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This monthly news bulletin is produced by Sarawak Timber Association (STA) to disseminate information to our counterparts on training, research and other relevant areas.

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Study Tour to Perak State Forestry Department on the Implementation of Forest Management Certification



Photo: Group photo during visit to Perak State Forestry Department Headquarters in Ipoh

The Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) together with its logging contractors conducted a Study Tour to Perak State from 19 to 23 August 2019 to better understand the implementation of forest management certification (FMC) in the State by Perak State Forestry Department (PSFD).

This visit was in line with the policy of the Sarawak Government for all long-term Forest Timber Licences (FTLs) in Sarawak to obtain FMC by year 2022 and led by Tuan Haji Hamzah Bin Haji Morshidi, Assistant General Manager (Resource Planning) of STIDC.

Besides STIDC's logging contractors, officers from Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) and Sarawak Timber Association (STA) were invited to participate in the Study Tour. The Study Tour began with a visit to the PSFD Headquarters in Ipoh where they were

welcomed by Dato' Mohamed Zin Bin Yusop, Perak State Director of Forestry.

In his Welcoming Remarks, Dato' Mohamed Zin shared the background of PSFD and its functions, institutional arrangements as well as implementation of FMC in Perak. He stressed that cooperation from both Government agencies and private sectors are crucial in achieving and maintaining FMC.

Mr Harry Yong, Chief Assistant Director (Planning and Management) of PSFD, briefed the Sarawak delegates on the forest management in Perak State. He said that 48.16% or 1,013,169.02 hectares of Perak State's total landmass is under forest cover and is managed by five (5) District Forest Offices namely (i) Hulu Perak, (ii) Kuala Kangsar, (iii) South Perak, (iv) Kinta Manjung and (v) Larut & Matang.

He added that the forest in Perak is

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managed based on the *National Forestry Act 1984 (Act 313)*, and Selective Management System (SMS) was introduced in 1978 to ensure sustainable forest production, environmental conservation and benefits from forest.

Mr Yong also pointed out that the Perak Forest Management Unit has been recertified under Malaysian Criteria and Indicators for Forest Management Certification (Natural Forest) with validity until 31 May 2024. The main challenges faced by PSFD were conservation of Malayan tigers, customary land claims by Orang Asli and gazetted permanent forest reserve (PFR) for development purpose.

Tuan Haji Hamzah thanked PSFD for supporting this Study Tour and presented the background of STIDC, functions and its involvement in FMC. He also shared STIDC's target for ten (10) of its long-term FTLs to be certified by year 2022. The delegates then visited the Forest Checking Station (FCS) Sungai Siput (U) at Kuala Kangsar. They were welcomed by Mr Mohd Hafiz Bin Samsudin, Kuala Kangsar District Forest Officer who informed that the main function of FCS is to inspect, verify and assess the royalty and other forest charges for forest products produced from an approved licensed area before they are transferred for processing.

A briefing on Declaration of Forest Produce (DFP) was made by Mr Khairulrizal Bin Abu Kassim, Senior Forest

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Ranger in which he informed that the DFP has been implemented in Perak since 1 June 2016 as part of the initiative to enhance the effectiveness of inspection, verification and revenue collection as well as to improve public perception towards PSFD.

The delegates also visited the Orang Asli at Kampung Bersah, Pos Kuala Mu, Sungai Siput whose sources of income are from rubber tapping, fishing, farming and hunting. They receive assistance from PSFD to develop eco-tourism and next year, PSFD intends to engage them in supplying seedlings for forest rehabilitation.

The delegates were also brought to an 80-hectare production forest area at Bukit Kinta, with harvesting license of six (6) months. Ms Siti Syafikah Binti Yusof, Kinta District Forest Officer, mentioned that before PSFD issues a licence for logging, the Department conducts ground assessment and marking including harvestable tree tagging, mother tree, protected tree, skid trail, landing site, buffer zone, etc. The logging operator will then conduct timber extraction using reduced impact logging system based on Working Map or Plan provided by PSFD. During post harvesting, the logging operator is required to do forest rehabilitation in the middle of skid trails using available seedlings provided by PSFD.

A total of 2,500 seedlings are needed to be planted in the 80 hectares of licenced area. Maintenance of the seedlings after planting will be carried out by PSFD.

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Stakeholders Consultation Session for Phase 2 Of Forest Resource Inventory Project

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) organised a "Stakeholders Consultation for Phase 2 of the Forest Resource Inventory Project in Heart of Borneo (HoB) Sarawak Extension Areas" from 29 to 30 August 2019 at Riverside Majestic Hotel, Kuching. The 2-day Consultation Session which aimed to collate feedback and opinions from respective stakeholders on the Project's planning and implementation strategy was attended by approximately forty (40) participants from the State forestry agencies, State Planning Unit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and STASecretariat.

