



**PUBLIC SUMMARY  
SURVEILLANCE 1 AUDIT (1<sup>st</sup> CYCLE) ON  
KEDAH FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT  
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

**Certificate Number: FMC-NF 00131  
Date of First Certification: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021  
Audit Date: 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023  
Date of Public Summary: 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This surveillance 1 audit on the Kedah Forest Management Unit (hereafter referred as the Kedah FMU) was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023. This was an audit conducted following the previous stage 2 audit which was conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 on the overall forest management system and practices of the FMU against the requirements of the Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management, MC&I SFM (MTCS ST 1002:2021) using the verifiers stipulated for Peninsular Malaysia. The scope of this surveillance 1 audit was limited to the forest management system and practices on the Permanent Reserved Forest (PRF) within Kedah FMU.

The surveillance 1 audit was conducted by a 3-team member comprising Khairul Najwan Ahmad Jahari (Lead Auditor), (Auditor), Mohd Annas Amin (Auditor), and Azrul Ikhsan Mohamed.

Based on the findings of this surveillance 1 audit, it was found that Kedah FMU had complied with the requirements of the MC&I SFM. This surveillance 1 audit had resulted in the issuance of one (1) major and fourteen (14) minor Non-Conformity Reports (NCRs) respectively.

This public summary contains the general information on the Kedah FMU, the findings of the surveillance 1 audit, NCRs raised as well as the decision on the continued certification of the FMU.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Name of FMU**

Kedah Forest Management Unit

### **1.2 Contact Person and Address**

Name : Muhamad bin Abdullah  
Designation : Kedah State Forestry Director  
Address : Level 8, Bangunan Sultan Abdul Halim  
Jalan Sultan Badlishah  
05000 Alor Setar  
Kedah  
  
Phone : 04 733 3911  
Fax : 04 731 0610

### **1.3 General Background on the Kedah FMU**

The Kedah FMU is managed by the Kedah State Forestry Department (KSFD). The KSFD is committed in the management of the FMU on a sustainable basis. The administration of the FMU is divided into four forest districts namely the Kedah Utara, Kedah Timur, Kedah Selatan and Langkawi Forest Districts.

The inland forest is managed under a Selective Management System (SMS), a 30-year bi-cyclic. For the period in the Twelve Malaysia Plan (RMK12), 2021-2026, the AAC calculated was 3,072 ha annually giving a total of 15,360 ha for the 5-year period. A Forest Management Plan (FMP) covering the period from 2016 to 2025 had been presented during the audit.

During this surveillance 1 audit, the Kedah FMU comprises of 341,976 ha of PRF or 35% of the State's total land area of 942,600 ha. The certified FMU area consists of mainly of Hill and Upper Hill Dipterocarp Forests with patches of Lowland Dipterocarp Forest.

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

### **1.4 Date First Certified**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2021

### **1.5 Location of the FMU**

The FMU is located between 5° 03' 58" N to 6° 31' 07" N and 99° 35' 47" E to 101° 08' 57" E.

### **1.6 Forest Management System**

The FMU had followed the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM). The inland forest is managed under a Selective Management System (SMS), a 30-year bi-cyclic. A Forest Management Plan (FMP) covering the period from 2016 to 2025 presented during the audit.

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

For the period in the Twelve Malaysia Plan (RMK12), 2021-2026, the AAC calculated was 3,072 ha annually giving a total of 15,360 ha for the 5-year period. During this surveillance 1 audit, the size of the FMU is 341,976 ha.

### **1.8 Environmental and Socioeconomic Context**

A state-wide scale macro-level environmental impact assessment (MEIA) was conducted in 2009 in Kedah FMU. Recommendations from the MEIA report were incorporated in the review of the FMP. Environmental impact assessments on rare and threatened species of flora and fauna were included in

the MEIA report on the FMU. The need for biological corridors for wildlife movement was also addressed in the report. The KSFD has played a major part in establishing and maintenance of the Central Forest Spine.

The Forest Management Plan of Kedah (2016 – 2025) had incorporated measures to mitigate the environmental impacts from forest harvesting identified in the assessments. The establishment of riparian buffer zone, road and skid trail construction complying to the specifications in the “Guidelines on Forest Road Specifications 2010 (Amended 2013) and enrichment planting were examples of mitigation efforts to be implemented.

The practice of RIL Guidelines (2003) was emphasized in the report and highlighted in the FMP. Sensitive areas were demarcated, mapped, and protected in specific conservative forest use categories. Such areas included high elevation areas (1000 m or higher), steep slopes (>40 degrees), riparian buffers. HCVF areas were identified, demarcated, mapped, and systematically protected.

The mechanism to resolve disputes has been made available at the current URL - [www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/hubungi-kami/borang-aduan.html](http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/hubungi-kami/borang-aduan.html)

Orang Asli's traditional forest-related knowledge and practices were not used by the Kedah FMU in the management systems or the forest operations. However, a compensation mechanism for the use of indigenous knowledge was made available if to any extent the traditional knowledge is being used in the future.

There is also no evidence that forest management practices threaten or diminish (either directly or indirectly) the resources or tenure rights of the Orang Asli.

With regards to employment of local people, based on the record in licensed harvesting areas files, it showed that a number of the licensees and their workers were from the local areas. Documentation review of the KSFD's employee master list and service record, it was evidenced that a number of the KSFD employees were also from the local area.

Kedah FMU has demonstrated to recognise, respect and collaborate with holders of duly recognised use rights of Orang Asli. The Orang Asli was allowed to use the forest resources, in particular non-timber resources, for their own subsistence needs.

