



**PUBLIC SUMMARY
SURVEILLANCE 1 AUDIT (1st CYCLE) ON
JOHOR FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

**Certificate Number: FMC – NF000126
Date of First Certification: 3 July 2020
Audit Dates: 5-7 July 2021 (Remote) and
1-3 November 2021 (On-site)
Date of Public Summary: 18 March 2022**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This surveillance audit on the Johor Forest Management Unit (hereafter referred as the Johor FMU) was conducted on 5-7 July 2021 (remote) and on 1-3 November 2021 (on-site) to assess the continued compliance of the overall forest management system of the Johor FMU against the requirements of the *Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management* (MC&I SFM) using the verifiers stipulated for Peninsular Malaysia. The scope of this surveillance audit was limited to the forest management system and practices on the Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF) within the Johor FMU.

This surveillance audit was conducted both by remote and on-site. The remote audit was conducted by a 2-member team comprising Mohd Razman Salim (Lead Auditor) and Mohd Annas Amin Hj Omar (Auditor). Likewise, the on-site audit was also conducted by a 2-member team; Hj. Roslee Jamaludin (Lead Auditor) and Mohd Annas Hj.Omar (Auditor). Azrul Ikhsan participated in the on-site audit as an observer.

Based on the findings of this surveillance audit, it was found that the Johor FMU had continued to comply with most of the requirements of the MC&I SFM. This surveillance audit had resulted in the issuance of three (3) minor Non Conformity Reports (NCRs) and three (3) Observation for Improvements (OFIs).

The audit team had also verified and satisfied with the corrective actions taken by the Johor State Forestry Department (JSFD) to address the three (3) major, four (4) minor NCRs and five (5) OFIs raised during the previous Stage 2 audit had been appropriate. Therefore the audit team had closed-out all these NCRs and OFIs.

In addition, the audit team had also reviewed and accepted the proposed corrective actions submitted by the Johor State Forestry Department to address the three (3) minor NCRs and three (3) OFIs that were raised during this surveillance audit. However, the effectiveness of these corrective actions taken shall be verified by the audit team during the next surveillance audit.

The Audit Team Leader, had after consultations with the audit team members recommended that the Johor FMU to continue to be certified under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) conditional upon the acceptance of the corrective action plan to address the NCRs and OFIs within one (1) month from the date of this surveillance audit.

This public summary contains the general information on the Johor FMU, the findings of the surveillance audit, NCRs raised as well as the decision on the continued certification of the FMU.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Name of FMU

Johor Forest Management Unit

2.2 Contact Person and Address

Dato' Haji Salim bin Aman
Director
Johor State Forestry Department
Bangunan Dato' Mohamad Ibrahim Munsyi
Kota Iskandar, 79660 Iskandar Puteri
JOHOR DARUL TAKZIM
Phone # : +607-266 7433
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2.3 General Background on the Johor FMU

The Johor FMU is managed by the Johor State Forestry Department (JSFD). The JSFD was still committed in the management of the FMU on a sustainable basis. The administration of the FMU was still divided into four (4) forest districts namely the North Johor, Central Johor, East Johor and South Johor Forest Districts.

The area of Permanent Reserved Forests (PRFs) managed by the JSFD totalled 334,292.46 hectares (ha) of the State's total land area of 1,916,600 ha. Of the total 334,292 ha of the PRF, 285,292.87 ha had been certified, which were covered under the scope of this surveillance audit. The forest types of the PRF comprise of inland *Dipterocarp* covering an area of 265,415.62 ha, 3,796.04 ha of peat swamp forest and the remaining 16,081.21 ha of mangrove forests.

The inland *Dipterocarp* forest is managed under a Selective Management System (SMS) on a 30-year rotation period. Under the Twelfth Malaysian Plan (2021- 2025), the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the Johor FMU had been set at 2,600 ha. A Forest Management Plan (FMP) covering the period from 2016-2025 had been presented during the audit.

The JSFD had proposed to the Johor State Government to gazette a total area of 74,007.65 ha of forested land in the state as PRF. However, the process of gazette was still under progress. The temporary moratorium on forest harvesting activities within the PRF was still being imposed since 1 January 2015. Forest harvesting or other forest activities were only allowed in the 11 harvesting licenses covering an area of 546.92 ha that were approved before 1 January 2015. Since then, the JSFD had not issued any new licence for harvesting within the PRF.

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

2.4 Date First Certified

03-07-2020

2.5 Location of the FMU

The FMU lies between latitudes 1° 15' 57.90" and 2° 5' 54.55" N, and longitudes 102° 29' 22.93" and 104° 15' 47.61" E.

2.6 Forest Management System

The Johor FMU had followed the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) and the requirements of the Licence Agreement of the Johor State government. A FMP (2016 to 2025) was presented during this surveillance audit.

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

Under the Twelfth Malaysian Plan (2021- 2025), the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for the Johor FMU had been set at 2,600 ha. During this surveillance audit, there was no new gazettelement or de-gazettelement of the PRF. Therefore, the certified area of the FMU had remained the same at 285,292.87 ha.

2.8 Environmental and Socioeconomic Context

The ultimate objective of all JSFD's forest management programmes and activities is to ensure the sustainable management of the PRF within the FMU in order to achieve ecological balance, environmental stability and richness in biodiversity of the FMU. Hence, the forest management operations had taken into consideration on the environmental aspects and continued to emphasize on reduced impact logging aimed at optimising harvest while minimizing negative impacts.

Similarly, the FMP (2016-2025) had therefore emphasized the importance of reducing the negative impacts of forest harvesting operations on the environment. Sensitive areas within the FMU had been demarcated, mapped and systematically protected in specific conservative forest use categories. Such areas included high elevation areas (1000 m or higher) steep slopes (>40 degrees), riparian buffers and HCVF. In addition, part of the FMU lies within the Central Forest Spine (CFS) where several biological corridors were being implemented to allow wildlife movement and conserve habitats.

In line with the objectives of the National Forestry Policy 1978, the forestry practices of the JSFD on the FMU focus on the harvesting of primarily high-quality commercial tropical logs to be used for downstream processing and production of value-added products such as sawn timber, plywood, veneer, moulding, furniture and charcoal (in the case of mangrove logs).

In an attempt to diversify the product-mix from the forest resources, the JSFD has started to develop the non-timber forest products (NTFP) for the domestic market. Although the processing of NTFP is currently on small-scale and non-intensive, they do contribute in terms of royalty collection to the State's income.

The JSFD had continued to conduct consultations and social impact assessments (SIAs) to identify potential impacts to the peoples directly being affected by prior to, during and after the implementation of its forestry operations. The results of the SIAs were incorporated into the planning and management of the Johor FMU.

3 AUDIT PROCESS

3.1 Audit Dates

5 – 7 July 2021 (Remote) - 6 man days and
1 – 3 November 2021 (On-Site) – 6 man days
(12 man days)

3.2 Audit Team

Haji Roslee Jamaluddin (Lead Auditor – On-Site)
Mohd Razman Salim (Lead Auditor – Remote)
Mohd Annas Amin Hj Omar [Forester (Remote and On-Site)]
Azrul Ikhsan (Observer)

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

3.3 Standard Used

Malaysia Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM) using the verifiers stipulated for Peninsular Malaysia.

3.4 Stakeholder Consultations

A one-month stakeholder consultation was conducted beginning in October 2021 to solicit feedback from stakeholders on the compliance of the Johor FMU against the requirements of the MC&I SFM using the verifiers for Peninsular Malaysia. The comments by the stakeholders and responses by the audit team are shown in **Attachment 3**.

3.5 Audit Process

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

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 SFM;
- (ii) a minor NCR is a deviation or a lapse in complying with the requirements of the MC&I SFM; 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 SFM but without sufficient objective evidence to support a non-conformance.

The audit team had also made on-site consultations with the relevant stakeholders during this surveillance audit. Consultations were held with the Orang Asli community living within the Lenggong Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF) in Kampung Berasau, Kahang and the villagers of Kampung Punjut, Kluang.

Interviews were also held with the Chinese Village Development Council in Jemaluang, Chairman (Johor Branch) of the Kesatuan Pegawai Pegawai Hutan Melayu Semenanjung Malaysia (KPPHMSM) as well as the District Forest Officers of the JSFD. In addition, the audit team had also visited and interviewed the workers of the nurseries in Kampung Gajah, Kluang and in Jemaluang. The coverage of this surveillance audit is as shown in the Surveillance Audit Plan in **Attachment 4**.

The JSFD had sent a corrective action plan to address the minor NCRs and OFIs which the audit team had reviewed and accepted them. The audit team had prepared an interim surveillance audit report and sent it to the JSFD for comment. A final surveillance audit report was then prepared which had incorporated the comments received from the JSFD.

4 SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

Based on the findings of this surveillance audit, it was found that the JSFD had continued to manage the Johor FMU in compliance with most of the requirements of the MC&I SFM. This surveillance audit had resulted in the issuance of three (3) minor NCRs and three (3) OFIs. The details on the NCRs/OFIs raised are shown in **Attachment 5**.

The audit team had also reviewed and accepted the JSFD's proposed corrective actions to address the three (3) minor NCRs and three (3) OFIs. However, these corrective actions shall be verified by the audit team during the next audit.

