



**PUBLIC SUMMARY
STAGE 2 AUDIT ON
LAYUN FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT
FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION**

**Certificate Number: FMC-NF 00142
Date of First Certification: 2 February 2024
Audit Date: 6 – 12 March 2023
Date of Public Summary: 22 February 2024**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Stage-2 audit on the Layun Forest Management Unit (hereafter referred as the Layun FMU) was conducted on 6 to 12 March 2023 to assess the compliance of the overall forest management system of FMU against the requirements MTCS ST 1002:2021 Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM) using the verifiers stipulated for Sarawak. The scope of this Stage-2 audit was limited to the forest management system and practices within the Layun FMU.

This Stage-2 audit was conducted by a 4-member team comprising Khairul Najwan bin Ahmad Jahari (Lead Auditor), Mohd Razman bin Salim (Auditor), Puteri Arlydia by Abdul (Auditor) and Angelica Sinimis Suimin (Auditor).

Based on the findings of this Stage-2 audit, it was found that Layun FMU had complied with the requirements of the MC&I SFM. This Stage-2 audit had resulted in the issuance of three (3) Major and fifteen (15) Minor Non-Conformance Report (NCRs) against the requirements of the MC&I SFM.

This public summary contains the general information on the Layun FMU, the findings of the Stage-2 audit, NCRs raised as well as the decision on the certification of the FMU.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Name of FMU

Layun Forest Management Unit

1.2 Contact Person and Address

Samling Plywood (Lawas) Sdn. Bhd.

(Mr Ling Kiang Chen, Forest Manager)
Wisma Samling, Lot 296,
Jalan Temenggong Datuk Oyong Lawai Jau,
98000 Miri, Sarawak.

1.3 General Background on Layun FMU

Layun FMU is managed by Samling Plywood (Lawas) Sdn Bhd, which is committed to sustainable management practices. The FMU's certification covers an area of 142,790 hectares.

Situated approximately between Latitudes 30 20.16' N to 30 58.94' N and Longitudes 1140 32.11' E to 1150 14.72' E, Layun FMU is located in the Telang Usang District of Miri Division. It spans the area between Btg. Baram and Sg. Tutoh within the Long Lama Sub-District, Marudi District, Miri Division, approximately 23km east of Long Lama.

Managed according to sustainable forest management principles, Layun FMU operates on a 30-year rotation period. The Forest Management Plan (FMP) (2021-2030) sets the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) at 12.33m³/ha or 44,798.59m³/year, with an operable area of 108.999 hectares.

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

1.4 Date First Certified

2 February 2024

1.5 Location of the FMU

The FMU is located between Latitudes 30 20.16' N to 30 58.94' N and Longitudes 1140 32.11' E to 1150 14.72' E.

1.6 Forest Management System

The FMU had followed the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) and the requirements of the Licence Agreement of the State government. A Forest Management Plan (FMP) 2021 to 2030 was presented during this audit.

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

Under the Forest Management Plan (FMP) (2021-2030), the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) for Layun FMU is set up to 12.33 m³/ha or 44,798.59 m³/year with operable area of 108,999 ha. During this Stage-2 audit, the size of the FMU is 142,790 ha.

1.8 Environmental and Socioeconomic Context

There are approximately thirty-eight (38) local settlements, with seventeen (17) within Layun FMU, including Long Na'ah, Long Sengayan, Long Jenalong, Long Kerangan, Long Urang, Long Leng, Long Nen, Long Kevok, Long Siang, Long Kawa, Long Latei, Long Seridan A, Long Seridan B, Long Ludin, Long Lesuan, and Ba' Barih. Another twenty-one (21) settlements, such as Long Liam, Long Keliman, Long Bedian, Long Atip, Long Wat, Long Beluk, Long Sayan, Long Bemang, Long Tujang, Long Buang, Long Selulung/Puak, Long Meraan, Long Anyat, Long Daloh, Long Daloh Bestari, Long Luteng, Long Itam Bunau, Long Lilim, Ba' Pakan, Long Kahoh, and Long Lunyim, are adjacent to it.

The primary ethnicities of the communities are Penan (28 villages), Kayan (8 villages), and Kelabit (2 villages), with the majority being Christian. These local communities, both within and adjacent to the FMU, still practice shifting cultivation within Layun FMU.

Moreover, the Sabah Sarawak Gas Pipeline (SSGP) traverses Layun FMU, spanning approximately 52km across Coupe 08A, 09A, 03A, 15A, and 17A.

Additionally, there is a Licence Planted Forest (LPF/0020) within the Layun Forest Management Unit (FMU) area. However, operations for LPF/0020 were suspended on 25 November 2019, and no activities have occurred since. It's essential to clarify that this specific area does not fall within the Layun FMU. This information provides clarification regarding the status and location of LPF/0020 in relation to the Layun FMU.

2 AUDIT PROCESS

2.1 Audit Dates

6-12 March 2023 (24 man-days)

2.2 Audit Team

Khairul Najwan bin Ahmad Jahari	(Lead Auditor)
Mohd Razman bin Salim	(Auditor)
Puteri Arlydia by Abdul	(Auditor)
Angelica Sinimis Suimin	(Auditor)

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

2.3 Standard Used

MTCS ST 1002:2021 Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM) using the verifiers stipulated for Sarawak.

2.4 Stakeholder Consultations

A one-month stakeholder consultation was conducted on 20 January 2023 to solicit feedback from stakeholders on the compliance of the Layun FMU against the requirements of the MTCS ST 1002:2021 Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management (MC&I SFM). The comments by the stakeholders and responses by the audit team are shown in **Attachment 3**.

2.5 Audit Process

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

For each indicator, the auditors conducted either a documentation review, consultation with the relevant personnel of the FMU, local community, or stakeholders, or a 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 to issue a major or minor NCR or an OFI, which is defined as follows:

- (i) a major NCR is 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 involved the verification of documentation, field visits and inspections. There were also consultations being held with the Forest Department Sarawak, NGOs, DOSH, Land & Survey Department and relevant indigenous settlements within FMU.