## **2.0 AUDIT PROCESS**

### **2.1 Audit Dates**

18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (12 man-days)

### **2.2 Audit Team**

Khairul Najwan bin Ahmad Jahari (Lead Auditor)  
Mohd Annas Amin bin Haji Omar (Forester)  
Azrul Ikhsan Mohamed (Forester)

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 SFM] using the verifiers stipulated for Peninsular Malaysia.

### **2.4 Stakeholder Consultations**

A stakeholder notification was issued in June 2022 for a period of one month inviting relevant stakeholders to give comments on the FMU. The comment of stakeholder as in Attachment 3

## 2.5 Audit Process

The audit was conducted primarily to evaluate the level of continued compliance of the Kedah 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.

Consultations were held with the contractors and workers operating in the FMU. The audit team had held meetings with the officers and the uniformed staff of the KSFD. The consultation was also conducted to JKKK in Tanjung Pari, Baling.

The coverage of this surveillance 1 audit is as shown in the surveillance 1 Audit Plan in **Attachment 4**.

The KSFD 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 Surveillance 1 audit report and sent it to the KSFD for comment. A second draft of audit report which had incorporated the comments received from the KSFD was then prepared. A final audit report was prepared after incorporated the comments from stakeholders.

## 3.0 SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

Based on the findings of this surveillance 1 audit, it was found that the KSFD had continued to manage the Kedah FMU in compliance with most of the requirements of the MC&I SFM. This surveillance 1 audit had resulted in the issuance of one (1) major, fourteen (14) minor NCRs.

The audit team had reviewed, accepted and verified the corrective actions taken by the KSFD to address the one (1) major NCR raised during this surveillance 1 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 KSFD's proposed corrective actions to address the fourteen (14) minor NCRs. However, these corrective actions shall be verified by the audit team during the next audit.

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). Disputes related to tenure and use rights were brought to the attention of the "*Jawatankuasa Tanah Negeri Kedah Darul Aman*" in which the Kedah State Director of Forest is a member. In addition, a complaint form, (*Borang Maklumat Aduan Pelanggan*)/(Customers' Complaint Form) developed by the Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department and made available to the public at [www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/borang-aduan/view/form.html](http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/borang-aduan/view/form.html). During this surveillance Audit 1 (2022), there have been no claims by local communities on land within the Kedah FMU.

With regard to Criterion 6.10, conversion from natural forest to forest plantations or non-forest use in the Kedah FMU did not include any High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas, ecological corridors and environmentally sensitive areas identified by the relevant authorities. Based on the figure provided by the KSFD, the total area that has been approved to be converted to plantation were 10,730 ha. The earlier area approval for Gunung Inas to be converted to plantation were 5,000 ha. Therefore, the total area approved to be converted to plantation is 15,730ha. Besides that, the EIA reports have been prepared and approved by DOE for the forest plantations area.

As the major NCR raised during this surveillance 1 audit had been closed out, the audit team had therefore recommended that the Certificate for Forest Management be renewed to Kedah State Forestry Department-Kedah FMU.

The summary on the findings of the surveillance 1 audit on the Kedah FMU against the requirements of the MC&I SFM are as follows:

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Principle 1</b> <b>Compliance With Laws and Principles</b>	<p>Kedah State Forestry Department (KSFD)-Kedah FMU had maintained records of all relevant laws, policies and regulations stipulated in the MC&amp;I SFM (MTCS ST 1002:2021) fundamental for the FMU management and was updated.</p> <p>Forest officers at the state and the district level in Kedah FMU had demonstrated an understanding and knowledgeable of the applicable federal, state, and local laws as well as the regulatory framework related to forest management.</p> <p>Current list of all legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes, and other charges were presented during the document verification at the Head Office of Kedah State Forestry Department in Alor Star. Records of payment made were available as evidenced by the <i>“Penyata Bulanan Kutipan Hasil Negeri Bagi Tahun 2022, Jabatan Perhutanan, Negeri Kedah”</i> (Kod PTJ: 0230/10000000 till May 2022.</p> <p>The Forest Officers were aware of all the binding international agreements and their main intentions for forest management.</p> <p>Perak FMU has adopted policies and statements of commitment to manage forest resources on a sustainable basis as stated in the National Forestry Policy 1984. The statement of such commitment can be seen at bunting in the KSFD office and it also can be accessed on the website; <a href="http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/komitmen-mc-i.html">http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/komitmen-mc-i.html</a></p>	<p>A review of the document of Compt. 5, Koh Moi PRF found it was changed to alienated land with PT2552, PT2539 etc., by Pejabat Tanah &amp; Daerah Padang Terap. This conflict was not recorded in the documentation of conflicts between laws, regulations and MC&amp;I's Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>Therefore, an <b>OFI during stage 2 for indicator 1.4.1 was upgraded to Minor NCR KN04/2022</b></p> <p>The use of E-Geospatial Perhutanan (EGP) remote sensing system to monitor the forestry operations provided by Head Quarters for the FMU was not effective. The EGP was unable to detect forest opening area in certified area, thus District Forest Officer (DFO) or forest officers were unable to fully utilized the latest technology monitoring by satellite image. A check of forestry operations in active logging site in Compt. 122 Ulu Muda PRF (KT-01-07-2021) Compt. 40 Ulu Muda PRF (KS-01-16-2021), Compt. 4 Koh Moi PRF (KU-01-02-2022) showed that the system still did not use up to date satellite data. The satellite imagery used under EGP indicated that there was no logging operation in these areas.</p> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCR KN01/2020 indicator 1.5.2 was upgraded to Major KN01/2022.</b></p>
<b>Principle 2</b> <b>Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities</b>	<p>The respective areas of PRF (Permanent Reserved Forest) within the jurisdiction of the State government (Kedah) have been officially designated and protected under the National Forestry (Amendment) Act 1993. Records of gazettelement for PRF, were available in the form of Warta Kerajaan Negeri Kedah (Register of Reserves) as evidence to confirm legal provision.</p> <p>Documentation of legal or customary tenure or use rights of local communities within</p>	<p>There was no negative finding</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>relevant federal, state, and local laws were kept at Kedah FMU HQ and made available during this audit.</p> <p>There was no local or indigenous (Orang Asli) community within the FMU and no recorded claim on the FMU by the local/indigenous communities. Records / map showing location of the only Orang Asli village (Ulu Legong) located outside (adjacent to PRFs) Ulu Muda FR has been maintained with no changes. The map shows the location of 428-acre Sakai (Orang Asli) Reserve in Ulu Legong</p> <p>Disputes related to tenure and use rights were brought to the attention of the “<i>Jawatankuasa Tanah Negeri Kedah Darul Aman</i>” in which the Kedah State Director of Forest is a member.</p> <p>A complaint form, (<i>Borang Maklumat Aduan Pelanggan</i>)/(Customers’ Complaint Form) developed by the Peninsular Malaysia Forestry Department and made available to the public at <a href="http://www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/borang-aduan/view/form.html">www.kedforestry.gov.my/ms/borang-aduan/view/form.html</a>.</p>	
<b>Principle 3 Indigenous People’s Rights</b>	<p>Based on Kedah Permanent Forest Reserve Map dated 19 August 2017 (scale 1:250,000), one Orang Asli Settlement is recorded as being outside the Kedah Permanent Forest Reserve boundaries. The issue of delegation by the Orang Asli of the management and use of their land, territories, and resources is not applicable.</p> <p>Aboriginal lands and resources are under management and monitoring by the Orang Asli and JAKOA. There is no record of conflicts, grievances or civil court case or land claims between the Kedah FMU and the Orang Asli pertaining to their legal and customary rights within the certified Kedah FMU’s area.</p> <p>The Kedah Forest Management Plan 2016 – 2025 incorporates preventive and mitigation measures by ensuring clear boundary markings are made to avoid conflicts or claims with and from the Orang Asli.</p> <p>No evidence that Orang Asli traditional forest-related knowledge and practices in the use of forest species or management systems were utilized by KSFD in managing its forest. A compensation mechanism for the use of indigenous knowledge is available,</p>	<p>There was no negative finding</p>



Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	shall this knowledge have been used later.	
<b>Principle 4 Community Relations and Workers' Rights</b>	<p>The Kedah FMU had provided sufficient support for training, retraining, local infrastructure, facilities and social programs for departmental staff. There is a centralised training centre in Jeniang with facilities for the training programmes of the KSFD. Training and retraining were made available to the employees of the PSFD as well as logging contractors and their workers.</p> <p>The policy on safety and health titled 'Dasar Keselamatan dan Kesihatan Pekerja - Jabatan Perhutanan Negeri Kedah' dated 19 May 2019 was made available at the Kedah FMU State and District Office.</p> <p>The supporting staffs of Kedah FMU were members of Kesatuan Pegawai-Pegawai Hutan Melayu Semenanjung Malaysia (Malay Forest Officers Union of Peninsular Malaysia). The supporting staff of the KSFD being public sector employees were members of CUEPACS, the public sector employee's union.</p> <p>Social impact of forest operations on indigenous and local communities were evaluated through consultations with community leaders/members through the use of the questionnaires. The data collected through this micro-level SIA were analysed to identify potential impacts before harvesting, during harvesting and after harvesting and actions were then taken to prevent or mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive ones.</p>	<p>The site visit to licence area KT 01-06-2021 at compartment 122B Ulu Muda PRF, it was found that a record of maintenance for bulldozer no.16 was not available and Certificate of Fitness (CF) for the Compressor in "Kongsi" was not available.</p> <p>Therefore, a <b>Minor NCR AZR02/2022 for Indicator 4.2.3</b> was raised.</p> <p>The FMU had submitted the annual accident report (JKKP8) for year 2021 to DOSH on 13 July 2022. However based on Seksyen 10 Occupational safety and health 1994 the annual accident report (JKKP8) shall send to DOSH before 31 January 2022.</p> <p>Therefore, an <b>OFI during stage 2 audit for indicator 4.2.4</b> was upgraded to <b>Minor ANS01/2022</b>.</p> <p>Site visit to "kongsi" for Licence no. KT 01-07-2021 at Compartment No. 122B, Ulu Muda PRF found that the hazardous areas such as storage area for diesel storage tank, lubricant, and scheduled waste, were not demarcated.</p> <p>Therefore, an <b>OFI during stage 2 audit for indicator 4.2.5</b> was upgraded to <b>Minor AZR01/2022</b></p> <p>During site visit to compartment 122B, it was found that there was a deduction made for "advance" employee no. MI001 based on the employee payslips for January, February, March, May, and June 2022. Wages deduction for advance was made without approval from Labour Department.</p> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCR AZR05/2022 for Indicator 4.3.3</b> was raised</p>
<b>Principle 5 Benefits From the Forest</b>	Investments and reinvestments were made in forest management, including the aspects of forest administration, research, human resource development, protection, economy, conservation, environment and social.	There was no negative finding