The audit team had also verified on the corrective actions taken by the JSFD to address the four (4) Minor NCRs and five (5) OFIs which were raised during the previous audit. The responses made by the audit team leader on these corrective actions and on the final status of the NCRs and OFIs are as in **Attachment 6**.

On indigenous peoples' rights, there were mechanisms in place to resolve disputes over tenure and use rights through meetings held with the Department of Orang Asli Development or Jabatan Kemajuan Orang Asli (JAKOA), Village Development Management Council, District Action Committee or at the highest level the State Action Committee. It was observed that there was no recorded civil court case pertaining to legal or customary tenure or use rights filed against the JSFD.

With regard to Criterion 6.10, there was no new conversion of the PRF to forest plantations or other non-forest land uses during the intervening period since the last audit. The PRF in the Johor FMU has therefore remained the same. As mentioned in para 2.3 above, the JSFD had in fact proposed to the Johor State Government to gazette a total new area of 74,007.65 ha of forested land in the state as PRF. However, the process of gazettelement was still under progress.

As there was no major NCR raised during this surveillance audit, the audit team had therefore recommended that the Certificate for Forest Management which had been awarded to the JSFD be maintained.

The summary on the findings of the surveillance audit on the Johor FMU against the requirements of the MC&I SFM are as follows:

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
Principle 1 Compliance With Laws and Principles	<p>The forest management of the Johor FMU had complied with most of the applicable laws of Malaysia, respected the international treaties and agreements which Malaysia is a signatory and complied with all the Principles and Criteria in the MC&I SFM.</p>	<p>Although the FMU boundaries had been routinely maintained to ensure resource security, it had not been consistently conducted. It was found that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the entrance of Compartment 136 of the Lenggong PFR, the 3-ringed red paint marked on trees had faded. In addition, there was no evidence that an under brushing had been done and the signage on the acts prohibited in PRF had been damaged; and 2. At the entrance of Compartment 45 of the Mersing PRF, there were no PRF signboard and the notice board of acts prohibited in PRF. <p>Therefore, a minor NCR RJ 02-2021 was raised against indicator 1.5.2.</p> <p>There were policies or statements of commitment to forest management practices consistent with the Principles and Criteria of sustainable forest management and practices. However, the statement of commitment still referred to the MC&I instead of the new standard; MC&I SFM. An observation, OFI #1 was raised against indicator 1.6.1.</p>
Principle 2 Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities	<p>The PRFs are under the jurisdiction of the State government (Johor), and they were gazetted, in line with the National Forestry (Amendment) Act 1993 and protected within this legal provision.</p> <p>The legal use rights of the logging contractors on the PRFs had been clearly addressed in the concession agreements, forest harvesting licenses, entry, road and use permits issued by the JSFD.</p> <p>The Orang Asli and other local communities (Malay, Chinese, Indian and other ethnic groups) do not have any legal or customary rights of ownership over land in the PRFs as they are legally owned by the Johor State Government.</p> <p>However, in the case of the Orang Asli, they were allowed under the Act to freely access the forest and collect forest</p>	<p>The information on the extension of the harvesting licence as well as on the approval to harvest additional quantity of forest products, was not being up-dated as evident in the following cases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The forest harvesting license document no. JS/01/B/2/17 checked at the Gelang Patah Forest Checking Station (FCS) had not been up-dated on the additional allowable pieces of poles to be extracted; and 2. The forest harvesting license document no. JH/01/D/3/20 checked at the Madek FCS had not been up-dated with respect to the extension of its validity. <p>A minor NCR ANS-02-2012 was raised against indicator 2.1.1.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>resources only for their personal consumption.</p> <p>The same mechanisms to resolve land claims were still in place. There was no recorded civil court case pertaining to legal or customary tenure or use rights filed against the JSFD presumably due to fact that all local community settlements were located outside the PRFs.</p>	
Principle 3 Indigenous People's Rights	<p>There was no indigenous people's (Orang Asli) land inside the PRFs. Nevertheless, the Orang Asli were not prevented by the JSFD from exercising their customary use rights (as guaranteed by the Aboriginal Peoples Act 1954) in the PRFs.</p> <p>There had been no cases of forest management practices threatening or diminishing, either directly or indirectly, the Orang Asli resources or tenure rights.</p> <p>The same established mechanisms and procedures were still being used for identifying and protecting sites of special cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance to the Orang Asli.</p> <p>Based on the JSFD's records, there was no evidence to indicate the utilization by the JSFD of any traditional forest-related knowledge and practices of the Orang Asli in the use of forest species or management systems in forest operations.</p> <p>There was also no state or national legislation or mutual agreement related to fair and equitable compensation for the commercial utilisation of traditional forest-related knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples. However, the JSFD had documented the flow chart on the mechanism for payment of compensation to the use of the Orang Asli traditional knowledge if it is commercialised by the JSFD.</p>	There were no negative findings.
Principle 4 Community Relations and Workers' Rights	<p>JSFD had continued to provide sufficient support for training, retraining, local infrastructures, facilities and social programs for its own staff as well as to the logging contractors and their workers.</p> <p>With regards to employment of local people, based on the record kept on the licensees by the JSFD, many of them</p>	<p>The JSFD had continued to conduct consultations and social impact assessments (SIAs) with the peoples directly being affected by its forestry operations. However, these peoples have had no access to the results and findings of these SIAs. Therefore, OFI #2 was raised against Indicator 4.4.1.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>had employed workers from the local communities.</p> <p>The JSFD had continued to control and ensure that all licensees and logging contractors do not employ or involve in employing illegal immigrants through the issuance of the Entry Permit.</p> <p>The JSFD's established policy on safety and health entitled '<i>Dasar Keselamatan dan Kesihatan</i>' had been displayed and communicated at all levels of the department staff and logging contractors.</p> <p>Records on meetings of the Safety & Health Committee were kept in good order. The latest meeting of the Committee was held on 4 May 2021.</p> <p>The JSFD also kept record on accidents. There was no accident reported for year 2020. There was only 1 accident reported in 2021. The JSFD had continued to submit summary of accident annually to the State DOSH.</p> <p>The JSFD had continued to respect the freedom of its staff to organise and associate with any union of their own choice. Most of them were still members of CUEPACS, the public sector employee's union. Whilst the uniformed field staffs were members of the union, '<i>Kesatuan Pegawai-Pegawai Hutan Melayu Semenanjung Malaysia</i>' (KPHMSM) or the (Peninsular Malaysia's Malay Forest Officers Union)</p> <p>There were established procedures to address grievances raised by JSFD's staff and the logging contractors' workers and/or their organizations as provided for by the Employment Act 1955, the Industrial Relations Act, 1967 (Sections 18-37) and the Trade Union Act, 1959 (Act 262). Within the JSFD, employees' grievances were resolved through the Departmental Consultative Council or <i>Majlis Bersama Jabatan (MBJ)</i>. While employees of the logging contractors voiced their grievances directly to their employers.</p> <p>The JSFD had continued to conduct consultations and social impact assessments (SIAs) to identify potential impacts to the peoples directly being affected by prior to, during and after the</p>	

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	implementation of its forestry operations. The results of the SIAs were incorporated into the planning and management of the Johor FMU.	
Principle 5 Benefits From the Forest	<p>The JSFD had continued to invest in forest management including forest administration, protection, research, human resource development, economic, conservation, environmental and social aspects.</p> <p>The budget allocation (P71) for 2021 totalled RM 6.0 million, was for expenditures on management and development of forest resources, operation and enforcement, conservation and protection, nursery, eco-tourism, development of human resources, publicity and infrastructures and equipment.</p> <p>The PRF within the FMU was still being managed under the Selective Management System (SMS). Hence, the forest management operations had taken into consideration on the environmental aspects and continued to emphasize on reduced impact logging aimed at optimising harvest while minimizing negative impacts.</p> <p>The JSFD's main focus on forest management is the production of high-quality tropical timbers and the ultimate objective of all programmes is to ensure the sustainable management of the resource that includes the production of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) as well as ecosystem services.</p> <p>Harvesting operations in the FMU was aimed at full utilization of the timber resources with minimal wastages in line with the objectives of the National Forest Policy. A ceiling was imposed to control net extraction volume at 68 m³/ha for primary forests and 61m³/ha for subsequent rotations of secondary forests.</p> <p>With pre-harvest selection and tagging of trees, only quality trees were removed which reduces wastage. In addition, precise directional felling, help to protect residual stand from being damaged thus ensuring the availability of trees for future harvest.</p> <p>The JSFD had continued to keep record on the volumes of timber harvested to</p>	There were no negative findings.