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

3 SUMMARY OF AUDIT FINDINGS

A total of three (3) Major and fifteen (15) Minor Non-Conformance Reports (NCRs) were raised on Layun FMU against the requirements of the MC&I SFM. The audit team examined all the proposed corrective action plans to address the NCRs raised during the stage 2 audit by email on 16 May 2023, 31 May 2023 (amended) and 10 August 2023 (amended) which has been accepted by the audit team leader on 16 May 2023 and 9 September 2023. The evidence(s) of corrective action taken for Major NCRs was received on 31 May 2023 and 10 August 2023 (additional) and has been accepted and closed on 9 September 2023.

The effectiveness of the corrective actions taken by the FMU to address the Minor NCRs shall be verified by the audit team during the next surveillance audit.

On indigenous peoples' rights, there were mechanisms in place to resolve disputes over tenure and use rights through establishment of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), as well through the formation of Forest Management Community Liaison Committee (FMCLC) and Committee Relation Committee (CRC). It was observed that there was no recorded civil court case pertaining to legal or customary tenure or use rights filed against the FMU.

Regarding Criterion 6.10, 6.11 and 6.12, there has been no conversion of natural forest into non-forest land use within the Layun FMU. Furthermore, there was no conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations or afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems in the FMU.

As the major NCR raised during this Stage-2 audit had been closed out, the audit team had therefore, recommended that the Certificate for Forest Management be awarded to Layun FMU for 5 years from 2 February 2024 to 1 February 2029.

The summary on the findings of the Stage 2 audit on Layun FMU against the requirements of the MC&I SFM are as follows:

