMU has established an SOP titled 'Compensation for commercial utilization of traditional forest related</p>	<p>There was no negative findings</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>knowledge' and also an SOP on 'Management and monitoring of native forest – related traditional knowledge and special sites' as guides for a fair and equitable compensation for the commercial utilization of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices of local communities (via the Community Representative Committee (CRC)).</p>	
<p>Principle 4 Community Relations and Workers' Rights</p>	<p>The FMU has provided training, retraining, local infrastructure, facilities and social program for all levels of its employees.</p> <p>There were record to confirm that local communities living within, or adjacent to, the FMU were given preference for employment and contract works.</p> <p>Safety and Health Committee had been established by FMU, and Safety & Health Meeting have been conducted quarterly.</p> <p>The FMU had communicated to the staff and workers of their rights to freely organise into union of their own choice.</p> <p>Demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials were found to be adequate at workshop (at nursery and Sg. Pila base camp), scheduled waste store (at nursery and Sg. Pila base camp) and nursery.</p>	<p>1. During this Stage 2 audit, records presented by Raplex FMU were reviewed and feedbacks of the communities were obtained during the field visit of Rh. Aji, Rh. Mero, Rh. Empang, Rh. Awi Lahang Long Dungan, Rh. Sekapan Panjang, Rh. Sekapan Piit, Rh. Dari Jelawing, Rh. Punan Sama and Rh. Tanjong were noted. Evidence of CRC meeting with the community representative (leaders) were available but communities affected by the forest operations still has not been informed about the function of CRC, the mechanism/procedure to resolve issues affecting communities due to the forest operations, and about the FMU (Raplex, Ironwall, Ta Ann) itself.</p> <p>2. There was no records of meeting/consultations between the FMU representatives and communities from Rh. Empang, Rh. Vincent and Rh. Gendang which may be affected by current logging operation in Coupe 1AR.</p> <p>Therefore a Minor NCR MNS 01/2019 for Indicator 4.4.1 was raised.</p>
<p>Principle 5 Benefits From the Forest</p>	<p>Investments and reinvestments had continued in forest management, including aspects of forest administration, research, human resource development, protection, economy, conservation, environment and social.</p> <p>The Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) was calculated at an average of 99,488 m³/year or not more than 1,895 ha/year on average for the 25 years of cutting cycle. Raplex FMU has kept records of production of logs in both 2018 and 2019</p> <p>Timber was the main product being extracted from the forest in the FMU, No minor forest produce had been extracted.</p>	<p>There was no negative findings</p>

<p>Principle 6 Environmental Impact</p>	<p>An EIA report was made available titled 'Environmental Impact Assessment for the Proposed Timber Harvesting Project in the Raplex FMU under Forest Timber Licence (FTL) No. T/0560 in the Upper Batang Rajang area, Kapit Division, Sarawak – August 2017. The EIA report was approved by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) on 8th December 2017.</p> <p>The Forest Management Plan had also incorporated an assessment of environmental impacts specific to potential impacts on endangered, rare and threatened species of flora and fauna (ERT), and the need for biological corridors.</p> <p>There was continuous cooperation between forest managers, conservation organizations and regulatory authorities on implementing conservation and management activities.</p> <p>Hunting, fishing and collecting activities were controlled and inappropriate activities were prevented.</p>	<p>During site inspection of bridge which was located in the pre-felling area between Block 4 and Block 6, Coupe 1AR, it was found that the soil was eroded at the left side of the bridge. Therefore, a Minor NCR MRS 01 2019 for Indicator 6.5.1 was raised.</p> <p>During inspection of Sg. Pila base camp, audit team has found logging road, water pump house and workers housing were located inside the buffer zone area (40 m width) of Sg. Pila. This is non-conformance of the requirement of the MC& I standards and EIA requirements regarding river protection and riparian buffer zone. Raplex FMU management is aware of the requirement and to date has taken efforts in mitigation which include the study by Ecosol Consultancy Sdn Bhd”, the report titled “Verification study and Rehabilitation for the Pila Camp of Raplex FMU” and removal of some structures in the buffer zone. However, the mitigation measures taken were not fully completed. In addition, it was found, the marking of riparian buffer boundary also was not clearly marked along the river. Therefore, a Major NCR MRS 02 2019 for Indicator 6.5.4 was raised.</p> <p>Audit team has found acacia mangium trees growing in the surrounding of the nursery area. However, there was no records of monitoring on the extent of the acacia mangium trees conducted by Raplex FMU. Therefore, a Minor NCR MRS 03 2019 for Indicator 6.9.1 was raised.</p>
<p>Principle 7 Management Plan</p>	<p>The Forest Management Plan (2018 - 2028) Raplex FMU has been approved by Sarawak Director of Forestry on 14 March 2019. The FMP provided items (a) to (i) as per requirements of Criteria 7.1.</p> <p>Forest manager was aware of new scientific and technical information pertinent to the management of the area to be certified.</p> <p>The FMU has planned and conducted annual training programme for 2018 and 2019 titled 'Briefing and Training Program for Tag FTL & LPF'.</p> <p>Forest managers had provided training to the workers and training records were made available to the audit team.</p> <p>Summary of Forest Management Plan has been prepared, implemented and</p>	<p>There was no negative findings</p>