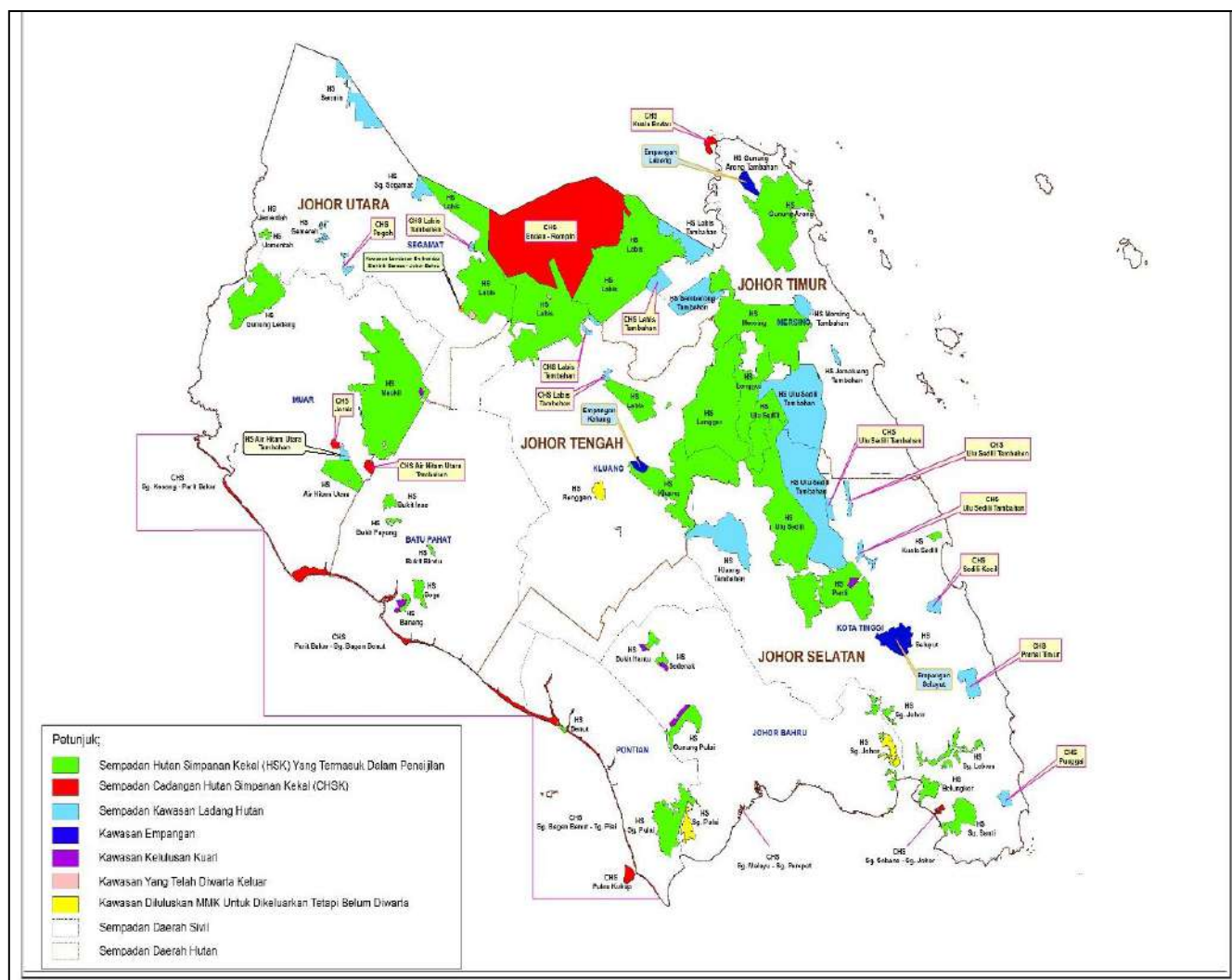
Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>ensure long term sustainability of harvest and the AAC would not exceeded at the FMU level, both in terms of area and volume. For 2016 to 2020, the volume of timber harvested had been below the AAC.</p>	
Principle 6 Environmental Impact	<p>The Johor FMU was covered in a macro-level Environmental Impact Assessment (MEIA) conducted in 2008. The recommendations of the MEIA had been incorporated into the JSFD's FMP (2016-2025) which had continued to guide the JSFD in managing the Johor FMU.</p> <p>Sensitive areas such as high elevation areas (1000 m or higher) steep slopes (>40 degrees), riparian buffers. HCVF areas were identified, demarcated, mapped and systematically protected.</p> <p>As the Johor FMU forms part of the Central Forest Spine (CFS), several biological corridors were implemented within the FMU to allow wildlife movement and conserve habitats.</p> <p>There were guidelines which were being used for establishing conservation and protection areas, in accordance with existing forest ecosystems and identifying and protecting ERT species including features of special biological interest.</p> <p>The FMU still had its dual functions of production and conservation. The PRF had been classified into 12 forest use categories; for timber production, soil protection, land use replacement, flood control, water catchment, virgin jungle reserves (VJR), recreational forests, wildlife reserve, educational forest, research forest, federal-purpose forest and state park.</p> <p>There was good cooperation between JSFD, and conservation organizations and regulatory authorities on implementing conservation activities. One such example was the joint implementation of the Central Forest Spine (CFS) wildlife corridor project involving various State agencies; JSFD, State Department of Wildlife and National Parks, Town and Country Planning Department, State Department of Environment and others.</p> <p>Activities such as illegal hunting, fishing</p>	<p>There were no negative findings.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>and collecting were being controlled and inappropriate activities prevented in the FMU.</p> <p>The local communities were aware of the existence of ERT species in the FMU. They were also informed of the need to protect wildlife.</p> <p>There were guidelines to assess post-harvest natural regeneration and their promotion and measures to supplement natural regeneration and rehabilitate degraded areas, where necessary.</p> <p>There were guidelines on the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity.</p> <p>Forest harvesting was done taking into consideration the need for the conservation of biological corridors and buffer zones and features of special biological interest for wildlife. The demarcation of buffer zones in logging licenses along active streams was clearly mapped and marked.</p> <p>There were representative areas of existing forest ecosystems, appropriate to the scale and intensity of forest management operations and these areas were demarcated and protected in their natural state.</p> <p>There were harvesting procedures being implemented to protect the soil from compaction by harvesting machinery and erosion during harvesting operations as described in the <i>Guidelines for Reduced Impact Logging in Peninsular Malaysia, 2003, Guidelines for Forest Roads, 2010 (Amended 2013) and the Forest Harvesting Plan</i>.</p> <p>There were guidelines which had continued to be used for forest road layout and construction, including log landings and drainage requirements and conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers.</p> <p>The JSFD still had a policy which favours the use of environmentally friendly non-chemical methods of pest management dated 1 June 2020 which was displayed at the department's headquarters and all the district forest offices.</p> <p>There was an SOP on storing and</p>	

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>handling of poisons and fertilizers. Training was provided to the workers at the nurseries on the handling of these chemicals and poison.</p> <p>There was a policy on recycling which was still being adhered to and SOP on waste disposal and re-cycling of liquid and solid non-organic wastes.</p> <p>The JSFD had not used any biological control agents in the management of the FMU.</p> <p>The JSFD had a policy of using only indigenous forest species from the same locality in the reforestation of natural forest in the FMU.</p> <p>There was no conversion of natural forest to plantation or other land uses within the Johor FMU.</p>	
Principle 7 Management Plan	<p>The JSFD had continued to manage the PRF of the FMU according the Forest Management Plan (FMP) entitled '<i>Rancangan Pengurusan Hutan Negeri Johor 2016 – 2025</i>' and its Addendum. The FMP had included all the items listed from (a) to (j) of Criterion 7.1.</p> <p>The JSFD had continued to incorporate new information from research and monitoring into the FMP.</p> <p>The JSFD's officers and field staff were made aware of recent scientific and technological advancement relevant to management of forest resources through regular structured training programmes.</p> <p>The JSFD had made publicly available a summary of the primary elements of the FMP (2016-2025) and its Addendum.</p>	There were no negative findings.
Principle 8 Monitoring and Assessment	<p>The JSFD had continued to strictly use the monitoring forms A-D for harvesting operations. In addition, the assessment on social elements was done using the 'Form E [<i>Panduan Maklumat/ Borang Kajian Impak Sosial dan Alam Sekitar Dalam Sektor Pembalakan</i>]' and conducted following the 'Guidelines and Procedures for Social Impact Assessment and Monitoring of Forest Management Operations (Peninsular Malaysia) (April 2012)' prepared by UPM.</p> <p>The District Forest Offices had consulted</p>	<p>The JSFD had held a management review meeting. However it was conducted not according to the requirements of the standard. Therefore, an OFI # 3 was raised against Indicator 8.1.3.</p> <p>The Forest Officer at the FCS had not followed the procedures on the coding system of licence number (procedures on chain of custody) for the transportation of logs from the FCS to their destinations. Therefore a minor NCR RJ-01-2021 was raised against</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>and held informal discussions with the villagers from time to time. Such consultations had enabled the JSFD to monitor the social impact of forest management activities on the communities' livelihood and the environment.</p> <p>The JSFD had conducted research and collected data needed to monitor, at a minimum, the items listed in a) to e) in Criterion 8.2.</p> <p>Only logs listed in the RP issued by the FCS would be allowed to be transported to their destinations.</p> <p>The JSFD had incorporated into the FMP the results and findings of the monitoring activities.</p> <p>A summary of the results of monitoring indicators including those listed in Criterion 8.2, had been made publicly available on the JSFD's website at https://forestry.johor.gov.my/perhutanan/pembangunan/pensijilan.</p>	<p>Indicator 8.3.1.</p>
<p>Principle 9 Maintenance of High Conservation Values</p>	<p>JSFD has consulted the relevant stakeholders to identify HCVF areas.</p> <p>The JSFD had conducted an assessment on HCVF and prepared a report entitled '<i>Rancangan Pengurusan Kawasan yang Mempunyai Nilai Pemuliharaan Yang Tinggi HCVF Negeri Johor 2014-2023</i>'.</p> <p>The measures to demarcate, maintain and/or enhance the HCVF attributes were documented in the FMP and effectively implemented in the FMU. These measures had been made publicly available on the JSFD's website at https://forestry.johor.gov.my/hcvf</p> <p>There were monitoring guidelines to assess the effectiveness of the measures taken on the management of the HCVFs and the JSFD had prepared a monitoring report on these HCVFs areas.</p> <p>The results and findings of HCVF monitoring activities had been incorporated into the mid-term review of FMP (2016-2025) that would be completed in 2022.</p>	<p>There were no negative findings.</p>