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Principle 1 Compliance with Laws and Principles</p>	<p>All up-to-date federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and policies relevant to forest management were confirmed to be maintained by Layun FMU at the Layun Camp Office. Verified documents include the Minimum Wages Order 2022, Land Code 1958, Workmen's Compensation Act 1952, and Environmental Quality Act 1974. Interviews with forest managers revealed their awareness of applicable laws and regulations, and field observations substantiated their knowledge. Verification of records and interviews with representatives from the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) confirmed the absence of any violations by the FMU.</p> <p>The current list of legally prescribed fees, royalties, taxes, and other charges was</p>	<p>Review of the record "Evaluation Conflicts Between Laws and Regulations to Principles and Criteria" dated 12th August 2022 indicates that assessments were not conducted on a case-by-case basis. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 1.4.1 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>confirmed to be maintained at the Layun Camp Office. Records of payments for 2023 were also confirmed and verified.</p> <p>Interviews with Forest Managers confirmed their awareness of international agreements relevant to forest management. Copies of agreements, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights 1948, were also confirmed to be available during the audit.</p> <p>Interview with the Forest Managers confirmed their awareness and willingness to participate in any process to resolve conflicts between laws, regulations, and these Principles and Criteria.</p> <p>Layun FMU is managed by Samling Plywood (Lawas) Sdn. Bhd. under Forest Timber Licence (FTL) No. T/0405 issued by FDS since May 1993, valid until May 2033. Various measures have been implemented to protect Layun FMU from encroachment and illegal activities, including signage, boundary demarcation, and regular patrols. Site inspection along licence boundaries confirmed adequate and proper demarcation of the FMU. Activities such as hunting, fishing, and collecting are controlled, with unauthorised activities prohibited. Four Honorary Wildlife Rangers have also been appointed by Layun FMU. Verification of patrolling schedules for 2022 and 2023 indicated regular monitoring, with reports submitted to relevant authorities.</p> <p>The FMU's commitment to sustainable forest management, as outlined in the 'Sustainable Forest Management Policy', was confirmed and verified. The policy has been adequately disseminated throughout the organisation and is publicly available. This confirmation was verified through meeting minutes, stakeholder consultation records, and interviews with workers and other stakeholders. The policy has also been integrated into contractual documents and agreements between Layun FMU and their contractors.</p>	
<p>Principle 2 Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities</p>	<p>Documentation regarding the legal status and established forest use rights, as well as legal or customary tenure or use rights for local communities in Layun FMU, were confirmed and verified.</p>	<p>Documentation review revealed no clear evidence of long-term forest use rights for state-land forest status. Additionally, the approved General Harvesting Plan Map</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>To address the Major NCR raised on Indicator 2.1.1, the audit team reviewed the evidence submitted by Layun FMU. The main evidence submitted includes correspondence with FDS regarding state land matters, revisions to the General Harvesting Plan for Layun FMU, and letters from the Survey Department concerning approved perimeter surveys. The evidence was accepted on 16 May 2023 and 9 September 2023. Therefore, the Major NCR raised on Indicator 2.1.1 was satisfactorily closed.</p> <p>Layun FMU's forest managers have shown commitment to supporting legally recognized mechanisms to resolve land claims, as evidenced through the Conflict Resolution Procedure (FMC/PRO-002) dated 7 February 2022, and the Land Claim Procedure (FMC/PRO-003) dated 15 March 2017. During this Stage-2 audit, it was confirmed that there are no legally recognized land claims in Layun FMU areas, which was thoroughly verified through documentation review as well as stakeholder consultation involving 23 local communities/longhouses.</p> <p>Documentation review, as well as interviews with forest managers and local communities, confirmed that local communities hold legal or customary tenure or use rights over their resources. The FMP has incorporated maps depicting locations of local communities' settlements. Stakeholder consultation with local communities confirmed that they have unrestricted forest access for non-commercial activities, including gathering resources and engaging in cultural practices.</p> <p>Mechanisms for resolving disputes over tenure claims and use rights for Layun FMU were confirmed, as evidenced through the FMU's Complaint Form. The form is accessible manually at the Base Camp Office and online through: https://samling.com/samling-complaintrequest-form.</p>	<p>Reference contradicted the current map of the legal status of state-land as per the Land Survey Department's records. Therefore, a Major NCR on Indicator 2.1.1 was issued.</p> <p>Documentation verification shows discrepancies between the rate of compensation and the agreements signed with local communities. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 2.2.1 was issued.</p> <p>Records of significant important areas of several local communities were not found. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 2.2.2 was issued.</p> <p>Stakeholder consultation with several local communities indicates unawareness of the dispute mechanism on tenure and use rights claims. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 2.3.1 was issued.</p>
<p>Principle 3 Indigenous People's Rights</p>	<p>Documentation of Indigenous peoples' customary land rights was confirmed and verified. The FMU encompasses 2,036 ha of Penan Reserve area and 90 ha of Communal Forest. Stakeholder</p>	<p>Consultation with several indigenous communities reveals the absence of the CRC for all communities in the vicinity of the</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>consultation confirmed communities face no restrictions in accessing these areas. Two procedures for resolving tenure and use rights disputes, SFM/PR 001 and SFM/GL 001, were confirmed and verified. The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will handle complaints and disputes according to these procedures. Additionally, a Community Relations Committee (CRC) has been established as a conflict resolution platform for several local communities.</p> <p>During this Stage-2 audit, it was confirmed no conflicts or grievances exist regarding legal and customary rights, with no records of outcomes from negotiations or decisions from Native Courts/Civil Courts within the FMU.</p> <p>The FMU's forest operations have not adversely impacted local communities' resources or tenure rights, as verified through records and stakeholder consultations with 23 local communities. No logging has occurred in legally recognized 'Penan Reserve' lands, and all operations have been within clearly demarcated boundaries. Information on species and resources utilized by local communities has been documented in the FMP. Preventive and mitigation measures have been outlined in subchapter 7.8.6 of the FMP, including establishing the CRC, Forest Management Unit Community Liaison Committee (FMUCLC), implementing Reduce Impact Logging (RIL), and conducting joint ground surveys for buffer zone demarcation.</p> <p>Procedures for identifying and protecting indigenous peoples' significant sites are outlined in "Procedures to Monitor Social, Ecological, Environmental, and Economic Impacts (SFM/PR 009)" and reflected in Map HCV 5 and Map HCV 6. Stakeholder consultations confirmed the identification of these sites such as water catchment areas and burial sites. Conflict resolution mechanisms are established through SOP SFM/GL 001 and the Samling Grievances Process Flow Chart, publicly accessible through: https://www.samling.com/sustainability/corporate-social-responsibility-csr.</p> <p>No grievances have been raised by local communities regarding access to these sites or by Layun FMU encroachment. Measures to prevent loss or damage to</p>	<p>FMU. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 3.1.3 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>these sites have been implemented by Layun FMU, verified during site inspections and stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>Layun FMU has not incorporated any traditional forest-related knowledge or practices from local communities, confirmed through interviews with FMU managers and stakeholder consultations.</p>	
<p>Principle 4 Community Relations and Workers' Rights</p>	<p>Appropriate support for training, infrastructure, facilities, and socio-economic programs for Layun FMU's workers was confirmed and verified. Verification of employment records, alongside interviews with workers, confirmed that employment preferences were given to communities living within and adjacent to the FMU, without gender discrimination. Adequate training has been provided for workers, as evidenced by training records for 2022 and 2023. Employment records also show that Layun FMU has not employed or been involved in the employment of illegal migrant workers, child labour, or forced labour.</p> <p>Up-to-date information on all applicable laws and regulations covering health and safety has been disseminated and communicated to all employees in Layun FMU. Layun FMU's policy on occupational health, safety, and environment is available and visible throughout the FMU. Employee deductions for social security are in line with legal requirements, evidenced by payslips and bank transfers. Interviews with workers confirmed their awareness of relevant legal requirements pertinent to their roles and responsibilities, such as the Factories and Machinery Act, Forests Ordinance, Labour Ordinance, and Occupational Safety and Health Act.</p> <p>Relevant safety guidelines and procedures, such as SFM/GL 002 Guidelines on Disposal and Storage of Scheduled Wastes and SFM/GL 005 Safety Practices Guidelines, are available and accessible. A safety and health officer, as well as a safety and health committee, have been appointed and established in the FMU. Up-to-date safety records have been adequately maintained and submitted to the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) as required under the OSHA Act 1994.</p> <p>Interviews with workers confirmed that</p>	<p>Documentation review and stakeholder consultation with local communities revealed no record of a comprehensive SIA conducted for several affected local communities. Therefore, a Major NCR on Indicator 4.4.1 was issued.</p> <p>Verification of maintenance records for several vehicles shows inaccuracies. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 4.2.3 was issued.</p> <p>Verification of employment payment records shows certain salary deductions were conducted without approval permits from the Labour Department of Sarawak. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 4.3.3 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>Layun FMU has not restricted workers from organizing into unions and engaging in collective bargaining, as per ILO Convention No. 87. Procedures for grievance resolution outlined in SFM/PR 002 have been established since 2017.</p> <p>Social impact assessments (SIAs) have been conducted in Layun FMU for several communities within and adjacent to Layun FMU in March, May, and July 2022. Verification of the SIA report, produced in February 2023, and consultation with local communities confirmed the involvement of 27 local communities and villages within the vicinity of the FMU on the SIA assessments. The results of the SIA have been incorporated into the planning and management practices of the FMU, as verified in Chapter 11 of the FMP.</p> <p>To address the Major NCR raised on Indicator 4.4.1, auditors reviewed the evidence submitted by Layun FMU. The evidence submitted includes a revised SIA report and the inclusion of information on socio-economic and environmental conditions, identification of HCV, and important cultural significant sites in Chapter 7 of the FMP. The evidence was accepted on 9 September 2023. Therefore, the Major NCR raised on Indicator 4.4.1 was satisfactorily closed.</p>	
<p>Principle 5 Benefits From the Forest</p>	<p>Budget allocation and cost projection for Layun FMU for the period 2022-2027 is detailed in Chapter 14 of the FMP. The budget covers various aspects of forest management, including administration, research, human resource development, protection, economic activities, conservation, environmental management, and social aspects. Provisions and management prescriptions to ensure the sustainable productive capacity of the forest are addressed in Chapter 9 of the FMP. Silviculture treatment for rehabilitation and restoration activities is scheduled 1-2 years after harvesting is completed in a designated block. Harvesting operations are currently ongoing in Coupe 01A.</p> <p>Logs are the main product in Layun FMU, with no non-timber forest product commercially harvested from the FMU, as evidenced through record verification and site inspection in Coupe 01A.</p>	<p>Verification of forest resource inventory shows the estimated volume of harvestable trees has exceeded the maximum allowable harvest limit. Report analysis on the seven established PSPs was also unavailable. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 5.2.1 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>Availability and implementation of reduced impact logging (RIL) guidelines to minimize environmental damage and wastage, as outlined in Chapter 10A & 10B of The Green Book “Manuals, Procedures and Guidelines for Forest Management Certification in Sarawak (Natural Forest) 2019”, are confirmed and verified. Site inspection in Coupe 01A confirms FMU compliance with RIL requirements, revealing minimal damage to the residual stand and proper tagging of harvestable and protected trees. Training on RIL techniques was provided for 15 workers in January and February 2023. Interviews with workers confirmed their knowledge and awareness of RIL requirements.</p> <p>Layun FMU primarily focuses on timber production, particularly logs, with no defined plan for diversifying into mixed commercial forest products or utilizing non-timber forest products. However, local communities are allowed to gather non-timber products for personal use.</p> <p>Guidelines for identifying and demarcating sensitive areas for soil and water protection are established and implemented in Layun FMU, based on The Green Book Chapter 10A and 10B. Verification of the General Harvesting Plan (GP) and Chapter 4 of the FMP confirms that protected areas are demarcated on the map and protected during harvesting operations. Site inspections confirm adequate marking and demarcation of sensitive areas such as riparian buffers and Terrain IV. Verification of the FMP outlines strategies for climate-positive practices, such as reduced impact logging and forest restoration, aimed at mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sinks.</p> <p>The harvest rate for Layun FMU is calculated based on 31 Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) plots and analysed using the FORMIND growth simulation software. The optimum harvesting volume is calculated at 12.33 m³/ha for a 30-year rotation period and a production area of 108,999 ha. The production limit quota approved by FDS for the period of August 2022 to June 2023 was 3,780 m³/year. Verification of production records shows actual production has not exceeded the approved production limit quota approved by FDS.</p>	

