



APRIL STAKEHOLDER FORUM ON FSC REMEDY

June 19-20, 2024
IPB Convention Center, Bogor, Indonesia

MEETING SUMMARY

Hosted by:
APRIL Group in collaboration with FSC International
and in cooperation with
WWF Indonesia and Forest Peoples Programme

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Summary of the APRIL Stakeholder Forum on FSC Remedy

The APRIL Stakeholder Forum was hosted by APRIL Group in Bogor, Indonesia, June 19-20, 2024. The Forum was designed to support open and constructive dialogue between stakeholders about the APRIL remedy process to end disassociation from FSC. APRIL is the first company globally to implement the FSC remedy process, many details of which have yet to be defined. WWF Indonesia and Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) contributed to the design of the Forum with leadership from both organizations and FSC International joining in person. The Forum was developed based on the approach utilized by The Forests Dialogue focused on building shared understanding about the APRIL remedy process, encouraging awareness about the opportunities for positive outcomes, and gathering inputs from all the participants to strengthen the process.

About 90 people joined the Forum, which included in-depth plenary presentations by APRIL and by FSC, panel discussions led by WWF Indonesia and by FPP, as well as breakout discussions to gather feedback, with lively question, answer, and reflection sessions. Over 60 percent of participants were from communities and local NGOs, based in the provinces where APRIL and related entities, operate, with most of the rest from national Indonesian organizations and universities. The meeting was facilitated by Gary Dunning of Yale University's School of Forestry and Rulita Wijayaningdyah of the Indonesian forest workers' trades union, Kahutindo.

The Director General of FSC, the world's leading forest certification system, provided an in-depth look at how the FSC Remedy Framework is designed to achieve major social, environmental, and business outcomes. FSC is committed to work with APRIL on its remedy process and recognizes the company is committed at the highest levels of management to transforming the way it has operated and providing



ABOUT **90 PEOPLE**
JOINED THE FORUM



60 PERCENT OF
PARTICIPANTS WERE
FROM COMMUNITIES
AND LOCAL NGOs

remedy for past harm from unacceptable activities during the period 1994-2020. The remedy process is a learning journey and FSC attended the Forum in this spirit to listen carefully to all the participants.

APRIL's Director of Sustainability and External Affairs and other senior staff emphasized the company's commitment to FSC reassociation which they believe will be good for the communities, the environment, the company, and Indonesia's economic development, with the goal of a collective win-win. They explained how the company has built a detailed roadmap to implement the process and provided an update on progress to date. APRIL is still in the early stages of the process with baseline independent assessments to collect information about past social and environmental harms ongoing.

Participants provided rich, constructive feedback, advice, and requests. Overall, there was strong support for the approach presented by FSC and for the implementation by APRIL to achieve environmental and social remedy.

Participants called for more support from FSC and APRIL to build capacity in communities and local NGOs so that they can participate more effectively in the remedy process. FSC and APRIL both acknowledged this need and committed to support capacity building of local NGOs and communities.

Several participants expressed a desire for more transparency in the remedy process from both APRIL and FSC, including regular, detailed public updates. APRIL reiterated its commitment to transparency and will share more documentation, including the methods used for the independent assessments.

Concerns were expressed about the ongoing independent social and environmental assessments, including what some participants consider to be weaknesses in the implementation of required free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) procedures. Some community representatives called for more time to be taken by the assessors through field visits with more comprehensive and inclusive consultations in their communities, including more engagement with women and with marginalized economic groups. FSC and APRIL noted these concerns and agreed that it is important that this work is done as well as possible, with the potential for more time and resources to be made available to support the work of the independent assessors.

Some concerns were raised about possible conflicts of interest of the independent assessors as well as allegations of hidden company ownerships. FSC is investigating the allegations while APRIL unequivocally refuted all allegations of links to hidden companies and unacceptable practices.

Some participants recommending greater engagement by FSC with the Government of Indonesia, suggesting this will be important to help ensure overall success in remedy implementation. FSC reiterated its commitment to seek further discussions with the Government.

There was strong support for the dialogue process to be taken into the provinces where APRIL operates, which APRIL welcomed and will consider as a follow up to this Forum.

In closing, WWF Indonesia expressed appreciation for the care, attention, and willingness of participants to be part of the remedy process and expressed optimism and hope for better environmental and social outcomes. FPP noted that there has been an important convergence of understanding and will continue to be engaged and to support the remedy process so that affected rightsholders get remedy for harm experienced from violations due to unacceptable activities.

The leadership of both APRIL and FSC welcomed the open, candid inputs provided at the Forum. FSC reiterated its willingness to learn from the APRIL remedy process and to integrate these learnings in its systems and normative framework. APRIL emphasized its commitment to the remedy process to achieve the milestone of ending

FSC disassociation reiterating that the company sees this as an opportunity for important environmental, social, and economic outcomes for communities, Indigenous Peoples, and for Indonesia as a whole.