Map of the Johor FMU



Experiences and Qualifications of Audit Team Members

Assessment Team	Role/Area of MC&I SFM Requirement	Qualifications and Experiences
Hj. Roslee Jamaludin	Assessment Team Leader (On-Site Audit/Forester)	<p><u>Academic Qualifications:</u> B.Sc. of Forestry (Forest Management), University Putra Malaysia. Diploma in Forestry, Mara Institute of Technology, Malaysia.</p> <p><u>Work Experiences:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A retired Forest Conservator, Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia, with 36 years of experiences in forest management, operations and administration. Had worked in various positions since the first appointment in 1979, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Forest Management Officer, Pahang State Forestry Department, Kuantan; Pahang, • Assistant District Forest Officer Kuala Lipis, Pahang and Segamat, Johor; • Forest Plantation Officer, Johor and Terengganu State Forestry Departments; • Forestry Officer for the State of Malacca; • Assistant Director for Forest Harvesting and Industries, Selangor State Forestry Department; • District Forest Officer, District Forest Office, Dungun, Terengganu; • Assistant Director for Forest Management, Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department; and • State Director of Forestry Penang, before retirement in April 2015. • Had involved in several Working Committees formed by the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia to further improve the existing Forestry Manual, Forest Road Guidelines, Forest Rules, and guidelines related to the MC&I for forest management certification. • A member of MAJURUS and was appointed as an Internal Auditor for the MC&I. • Had attended several overseas and local forestry conferences. • A member of the Institut Rimbawan Malaysia (IRIM). • Appointed as a facilitator and trainer on Forest Road Guidelines by Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia. <p><u>Training/Research Areas:</u> Had attended and passed 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)] organised by Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC), 9 – 10 July 2015 • EMS 14001: 2004 Lead Assessor Training Course organised by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 23 – 27 Nov. 2015. • Briefing on RSPO Principle & Criteria (HCV) organised by the Food Agriculture and Forestry Section, SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, 21 August 2015. • Workshop on Auditing Technique for FMC (2) organised by the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section, SIRIM QAS 26 Jan 2016. • FMC Workshop organised by the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section, SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, 28-29 November 2017.

Mohd Razman Salim		<p><u>Academic Qualifications:</u> B.Sc. of Forestry (Forest Production), University Putra Malaysia.</p> <p><u>Work Experiences:</u> Five years experience as a Research Officer at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) since 2007 in various areas such as ecology on lowland and hill dipterocarp forest, geographic information systems (GIS), forest inventories, forest harvesting and forest management system (Selective Management System). As a committee member in organizing research activities and projects. Coordinated and collaborated long-term ecological plot and 25 years inventory data on the Pasoh Forest Reserve, Negeri Sembilan with the Negeri Sembilan State Forestry Department, universities (local & international) and NGOs. Published and presented research findings at seminars and conferences.</p> <p>From 2013 to Present - Auditor in the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section (FAF), SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] & [MC&I (Plantations)], MYNI of RSPO P&C and other management systems such as ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001</p>
Mohd Annas Amin bin Haji Omar	Auditor/ Forester	<p><u>Academic Qualifications:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diploma in Forestry, University Putra Malaysia • B. Sc. In Forestry, University Putra Malaysia <p><u>Work Experiences:</u> Six year as Assistant Forest Officer, Perak State Forestry Department in 2013-2018. Main responsibility was assisting the District Forest Officer in administrative work, forest development and operations. Conduct forest enforcement activities such as the prevention of illegal logging. Appointed as Raid Officer to conduct raids eradicating illegal factories in the Kinta Manjung Forest District. Also was appointed as Investigation Officer to conduct investigations on forest offences.</p> <p>Attended and passed 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)] organised by Malaysian Timber Certification Council in Kuantan, 9-12 July 2018; • Lead Auditor Training Courses on ISO 9001, ISO 14001 organised by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd and Lead Auditor Training Course on ISO 45001 organised by Exemplar Global Certified (13-18 August 2018)

Comments Received from Stakeholders and Responses by Audit Team Leader

No.	Stakeholder.	Comments/Issues Raised	Response by Audit Team
1.	Stakeholder 1 Malaysian Nature Society (MNS)	All documents supporting workers' legal permit, contract and other necessarily documents and its related processes etc., are under the responsibility of Johor State Forestry Department. All these documents etc. must be prepared, kept and available for inspections.	All the relevant supporting documents related to workers legal permit, contract and others are under the responsibility of the contractors to prepare and submit to JSFD for the purpose of the issuance of a sub-licence. There was no active harvesting area during the audit, as the Johore State Government had imposed a moratorium on forest harvesting operations since January 2015.
		A copy of contract must be provided to all workers.	This document was prepared by the contractor and submitted to the JSFD
		Workers' overtime should not exceed the allowable hours as stipulated in Employment Act 1955. Consent form from workers on working overtime must be signed and kept as evidence, including written permission from the management.	Noted.
		Any reported cases of grievances and complaints from workers must be addressed and all related documents must be kept as evidence.	The complaint or greivances from the staff of the JSFD shall be discussed in the " <i>Majlis Bersama Jabatan</i> " (MBJ). The minutes of the meeting of the MBJ were kept by the JSFD.
		All safety precaution measures protecting potential risks to the safety and health of workers must be implemented following the Malaysian Occupational Safety and Health Act.	JSFD had conducted briefings " <i>Taklimat Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerjaan</i> " before an active harvesting licence, commences or starts the harvesting operations. The record of such briefings conducted was kept.
		Evaluation of compliance for Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 and anything related must be conducted, especially on Occupational Safety and Health risks.	The Johor State Department of Workers Health and Safety conducts on-site inspection periodically on the active harvesting area.
		Competent and certified Occupational Safety and Health personnel(s) must be appointed to tackle related issues.	The JSFD has not appointed a Safety Officer, as the department relied on Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) to resolve any issue related to this matter.

		The operation and management of the plantation must be adhered to the current national and international law, regulation etc., relating to human rights and workers' welfare.	Noted.
		The sustainable forest management practices and procedures, such as reduced impact logging procedures, are mandatory. Failure to follow such practices and procedures is not acceptable.	The JSFD has continued to practise sustainable forest management in managing the State's PRF. There are guidelines, procedures such as Forestry Manual, Forest Road Guidelines and RIL to be followed and implemented during field harvesting operations.
		Guidelines addressing conservation of buffer zones within the FMU must be followed and executed.	Noted. There are guidelines on the demarcation of buffer zone for conservation areas and riparian.
		The felling procedures of harvestable trees, including the proper handling, storage, transportation of the trees, must be practiced and monitored.	The directional felling, proper handling, storage and transportation of the trees were practiced as required by the guidelines, and these activities are closely being monitored during harvesting operations by the JSFD.
		All High Conservation Value (HCV) forest, High Carbon Stock (HCS) and/or areas carrying high importance to biodiversity and ecosystem services must be identified, protected, conserved and well maintained. All stipulated guidelines addressing to the protection and conservation of these areas must be adhered strictly.	HCV areas have been established by the JSFD. The establishment and maintenance of such HCV forests had followed the " <i>Panduan Penubuhan dan Pengurusan Kawasan Hutan Mempunyai Nilai Pemeliharaan Yang Tinggi (HCVF) dlm Hutan Simpanan Kekal di Semenanjung Malaysia.</i> "
		All details and evidences indicating compliance to sustainable forest management practices and procedures must be provided, recorded and kept for documentation and inspection. For example, list of planted species, tagged trees, forest management plan etc.	Noted.
		We would like to highlight that Johor FMU is located near to Central Forest Spine (CFS) and Hutan Simpan Pantu [an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in Malaysia].	The Pantu PRF has been classified as Protected Forest under Section 10, of National Forestry Act 1984.
		Human-wildlife conflict incidences are expected to occur in Johor FMU and/or its surrounding area due to its proximity to CFS, protected areas, IBAs etc. Thus, mitigation measures and action plans to tackle human wildlife conflicts	The JSFD has worked closely with the Johor State Wildlife and National Parks Department in taking actions and resolving conflicts on human/wildlife in Johor FMU, especially in areas surrounding the