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Principle 6 Environmental Impact</p>	<p>An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was conducted for Layun FMU in 2022, meeting regulatory requirements under the Natural Resources and Environmental Ordinance. The EIA report was approved by the Natural Resources and Environment Board (NREB) on 11 November 2022. Considerations for potential impact on endangered species and biodiversity conservation have been integrated into Chapter 7 and Chapter 10 of the FMP. Mitigation measures for environmental impacts, such as fire risk and water pollution, are detailed in Chapter 7 and Chapter 13, emphasising forest conservation, carbon stock enhancement, and climate change mitigation.</p> <p>Guidelines for identifying and protecting rare, threatened, and endangered (RTE) species and their special biological features are available and implemented in Layun FMU. The guidelines are adopted from The Green Book 'Guideline 7 - Guidelines to Identify Endangered, Rare, Threatened or Protected Forest Tree Species in Sarawak' and 'Guideline 8 - Guidelines for Fauna Conservation and Ecosystem Management'. Record verification, as well as site inspection in Coupe 01A and 03A, confirm adherence to these guidelines where riparian buffers and protected trees are adequately demarcated and marked.</p> <p>Collaboration efforts with academic and other stakeholders are evident through Layun FMU's joint cooperation with Universiti Putra Malaysia Kampus Bintulu (UPMKB) and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) on the conservation of local bamboo species at UPMKB. Prevention of unauthorized activities is adequately conducted through the Honorary Wildlife Rangers monitoring and structured patrolling program. Posters and leaflets on RTE species are posted at various locations in the FMU.</p> <p>Management procedures/guidelines for assessing post-harvest natural regeneration and enrichment plantings are available and implemented. Layun FMU uses the Procedure for Post-Harvest Inventory Assessment - FMC/PRO-003 and Guideline 11 - Guidelines for Silviculture Practice (Enrichment</p>	<p>Site inspection in Coupe 01A and Coupe 03A shows constructed bridges were not fully following established SOPs and guidelines. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 6.5.3 was issued.</p> <p>Site verification in the Layun FMU Base Camp shows essential firefighting equipment is lacking compared to what was outlined in the FMP. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 6.5.5 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>Planting) from the Green Book. Site inspection in Coupe 09A and Coupe 12A confirm restoration activities are being undertaken in the FMU.</p> <p>Guidelines for conserving genetic, species, and ecosystem diversity are detailed in Chapter 10 of the FMP, adopted based on Guideline 8 from the Green Book. Harvesting plans prioritise the conservation of water streams, with buffer zones marked and protected. Site inspection confirms adequate marking and demarcation of riparian buffers along streams in Coupe 01A, Coupe 03A and Coupe 06A.</p> <p>Representative areas of forest ecosystems are demarcated in the General Harvesting Plan and Map G-Forest Zoning, as well as in Map HCV1.1 Protected Areas. These areas are safeguarded in their natural condition, as confirmed during site inspection of Sg. Patah in Coupe 03A and Coupe 06A.</p> <p>Management guidelines for the protection of soil from compaction and erosion during harvesting operations, as well as protection and management of natural hydrology of wetlands, are confirmed and adopted using Guideline 10A and Guideline 10B of The Green Book. Site inspection in Coupe 01A confirms adherence to these guidelines where roads, skid trails, and drainage systems are constructed adequately. Implementation of reduced/low impact logging is also confirmed during site inspection in Coupe 01A.</p> <p>A forest fire prevention and control plan are detailed in the FMP, including zones, preparedness, fire danger rating, firebreaks, management teams, equipment, and training. Workers are aware of the emergency plan.</p> <p>The FMU has established and implemented a policy promoting environmentally friendly pest management practices and prohibits the use of banned pesticides, as outlined in their "Pesticide Use in Natural Forest Management Policy" and "Guidelines on Storage and Handling of Hazardous Materials." During a site inspection, it was confirmed that no chemical pesticides were used in the nursery, and training on chemical handling was provided to the</p>	