	<p>made available to the public through website link as follows: http://www.raplexfmu.com.my/fmp/</p>	
<p>Principle 8 Monitoring and Assessment</p>	<p>The Raplex FMU complies with the regulatory monitoring procedures in accordance with relevant federal and state guidelines of the Forestry Departments and other relevant agencies.</p> <p>The FMU management has appropriately included all relevant information needed to monitor items listed in (a) to (e) of Criterion 8.2.</p> <p>Tracing the forest product (logs) from its origin, a process known as the “chain of custody”, leaving the certified area was verified during the audit through selected records and relevant documents presented.</p> <p>Public summary of the forest monitoring indicators a) to e) is available at the website: http://www.raplexfmu.com.my/monitoring/</p>	
<p>Principle 9 Maintenance of High Conservation Values</p>	<p>Assessment on the presence of the attributes consistent with HCVF was conducted by Sarawak Forestry Corporation on 14th – 26 March 2017 and the report entitled “High Conservation Value Assessment Report T/0560 - Raplex Sdn Bhd; dated June 2017 was available.</p> <p>The FMU has done consultative meetings with the relevant stakeholders on the emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof.</p> <p>Measures had been taken to demarcate, maintain and enhance HCVF attributes. It was also stated in FMU public summary at http://www.raplexfmu.com.my/hcv/</p> <p>Results and findings of the HCVFs monitoring activities has been incorporated into the Revised Raplex FMU Forest Management Plan (2018 – 2028) and implemented on the ground.</p>	

Map of Raplex FMU



Experiences and Qualifications of Audit Team Members

Assessment Team	Role/Area of MC&I Requirement	Qualification and Experience
Mohd Razman Salim	Assessment Team Leader / Forester	<p><u>Academic Qualification:</u></p> <p>B.Sc of Forestry (Forest Production), University Putra Malaysia.</p> <p><u>Work Experience:</u></p> <p>Five years experienced as Research Officer at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) since 2007 in a various area such as ecological research for lowland and hill dipterocarp forest, Geographic Information Systems, forest inventories, forest harvesting and forest management system (SMS). Participate in organizing committee member, division level activities and projects. Coordinate and collaborate a long term ecological plot and inventory data about 25 years at the Pasoh, Negeri Sembilan with Negeri Sembilan Forestry Department, universities (local & international) and NGOs. Published and presented research findings at the seminars and conferences. Currently as Auditor at the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section (FAF), SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, since 2013. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] & [MC&I (Plantations)], MYNI of RSPO P&C and other management systems on ISO 9001, 14001 and OSHA 18001</p> <p><u>Training / Research Areas:</u></p> <p>Has attended and passed in the following training programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor Training Course on Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] & [MC&I (Plantations)] organized by MTCC, 1-4 December 2013. • EMS 14001: 2004 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 18-22 March 2013. • OHSAS 18001: 2007 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 11-15 March 2013. • QMS 9001: 2008 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 4-8 March 2013.
Ismail Adnan Abdul Malek	Assessor / Forester	<p><u>Academic Qualification:</u></p> <p>Master of Forestry, University of British Columbia, Canada</p> <p><u>Work Experience:</u></p> <p>One year (1974-1975) experience as Sub Assistant Conservator of Forest at the Pahang Forest Department, involved with Forest Administration/Management and Enforcement. Next, seven years (1979-1986) experience as Forest Officer/Logging Superintendent at Syarikat Jengka Sdn. Bhd (SJSB), an integrated timber complex in Pahang. Responsible for Forest Licensing/ Administration, Forest Mapping, Road Construction and Logging Operations. Senior Lecturer at the Forestry Faculty, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) from 1986 to 2014. Responsible for teaching and research in Forest Mensuration, Forest Survey, Forest Road, GIS/Remote Sensing and Forest Mapping. Responsible for academic supervision of more than 100 Bachelor/Master/Phd students in their research and thesis writing. Own research at UPM include various areas</p>