		needs to be prepared. Such measures and action plans must be adopted, implemented, reported to the respective governmental agencies and monitored regularly.	Panti PRF.
		All required amenities and facilities for the operation of FMU must be properly constructed and well maintained. For example, access road, draining system, retention wall, bridge etc., just to name a few.	Noted. The maintenance of forest roads and other required facilities for managing the PRF is done periodically based on the annual budget proposal by the JSFD and the allocations approved by the Johor State Government.
		Consistent and comprehensive pollution monitoring is required to be conducted throughout the FMU, particularly monitoring relating to air quality, water sources etc. situated within and in proximity.	Noted.
		Evaluation of compliance on Environmental Quality Act 1974 and its related rules, regulations etc. must be conducted.	Noted.
2.	Stakeholder 2 Sri Lukut Village Committee on Development and Safety	<p>Hubungan antara FMU dengan Pihak JPKK Kg Sri Lukut; pihak kami tidak menyedari kewujudan unit FMU Johor ini dan sepengetahuan kami tiada mana-mana pihak FMU Johor menghubungi kami.</p> <p><u>Translation:</u></p> <p><i>With respects to the relationship between our Sri Lukut Village Committee on Development and Safety and the Johor FMU, we are unaware of the existence of this Johor FMU and that no one has contacted and informed us.</i></p>	The District Forest Office of Central Johor has conducted a consultation with JKK Kampung Sri Lukut, Jemaluang on 17 th November 2021, to explain the function and the management of Johor State FMU. This was the second consultation conducted by the District Forest Office following the first which was conducted in December 2020.
		<p>Perlindungan alam sekitar; terdapat penerokaan dan kemusnahan hutan di kawasan Madek. Kesannya Sungai Temigol didapati mula keruh terutama selepas hujan turun. Begitu juga menyebabkan haiwan liar seperti gajah dan babi masuk ke kampung dan memusnahkan tanaman.</p> <p><u>Translation:</u></p> <p><i>With respects to the protection of the environment, there were encroachment and destruction of forest in the Madek area. This has impacted on Sungai Temigol which had started to turn</i></p>	Based on the information provided by the JSFD, the source of Sungai Temigol is the Lenggong PRF. The river flows through paddy field, palm oil plantation and community settlements. There has been no forest harvesting operations been carried out nearby Sungai Temigol since 2018. The muddy water may be due to activities in the paddy field and palm oil plantation.

		<i>muddy particularly after rainfall. Similarly, this had also caused wild animals such as elephants and wild boars entering the nearby villages destroying crops.</i>	
3.	Stakeholders 3 Johor State Department of Mineral and Geosciences	Detailed slope analysis for areas in highlands.	The areas with slope of more than 40° and elevation of more than 1000 m a.s.l are classified as protected forest and no harvesting shall be carried out in these areas.
		Geologically sensitive areas : unique/special geological features (e.g. fossil and exposures of geologically unique features), natural/ mineral resources (type of minerals and mineralisation, potential, reserves and mining activities), geohazards and erosion, geotourism areas, archeological sites, groundwater reserves, water catchment area.	Areas with special features such as endemic species and other special features will be protected and classified as Protected Forest under Section 10, National Forestry Act 1984. The State Government of Johor has issued a decision through the Johor State Council Meeting or Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Johor (MMKJ) dated 5 th November 2014 to reject any application for PRF land and for doing non forest activities in PRF.
		Erodibility of geological materials and mitigative measures.	The areas with slope of more than 40° and elevation of more than 1000 m a.s.l. were classified as protected forest and no harvesting shall be carried out in these areas.
4.	Stakeholder 4 Johor State Department of Survey and Mapping (JUPEM Johor)	Berdasarkan rekod kami, sebanyak 277,395.4 hektar kawasan hutan simpan telah diwartakan. Keluasan sebenar bagi Dry Inland Forest yang telah diwartakan tidak dapat ditentutakn kerana pihak kami tiada maklumat berkaitan pengelasan hutan tersebut. Bagi tujuan penguatkuasaan undang-undang, keluasan hutan simpan hendaklah ditentukan, sempadan di lapangan perlu ditandakan dan pelan warta disediakan. <u>Tanslation:</u> <i>Based on our record a total of 277,395.4 hectares had been gazetted as forest reserves. The actual area of the gazetted Dry Inland Forest cannot be ascertained as we do not have the information on the types of forests. For the purpose of enforcing the laws, the area of the forest reserves must be known, their boundaries marked and the gazetted plan made available.</i>	The total area of PRF of the Johor FMU certified under the MTCS is 285,292.87 ha. The remaining area of the PRF consists of forest plantation, dam and quarry covering 48,999.59 ha, are excluded from the audit scope. All the external boundaries of PRF in the Johor FMU had been surveyed to ensure their actual hectarage. Besides that, the demarcation and maintenance of external boundary were conducted periodically. The monitoring on external boundaries was also conducted periodically to detect encroachment.

Surveillance 1 Audit Plan

DAY	TIME	PROGRAM	
		AUDITOR 1 Audit Team Leader (Hj. Roslee)	AUDITOR 2 (Mohd. Annas)
Sunday (31/10/2021)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to Johor Bahru Audit team stay at Amansari Hotel, Nusajaya Briefing by Audit Team Leader on the audit plan 	
Day 1 Monday (1/11/2021)	8.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.	<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 Check on verification for closing NCRs raised during the previous audit Evaluate on internal audit and management review Q&A Session 	
	2.00 p.m. - 5.30 p.m.	AUDITOR 1 Audit Team Leader (Hj. Roslee)	AUDITOR 2 (Mohd. Annas)
		Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle 1–Compliance with Laws Principle 2–Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities Principle 3–Indigenous Peoples’ Right Principle 4 – Community Relations and Worker’s Right Principle 9 – Maintenance of High Conservation Value Areas 	Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle 5– Benefits from the forest Principle 6– Environmental Impact Principle 7–Management Plan Principle 8– Monitoring and Assessment
		<u>Johor Timor</u>	<u>Johor Selatan</u>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of post harvesting area. (Compt.46 Mersing PRF) Interview with MPKK (Chinese Community) Jemaluang. PRF External Boundary- at Compt. 45, Mersing PRF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection of active harvesting area. Compts. 270, 214A and 374B (mangrove forest) Forest Checking Station (Balai Pemeriksaan Hutan), Gelang Patah PRF External Boundary – Sungai Pulai PRF. (mangrove)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of Day 1 Findings by Audit Team Leader Auditor 1 & Observer overnight in Mersing Auditor 2 overnight in Kluang 	

Day 2 Tuesday (2/11/2021)	7.00 a.m. – 8.00 p.m.	AUDITOR 1 Audit Team Leader (Hj. Roslee)	AUDITOR 2 (Mohd. Annas)
		<u>Johor Timor</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of HCVF- Compt. 14 Gunung Arong PRF, Resak Batu (<i>Cotylelobium melanoxylon</i>) • Nursery in Jemaluang • PRF External Boundary- Lenggor PRF at Compt. 136 • Inspection of post-harvesting area - Compt. 69, Lenggor PRF • Forest Checking Station Kahang/Renj Mas • Interview with the Chairman and of the Kesatuan Pegawai-Pegawai Hutan Melayu Semenanjung Malaysia (Johor Branch) 	<u>Johor Selatan</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of post-harvesting area- Compts. 222 and 118, Lenggor PRF. • PRF external boundary- Lenggor PRF • VJR Compt. 231, Lenggor PRF • Forest Checking Station - Sembrong/Madek • Interview with Indigenous/local communities - Kg. Berasau (Indigenous people) and Kampung Punjut. • Kg.Gajah Nursery.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Day 2 Findings by Audit Team Leader • All auditors & Observer overnight in Amansari Hotel Nusajaya 	
Day 3 Wednesday (3/11/2021)	8.00 a.m. – 12.00p.m.	AUDITOR 1 Audit Team Leader (Hj. Roslee)	AUDITOR 2 (Mohd. Annas)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue documentation and records review for any unfinished area • Interview with Chairman and Secretary of the Kesatuan Pegawai-Pegawai Hutan Melayu Semenanjung Malaysia (Johor Branch) 	Continue documentation and records review for any unfinished area.
	3.30 pm– 5.00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing meeting 	
		Travel back to Kuala Lumpur	

Audit Findings and Corrective Actions Taken (2021)