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>The activities carried out using the vote of P23 in 2021 included boundary surveying/maintenance, Pre-F inventories, tree tagging, post-F inventory, silvicultural treatment and maintenance, VJR and HCV, infrastructure, plantation forest, IT and forest resource information, nursery, etc. While the Kumpulan Wang Pembangunan Hutan (KWPH) in 2021, the activities involved forest development such as, rehabilitation, conservation, recreation etc.</p> <p>KSFD -Kedah FMU has encouraged the optimal use of forest resources through monitoring of logging operation which is in line with annual allowable cut (AAC) as addressed in the FMP and the 12th Malaysia Plan. Tree felling was generally in compliance with RIL principles hence optimizing on use of resources.</p> <p>The KSFD has included NTFP in one of its development programmes aimed at collating data on the management of these resources to conserve optimally as consistent with ecological balance, environmental stability and biodiversity of the FMU.</p> <p>Harvesting operation in the FMU is aimed at full utilization of the timber resources with minimal wastage in line with the intention of the National Forest Policy. Guidelines for reduced/low-impact logging were implemented to minimise damage to the residual stand.</p> <p>Regular training was conducted for the staff on techniques of reduced-impact logging.</p> <p>Areas exceeding 1,000 meters above sea level or with slopes of more than 40 degrees were excluded from logging, demarcated and mapped as protection forests.</p> <p>The demarcation and management of riparian buffers in the FMU further ensure protection of waterways from soil erosion especially during harvesting operations.</p> <p>The Kedah FMU has established ecological habitat under Central Forest Spine (CFS) CFS1 SL7 at Ulu Muda, Pedu, Chebar Besar and Bukit Saiong PRFs which covered an area of 100 ha.</p> <p>The Kedah FMU has classified the PRF into one or more purposes base on section 10 of National Forestry Act 1984.</p>	