		<p>such as forest mapping using geo spatial tools, forest inventories, forest harvesting and forest management system (SMS). Also involved with consultancy works which include RPH development and Forest Mapping. Participate in organizing local/international seminars on Forestry areas. Published and presented research findings at seminars/conferences and journals. Currently as Auditor at the Food, Agriculture and Forestry /ion (FAF), SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, since 2016. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification MC&I (Natural Forest) & MC&I (Forest Plantations).</p> <p><u>Training / Research Areas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor Training Course on MC& I (Natural Forest) and MC&I (Forest Plantation V2), 9th-10th July 2015, SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd • ISO 14001:2004 Lead Assessor Training, 23rd-27th Nov 2015, SIRIM Training Services Sdn. Bhd • Training on Auditing Techniques, 26th January 2016, SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd
<p>Dr. Mohd Nazre Saleh</p>	<p>Assessor / Forester</p>	<p><u>Academic Qualification:</u></p> <p><i>Diploma in Forestry, UPM</i> <i>B. Sc. Conservation Biology & Ecology (UKM)</i> <i>MSc. Botany (UKM)</i> <i>PhD. Botany (Edinburgh)</i></p> <p><u>Work Experience:</u></p> <p>One year as Research Assistant in WWF-Malaysia in the year from 1999-2000. Become an academic staff in Faculty of Forestry, Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Serdang Selangor from 2000 to present (16 years), starting as a tutor promoted as Senior Lecturer in 2009, and currently as an Associate Professor since 2013. Main responsibility is teaching the undergraduates in the subject of Dendrology, Forest Ecology and Ethnobotany, and Forest Dynamics for postgraduate students. Main research subjects are botany, forest ecology and, forest conservation and management done by supervising both undergraduate and postgraduate (Master/PhD) students funded by local and international grants. Appointed as Head of Department since 2010 for Department of Forest Production (2010-2012) and Department of Forest Management (2013-present). Has sat in many committees for university and ministry (national) related to forestry subjects such as Mangrove Conservation, Forest Management, Forest Protection and Forest Plantation. Published more than 50 articles in local and international book, journals, chapters in books, conference proceeding and technical reports. Attended and presented in many workshops, conferences, seminars held at both local and international levels.</p> <p><u>Training / Research Areas:</u></p> <p>Attended and pass the following training programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor Training Course on MC& I (Natural Forest) and MC&I (Forest Plantation V2) (SIRIM QAS Sdn. Bhd), 9th-10th July 2015. • EMS 14001: 2004 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 18th – 22nd July 2016. • Forest Management Certification (FMC) Workshop, SIRIM Bhd, 6th –7th December 2016 • Training on Auditing Techniques (SIRIM QAS Int. Sdn. Bhd), 26th January 2016.

<p>Dr Paul Porodong</p>	<p>Trainee Auditor / Socioeconomist</p>	<p><u>Academic Qualification:</u> B.A (Hons) Anthropology and Sociology (Malaya) 1992 MA Anthropology and Sociology (Malaya) 1997 Ph.D Enviromental Anthropology (Kent,UK) 2010</p> <p><u>Work Experience:</u> 20 years teaching, and research experience in Universiti Malaysia Sabah. Currently as Auditor at the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section (FAF), SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, since 2017. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] & [MC&I (Plantations)],</p> <p><u>Research Areas:</u> As Sabah-born Anthropologist, I have over 20 years of extensive local knowledge on Sabah cultural landscape - working on poverty, gender relations, ethnic relations, conservation, natural resources management, tourism, local and national politics, health studies, rural development, subsistence strategies, traditional farming and material culture.</p> <p>Over 20 years' experience researching swidden agriculture (slash and burn agriculture). Very often, this is most important agricultural practice conducted next to (or even inside) the protected area in Sabah. PhD thesis entitled "An Exploration of changing household's subsistence strategies among contemporary Rungus farmers" discussed how swidden practice is changing with introduction of cash crop. My Master's thesis in 1997 is working on poverty and subsistence farmer in Kudat, Sabah.</p> <p>More than 12 years of working experience in collaborative work with government agency, plantation industries, local and international NGOs, consultant firm in relation to rural communities in these three interrelated area - socioeconomic development, community empowerment and environmental conservation.</p>
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Comments Received from Stakeholders and Responses by Audit Team Leader