Indicator	Specification Major/Minor/ OFI	Detail Non-conformances	Corrective Action Taken	Verification by Assessor
1.5.2	Minor RJ 02-2021	<p>Requirement: FMU shall be protected from encroachment, illegal harvesting, hunting, and settlement, and other unauthorised activities.</p> <p>Findings: The maintenance of external boundaries for Permanent Reserved Forest had not been conducted.</p> <p>Objective evidences: During the following site inspections on external boundaries, it was found that: At the entrance of Compartment 136 of the Lenggong PFR, the 3-ringed red paint marked on trees had faded, there was no evidence that an under brushing had been done and the signage on the acts prohibited in PRF had been damaged. At the entrance of Compartment 45 of the Mersing PRF, there were no PRF signboard and the notice board of acts prohibited in PRF.</p>	<p>Result of investigation and determination of root cause: The maintenance on the external boundaries of the PRF was done once in every 5 years. During this five years period, the 3-ringed red painted on the trees had become faded.</p> <p>There were no PRF signboard and notice board on acts prohibited in PRF at the entrance of Compartment 45 of the Mersing PRF.</p> <p>Corrections and corrective action plan including completion date: A letter was issued by the East Johor District Forest Office to the Lenggong/Tenggaroh Range office, ref. PHDJT 192/443/7 jld 6 (38) dated 11 November 2021 requesting the office to mark the external boundaries of the Lenggong PRF to be done on 14-18 November 2021. A letter was also issued to the Mersing Range office, ref. PHDJT 192/443/7 jld 6 (39) dated 11 November 2021 to erect a PRF signboard and a notice board on acts prohibited in PRF at the entrance of Compartment 45 of the Mersing PRF (see related photos in Appendix 1).</p> <p>A PRF signboard was erected at the</p>	<p>Corrective action plan was reviewed and accepted by audit team.</p> <p>Status: The audit team had reviewed and accepted the corrective actions taken by the JSFD to address this minor NCR. However, the effectiveness of implementation of the corrective actions would be verified during the next surveillance audit. This NCR is still outstanding.</p>

			entrance of Compartment 45 of the Mersing PRF on 3 November 2021. For the notice board on acts prohibited in PRF, a request for the budget to supply and erect it had been included in the Development Budget P71.	
2.1.1	Minor ANS 02-2021	<p>Requirement: Availability of documentation of legal status, and established forest use rights of the land or forest resources within the relevant federal, state and local laws in the FMU.</p> <p>Findings: Information in harvesting license was not being updated.</p> <p>Objective evidences:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The forest harvesting license document no. JS/01/B/2/17 checked at the Gelang Patah Forest Checking Station had not been up-dated on the additional allowable pieces of poles to be extracted. 2. The forest harvesting license document no. JH/01/D/3/20 checked at the Madek Forest Checking Station had not been up-dated with respect to the extension of its validity. 	<p>Result of investigation and determination of root cause: The information on the extension of the harvesting licence as well as on the approval to harvest additional pieces of poles was not being up-dated in the forest harvesting licence no. JS/01/B/2.17. These approvals were informed through a letter from the Director of the JSFD.</p> <p>Correction and corrective action plan including completion date:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The JSFD office had given an instruction to the District Forest Officer Johor Selatan to up-date on the validity and the additional allowable pieces of poles that can be extracted from this harvesting licence area through a letter ref. PHJ.PP/192/676/1 Jld. 14 (7). The same letter was also being extended to all District Forest Officers in the state. 	<p>Corrective action plan was reviewed and accepted by audit team.</p> <p>Status: The audit team had reviewed and accepted the corrective actions taken by the JSFD to address this minor NCR. However, the effectiveness of implementation of the corrective actions would be verified during the next surveillance audit. This NCR is still outstanding.</p>
8.3.1	Minor RJ 01-2021	<p>Requirement: Forest managers shall provide relevant documents to ensure that all forest products leaving the certified area can be identified (including volumes and types) so that their origin can be determined. Specific claims to communicate the origin of products are specified in APPENDIX B</p>	<p>Result of investigation and determination of root cause: The Forest Officers in charge at the Range Mas FCS had not written the complete details on the log tagging numbers in the Removal Pass issued for the logs originating from the forest</p>	<p>Corrective action plan was reviewed and accepted by audit team.</p> <p>Status: The audit team had reviewed and accepted the corrective actions</p>

		<p><u>Findings:</u> The Forest Officer at the Checking Station (FCS) had not followed the procedures on the coding system of licence number (procedures on chain of custody) for the transportation of logs from the FCS.</p> <p><u>Objective evidences:</u> During an inspection on copies of the Removal Passes kept at the Range Mas FCS in the East Johor Forest District, it was found that the tagged numbers for the logs transported from this FCS had not included the complete number of the tags. The alphabet in front of the number for the tag was not written in the Removal Passes. The following Removal Passes were checked:</p> <p>CJB B 269114, Licence no. JT 01/D/4/20 dated 24/11/2020; CJB B 269115, Licence no. JT 01/D/4/20 dated 24/11/2020; CJB B 269116, Licence no. JT 01/D/4/20 dated 24/11/2020; CJB B 269122, Licence no. JT 01/D/2/19 dated 17/12/2020; CJB B 269111, Licence no. JT 01/D/4/20 dated 24/11/2020; and CJB B 263517, Licence. no. JT 01/D/6/19 dated 2/11/2020.</p>	<p>licence no. JT/D/01/4/20.</p> <p>Correction and corrective action plan including completion date: The East Johor District Forest Officer had issued a 'show cause' letter ref. PHDJT 192/443/7 jld 6 (36) dated 11 November 2021 to the Forester in charge of the Range Mas FCS requesting for explanations on this matter (refer related photos in Appendix 3).</p> <p>The Forester in charge of the Range Mas FCS had responded to clarify on this matter to the East Johor District Forest Officer via the letters () PREM 192/12/031 Vol. 3 dated 15 November 2021 and PRHL. 18/09 dated 15 November 2021 (see also related photos in Appendix 4).</p> <p>3. As an improvement, the East Johor District Forest Officer had issued an instruction letter ref. PHDJT 192/443/7 Vol. 6 (37) dated 11 November 2021 to all Forest Rangers and Foresters in charge of the FCSs in the East Johor Forest District to follow the procedures which had been established on the issuance of Removal Passes (see also related photos in Appendix 5).</p>	<p>taken by the JSFD to address this minor NCR. However, the effectiveness of implementation of the corrective actions would be verified during the next surveillance audit. This NCR is still outstanding.</p>
1.6.1	OFI #1	<p><u>Requirement:</u> Availability of policies or statements of commitment to forest management practices consistent with these Principles and Criteria.</p>	<p>Not required.</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> The audit team shall verify the implementation of the corrective actions taken during next surveillance audit.</p>

		<p><u>Findings:</u> The statement of commitment still referred to the MC&I instead of the new standard; MC&I SFM.</p>		
4.4.1	OFI #2	<p><u>Requirement:</u> 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><u>Findings:</u> JSFD had evaluated the social impact of its forest operations through consultations with the affected villagers using the 'Borang Soal Selidik'. However, the villagers have had no access to the results of SIA report.</p>	Not required.	<p><u>Status:</u> The audit team shall verify the implementation of the corrective actions taken during next surveillance audit.</p>
8.1.3	OFI#3	<p><u>Requirement:</u> Forest managers shall undertake annual internal audit and management review of forest management for continual improvement. The conduct of internal audit, management review and continual improvement is stipulated in APPENDIX A.</p> <p><u>Findings:</u> The JSFD had conducted a management review on its forest management system and practices. However, it was not conducted according to the requirements of the standard.</p>	Not required.	<p><u>Status:</u> The audit team shall verify the implementation of the corrective actions taken during next surveillance audit.</p>

Previous Audit Findings and Corrective Actions Taken (2020)

Indicator	Specification Major/Minor/ OFI	Detail Non-conformances	Corrective Action Taken	Verification by Assessor
6.5.2	Major MRS 01/2020	<p>Requirement: Implementation of reduced/low impact logging to minimise damage to the environment.</p> <p>Findings: 1) The felled harvestable trees had fallen onto the boundary of the licence area. 2) The felling of harvestable trees had not followed the procedures on directional felling.</p> <p>Objective evidences: At skid trail L/P 2, Temporary Matau 1, in Compt. 68, Lenggor PRF (JT.01/D/8/19), it was found that more than 4 harvestable trees (without tag except nails at the stumps) had fallen onto the licence boundary trees. At the same skid trail, the harvestable tree with tag no CA73161 had fallen onto licence boundary trees (pokok saksi) and the tree had been felled not following the procedures on directional felling.</p>	<p>The District Forest Officer had issued a 'stop work order' to the licensee effective from 11 February to 24 February 2020 via a letter ref. PHD JT 192/665/1/168 Vol. (29) dated 11 February 2020 and to clear the debris of the fallen trees on the boundary of the licensed area.</p> <p>At the same time, the JSFD would undertake to develop its human resources in terms of training its field staff and logging contractors on the techniques of directional felling and Reduced Impact Logging (RIL).</p> <p>The 4 felled trees (without tags except nails at the stumps) had been identified: CA 73040 (Keruing), CA 73044 (Chengal), CA 73051 (Kelat) and CA 73185 (Kelat). The damaged trees were boundary trees which had been replaced by boundary poles. The debris of the fallen trees on the boundary had been cleared. The boundary paint had been cleaned up and could clearly be seen. This was verified by a team from the East Johor District Forest Office and representatives of the licence holder on 20 February 2020.</p> <p>The boundary on which tree CA 73161 had fallen onto had been cleaned up and it could clearly be seen.</p> <p>JSFD would study and improve on the finger-</p>	<p>The following corrective actions taken were reviewed, accepted and verified by the audit team:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The JSFD had issued a letter dated 4 February 2020 to the logging contractor (logging licence no. JT 01/D/18/19) to temporarily stop harvesting operations and removal of logs from Compt. 68 of the Lenggor PRF. 2. The JSFD had conducted a briefing on felling techniques for the logging contractors' workers and tree fellers of licensed areas in Compt. 68 of the Lenggor PRF, Compts. 33 and 49 of the Mersing PRF on 23 February 2020. 3. The JSFD had issued a letter dated 11 February 2020 on the subject "Instructions on Implementation of Corrective Actions and Improvements On Audit Findings on Compt 68 of the Lenggor PFR (JT 01/D/8/19). 4. The JSFD had held a meeting on 13 February 2020 and made available minutes of the meeting entitled "Meeting on Corrective Actions and Improvements on the Non-Compliances Stage 2 Forest Management Certification Audit (MC&I) (Natural Forest). The Meeting had agreed to study and ensure that the application for approved logging map is not finger-shaped. <p>Status: This major NCR was closed-out.</p>