Overview of the Forum

HOST AND COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

The APRIL Stakeholder Forum on FSC Remedy was organized and hosted by APRIL in collaboration with [FSC International](#) and in cooperation with [WWF Indonesia](#) and [Forest Peoples Programme](#). Senior staff of these organizations participated throughout the Forum and helped to facilitate the breakout sessions. The Forum was co-facilitated by Gary Dunning, Executive Director of Yale University's [Forest School](#) and of [The Forests Dialogue](#), and Rulita Widjayaningdyah, General Secretary of Kahutindo, an Indonesian labor rights organization affiliated with [Building and Woodworkers International](#).

CONTEXT

APRIL is the first company globally to advance the FSC remedy process following adoption by the FSC board of directors of the FSC Remedy Framework in 2023. APRIL was disassociated from FSC in 2013 and re-engaged in dialogue with FSC in 2016.

Environmental and social baselines were developed as a pilot by FSC for APRIL in 2020 and a memorandum of understanding was agreed between APRIL and FSC in 2023 launching the remedy process. If APRIL successfully completes the remedy process, then the company and other members of the corporate group will be eligible for reassociation with FSC, which then affords those companies the opportunity to apply for FSC certification.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Forum were as follows:

- » **Facilitate shared understanding** among stakeholders of the APRIL remedy process.
- » **Encourage awareness of the opportunities for positive outcomes** that could result from the remedy process for rightsholders, stakeholders and more broadly for Indonesia's forest conservation and social development.
- » **Gather input from participants to strengthen the APRIL remedy process** and the achievement of important environmental and social remedy.

PARTICIPANTS

About 90 participants confirmed and registered for the Forum with 60 percent being community, Indigenous, and NGO leaders from Riau, North Sumatra, East and North Kalimantan. Representatives of many national and international NGOs, academic experts, FSC independent assessors, and youth representatives also joined the Forum. *(Please see Appendix for full participant list).*

Rulita Widjayaningdyah and **Gary Dunning**, as co-facilitators, encouraged a dialogue approach based on the process developed over the last 25 years by The Forests Dialogue, emphasizing active listening and engagement, building toward positive understanding and outcomes. The participants agreed to follow the simple ground rules developed by The Forests Dialogue.

Patrick Anderson with Forest Peoples Programme, a UK-based human-rights organization, working to support collective rights of forest peoples in 22 countries, and in Indonesia since the 1990s, cooperated with APRIL to design the Forum. FFP's priorities include that remedy is provided for all violations of human rights and customary rights in the period 1994-2020 associated with deforestation, and that this is properly informed and supported through FPIC, with remedy provided by the whole corporate group, as identified by FSC. FFP helped organize the Forum because they see this as a key first step, a chance for the participants, including many community representatives, to share ideas, express concerns and improve outcomes.

Aditya "Dito" Bayunanda, CEO of WWF Indonesia, which also helped to organize the Forum, noted that WWF was one of the first supporters of FSC when it was established in 1993. WWF, with other Indonesian NGOs including Jikalahari and WALHI, have been monitoring the plantation sectors in Riau for many years. WWF also began working in 2011 to update FSC's 1994 cutoff dates for deforestation. In 2022, at the FSC General Assembly in Bali, this major change was adopted as part of the FSC Remedy Policy. WWF called for the remedy process to be transparent, involve all responsible parties, for NGOs to have responsibility to monitor progress and to help determine harm together with communities. Remedy needs to go beyond the APRIL concessions to include the wider affected landscapes, engaging with NGOs, communities, and local government. They stressed that social and environmental remediation need to go hand in hand. WWF recognize the serious commitment APRIL has made to be the first to go through this process and that this is especially significant for Sumatra, home to many endangered flagship species. They encouraged all parties to be open to discussion and dialogue to achieve the objectives of saving the environment and forests and improving the wellbeing of communities.

Participants all introduced themselves and shared expectations.

Below are quotes from the participants:

“This process is not complete if government is not included.”

“I appreciate APRIL’s openness and commitment, and I hope we can build trust and align perceptions.”

“I experienced human rights violations firsthand. I hope we can come up with solutions.”

“The remedy framework needs to be turned into a practical process to get beyond confusion about what it is.”

“I’m old, and I want this to also cover culture, such as honey collection mantras and this is also related to social matters.”

“We can but regret the past; best is to change direction through remediation. This is a big first step in realizing a remedy framework so that Indonesia can be a good forestry country.”

“This will take time because power relations need time to be considered.”

“I was recently elected village head and I am grateful to APRIL for inviting me. It took days to reach this place from my community. We really hope companies can continue to operate generating jobs, while also to have more benefits for the surrounding ecosystem, nature, and people. We hope APRIL can empower the people.”

“Many people put a lot of work into this and have high expectations it will achieve something for harmed communities and forests. I have major concerns about the process and would like those to be heard and addressed.”

“I hope this review can include voices that are not pro-company and ensure APRIL listens and hears these voices and ensures the rights are respected. APRIL policies are okay on paper but in the field a lot needs to be discussed.”

The FSC Remedy Process

Kim Carstensen, FSC's Director General, and Salem Jones, FSC's Program Manager for Dispute Resolution and Remedy, introduced FSC and gave an overview of the FSC remedy process. *(Please see Appendix for the FSC presentation).*

FSC is the world's leading forest certification system working in 90 countries with 1,200 members, including almost 40 in Indonesia, and 60,000 certifications worldwide. FSC develops and provides forest stewardship standards to enable responsible sourcing, conservation in certified areas, and restoration of forests. The organization is built on democracy and equality, with environmental, social, and business interests balanced.