No.	Stakeholder	Comments/Issues Raised	Response by Audit Team
1	Universiti Malaysia Sarawak	As for Raplex we are planning to work on the Wildlife Utilisation of the Salt Licks in the FMU. This should facilitate the management of high priority for conservation areas in the FMU. A proposal to conduct this has been sent to Ta Ann last year and currently we are looking forward to receiving a letter of intent to continue with MoA. This will expedite the proposed work in this area. If all goes well, this project is expected to commence early this year. At the moment we are planning to use infra red sensed cameras from Ta Ann as well as from UNIMAS for this project to monitor wildlife near the salt licks.	Noted.
2	Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB)	<p>Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was submitted to the NREB and subsequently approved on 8 December 2017.</p> <p>Monitoring on the implementation of Terms and Conditions of the EIA approval at the project site is done through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Submission of Environmental Monitoring Reports (EMR) by the project proponent in quarterly basis (once in 3 months) -The EMR for Raplex FMU has migrated to Environmental Compliance Audit (ECA). Hence, the environmental compliance status of the project site will be monitored based on the ECA reports (two internal audits and one external audit per year) which will start in year 2019, and -Post-EIA Monitoring is conducted by NREB at least once a year to ensure that the project proponent is implementing the mitigating measures to minimize the impact of the project on the environment <p>Based on the record with NREB, there is no outstanding environmental issue and no notice on non-compliance to the terms and conditions of EIA approval been issued to the project proponent. The submission of EMRs prior to the migration was also consistent.</p>	Noted.

Stage 2 Audit Plan

DAY	TIME	PROGRAM		
		AUDITOR 1 (Razman)	AUDITOR 2 (Ismail)	AUDITOR 3 (Dr Nazre & Dr Paul)
Sunday (17/3/2019)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel from KLIA to Sibul (MH2712 – ETA:8:25 – 10:20) Express boat from Sibul Ferry Terminal to Kapit town Lunch break at Kapit town Travel from Kapit town to Raplex FMU on 4-wheel drive vehicle (3 hours) Audit team stay at Sg. Pila Base Camp 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr Nazre: Travel from KLIA to Bintulu (MH2742 – ETA:8:30 – 10:40) Dr Paul: Travel from KKIA to Bintulu (AirAsia AK6340 – ETA:06:00 – 07:10) Both auditors travel to Belaga town on 4-wheel drive (6 hours)
Day 1 Monday (18/3/2019)	8.00 am – 12.30 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opening Meeting with representatives of FMU Briefing session by Forest Manager on progress of forest activities Evaluation of changes to the management of the FMU Check on progress of planned activities aimed at enhancing the operation system Check on complaints, stakeholder comments and follow-up actions with Government agencies and NGOs Evaluate on internal audit and management review Follow up on issues of concern from Stage 1 Q&A Session 		
	2.00 – 5.30 pm	AUDITOR 1 (Razman)	AUDITOR 2 (Ismail)	AUDITOR 3 (Dr Nazre & Dr Paul)
		Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle 2 – Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities Principle 3 – Indigenous Peoples' Right Principle 4 - Community Relations and Worker's Right Principle 6 – Environmental Impact Principle 7 – Management Plan 	Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle 1 – Compliance with Laws and Principles Principle 5 – Benefits from the forest Principle 8 – Monitoring and Assessment Principle 9 – Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview with local communities located outside of FMU area (3 KM radius) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rumah Baden Long Dungan Sekapan Panjang Sekapan Piit FMU boundary inspection
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Day 1 Findings by Audit Team Leader Auditor 1 and 2 stay at Sg. Pila basecamp Auditor 3 and technical expert stay at Belaga 			
Day 2 Tuesday (19/3/2019)	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	AUDITOR 1 (Razman)	AUDITOR 2 (Ismail)	AUDITOR 3 (Dr Nazre & Dr Paul)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PoRM Inspection of active harvesting in Coupe 1 Nursery Buffer zone Sg. Pila Inspection of post harvesting and enrichment planting in Coupe 12(II) FMU external boundary south east (T/0560-T/3290 Polymore Timber) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of PSP/FRA (3 plots) – Plot 50 & 51 FMU boundary inspection at south (T/0560-T/0518 STIDC) FRA SU 49 & SFC PSP No. 1 FMU external boundary with LPF0040 Ta Ann Plywood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interview with local communities located outside of FMU area (3 KM radius) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rh. Dari Jalawing Punan Sama Uma Tanjung