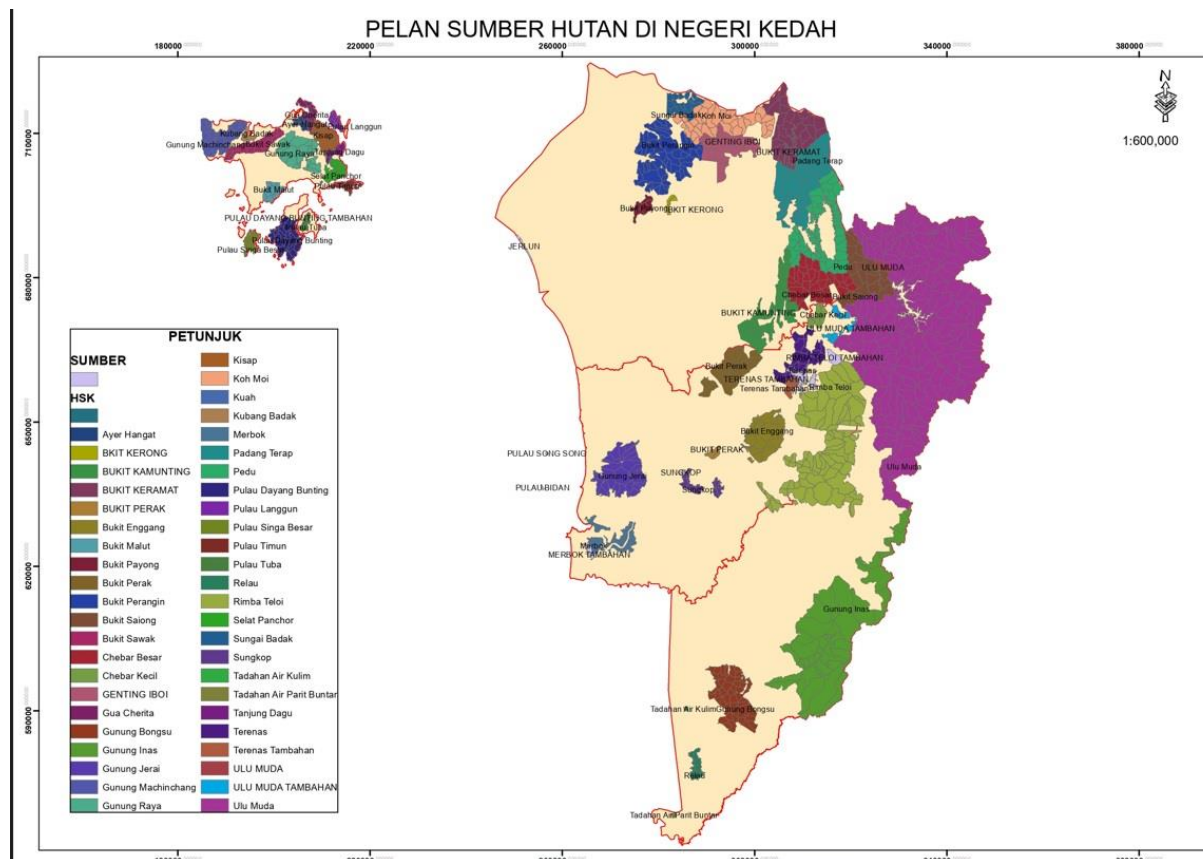
Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>Harvesting rates for Kedah FMU were determined by the annual allowable cut (AAC) set in the FMP and the 12<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan (2021 - 2026). The AAC calculated was 3,072 ha annually giving a total of 15,360 ha for the 5-year period.</p>	
<b>Principle 6 Environmental Impact</b>	<p>A state-wide scale macro-level environmental impact assessment (MEIA) was conducted in 2009 in Kedah FMU. Recommendations from the MEIA report were incorporated in the review of the FMP.</p> <p>The practice of RIL Guidelines (2003) was emphasized in the report and highlighted in the FMP. Sensitive areas were demarcated, mapped, and protected in specific conservative forest use categories.</p> <p>Environmental impact assessments on rare and threatened species of flora and fauna were included in the MEIA report on the FMU.</p> <p>Hunting, fishing, collecting and other unauthorized activities were not allowed within the PRF areas.</p> <p>Management guidelines to assess post-harvest natural regeneration, and measures to supplement natural regeneration and rehabilitate degraded areas in the Kedah FMU has been established.</p> <p>Representative areas of existing forest ecosystems, as identified and selected under Indicator 6.2.2, were demarcated, mapped and protected in their natural state. Specific areas were conserved as virgin jungle reserves (VJR) to preserve in its pristine state the original vegetation and environment of the forest in the area.</p> <p>The FMU did not use the biological control agent.</p> <p>Only indigenous forest species were used in all reforestation of natural stands in the FMU.</p> <p>Conversion from natural forest to forest plantations or non-forest use in the Kedah FMU did not include any High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) areas and covered a very limited portion of the management unit hence, ensuring conservation, economic and social values</p>	<p>Based on interview with in charge at Weng Checking Station and Kubang Pasu Checking Station found that they not aware of endangered rare and threatened species moreover no list of ERT species found in the forest checking station.</p> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCR ANS02/2022</b> for <b>Indicator 6.2.5</b> was raised.</p> <p>No forest fire management plan found in Kedah FMU.</p> <p>Therefore, an <b>OFI for indicator 6.5.5</b> was <b>upgraded</b> to <b>Minor ANS03/2022</b>.</p> <p>During site visit to Nursery Jeniang found that, standard operating procedure for the use of fertilisers was not made available.</p> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCRAZR03/2022</b> for <b>Indicator 6.5.6</b> was raised.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. During site visit to "Kongsi" for licence no KT 01-07-2021 at compartment 122B, there was no records of disposal of scheduled wastes.</li> <li>2. There was no procedure for waste disposal of liquid and solid non-organic wastes.</li> </ol> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCR AZR04/2022</b> for <b>Indicator 6.7.1</b> was raised.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
<b>Principle 7 Management Plan</b>	<p>The periodic review will be conducted every five years, as in clause 7.5 – “Semakan Separuh Penggal”. Currently, the revision was done on the documents titled ‘Lampiran 5.1: Senarai Cadangan Kawasan bagi Aktiviti Inventori Hutan Sebelum Tebangan (Pre-F), Penandaan Pokok (Timber tagging) dan Inventori Hutan Selepas Tebangan (Post-F).</p> <p>KSFD has training facilities at Pusat Latihan Perhutanan Jeniang, Kedah. Annual training programs for KSFD staff were made available for 2020 as evidenced in a document entitled “<i>Senarai Kursus yang dianjurkan oleh Jabatan Perhutanan Negeri Kedah Tahun 2020</i>”.</p>	<p>The following information yet to be included in the FMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire prevention and control (Para C) in Criterion 7.1</li> <li>• Non-timber forest product used commercially (Para D) in Criterion 7.1</li> <li>• Description of stakeholders’ consultation (Para J) in Criterion 7.1</li> <li>• The risk and opportunities, and implementation were not available in the forest management plan.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, <b>an OFI during stage 2 audit for indicator 7.1.1 was upgraded to Minor KN04/2022.</b></p> <p>The following information yet to be included in the public summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire prevention and control (Para C) in Criterion 7.1</li> <li>• Non-timber forest product used commercially (Para D) in Criterion 7.1</li> <li>• Description of stakeholders’ consultation (Para J) in Criterion 7.1</li> <li>• Description and justification of harvesting techniques and equipment to be used.</li> <li>• The risk and opportunities, and implementation of the forest management plan.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCR KN06/2022 for Indicator 7.4.1</b> was raised.</p>
<b>Principle 8 Monitoring and Assessment</b>	<p>The monitoring procedures, were based on the Director Generals of Forestry Directive on the use of monitoring forms A-D for Harvesting operation had been strictly adhered to by the KSFD.</p> <p>The procedures to monitor ecological, environmental, and economic impacts in the FMU were using monitoring forms i.e. A: <i>Infrastruktur (Infrastructure)</i>, B: <i>Pengusahaan Hutan (Forest Harvesting)</i>, C: <i>Alam Sekitar (Environment)</i> and D: <i>Pengeluaran (Output)</i> as specified under the Director General of Forestry circulars.</p> <p>Forest managers has gathered the relevant information, appropriate to the scale and intensity of the forest management operations. The Forest Management Plan for Kedah (2016-2025) presented during this Audit was found to contain Criterion 8.2.</p>	<p>Procedures to monitor social, ecological, environmental and economic impacts was not available</p> <p>Therefore, <b>an OFI during stage 2 audit for indicator 8.1.2 was upgraded to Minor KN03/2022.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The management review was not conducted by the FMU.</li> <li>• Review on Internal audit dated 23-26 May 2022 and Laporan Audit Dalaman dated 26 May 2022 found not all Indicators were covered during the audit. It was noted “Senarai Verifier yang Disemak” only covers 21 Indicators. The audit covers only audit findings by third party auditors.</li> </ul>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>Data on the composition and changes of the species, regeneration and condition of the forest was also verified during the Audit in the report entitled “<i>Ringkasan Perbandingan Spesies, Bilangan dan Bilangan Pokok Sehektar Bagi Data Inventori Post-F dan Pre-F</i>”.</p> <p>Kedah FMU has provided removal pass to ensure that all forest products leaving the certified area can be identified (including volumes and species) so that their origin can be determined.</p> <p>The Forest Management Plan of Kedah (2016-2025) specifically discussed the topic of monitoring activities in clause 7.0 Pemantauan, Pengawalan dan Penilaian and clause 7.5 <i>Semakan Separuh Penggal</i> (pg. 425-443)</p> <p>An up-to-date summary of the results of monitoring indicators, including those listed in Criterion 8.2 has been updated with the data from the <i>5<sup>th</sup> National Forest Inventory</i> (IHN) for flora and fauna while data on the growth rate, regeneration and condition of the forest also have been included and available in the following website <a href="http://www.kedforestry.gov.my">http://www.kedforestry.gov.my</a></p>	<p>Therefore, an <b>OFI</b> during <b>stage 2 audit</b> for <b>indicator 8.1.3</b> was <b>upgraded to Minor KN02/2022</b>.</p>
<b>Principle 9 Maintenance of High Conservation Values</b>	<p>The identification and protection of HC VF areas were clearly stated in the FMP and well implemented on the ground.</p> <p>KSFD has demarcated in total, three HC VF areas namely;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compt. 23 Gunung Jerai PRF - Slipper Orchid (<i>Paphiopedilum rothschildianum</i>)-</li> <li>2. Compt. 4, Merbok PRF (Mangrove Date Palm - <i>Kurma laut</i>, <i>Pheonix paludosa</i>) and Sungai Merbok PFR (mangrove hybrids)</li> <li>3. Compt. 4 Tanjung Dagu PRF – Mangrove Vegetation- Still on-going Planning</li> </ol> <p>The FMU followed the guidelines in identifying the presence of HC VF sites with consultation from relevant stakeholders. Evidence was provided from the records of consultation dated 9<sup>th</sup> May 2017 (PHNK 8/2013 Jld. 2) and was verified during the Audit.</p>	<p>HC VF management plan for <i>Paphiopedilum callosum</i> (Orkid Selipar) and <i>Pheonix paludosa</i> (Kurma Laut) was not included in the public summary.</p> <p>Therefore, <b>Minor NCR KN07/2022</b> for <b>Indicator 9.3.2</b> was raised.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>HCVF guidelines verified during the audit has prescribed annual monitoring to assess the effectiveness of protection and management of HCVF sites in the FMU. Kedah FMU has conducted annual monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the measures in the management of the HCV areas in the FMU. KSFD has conducted annual monitoring for two (2) of the HCVF at Gunung Jerai PRF, with the last report dated, on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022, and Merbok PRF, with the last report on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022.</p>	