			shaped approved logging map in an effort to ensure the smooth implementation of harvesting operations.	
6.5.3	Major MRS 03/2020	<p>Requirement:</p> <p>Availability and implementation of guidelines for forest road lay-out and construction, including log landings and drainage requirements.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>1) Construction of side drain, cross drain, retention wall and sump had not followed the forest road construction guidelines.</p> <p>2.) Excessive blading was found along skid trail and secondary road.</p> <p>Objective evidences:</p> <p>At Compt. 49, of the Mersing PRF, the side drain of Feeder Road JT1 had not been maintained.</p> <p>At Compt. 49, of the Mersing PRF (FR 01/D/9/19), cross drain, retention wall and sump had not been fully constructed at 2 bridges.</p> <p>At Compt. 33, of the Mersing PRF, the bridge at L/P3, Temporary Matau 11 was clogged with soil and mud on the bridge. The construction of sump and cross drain had not been effective.</p>	<p>1. The East Johor District Forest Office had issued 'stop work order' effective 11 to 24 February 2020 to the licensee via letters ref. PHD JT 192/665/1/1/68 Jld 2 (29), PHD JT 192/665/1/1/33 Jld 4 (15) and PHD JT 192/665/1/1/49 Jld 2 (18) dated 11 February 2020) to take appropriate corrective actions on this non-compliance.</p> <p>2. At the same time, the JSFD would undertake to up-grade the skill of its human resources by training the field staff and workers of logging contractors on the 'Guidelines on Forest Road 2010' Revised 2013.</p> <p>3. The East Johor District Forest Office had sent a letter to the licensee to take appropriate corrective actions to address all the non-compliances identified in Compt. 49 and Compt. 33 of the Mersing PRF through letters ref. PHDJT.192/665/1/4/49 Jld. 2(19) and ref PHDJT.192/665/1/4/33 Jld.4 (17) respectively.</p> <p>4. An application for approval to up-grade a skid trail to a feeder road which had resulted in excessive blading of > 1.0 m to provide stability to harvesting machinery must be made to the Director of the State Forestry Department. The approval letter ref. PHJ.KH.192/439/10 JLD.22 (28) was issued.</p>	<p>The following corrective actions taken were reviewed, accepted and verified by the audit team:</p> <p>1. A briefing was conducted by the District Forest Officer of the Central District Forest Office to the licensee on the corrective actions (techniques on directional felling) to be taken to address the non-compliances found in Compt. 68 of the Lenggong PRF, Compt. 33 of the Mersing PRF and Compt. 49 of the Mersing PRF on 23 February 2020.</p> <p>2. A letter ref. PHJ.KH.192/439/10 JLD.22 (28) dated 24 February 2020 was issued giving the approval to upgrade skid trail L/P1 to a feeder road at Temporary Matau 2 in Compt. 68 of the-Lenggong PRF.</p> <p>3. A 'Perhubungan Memo' dated on 11 March 2020 was issued by the East Johor District Forest Office informing of the corrective actions taken on the construction and maintenance of the secondary road at Compt. 68 of the Lenggong PRF according to the Guidelines on Forest Roads.</p> <p>4. A letter dated 11 February 2020 was issued to the licensee to temporarily stop all harvesting and extraction of logs from the logging licence no. JT01/D/8/19 in Compt. 68 of the Lenggong PRF.</p> <p>5. A letter was issued by the East Johor District Forest Office informing on the inspection conducted on the corrective and improvement actions taken by the licensee</p>

		<p>There was excessive blading > 1.0 m found along L/P1, Temporary Matau 2 at Compt. 68, of the Lenggor PRF.</p> <p>There was excessive earth work along Secondary Road from forest camp (kongsi) to the licensed area at Compt. 68, of the Lenggor PRF.</p>	<p>5. The East Johor District Forest Office would instruct the licensee to carry out re-maintenance work on all secondary forest roads including excessive soil on the road shoulder and conduct a periodic monitoring on all construction and maintenance works on forest roads through a letter ref. 192/665/1/1/68 Jld 2 (31) dated 25 February 2020. The licensee had responded that they were waiting for a good weather to implement the appropriate corrective actions.</p>	<p>on the non-compliances related to forest harvesting activities in logging licence no. JT1/D/8/19 in Compt. 68 of the Lenggor PRF.</p> <p>6. A letter dated 11 February 2020 was issued to the licensee to temporarily stop all harvesting and extraction of logs from the logging licence no. JT01/D/2/19 in Compt. 33 of the Mersing PRF.</p> <p>7. A letter dated 11 February 2020 was issued by the East Johor District Forest Office instructing the licensee to implement corrective and improvement actions on the findings of the audit in logging licence no JT 01/D/2/19 in Compt. 33 of the Mersing PRF.</p> <p>8. A letter dated 11 February 2020 was issued to the licensee to temporarily stop all harvesting and extraction of logs from the logging licence no. JT01/D/9/19 in Compt. 49 of the Mersing PRF.</p> <p>9. A letter dated 11 February 2020 was issued by the East Johor District Forest Office instructing the licensee to implement corrective and improvement actions on the findings of the audit in logging licence no JT 01/D/9/19 in Compt. 49 of the Mersing PRF.</p> <p>Status: This major NCR was closed-out.</p>
6.5.4	Major RJ 02/2020	<p>Requirement: Availability and implementation of guidelines for conservation of buffer strips along streams and rivers.</p> <p>Findings:</p>	<p>1. The District Forest Officer had issued an instruction letter to the licensee ref. (54) dlm PHD.JH 7/02/458 dated 9 February 2020 to stop harvesting operations effective from 9 to 20 February 2020 and to take corrective actions cleaning up the logging debris in the buffer zone.</p>	<p>The following corrective actions taken were reviewed, accepted and verified by the audit team:</p> <p>1. A briefing on the corrective and improvement actions to address the findings of the audit (Techniques on Directional Felling) was conducted on 23 February 2020 by the</p>

		<p>Harvestable trees had been felled into riparian buffer zone.</p> <p><u>Objective evidences:</u> During a site inspection on an active harvesting area Licence No. JH 01/D/10/9 at skid trail 6, feeder road No 1 in Compt 411B of the Kluang PRF, it was found that, two (2) harvestable trees No: BB 46455 species Keruing, dbh 123 cm and tree no: BB 46467 species Nemesu, dbh 163 cm. had fallen into the buffer zone.</p>	<p>2. At the same time, the JSFD would undertake to up-grade the skill of its human resources through training the field staff and logging contractors on the proper techniques related to direction felling and Reduced Impact Logging in 2020.</p> <p>3. JSFD would study and improve on the finger-shaped approved logging map in an effort to ensure the smooth implementation of harvesting operations.</p>	<p>Central Johor District Forest Officer to the licensee in Comprt. 411B of the Kluang PRF.</p> <p>2 The JSFD had held a meeting on 13 February 2020 and made available minutes of the meeting entitled "Meeting on Corrective Actions and Improvements on the Non-Compliances Stage 2 Forest Management Certification Audit (MC&I) (Natural Forest). The Meeting had agreed to study and ensure that the application for approved logging map is not finger-shaped.</p> <p>3. A letter dated 9 February 2020 was issued to the licensee to temporarily stop all harvesting and extraction of logs from the logging licence no. JT01/D/109/19 in Compt. 411(B) of the Kluang PRF.</p> <p>4. A letter dated 10 February on the report of the review of the findings of the non-compliances raised during the audit on Comprt. 411(B) under logging licence no. JH01/D/1/19 of the Kluang PRF was made available.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> This major NCR was closed-out.</p>
4.2.5	Minor RJ-01-2020	<p><u>Requirement:</u> Demarcation of hazardous areas and provision of guidelines for storage and handling of hazardous materials.</p> <p><u>Findings:</u> The storage and handling of hazardous material had not complied with the guidelines on</p>	<p>The District Forest Officer, Central Johor Forest District had issued a letter ref PHD.JSH.7/02/487 (75) dated 14 February 2020 to the licensee to stop harvesting and implement appropriate corrective actions and improvements to address this non-compliances.</p> <p>The District Forest Office had issued an instruction letter ref. PHD.JH.7/02/487 (76)</p>	<p>There was no active harvesting area during this audit. Therefore on-site verifications were conducted at post-harvest areas (in Compt. 222, Lenggor PRF, Compt. 118 Lenggor PRF, Compt.46, Mersing PRF and Compt. 69, Lenggor PRF). It was found that there were no used batteries, drinking water bottles which were used to keep lubricant. There was also no schedule waste being generated.</p>