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Day 2 Findings by Audit Team Leader • Auditor 1 and 2 stay at Sg. Pila basecamp • Auditor 3 and technical expert stay at Belaga 		
Day 3 Wednesday (20/3/2019)	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	AUDITOR 1 (Razman)	AUDITOR 2 (Ismail)	AUDITOR 3 (Dr Nazre & Dr Paul)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCVF and conservation area -HCV 1.4 Sg. Suau salt lick (camera trap) -HCV 1.4 Bear feeding site (camera trap) -HCV 5 Community water catchment - Rh. Empang -HCV 6.0 – Pulau Mali • Inspection at camp area, workshop, scheduled waste store, genset, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with Consultative Representative Committee (CRC) • Interview with local community located within the FMU area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rh Aji ○ Rh Mero ○ Rh. Empang 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with Land & Survey Department in Kapit.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Day 3 Findings by Audit Team Leader • Auditor 1 and 2 stay at Sg. Pila basecamp • Auditor 3 and technical expert stay at Belaga 		
Day 4 Thursday (21/3/2019)	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	AUDITOR 1 (Razman)	AUDITOR 2 (Ismail)	AUDITOR 3 (Dr Nazre & Dr Paul)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentation and records review • Inspection of logpond/ CDC • Travel to Kapit town • Travel to Sibu 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview with Sarawak Forest Department, Sarawak Forestry Corporation in Sibu.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Day 4 Findings by Audit Team Leader • Auditor 1 and 2 travel from Sg. Pila basecamp to Sibu • Auditor 3 and technical travel from Belaga to Bintulu (6 hours) and Sibu (4 hours) 		
Day 5 Friday (22/3/2019)	8.00 am – 5.00 pm	AUDITOR 1 (Razman)	AUDITOR 2 (Ismail)	AUDITOR 3 (Dr Nazre & Dr Paul)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue documentation and records review at Ta Ann Headquarters office, Sibu • Audit team discussion and preparation of audit finding and reports • Closing meeting 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All auditors travel from Sibu to KLIA on Friday (AirAsia AK5871 – ETA: 19:00 – 20:55) ➤ Technical expert travel from Sibu to KKIA on Friday (AirAsia AK6093 – ETA: 20:25 – 21:45) 				

Details on NCRs and OFIs Raised During this Stage 2 Audit and Corrective Actions Taken

Indicator	Specification Major/Minor/ OFI	Detail Non-conformances	Corrective Action Plans Taken	Comments by Audit team
<p>4.4.1</p> <p>MNS 01/2019</p>	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Indicator 4.4.1 – 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>Finding: Record of meetings and /or consultations between forest managers and communities affected by forest operation was not available.</p> <p>Objective evidence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. During this Stage 2 audit, records presented by Raplex FMU were reviewed and feedbacks of the communities were obtained during the field visit of Rh. Aji, Rh. Mero, Rh. Empang, Rh. Awi Lahang Long Dungan, Rh. Sekapan Panjang, Rh. Sekapan Piit, Rh. Dari Jelawing, Rh. Punan Sama and Rh. Tanjong were noted. Evidence of CRC meeting with the community representative (leaders) were available but communities affected by the forest operations still has not been informed about the function of CRC, the mechanism/procedure to resolve issues affecting communities due to the forest operations, and about the FMU (Raplex, Ironwall, Ta Ann) itself. 2. There was no records of meeting/consultations between the FMU representatives and communities from Rh. Empang, Rh. Vincent and Rh. Gendang which may be affected by current logging operation in Coupe 1AR. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To plan and conduct local communities' awareness/social Program to the project affected communities. - To request members of CRC to disseminate the function of CRC and grievances procedure to their respective zone i.e. Sekapan, Punan and Pila. - To consult potentially affected communities prior to opening new annual coupe and prepare report for all consultation conducted. 	<p>Audit team has accepted corrective action plan on 7 April 2019.</p> <p>Status: The effectiveness of implementation corrective action plan will be verified during next audit.</p>