## Map of Kedah FMU



## Experiences and Qualifications of Audit Team Members

Names of Audit Team	Role	Qualification and Experience
Khairul Najwan Ahmad Jahari	Audit Team Leader / Forester	<p>Academic Qualification: B.Sc. of Forestry (Forest Management), Universiti Putra Malaysia.</p> <p>Work Experience: Appointed as contract Research Officer in the Natural Forest Division, Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM), since 2001. Conduct and coordinate research on 8th Malaysian Plan Project. Produce technical reports, meeting, seminar and conferences reports as well as quarterly physical and financial reports. Coordinate and participate field works, multi-level meetings, seminars, conferences and workshops. Spent some time in other existing FRIM projects (inter divisional) as an organizing committee member, division level activities and projects. Currently as Lead Auditor at the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section (FAF), SIRIM QAS International, since 2009. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification (MC&amp;I and FSC P&amp;C), MYNI of RSPO P&amp;C and other management system on ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSA 1800</p> <p>Training / Research Areas:  Was attending and pass in the following training programmes:  Auditor Training Course on Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [MC&amp;I (2002)] organized by MTCC, 30 March - 2 April 2009. EMS 14001: 2004 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 2-6 March 2009. OHSAS 18001: 2007 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 23-27 Feb 2009. QMS 9001: 2008 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 16 – 21 Feb 2009.</p>
Mohd Annas Amin Hj Omar	Auditor / Forester	<p>Academic Qualification: Diploma in Forestry, UPM B. Sc. In Forestry, UPM</p> <p>Work Experience: Six year as Assistant Forest Officer at Perak Forestry State Department in the year from 2013-2018. Main responsibility is Assisting District Forest Officers in administrative work, forest development and forest operations. Conduct forest Enforcement Team Activities such as The Prevention of illegal logging. Appointed to be Raid Officer in Raid Eradicating Illegal Refinery in Perak Forestry. Also appointed to be Investigative Officer in Investigations into a case involved Forest Reserve and Cased Prosecuted in Court.</p> <p>Training/Research Areas: Program of MTCS Training Course (MC&amp; I) in Kuantan (9-12 July 2018) Lead Auditor ISO 9001, ISO 14001 &amp; ISO 45001 Exemplar Global Certified (13-18 Ogos 2018) RSPO Lead Auditor Training (9-13 March 2020)</p>



Azrul Ikhsan bin Mohamed	Auditor	<p>Academic Qualification: Bachelor of Science with Honours (Plant Resource Science and Management), Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.</p> <p>Work Experience: Five years of Experience in the field of Forestry, 2 Years of Forest Plantation as Assistant Plantation Manager in Forestry Assets SDN BHD in the year from 2015 to 2017, and 4 Years in Natural Forest as Forest Manager in RELIWOOD SDN BHD in the year 2018 – 2021. Main responsibility is Assisting and Manage in the administrative work, forest development, and forest operations based on the MC&amp;I SFM standard. Work closely with relevant stakeholders on the development of the Forest such as Enrichment planting, HCV collaboration, Improvement of the Reduced impact logging, and developing procedures.</p> <p>Training / Research Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Auditor Training Course on Forest Management Certification Under the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS) – (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021)</li> <li>• SIRIM LEAD AUDITOR COURSE INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (IMS) ISO 9001, ISO 14001 &amp; ISO 45001 (LIMS02) – (25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021)</li> </ul>
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## Comments Received from Stakeholders and Responses by Audit Team Leader

