



Update to Stakeholders on Rainforest Alliance-APRIL Sustainability Collaboration in Indonesia

Phase 1 Activities Completed: August 2016 – December 2017

Over a 17-month period Rainforest Alliance and APRIL collaborated on a series of activities to support the forest products and forestry company in its commitment toward more sustainable practices. This engagement was driven by top management discussions between Rainforest Alliance and APRIL, supported by key senior staff and advisors at Rainforest Alliance and a wide variety of APRIL staff and contractors associated with their supply chain. The activities conducted by Rainforest Alliance staff and advisors were as follows:

- a) Orientation workshop with relevant APRIL staff on Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) core policies and procedures including the FSC Policy for Association, FSC Controlled Wood Forest Management standard (FSC-STD-30-010) and the FSC Controlled Wood Chain of Custody standard (FSC-STD-40-005);
- b) Field-based Internal Gap Analysis on selected criteria in the FSC Controlled Wood Forest Management standard. Six (6) forest management units (FMUs) that provide raw material to APRIL's mill were jointly selected by APRIL and the Rainforest Alliance for the Internal Gap Analysis. Opinions and inputs were sought from stakeholders to inform the final FMU sample. The concessions chosen were PT Riau Andalan Pulp & Paper (RAPP) Pulau Padang, PT RAPP Logas, PT Sumatera Riang Lestari Rupert, PT ITCI Hutani Manunggal, PT Peranap Timber and PT Essa Indah Timber. This represented a mix of concessions covering a combination of APRIL/PT RAPP owned and suppliers' FMUs presenting challenging social and environmental conditions; and a mix of landscape types (peat and mineral soil) and regions (Sumatra and Kalimantan);
- c) Multiple face-to-face and virtual meetings with key stakeholders in Jakarta and across Sumatra, on the sustainability challenges faced by APRIL at the forest and mill levels. These included issues related to dynamics with affected and adjacent communities, responses to public concerns raised in various media, and evolving government regulations;
- d) Technical support on field-level sustainability during meetings with FSC senior staff, the APRIL Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) and APRIL's Independent Peat Expert Working Group, in alignment with APRIL's Sustainable Forest Management Plan 2.0 (SFMP 2.0) adopted in 2015 and covering its complete supply chain;
- e) Background on the evolution of community forest enterprises (CFEs) and land tenure issues both globally and in Indonesia with a view toward potential future APRIL engagement on CFEs with local communities, NGOs and local enterprises.

Based on initial Internal Gap Analysis field work and stakeholder input, Rainforest Alliance can observe that APRIL:

- Currently has a series of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on topics ranging from management of high conservation values (HCVs), peat management, Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), fire prevention and suppression, and use of personal protection equipment (PPE) by workers among others. Concession managers, however, face operational challenges to consistently implement these procedures;
- Has halted natural forest clearance within the plantation operations supply chain reviewed by Rainforest Alliance. APRIL is working with affected communities both inside and adjacent to the concessions to stop the conversion of natural forest to other land uses and for fire prevention and suppression. This includes developing local patrols to prevent illegal logging in conservation areas and seeking more effective ways to cope with illegal logging issues. APRIL has carried out High Conservation Value (HCV) assessments on its own operations and most other supplier FMUs and is in the process of reviewing the HCV assessments to improve the implementation of the various recommendations in the field. Rainforest Alliance also observes that it is critical that APRIL improve how assessments are used in the field. APRIL is also testing use of the High Carbon Stock Approach (HCSA) to ensure that HCS forests are being conserved throughout APRIL's supply chain;
- Has developed and continues to work with a clear action plan to address observations made during the Internal Gap Analysis;
- Should consider implementing a comprehensive land tenure analysis and a roadmap or process for resolving remaining conflicts. The process will include relevant actions and an expected timeline, responsible persons and resources required to address outstanding conflicts;
- Should consider further identifying information of public interest and concern and providing more access and information to stakeholders, for example by expanding the content in the APRIL sustainability dashboard.

Rainforest Alliance and APRIL have agreed to pursue a Phase 2 to this collaboration, building on progress made to date, and are in discussion on the specific components of this.

Further Information:

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