<p>6.5.1</p> <p>MRS 01 2019</p>	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Requirement : Indicator 6.5.1 - Availability and implementation of harvesting procedures to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations.</p> <p>Finding : Bridge constructed in the license area did not effectively minimize soil erosion.</p> <p>Objective evidence : During site inspection of bridge which was located in the pre-felling area between Block 4 and Block 6, Coupe 1AR, it was found that the soil was eroded at the left side of the bridge.</p>	<p>- To rehabilitate any bare slope near bridges with cover crops or other fast-growing vegetation i.e. cover crop or tree.</p> <p>- To construct embankment retaining wall or “<i>Tembok Penahan Tebing</i>” on eroded portion at the side of logging bridge to avoid further landslide.</p> <p>- To conduct training in effort to make aware and improve understanding of contractor and road maintenance team on the need to construct embankment retaining wall at logging bridge that has risk of landslide.</p>	<p>Audit team has accepted corrective action plan on 7 April 2019.</p> <p>Status: The effectiveness of implementation corrective action plan will be verified during next audit.</p>
<p>6.5.4</p> <p>MRS 02 2019</p>	<p>Major</p>	<p>Requirement : Indicator 6.5.4 - Availability and implementation of guidelines for conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers.</p> <p>Finding : Riparian buffer zone has been encroached by the buildings, houses and roads.</p> <p>Objective evidence : During inspection of Sg. Pila base camp, audit team has found logging road, water pump house and workers housing were located inside the buffer zone area (40 m width) of Sg. Pila. This is non-conformance of the requirement of the MC& I standards and EIA requirements regarding river protection and riparian buffer zone. Raplex FMU management is aware of the requirement and to date has taken efforts in mitigation which include the study by Ecosol Consultancy Sdn Bhd”, the report titled “Verification study and Rehabilitation for the Pila Camp of Raplex FMU” and removal of some structures in the buffer zone. However, the mitigation measures taken were not fully completed. In addition, it was found, the marking of riparian buffer boundary also was not clearly marked along the river.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demarcate the riparian buffer boundary (40m width). 2. To remove any structure located within the buffer zone i.e. water pump house. 3. Rehabilitate area with cover crop and planting of indigenous trees inside buffer zone. 4. Work completed 6 April 2019 	<p>Audit team has verified and accepted the corrective action taken by the FMU:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Measuring point of 40 m from river bank and demarcated buffer zone for Sg. Pila with pegging and marking with blue poles as protection area. 2. Erected awareness signboards ‘Buffer Zone’ and ‘No Entry’. 3. Access to affected area has been closed by constructing bund to prevent vehicle entry. 4. Water pump house has been relocated outside of 40 m Sg. Pila buffer zone. 5. Planting of grass, flowers and cover crops at the boundary of the buffer zone. 6. The 40 m buffer zone point located just in front of workers quarters. Workers quarters located outside of buffer zone. <p>Status: Closed.</p>
<p>6.9.1</p> <p>MRS 03 2019</p>	<p>Minor</p>	<p>Requirement : Indicator 6.9.1 - Document, control and monitor on the use of exotic species to avoid adverse ecological impacts. Preference shall be given to native species in</p>	<p>- To plan monitoring schedule on the extent of the <i>Acacia mangium</i> trees at the forest nursery and within the Raplex FMU area.</p>	<p>Audit team has accepted corrective action plan on 7 April 2019.</p> <p>Status: The effectiveness</p>

		<p>enrichment planting.</p> <p>Finding: The FMU has yet to monitor the exotic species that grows inside the license area.</p> <p>Objective evidence :</p> <p>Audit team has found acacia mangium trees growing in the surrounding of the nursery area. However, there was no records of monitoring on the extent of the <i>acacia mangium</i> trees conducted by Raplex FMU.</p>	<p>- To implement the plan and report the extent of the <i>Acacia mangium</i> trees growing surrounding the nursery and within the FMU area. Monitoring expected to start in April/ May 2019.</p> <p>- Once Acacia harvested, it shall be replanted with indigenous tree species.</p>	<p>of implementation corrective action plan will be verified during next audit.</p>
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- End of report -