No.	Stakeholder	Comments/Issues Raised	Response by Audit Team
1.	Ketua Penolong Pegawai Daerah Kanan (Pengurusan Tanah) Pejabat Daerah dan Tanah Baling  Dated 29 June 2022	Pentadbiran tanah mohon agar sebarang ulasan berkaitan sempadan hutan simpan hendaklah ditentupastikan oleh Jabatan Hutan Negeri	A review of the document of Compt. 5, Koh Moi PRF found it was changed to alienated land with PT2552, PT2539 etc., by Pejabat Tanah & Daerah Padang Terap. This conflict was not recorded in the documentation of conflicts between laws, regulations and MC&I's Principles and Criteria. <b>Thus, Minor NCR was raised against Indicator 1.4.1</b>
2.	Penolong Pengarah Kanan Jabatan Perlindungan Hidupan Liar dan Taman Negara (PERHILITAN) Negeri Kedah  Dated 14 July 2022	<p>Pihak jabatan tidak menghalang sebarang pembalakan di kawasan hutan yang dibolehkan walaupun bagaimanapun perlu mengambilkira dan menitikberatkan kepentingan dalam kepelbagaian biologi terutamanya spesies-spesies hidupan liar yang mendiami sesuatu kawasan hutan tersebut terutamanya hidupan liar yang diancam kepupusan.</p> <p>Sebarang bentuk pembangunan guna tanah hutan asal yang akan dijadikan projek ladang hutan bagi aktiviti penanaman monokultur perlu diberi perhatian yang lebih serius kerana jelas tidak menguntungkan hidupan liar untuk mendiami kawasan tersebut seterusnya akan meningkatkan risiko konflik hidupan liar manusia serta ancaman pemburuan dan kepupusan.</p> <p>Kajian impak atau pelan pengurusan hidupan liar (Wildlife Management Plan) dalam mengenalpasti kehadiran, potensi impak, gangguan atau ancaman terhadap hidupan liar manusia di fasa sebelum, semasa dan selepas pembukaan kawasan hutan perlu dilaksanakan.</p> <p>Satu pelan tindakan berkala perlu dijalankan di fasa sebelum, semasa dan selepas pembukaan hutan dikawasan terlibat bagi memastikan keberkesanan, kaedah dan tindakan yang dijalankan bagi menjamin keselamatan dan kesejahteraan manusia-hidupan liar dari segi tindakan yang bersesuaian yang akan dijalankan seperti menangani aduan konflik serta operasi menyelamat serta</p>	<p>Guidelines for the conservation of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity were available. These were included in various documents such as the Forest Management Plan for Kedah (2016-2025), National Policy on Biological Diversity 1998, Forestry Manual 2003 and Guidelines for the Establishment and Maintenance of Virgin Jungle Reserves, 1987. Conservation efforts also formed the core of wildlife sanctuaries and game reserves, State Park, seed production areas, preservation of mother trees, protection trees and fruit trees including the enforcement of minimum cutting limit for <i>Neobalanocarpus heimii</i> (Chengal).</p> <p>Harvesting was designed in the FMU taking into consideration the need for the conservation of biological corridors and buffer zones for features of special biological interest for wildlife conservation. Buffer zones along active streams were found to be demarcated and mapped in both active and post-harvest areas. The KSFD is also an active participant in the state committee overseeing the Central Forest Spine (CSF) projects to provide biological corridors for the movement of wildlife.</p>

		<p>tangkap pindah hidupan liar.</p> <p>Dicadangkan untuk mewujudkan tabung amanah hidupan liar negeri bagi sebarang pembukaan kawasan hutan dengan sejumlah peruntukan hendaklah disalurkan kedalam tabung tersebut oleh pihak pemaju untuk tindakan pihak jabatan dalam melaksanakan kerja-kerja penguatkuasaan dan pemantauan, menyelamatkan dan tangkap pindah serta pengurusan konflik hidupan liar di kawasan terjejas bagi fasa semasa, sebelum dan selepas pembukaan sesuatu kawasan hutan.</p>	
3.	<p>Timbalan Pengarah Ukur dan Pemetaan Jabatan Ukur dan Pemetaan Kedah</p> <p>Dated 6 July 2022</p>	<p>Secara keseluruhannya, pengurusan hutan Negeri Kedah adalah baik. Walaubagaimanapun, masih ada ruang untuk ditambahbaik antaranya sempadan hutan simpan perlu diukur dan ditandakan dilapangan. Implikasi daripada pengukuran dan penandaan sempadan ini, akan memudahkan pelaksanaan penguatkuasaan, dan merencanakan aktiviti sosial ekonomi berhampiran sempadan hutan simpan</p>	<p>The verification was conducted at Forest boundaries at Compt.7, Ulu Muda PRF, Compt.79, Ulu Muda PRF, Compt.6, and Compt. 8 of Bukit Malut PRF and Compt.4, Koh Moi PRF, and found the external boundaries were clearly marked with three-ringed red paint.</p>
4.	Undisclosed	<p>a news article was released by Malay Mail titled "Alarm sounded as Langkawi mine project exploits loophole to avoid EIA scrutiny" on 13 July 2022. The article highlighted that a mining company has been given the approval to clear a forest in Gunung Raya Forest Reserve without the need of an EIA assessment.</p>	<p>During the auditor's visit to the Conversion Area at Compt. 11, Gunung Raya PRF, it was observed that the area remained intact. There were no indications of any mining activities taking place in the area</p>

