



Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) on

APRIL's Sustainable Forest Management Policy (SFMP 2.0)

– 10TH SAC Meeting in Pangkalan Kerinci, Riau - Indonesia, 23-25 May 2017 –

Note on conservation planning initiative

The SAC welcomed the presentations by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) during the 22 May meeting on their progress in looking at landscape scale issues as this responds to a specific SAC request. The SAC holds the view that landscape-scale analysis is needed to ensure that the activities in the APRIL landscape achieve an appropriate balance between long-term environmental sustainability and local social and economic benefits. A landscape approach is not simply to optimize biodiversity benefits.

In parallel, APRIL is engaged in a valuable “Conservation Planning” initiative conducted by its own staff. FFI and TNC’s initiatives support APRIL’s own work. The SAC encourages APRIL and its partners to try and avoid overlap/duplication of activities. The SAC recommends that the following are priorities for a landscape approach and that the combined strengths of FFI, TNC and possibly other specialist organizations should be used in a coherent way to achieve the right balance between conservation and development outcomes:

1. The SAC was pleased at the progress of the APRIL “Conservation planning” initiative which is assembling information on the present status of natural forest areas and the assessment of threats to these forests.
2. The SAC notes the urgent need for biodiversity surveys of the larger areas of natural forest remaining in the APRIL concessions. Priority should be given to the conservation of natural forest areas in the landscape that are of sufficient size to have long-term viability for biodiversity conservation.
3. Options for conserving the remaining natural forests in areas outside APRIL concession but adjacent to the natural forests on APRIL concessions needs to be assessed.
4. There is a need to engage with other estate crop companies operating adjacent to the APRIL concessions in order to harmonize actions to conserve representative, connected natural forest areas preferably covering ecological gradients.
5. Provincial and district governments (KPH, PEMDAs and BAPPEDAs) need to be sensitized to recognize the value of these natural forest areas and should be encouraged to include them in spatial plans.
6. Areas that are suitable for smallholder tree farming activities outside areas of conservation value (for instance avoiding peatlands and focusing on mineral soils) need to be identified and APRIL is encouraged to continue seeking opportunities for community forest activities in these areas.



7. APRIL has considerable spatial data on a number of features of its landscape and these existing maps need to be overlaid with areas identified as being of long-term conservation value and a process engaged to reconcile any conflicts.
8. These maps also need to be overlaid with maps of peat depth and the implications of the new peat land regulations for the viability of the conservation areas need to be analyzed.
9. Indicators to track the value of the conservation areas need to be incorporated in subsequent KPMG audits.
10. Indicators will also be needed to assess progress in contributions to the improvement of the livelihoods of people living in the APRIL landscape. The simulation models developed by TNC could be used to assess the benefit flows to all stakeholders of different conservation and development strategies in the landscape.
11. SAC welcomes the commitments of TNC and FFI to draw international attention to the conservation values of the Riau peat swamps and particularly to the Riau Ecosystem Restoration area and to encourage international support for conservation and research in this area.
12. Landscape analysis needs to lead to an overall strategy for conservation of biodiversity in the landscape where APRIL operates and this strategy should be negotiated with all concerned stakeholders in the landscape.
13. SAC recognizes that obtaining quality data on biodiversity in the APRIL landscape is a challenge. There are few people with the necessary ability to conduct biodiversity surveys in the field and APRIL will need to both collaborate with organizations that have this capacity and also provide training to build local capacity to conduct such surveys – for instance with local NGOs.
14. A successful landscape strategy will require endorsement and support from high levels in government, civil society and the private sector. Dialogue amongst these high-level decision makers will need facilitation by a senior person with credibility amongst the higher level actors. APRIL will need to ensure that the organization that it entrusts with facilitating this process is able to deploy a suitable facilitator.