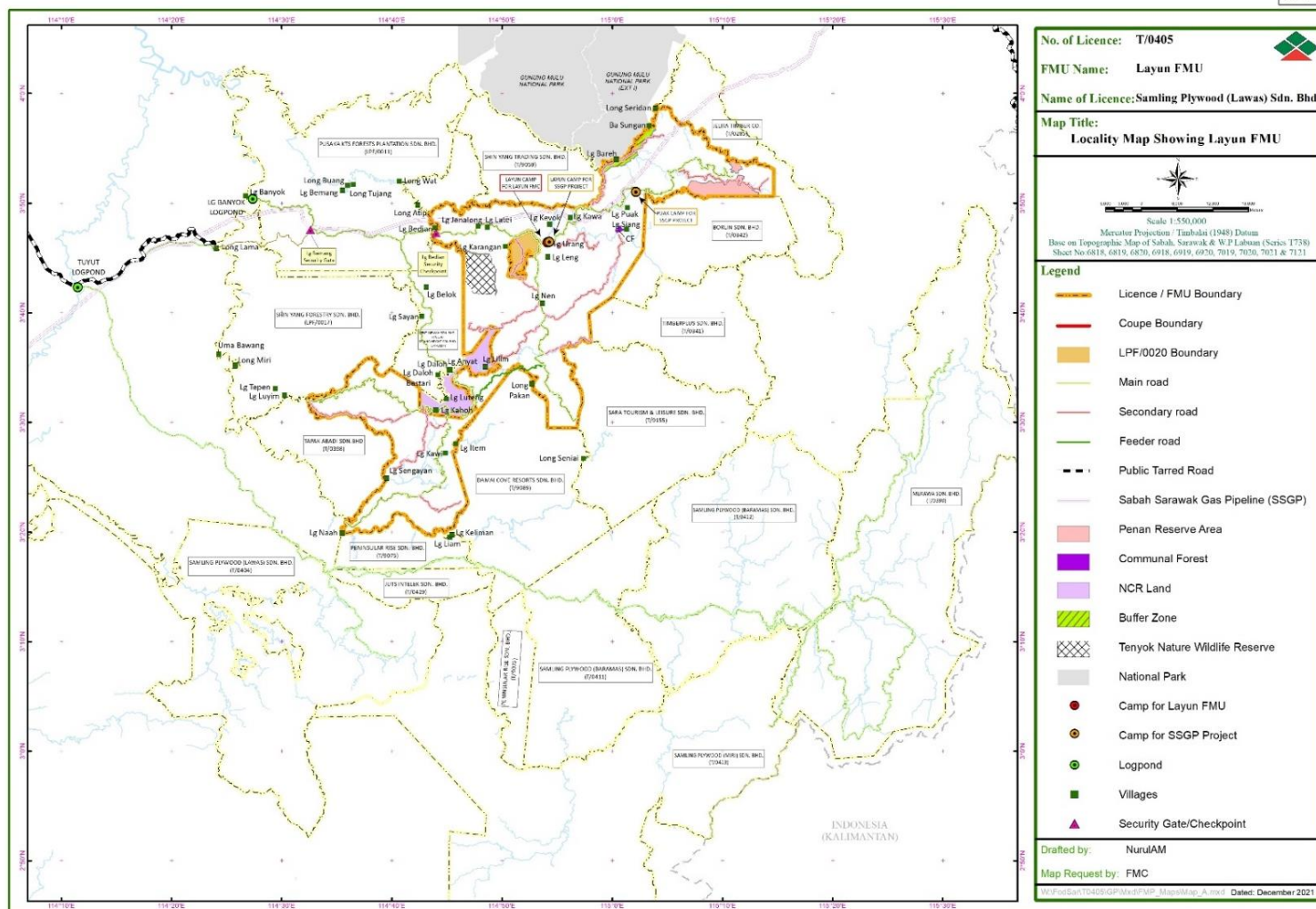
Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>nursery workers. Forest managers and workers were knowledgeable about these procedures when interviewed.</p> <p>Layun FMU ensures proper disposal of oil, fuel, tyres, containers, and non-organic waste in compliance with environmental regulations. Emergency procedures are in place to minimise environmental risks from accidental spills. Trainings on scheduled waste management were conducted for mechanics, welders, store clerks, and harvesting operators in January 2023. Maintenance activities for machinery are conducted in workshops, where spent oil is appropriately managed and stored. Steel containments are strategically placed to prevent fuel spillage, observed both in workshops and field operation sites. Chemicals and other non-organic waste are disposed of off-site according to inventory records, which are regularly maintained and documented.</p> <p>There has been no application of biological control agents in the FMU.</p> <p>The FMU has not used any exotic species in their restoration planting initiatives. Site visits in Coupe 09A and Coupe 12A show that restoration planting activities are only planted using indigenous species, such as <i>Shorea myrionerva</i>, <i>Shorea bracteolata</i>, and <i>Aquilaria malaccensis</i>.</p> <p>There has been no conversion of natural forest into non-forest land use within Layun FMU. Furthermore, there has been no conversion of severely degraded forests to forest plantations or afforestation of ecologically important non-forest ecosystems in the FMU.</p>	
<p>Principle 7 Management Plan</p>	<p>An FMP for Layun FMU, spanning a 10-year period from 2021 to 2030, has been prepared and submitted for approval to FDS. The FMP outlines comprehensive strategies for sustainable forest management, encompassing organizational structure, ecological considerations, silvicultural practices, harvesting methods, stakeholder consultation, and environmental impact assessments.</p> <p>Layun FMU operates under a 10-year plan, covering 2021-2030. The last review of the FMP was conducted on 3 March</p>	<p>Several supporting documents regarding organisational administration, rationale for the rate of annual harvest, description and justification of harvesting techniques, stakeholder consultation details, and considerations of risks and opportunities related to compliance with standard requirements were not clearly stated in the FMP. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 7.1.1 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>2023, during which various SOPs were included. According to Clause 3.7 of the FMP, the next review is scheduled for 2025, which will be the FMP's Midterm review. During this review, outcomes and new scientific insights will be considered for incorporation into Layun FMU's management. Interviews with managers confirm their awareness of new scientific and technical information relevant to sustainable forest management.</p> <p>A comprehensive training programme has been established to ensure forest workers are well-equipped to implement the forest management plan effectively. The "Annual Training & Engagement Programme 2023," dated 3 January 2023, outlines various sessions including MC&I Awareness, Refresher Training for CLO and SEU personnel, HCVA, Inventory and Tree Species Identification, and Log Extraction – Tractor. Verification of training records and certificates confirms that the training has been adequately conducted.</p> <p>A public summary of the primary elements of the FMP is accessible to the public through: https://www.samling.com/sites/default/files/Layun%20FMU%20Public%20Summary.pdf.</p>	<p>Specific roles and responsibilities of forest workers to ensure effective implementation of the FMP were not clearly defined. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 7.3.1 was issued.</p>
<p>Principle 8 Monitoring and Assessment</p>	<p>Layun FMU has established regulatory monitoring procedures in line with federal and state guidelines, ensuring compliance with relevant forest department regulations. Monitoring procedures, covering social, ecological, environmental, and economic impacts, have been implemented, as evidenced through various monitoring reports. An Environmental Management Review for the fourth quarter of 2022 was conducted, alongside an internal audit identifying areas for improvement and compliance issues across forest management. The review on the Environmental Monitoring Report (EMR) for the same quarter was conducted following EMP guidelines. Moreover, both internal audit and management review meetings were adequately held by Layun FMU in September 2022 and February 2023, respectively.</p> <p>A comprehensive monitoring framework, including procedures for hunting control,</p>	<p>Records of the removal pass were inconsistent with the approved Permit to Enter Coupe (PEC). Therefore, a Major NCR on Indicator 8.3.1 was issued.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
	<p>treatment line establishment, silviculture treatment, oil spill management, HCV monitoring, and post-harvest assessment, has been established and effectively implemented. Layun FMU also conducted annual area patrolling and monitoring according to a predefined schedule, focusing on general surveillance, water catchment areas, stream bank reserves, and common license boundaries. Verification of various monitoring reports also shows Layun FMU's continuous efforts to gather relevant information such as yield of harvested forest products, changes in flora and fauna, environmental and social impacts assessment, and evaluation of forest management operations' costs and productivity.</p> <p>Specific claims to communicate the origin of products leaving Layun FMU are based on procedures outlined in "The Chain of Custody (CoC) Flow Chart specifying 100% PEFC Certification" and "DF Circular No. 1/2019 – Segregation of Logs produced from Forest Management Certified Areas (Natural Forest)."</p> <p>To close the Major NCR raised on Indicator 8.3.1, the auditor reviewed the evidence submitted by Layun FMU. The evidence includes a clarification letter from FDS explaining that the information of the PEC is an error from FDS personnel, and a training report on removal pass for Log Grader. The auditor accepted the evidence submitted on 9 September 2023, thus satisfactorily closing the Major NCR raised on Indicator 8.3.1.</p> <p>Based on Clause 3.7 of the FMP and through interviews with Forest Managers and other Executives, Layun FMU will undergo its next review, the Midterm review, in 2025, with plans to incorporate results of monitoring activities in Layun FMU.</p> <p>A summary of the monitoring indicators has been made publicly accessible through: https://www.samling.com/sites/default/files/media/pdf/2023/Layun%20Public%20Summary%2020230531.pdf.</p>	
<p>Principle 9 Maintenance of High</p>	<p>An assessment to determine the presence of High Conservation Value (HCV) areas in Layun FMU was finalised in February</p>	<p>Consultation on the identification of HCV was not conducted with relevant stakeholders and experts.</p>