## Surveillance 1 Audit Plan

DAY	TIME	PROGRAM		
		AUDITOR 1 (Najwan)	AUDITOR 2 (Annas)	AUDITOR 3 (Azrul)
Travelling Day 0	5.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel from Kuala Lumpur to Alor Star (MH1252 – ETD19:10, ETA20:15)</li> <li>Check-in at Grand Alora Hotel, Alor Star</li> <li>Briefing by Audit Team Leader on the audit plan</li> </ul>		
<b>Day 1</b>  <b>18.7.2022</b>	8.30 am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Session with Director of Kedah State Forestry Department</li> <li>Opening Meeting with representatives of FMU</li> </ul>		
	9.00 am – 1.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing session by Forest Manager of the FMU</li> <li>Q&amp;A Session</li> <li>Documentation Review</li> <li>Evaluation of changes to the management of the FMU</li> <li>Check on progress of planned activities aimed at enhancing the operation system to achieve improvement in overall performance.</li> <li>Check on complaints and follow-up actions.</li> <li>Evaluate on procedures for internal audit.</li> <li>Evaluate on management review system.</li> <li>Verification of NCRs raised during the previous audit.</li> <li>Briefing to representatives of FMU on the progress of audit</li> </ul>		
	2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle 5 – Benefits from the forest</li> <li>Principle 7 – Management Plan</li> <li>Principle 8 – Monitoring and Assessment</li> </ul>	Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle 1 – Compliance with Laws and Principles</li> <li>Principle 4 - Community Relations and Worker's Right Principle 6 – Environmental Impact</li> </ul>	Documentation and records review <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Principle 2 – Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities</li> <li>Principle 3 – Indigenous Peoples' Right</li> <li>Principle 9 – Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests</li> <li>Consultation with Kesatuan KPPHM Malaysia Barat</li> </ul>
		Briefing to representatives of FMU on the progress of audit Review of Day 1 Findings by Audit Team Leader		
<b>Day 2</b>  <b>19.7.2022</b>	8.30 am – 5.30 pm	Site visit (Kedah Tengah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active harvesting area at Ulu Muda PRF Compt.122D (KT-01-07-2021)</li> <li>Interview with contractors and workers of Ki Huat</li> </ul>	Site visit (Kedah Selatan) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active harvesting area at Compt. 40C, Ulu Muda PRF (KS-01-16-2021)</li> <li>Interview with contractors Sing Ta Nian Sdn Bhd</li> <li>Worker's camp</li> </ul>	Site visit (Kedah Tengah) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Active harvesting area Ulu Muda PRF Compt.122D (KT-01-07-2021)</li> <li>Interview with contractors</li> <li>Worker's camp</li> </ul>

		<p>Timber (M) Sdn Bhd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worker's camp include workshop, Scheduled waste store at Compt. 103, Ulu Muda PRF</li> <li>Forest Checking Station Gulau</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest boundaries at Compt.7, Ulu Muda PRF</li> <li>Forest Checking Station at Weng</li> <li>consultations with local communities En. Mat Isa bin Che Teh, JKK Kg. Tanjung Pari Baling</li> <li>Conversion Area and Stakeholder comment review at Compt. 8 Gunung Inas PRF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest boundaries at Compt.79, Ulu Muda PRF</li> <li>Forest Checking Station</li> <li>Nursery Jeniang</li> </ul>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Briefing to representatives of FMU on the progress of audit</li> <li>Review of Day 2 Findings by Audit Team Leader</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Day 3</b></p> <p><b>20.7.2022</b></p>	<p>7.30 am – 5.30 pm</p>	<p>Site visit (Kedah Langkawi)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conversion Area and Stakeholder comment review at Compt. 11, Gunung Raya PRF</li> <li>Forest boundaries at Compt.6, and Compt. 8 of Bukit Malut PRF</li> <li>Document review at Langkawi District Forest Office</li> </ul>	<p>Site visit (Kedah Utara)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed harvesting area at Compt. 42 Padang Terap PRF (KU-01-06-2021)</li> <li>Interview with contractors Sin Ta Nian Sdn. Bhd.</li> <li>Active harvesting area at Compt.4 Koh Moi PRF (KU-01-02-2022)</li> <li>Interview with contractors Izakal Ent.</li> <li>Forest Checking Station Kubang Pasu</li> </ul>	<p>Site visit (Kedah Utara)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closed harvesting area at Compt.42 Padang Terap PRF (KU-01-06-2021)</li> <li>Interview with contractors</li> <li>Active harvesting area at Compt.4 Koh Moi PRF (KU-01-02-2022)</li> <li>Worker's camp</li> <li>Forest boundaries at Compt.4, Koh Moi PRF</li> </ul>
<p><b>Day 4</b></p> <p><b>21.7.2022</b></p>	<p>8.30 am – 9.00 am</p> <p>9.00am – 12.00pm</p> <p>2.00pm</p> <p>3.30pm</p>	<p>Documentation and records review</p> <p>Preparation of audit report and finding</p> <p>Briefing to representatives of FMU on the progress of audit</p> <p>Closing Meeting and presentation of findings of audit and discussion on follow-up activities</p> <p>Adjourn Closing Meeting</p> <p>Travel to KL (MH1455 - ETD17:35 – ETA18:50)</p>		

- End of Report -