Mr Oscar Johin Ngayop, Assistant Director of Forests (Licensing Division), shared in his Opening Speech that the first forest resource inventory project was carried out in Sarawak from 1968 to 1971, with assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations.

In 2016, the FDS embarked on another forest resource inventory with the expertise and knowledge of a team of researchers from the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM).

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Did you know that.....

Mangroves are powerhouses when it comes to carbon storage and can sequester four times more carbon than rainforests can. Most of this carbon is stored in the soil beneath mangrove trees. Although halting the loss of further mangrove habitat and restoration of lost habitat will not solve climate change alone, mangrove protection and restoration represent one of the most viable climate mitigation options.

Source: *New Study Finds Mangroves May Store Way More Carbon Than We Thought*. Available at <https://news.mongabay.com/2018/05/new-study-finds-mangroves-may-store-way-more-carbon-than-we-thought/>

Did you also know that....

We must stop adding carbon dioxide (CO₂) to the atmosphere by 2050. A weak or slow response could allow the rise in global temperatures to exceed 1.5°C and we would then depend more and more on technologies capable of extracting CO₂ from the atmosphere. If no additional action is taken, global warming will have already reached 1.5°C by around 2040.



Source: What Needs to Happen In Order to Limit Global Warming to 1.5°C? Available at <https://believe.earth/en/what-needs-to-happen-in-order-to-limit-global-warming-to-1-5c/>

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However, due to setbacks such as topography and lack of funding, the Project had to be carried out in phases with priority given to the HoB Sarawak areas. With grant of RM3 million from the Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources, Phase 1 of the Project was successfully carried out and the Forest Resource Inventory Report is currently being reviewed by the Project Technical Committee.

He added that with continued funding from the Ministry, FDS was able to extend the Project to cover HoB Sarawak's extension area which stretches from Batang Ai to Tanjung Datu, aptly called Phase 2 of the Project.

Mr Muhamad Afizzul Misman, project team member from FRIM then present the methodology of the Project covering remote sensing, field inventory, capacity building

and technology transfer as well as documentations. He sought the participants' input throughout the discussion session on ways to better carry out the study for Phase 2 of the Project which involves a study area of 565,251 hectares with different forest types and land use.

Participants were then divided into groups to discuss the strata and distribution of sample, sampling design and data collection as well as data analysis. Altogether, participants felt that for the purpose of maintaining a consistent inventory of forest resources in Sarawak, the variables and methodologies used in Phase 2 of the Project should not vary too much from the ones adopted in Phase 1 of the Project.

Phase 2 of the Project is expected to be carried out from January 2020 to December 2021.



Photos: Group discussions in session

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Awareness Programme at Kastima FMU

An Awareness Programme on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) and Forest Management Certification (FMC) for the local communities and camp workers at Kastima Forest Management Unit (FMU) was conducted by the Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) from 20 to 21 August 2019.

The Programme aimed to raise awareness among the local communities and camp workers on the Government's policies and regulations on SFM, land use and FMC as well as the appropriate mechanism

for negotiation and conflict resolution through the Community Representative Committee (CRC).

The following presentations were delivered during the Programme;

Introduction to the Forest Management Certification in Sarawak and Community Representative Committee, by Mr Kishen Bunya, Research Officer, Management and Planning Division, FDS.

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Photo: Ms Suzie delivering her presentation

The speaker talked about sustainable forest management; land use policy in Sarawak; *The Forests Ordinance, 2015*; achievement of certified FMU in Sarawak as of July 2019; benefits of FMC; responsibilities of FDS, company and community; as well as establishment of CRC.

Wildlife Protection in Sarawak, by Mr Karim Anak Jampong, Conservation Assistant, Similajau National Park and Community Liaison & Education Executive, Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC).

The speaker shared information on totally protected and protected wildlife; Wild Life Protection Ordinance, 1998; importance of wildlife and various species; main causes of wildlife extinction; and ways to protect wildlife.

The Role of STA for Camp Workers, by Ms Suzie Adee, Administration Officer, STA Training Sdn Bhd (STAT).

This presentation covered the need for training; The Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules, 2015 (The Rules); target of trained workmen; STAT as training provider; skills sets training offered, particularly on the 5 prescribed forestry activities as listed in Schedule 1 of The Rules; passing criteria of assessment; and benefits of training.

A visit was also made to the long house at Rumah Osman Jau Long Nanyan, where FDS and SFC conducted similar briefings to the community there.



Photo: Participants of the Awareness Programme

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