Principle	Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Conservation Values</p>	<p>2023. Verification of the HCV report shows that the assessment has identified several HCV areas, including those adjacent to Gunung Mulu National Park, riparian zones, water catchments, and sacred burial sites. Consultation on the option to maintain or enhance these HCV sites was conducted by Layun FMU involving various stakeholders, such as FDS, Sarawak Forestry Corporation Miri, WWF-Malaysia, Sahabat Alam Malaysia, and local communities' representatives. Measures to demarcate, maintain, and/or enhance the HCVs have been incorporated in Chapter 10 of the FMP. Monitoring of these HCVs will be conducted based on the SOP "Monitoring and Management Measures of High Conservation Value Areas (HCVAs)". Annual monitoring of the HCVs will be verified in the next audit since the HCV report was only recently completed in February 2023.</p>	<p>Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 9.1.1 was issued.</p> <p>Maps of certain HCV were not available in the FMP. Site inspection in an HCV Saltlick also shows it was not adequately demarcated on the ground. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 9.3.1 was issued.</p> <p>Measures for conservation attributes were not available in the public summary. Therefore, a Minor NCR on Indicator 9.3.2 was issued.</p>

Map of Layun Forest Management Unit



Experiences and Qualifications of Audit Team Members

Names of Audit Team	Role	Qualification and Experience
<p>Khairul Najwan Ahmad Jahari</p>	<p>Audit Team Leader / Forester</p>	<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 work, 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 Senior Lead Auditor at the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section (FAF), SIRIM QAS International, since 2009. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification MC&I (Natural Forest) and MC&I (Forest Plantation), MYNI of RSPO P&C, MSPO, MyTLAS, STLVS and other management system on ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 1800</p> <p>Training / Research Areas: Auditor Training Course on Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [MC&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>