		<p>hazardous materials.</p> <p><u>Objective evidences:</u> During a site inspection on a workshop in an active harvesting area Licence no: JH01/D/8/19 in Compt. 45 of Lenggong PRF it was found that: A drinking water bottle was used to keep lubricant oil without label. Store for schedule waste was not labelled as schedule waste store. Used batteries (SW 102) were not stored and labelled at a designated area of schedule waste.</p>	<p>dated 16 February 2020 to the Assistant Range Officer of the Madek Range Office to check on the corrective actions taken by the licensee to address this non-compliance and to ensure that they abide by the guidelines on the disposal of schedule waste as prescribed in the '<i>Peraturan-Peraturan Alam Sekeliling (BuanganTerjadual) 2005, Akta Alam Sekeliling 1974 (Akta 174)</i>'.</p> <p>The licensee was also requested to label all schedule waste and provide information on the name, address and contact number of company as required by the guidelines on '<i>Peraturan-Peraturan Alam Sekeliling (BuanganTerjadual) 2005, Akta Alam Sekeliling 1974 (Akta 174)</i>'.</p>	<p><u>Status:</u> This minor NCR was closed-out.</p>
5.3.1	Minor MRS 02/2020	<p><u>Requirement:</u> Implementation of guidelines for reduced/low impact logging to minimise damage to residual stand.</p> <p><u>Findings:</u> 1) Road side trees were pushed inside and along skid trail. 2) Logging debris was dumped at the entrance of skid trail.</p> <p><u>Objective evidences:</u> Road side trees at skid trail L/P 2, Temporary Matau 1 at Compt. 68, Lenggong PRF (JT.01/D/8/19) were pushed inside along 270 m to 400 m of the skid trail. In the same licence area, at Temporary Matau 2, skid trail L/P 2 and L/P 3, logging debris were</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The East Johor District Forest Officer had issued a stop work order letter ref. PHD JT 192/665/1/1/68 Jld 2 (29) dated 11 February 2020 to the licensee to stop harvesting operations from 11 to 24 February 2020 and take appropriate correction actions to clean up the logging debris at the entrance of the said skid trail. 2. The licensee had cleared the logging debris along the 270 m to 400 m of the skid trail L/P 2, Temporary Matau 1. Similarly, the licensee had also cleared the logging debris at the entrance of the Temporary Matau 2, skid trail L/P 2 and L/P 3. The corrective actions taken by the licensee were checked on-site by a joint team from the East Johor District Forest Office and the representatives of the licensee on 20 February 2020. 	<p>During on-site inspections conducted at post-harvest areas (in Compts. 222, 69 and 118 of the Lenggong PRF and Compt.46 of the Mersing PRF, it was found that there were no road side trees being pushed inside and along the skid trail and also there were no logging debris being dumped intentionally at the entrance of the skid trail.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> This minor NCR was closed-out.</p>

		dumped intentionally at the skid trail entrance.	3. At the same time, the JSFD would undertake to up-grade the skill of its human resources through training the field staff and logging contractors on the construction of forest road and Reduced Impact Logging.	
6.9.1	Minor NCR RJ 03/2020	<p>Requirement: Document, control and monitor on the use of exotic species to avoid adverse ecological impacts. Preference shall be given to native species in enrichment planting.</p> <p>Findings: There was no documentation and monitoring on planting on skid trail and temporary log landing.</p> <p>Objective evidences: During a site inspection in post-harvest area Licence No. JT 01/D/10/18 in Compartment 116B, Mersing PRF, it was found that the record of species planted and monitoring record on planting on skid trail was not available.</p>	<p>The East Johor District Forest Office had provided the information on the type of species and the total number of trees planted on skid trail to the Range Office. In addition, the East Johor District Forest Office had issued a memo ref. PHD.JT.192/443/7 Jld.6 (15) dated 12 February 2020, instructing the Range Officer to take corrective actions with respect to providing the detailed information on the source, type of species and the total number of trees planted in the Final Closing Report.</p> <p>The planting of trees on skid trails and matau would be monitored by a team, which would also provide in the Final Closing Report on the number of dead seedling or exotic species planted on skid trails and matau. The District Forest Officer would then, based on the information provided in the Final Closing Report instruct the licensee to carry out replanting work.</p>	<p>During an on-site inspection in post-harvest area (logging licence No. JT 01/D/3/20) in Compt. 222 of the Lenggong PRF, it was found that the record of species planted and monitoring record in skid trail was available and presented during the audit.</p> <p>Status: This minor NCR was closed-out.</p>
7.4.1	Minor MRS 04/2020	<p>Requirement: A summary of the primary elements of the forest management plan as prepared and implemented under Indicator 7.1.1 shall be made available to the public.</p>	<p>The JSFD would be developing its own 'open source' website https://drive.google.com/open?id=170XHUR YvTJAn-2Ncr_AgbuVPhDVbqrQI as a short-term measure to address this non-compliance. The JSFD would then hold a workshop on the preparation of a portal and on-line payment system for the department</p>	<p>The JSFD had made publicly available the Forest Management Plan (FMP) (2016-2025) and its Addendum.</p> <p>Status: This minor NCR was closed out.</p>

		<p><u>Findings:</u> The JSFD has yet to make publicly available the primary elements of the forest management plan.</p> <p><u>Objective evidences:</u> The Forest Management Plan (2016-2025) and <i>Pindaan 'Addendum' Rancangan Pengurusan Hutan Negeri Johor Tahun 2016-2025</i> has yet to be made publicly available.</p>	based on the criteria and guidelines from the Information Technology Division of the Office of the State Secretary. This portal would be ready by 2021.	
4.2.3	OFI #1	<p><u>Requirement:</u> Appropriate safety and operational equipment in good working condition, including operational procedures, shall be made available to forest workers in the work place.</p> <p><u>Findings:</u> During site visit at Nursery Jemaluang/<i>Tapak Semaian</i> Lenggor, it was found that First Aid Box was not made available.</p>	Not required.	<p>During the on-site visits to the nurseries in Jemaluang and Kampong Gajah, Kluang, it was observed that First Aid Box was made available.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> This OFI was closed-out.</p>
4.4.1	OFI #2	<p><u>Requirement:</u> 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><u>Findings:</u></p>	Not required.	<p>It was observed during this surveillance audit that all the District Forest Offices of the JSFD had used the same format to record the social impacts of forest operations on the local communities. Therefore, the OFI raised during the previous audit was satisfactorily closed-out.</p> <p>However, during this surveillance audit, it was found that the JSFD had conducted social impact consultations with villagers using the same Form E. However, the-villagers had no access to the results of the SIA report. Therefore, a new OFI</p>

		It was observed that ' <i>Borang E: Maklumat Kajian Impak Sosial Dalam Sektor Pembalakan</i> ', used for assessing the social impact of forestry operations used by the Northern, Central and Southern District Forest offices had a different format. The form used by the Northern Forest District office did not have a section on DFO's comments and analysis. It would be an improvement if all districts were to use the same format.		was issued for this same indicator.
6.7.1	OFI #3	<p>Requirement: Oil, fuel, tyres, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes shall be disposed of in an environmentally appropriate and legal manner.</p> <p>Findings: Record on disposal and recycle of fertilizer bag and rooting powder containers could be maintained at the nursery. Chemical register and safety data sheet for rock phosphate could be made available at the nursery.</p>	Not required.	<p>During an on-site inspection at the nursery in Kg. Gajah, Kluang, it was found that, the record of disposal and recycle of fertilizer bag and rooting powder containers was being maintained, and the safety data sheet was made available.</p> <p>Status: This OFI was closed-out.</p>
7.3.2	OFI #4	<p>Requirement: Forest workers shall be trained as to their respective roles in the implementation of the forest management plan.</p> <p>Findings: Based on the training record kept by the JSFD, it was found that the</p>	Not required.	<p>The JSFD had conducted awareness training on the MC&I SFM and Forest Road Guidelines 2010 (Amendment 2013) on 20-22 April 2021.</p> <p>Status: This OFI was closed-out.</p>

		training conducted on RIL for the Department's own staff, contractors and their workers had not covered the following topics: Forest Road Guidelines 2010 (Amendments 2013); and MC&I Principles		
9.2.1	OFI #5	<p>Requirement: Forest managers shall consult with relevant stakeholders on the options to maintain or enhance the identified HCVF's</p> <p>Findings: The record on the responses by the stakeholders being consulted had not included the relevant NGOs (e.g. WWF, MNS) and research and academic institutions (e.g. universities), hence, the list of the relevant stakeholders being consulted was not comprehensive.</p>	Not required.	<p>The JSFD had provided the list of stakeholders they had consulted through a letter dated 18 May 2021 which had included the State Economic Planning Unit, State Wildlife and National Park Department, State Department of Orang Asli Development, District Officers, Faculty of Forestry- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) and WWF-Malaysia. However, they were not in the record on the list of responses received from stakeholders as they had not given any comment or feedback.</p> <p>Status: This OFI was closed-out.</p>