



Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) on APRIL Fiber Sufficiency and GHG Monitoring

SAC Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, 09 November 2021

SAC MEMBERS	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prof. Jeffrey Sayer (<i>Co-chair</i>)2. Dr. IB Putera Parthama (<i>Co-chair</i>)3. Dr. Neil Byron4. Ibu Erna Witoelar5. Mr. Rod Taylor
TOPICS OF DISCUSSION	
Opening <p>The SAC Co-Chairs opened the meeting by first dedicating a moment of silence in honor of the late Datuk Seri Al Azhar who served on the SAC since 2014. The SAC Co-Chairs introduced the agenda which included APRIL's update on the long-term wood fiber supply plan and on APRIL's monitoring and data collection on GHG emissions on peatlands.</p>	
APRIL Fiber Self Sufficiency and Land Use Emissions <p>An APRIL representative presented to the SAC on the long-term fiber supply plan as it relates to APRIL's growth plans. APRIL recalled the independent review conducted by Finnish consulting firm Indufor in 2019 of APRIL's strategic wood fibre supply forecast.</p> <p>The study concluded that by 2024, APRIL's pulp mill is expected to be self-sufficient in terms of wood supply, and that <i>"the target of future growth increase and the methods applied in the wood supply forecast are realistic. APRIL has achieved notable growth improvement through improved silvicultural activities, replacing Acacia mangium with faster growing and resilient Eucalyptus sp, improved control of pests and diseases and increased coverage of rehabilitation of planting of damaged areas. Current data and information systems offer APRIL reliable tools for continuous monitoring of status and growth of the plantation."</i></p> <p>An APRIL representative explained that due to various improvements, APRIL achieved its fiber self-sufficiency for its current production capacity in 2021, three years ahead of the Indufor projection. These improvements included the conversion of fiber species from <i>A.mangium</i> to Eucalyptus, improved silviculture, and improved clonal and hybrid genetics. APRIL representative continued with the explanation on APRIL's fiber 5 years delivery history and 3 years forecast. Key updates include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mean Annual Increment increase of ~38% for the main species since 2014.• Plantation area with high productivity has increased from 27% to 67%.• <i>Acacia mangium</i> plantations will be replaced with Eucalypt hybrid clones in 2022.• Wood utilization efficiency has improved by 4.2% since 2016 - resulting in more product with less fiber consumption	



SAC members raised questions regarding APRIL's fiber supply from Open Market Suppliers and whether the increased fiber needs of APRIL will require more plantation establishment from Open Market Suppliers. APRIL explained that its purchase from Open Market Suppliers will be strictly based on compliance with APRIL's Sustainable Forest Management Policy as determined by a due diligence check prior to contracting, regular land cover change monitoring, and annual independent audit. APRIL also noted that its list of Open Market Suppliers are posted publicly on APRIL's Dashboard so that stakeholders are able to see if there is any increase in the number of suppliers that APRIL sources from.

The SAC also inquired about any changes in water table management in APRIL's plantations. APRIL responded that there is no change in the average water level that is maintained in the peatland plantations and that a dedicated team of hydrologists is responsible for ensuring this is maintained by fiber operations teams. APRIL also added that it continuously monitors water levels and regularly reports on these to the government which conducts periodic checks.

The SAC requested APRIL to share this information better and in simpler terms in its Sustainability Report so those who are not familiar with the forestry industry can better understand about APRIL's increased fiber productivity and long term wood supply sustainability.

APRIL representative continued to present about APRIL's GHG emissions monitoring program which includes all existing emission and removal pathways of CO₂, Methane and Nitrous Oxide taking into account spatial and temporal variability. The goal of this monitoring program is to provide primary data for APRIL's understanding of the GHG emissions from peatlands, serve as basis for its reduction targets and mitigation plans, and also improve scientific knowledge of emission factors.

By 2021 APRIL, along with other scientists, had published two scientific papers, "Impact of Forest Plantation on Methane Emissions from Tropical Peatland" (2019) and "Conservation Slows Down Emissions Increase from a Tropical Peatland in Indonesia" (2021). Regarding Methane emissions, it was concluded that groundwater level controls CH₄ emissions and that CH₄ emissions decrease exponentially as groundwater levels decline.

APRIL also continued to share findings on CO₂ emissions from natural forests on peatlands, stating that both tropical peatland ecosystems, intact and degraded, functioned as net CO₂ sources to the atmosphere, emitting 20 tCO₂e ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹ and 43.8 tCO₂e ha⁻¹ yr⁻¹, respectively, in Sumatra.

Closing

The SAC co-chairs thanked all participants for attending, and closed the meeting.

Next Meeting Date

Date : 19th November

Location : Virtual (Zoom)