<p>Mohd Razman Salim</p>	<p>Auditor/ Forester</p>	<p>Academic Qualification: B. Sc. of Forestry (Forest Production), University Putra Malaysia.</p> <p>Work Experience: Five years experienced as Research Officer at the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) since 2007 in a various area such as ecological research for lowland and hill dipterocarp forest, Geographic Information Systems, forest inventories, forest harvesting and forest management system (SMS). Participate in organizing committee member, division level activities and projects. Coordinate and collaborate a long term ecological plot and inventory data about 25 years at the Pasoh, Negeri Sembilan with Negeri Sembilan Forestry Department, universities (local & international) and NGOs. Published and presented research findings at the seminars and conferences. Currently as Auditor at the Food, Agriculture and Forestry Section (FAF), SIRIM QAS International Sdn Bhd, since 2013. Involved in conducting assessments on forest management certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] & [MC&I (Plantations)], MYNI of RSPO P&C and other management systems on ISO 9001, 14001 and OHSAS 18001</p> <p>Training / Research Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Auditor Training Course on Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification [MC&I (Natural Forest)] & [MC&I (Plantations)] organized by MTCC, 1-4 December 2013. • EMS 14001: 2004 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 18-22 March 2013. • OHSAS 18001: 2007 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 11-15 March 2013. • QMS 9001: 2008 Lead Auditor Course organized by SIRIM Training Services Sdn Bhd, 4-8 March 2013. • Auditor Training Course on MC&I Sustainable Forest Management organized by MTCC, 18 August 2020.
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<p>Puteri Arlydia Abdul</p>	<p>Auditor / Forester</p>	<p>Academic Qualification: B. Sc of Forestry (Forest Production), University Putra Malaysia.</p> <p>Work Experience: 1 year with Forestry Department Peninsular Malaysia (JPSM) 2007-2008, 3 years with Forest Plantation Development Sdn Bhd (Wholly owned by MTIB) 2008 – 2011, 1 year with Transparency International Malaysia 2011-2012, 3 years with Intertek Certification International Sdn Bhd 2012-2015 and with Sirim QAS International from 2015 onwards. Her working experience cover forest elements among others, Geographic Information System, Remote Sensing, Forest Governance Integrity and Local Communities programs and auditing in ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (Environment), PEFC Chain of Custody and PEFC MC&I (both Natural and Plantation Forest).</p> <p>Training/Research Areas: Was attending and pass in the following training programmes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. ISO 9001: 2008 Lead Auditor Course dated 19-23/03/2012 2. MC&I (Natural and Plantation) Lead Auditor Course 9-10/07/2015 3. Training on ISO 9001:2015 (final version) dated 21/09/2015 4. ISO 14001: 2004 Lead Auditor Course dated 18-22/05/2015 5. Aspect and Impact Mitigation and Environmental Laws dated 27/05/2016 6. Schedule Waste Handling dated 1/06/2016 7. ISO 14001:2015 dated 18/09/2017 8. PEFC CoC by MTCC dated 6 & 14/12/2017
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<p>Angelica Sinimis Suimin</p>	<p>Auditor/ Sociology</p>	<p>Academic Qualification: She has a Bachelor of Arts in Social Science and MSc in Environmental Management and Social Development. Has a certificate in Paralegal Studies and Diploma in Emergency Medical Technician (UK) and Human Resources Management (UM).</p> <p>Work Experience: A competent One to One Competency Based and Education Trainer from De Taffe University, Australia. Independent Auditor under SIRIM QAS Malaysia and Technical Expert for FSC audit under SCS Global services.Has worked as Rural Sociologist under the World Bank project under the Japanese Trust Fund for Community Forestry Project in Sabah for 3 years. She has over 30 years of working experience and was working in the Forestry Related Industries both in Sabah and Sarawak for 28 years in different capacities(e.g independent Researcher, Rural Sociologist, Sr.Training and Administrator, Human Resources Executive, Emergency Medical Technician,Training Officer, CSR Manager, Chief Operation Officer for Avantha Foundation Malaysia).</p> <p>Attended training programmes: Has attended the following courses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) MTCC Forest certification Standards for Forest Management and Plantations, 2013, Sirim QAS 2) FSC Forest Certification standards for Forest Management and Control Wood, 2015;Nepcon 3) LEAD ASSESSOR COURSE ISO 14001(EXEMPLAR GLOBAL CERTIFIED LEMS01) , 2016; Sirim QAS 4) DIPLOMACY TRAINING (Human Rights, Indigenous People, the Private Sector and Development), 2017; Faculty of law, Uni New South Wales 5) MC&I Natural Forests and Plantation v.2 standards, 2017 – MTCC
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Comments Received from Stakeholders and Responses by Audit Team Leader

No.	Stakeholder	Comments/Issues Raised	Response by Audit Team
1.	COE, Sarawak Forestry Corporation. 27.2.2023	<p>Please note that the northern part of Layun Forest Management Unit (FMU) is adjacent to Gunong Mulu National Park (Ext II). Please refer to the map attached.</p> <p>We require the Layun Forest Management Unit (FMU) to keep a buffer zone of at least 500 from the park boundary. All measures must be taken to ensure that it goes NO closer and there is no damage to the park. Any encroachment into the park is an offence under National Parks and Nature Reserves Ordinance, 1998. Please note that Protected and Totally Protected species of flora and fauna should not be harmed during the establishment, operation and maintenance stages. Any of these wildlife if found harmed should be reported to Sarawak Forestry Corporation.</p>	<p>A visit to the physical Licence Boundary along S-1-3 Coupe 17A near Mulu National Park found the boundaries were marked with orange paint and found no encroachment by the FMU.</p> <p>Activities on hunting, fishing, trapping and collecting activities have been controlled and unauthorised activities are prohibited in the FMU. The FMU has appointed four (4) Honorary Wildlife Rangers. A review of the Annual Area Patrolling and Monitoring Schedule for Year 2022 and 2023 found patrolling was planned twice a month.</p>
2.	Ketua Cawangan, Jabatan Alam Sekitar Cawangan Miri 17.2.2023	Pengurusan buangan terjadual sekiranya ada perlu mematuhi Peraturan-peraturan Kualiti Alam Sekeliling (Buangan Terjadual) 2005	Chemicals, containers, liquid and solid non-organic wastes, including fuel and oil, were appropriately disposed of at off-site locations, as evidenced by the review of inventory records for scheduled wastes such as SW410-Used oil filters, SW410-Contaminated rags, SW409-Contaminated paint cans, SW408-Contaminated sawdust, SW312-Oily residue, SW306-Spent hydraulic oils, SW305-Spent lubricants oils, and SW102-Used batteries. These records, titled 'Inventory of Scheduled Wastes – Fifth Schedule' for the period December 2022 – March 2023, were made available. The FMU has registered for the e-Swis system, and it was approved by the Department of Environment was granted on 5 December 2022.

Stage 2 Audit Plan

DAY	TIME	PROGRAM			
Travel Day 1 5.3.23 Sunday	05.00 am – 12.00 pm 1.00 pm – 7.00 pm	Auditors travelling on 5 March 2022			
		Flight from Kuala Lumpur (KUL) to Miri (MYY) MH2574 ETD – 08:55, ETA-11:25		Flight from Kota Kinabalu (BKI) to Miri (MYY) AK6071 ETD – 18:05, ETA-18:55	
		Travel to Layun Camp		Stay at Pullmen Hotel, Miri.	
Audit Day 1 6.3.23 Monday	8.00 am – 1.00 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Najwan	Razman	Lydia	Angelica
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Meeting with representatives of FMU at Layun Camp. • Session by Forest Manager of the FMU • Q&A Session • Follow up on issues of concern from Stage 1 • Check on complaints, stakeholder comments and follow-up actions (if any) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Communities ○ Government agencies ○ NGOs • Evaluate internal audit and management review. 			
		Documentation and records review			
		Travel to Tebanyi Camp (CTB)			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 1 – Compliance with Laws and Principles • Principle 2 – <u>Tenure</u> and Use Rights and Responsibilities • Principle 7 – Management Plan • Principle 8 – Monitoring and Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 5 – Benefits from the forest • Principle 6 – Environmental Impact • Principle 9 – Maintenance of High Conservation Value (HCV) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principle 2 – Tenure and <u>Use Rights</u> and Responsibilities • Principle 3 – Indigenous Peoples’ Right • Principle 4 - Community Relations and Worker’s Rights 	
Audit Day 2 7.3.23 Tuesday	7.00 am – 9.00 am 9.00 am – 2.00 pm 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm	Site visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of active harvesting Block 004 and Block 002 in Coupe 01A • Inspection of Coupe Boundary • Inspection of Bufferzone at Sg. Nyepangah at Coupe 03A • Consultation with contractors and workers operating in active logging areas, bulldozer, hook-man, chainsaw and supervisor. 	Site visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of active harvesting area Blocks 001 in Coupe 01A. • Inspection of Pre-harvesting area or Tree tagging area Block 008 of Coupe 01A • Licence Boundary with Sara Tourism [T/9155] of Coupe 01A • Inspection of Bufferzone Sg. Patah at Coupe 06A • Inspection of Coupe Boundary • Consultation with contractors and workers operating in active logging areas, bulldozer, hook-man, chainsaw and supervisor. 	Site visit Consultation with Local Communities (Puak Camp) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Meraan (Penan) • Licence Boundary along S-1-3 of Coupe 17A adjacent to Mulu National Park • Long Lesuan (by walking 30min) (Penan) • Long Ludin (Penan) • Long Seridan A and B (Kelabit) (night-time) Stay at Homestay Long Seridan	Site Visit Consultation with Local Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Liam by boat (across) (Kayan) (unable to sampled due decease [Funeral Rights]) • Long Keliman (Kayan) (unable to sampled due to decease [Funeral Rights]) • Long Na'ah (Kayan) • Licence Boundary Coupe 24A (near Long Naah) Stay at Homestay Long Anyat.
		Review of Day 2 Findings by Audit Team Leader			

Audit Day 3 8.3.23 Wednesday	7.30 am – 1.00 pm	Site visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection of post-harvesting area (NA) • Silviculture treatment activities (NA) • PSP No. 2 of Coupe 04A • Inspection of FMU Licenses Boundaries & control measures of Coupe 12A with Timberplus Sdn Bhd [T/0341] 	Site visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCVF – Salt Lick of Long Leng in Coupe 13A (by a motorcycle [5km]) • Inspection of FMU Licenses Boundaries & control measures at Coupe 08A with Sentimewah Sdn Bhd [T/0356] 	Site visit Consultation with Penan Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Puak / Selulung • Long Barih (by a motorcycle [5km]) • Long Siang • Long Kawa* (unable to sample – insufficient time to catch boat across Sg. Tutoh) *Across Sg. Tutoh before 5pm Night at Layun Camp	Consultation with Penan Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ba’ Pagan (Penan) • Licence Boundary along Road M3 (Coupe 20A) • Long Kawi (Penan) • Long Item walking across the river (Penan) • Long Anyat Stay at Homestay Long Anyat.
	Review of Day 3 Findings by Audit Team Leader				
Audit Day 4 9.3.23 Thursday	7.30 am – 1.00 pm	Site visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVCF – Salt Lick in Coupe 01A • Inspection of Central Stumping Site in Coupe 06A 	Site visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSP No 1 in Coupe 06A • Check on a workshop, machinery maintenance and equipment. • Nursery and chemical store 	Site visit Consultation with Penan Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Nen (pronounced as Nén) • Long Kevok • Long Leng (pronounced as Léng) • Long Urang 	Site visit Consultation with Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Luteng (Penan) (Long Sengayan reside in Long Luteng during schooling and • Long Kahoh • Long Bedian (Kayan) • Long Jenalong (Kayan)
	Stay at Layun Camp				

Audit Day 5 10.3.23 Friday	8.30 am – -4.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to continue any unfinished audit sampling area Documentation and records review at Layun Camp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with workers and worker’s representative 	Consultation with Penan Communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long Kerangan (Penan) Long Latei (Penan) (pronounce as Lati)
Audit Day 6 11.3.23 Saturday	8.30 am – 10.00am 10.00 am. 3.00pm-5.00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation and records review at Layun Camp Preparation of audit report and finding Briefing representatives of FMU on the findings of the audit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to Samling Headquarters Miri Closing Meeting and presentation of findings of audit and discussion on follow-up activities Adjourn Closing Meeting 	
Staying in Pullman Hotel Miri				
Travel Day 12.3.23 Sunday	9.00am	Auditors travelling from Miri to KLIA on 12 Mar 2023. MAS Flight from Miri (MYY) to Kuala Lumpur (KUL) MH2575 ETD-12:10, ETA-14:35	Travelling from Miri to Kota Kinabalu on 12 Mar 2023. Air Asia Flight from Miri (MYY) to Kota Kinabalu (BKI) AK6072 ETD-14:55, ETA-15:45	