The FSC remedy process was recently adopted and has been effective since 2023. FSC stressed how important it is to listen and learn at this Forum, especially considering this is a new process and APRIL is the first company to embark on the remedy process.

FSC's objective is to achieve high-quality and meaningful environmental and social benefits, defining a pathway to reassociation. Remedy is all encompassing, covering restoration, conservation, restitution, and compensation to communities that have suffered harm through conversion and unacceptable activities the period

The environmental and social baselines are being worked on to assess social and environmental harms resulting from unacceptable practices during the period 1994- 2020. The independent assessors, contracted by FSC, also joined the meeting.

FSC welcomes the opportunity to work with APRIL on the remedy process, seeing the company as committed to changing the way it is operating and providing remedy for past harm.

“We are at the learning stage of the FSC remedy process with a long road ahead.”

Kim Carstensen, Director General, FSC.

WHAT IS THE FSC REMEDY FRAMEWORK?

The Remedy Framework is designed to allow land converted between 1994 and 2020 to be eligible for improvement bringing remedy for people and nature. The Framework defines processes to be followed for companies to reassociate with FSC and for the land to be certified. APRIL cannot currently have any land certified or sell certified products due to its disassociation but by providing remedy the company can become eligible for reassociation with FSC, and for certification. Remedy activities consist of forest conservation and restoration, as well as restitution and adoption of human rights principles.

Remedy is a major process. It first requires identification of the affected parties and the harm they have suffered due to unacceptable activities over the period 1994-2020. Then remedy actions are developed and must be agreed upon and implemented sufficiently to get to the FSC association threshold, after which eligibility is assessed and the process completed.

FSC sees remedy as a process of healing and regeneration with positive impacts at the landscape scale.

Remedy by APRIL can also help to meet the Government of Indonesia's goals for climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable development.

WHAT ARE THE ROLES OF APRIL AND FSC IN THE REMEDY PROCESS?

APRIL's role is to implement the remedy process, ensuring provisions, such as stakeholder engagement requirements, are met, and outcomes are validated. FSC requires that APRIL show good will and engage in high quality efforts with an open exchange on challenges, recognizing that perfection will not be possible while working together to find constructive solutions.

FSC's role is to set the remedy process rules and standards and to facilitate implementation of the process, including building the pool of independent assessors and third-party verifiers, as well as managing a data portal to share updates and implementation reports from third party verifiers. Crucially, FSC also ensures there is no greenwashing.

FSC encourages and expects stakeholders to participate actively in the process and make sure remedy happens on the ground.

WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Learning is crucial since this is the first remedy process globally to be implemented under FSC's new policies. It could result in large areas of forest and ecosystem services being restored, with FPIC and social restitution. Success criteria include capturing learnings, improving future remedy processes, environmental and social benefits, and increased trust in APRIL based on these outcomes.

Status of the APRIL Group's FSC Remedy Process

APRIL Group's Director for Sustainability and External Affairs, Lucita Jasmin, gave an overview of the APRIL Group highlighting their contribution to the national economy with 260,000 jobs created, and their commitment to no deforestation since 2015. APRIL Group's sustainability policy, and specifically the Sustainable Forest Management Policy enshrine this approach, and the company has achieved 80 percent of its "1:1 commitment" to conserve one hectare of forest for each hectare of forestry plantation. The APRIL 2030 framework includes commitments across climate, nature, people, and sustainable growth. APRIL plans to supply the expanded demand of its manufacturing facilities by increasing fiber productivity by 50 percent in existing plantations.

APRIL is committed to FSC reassociation and remedy for several important reasons. The company believes Indonesia deserves to be recognized globally as among the best and largest in plantation forestry and manufacturing. Fair market access demands gaining FSC and as such past negative impacts must be addressed, with systems and processes put in place in the company to prevent the possibility of unacceptable activities happening again.

Environmentally significant forest conservation and restoration, collaboration across landscapes, support to national parks and partnerships with conservation NGOs on ecosystem restoration concessions and species conservation are all likely to be part of APRIL's FSC remedy process.

Social benefits of remedy could include improved access to land and forest resources for communities, capacity building, community and social forestry, and new partnerships in agroforestry and sustainable agriculture, as well as improved land dispute resolution.

"APRIL sees FSC remedy as the opportunity for a collective win-win."

Lucita Jasmin, Director of Sustainability and External Affairs, APRIL Group.

For the Indonesian Government, these efforts would contribute to meeting important national and international climate, nature, and economic development targets.

For APRIL Group itself, the remedy process is already helping to drive transformation internally to resolve historical issues, improve systems and practices, build engagement and communication, as well as expand partnerships and trust.

Inviting and listening to inputs is central to strengthening the APRIL FSC remedy work as an ongoing learning process since this is being implemented for the first time globally and depends deeply on support and constructive engagement from many others.

APRIL's Christopher Burchmore presented how the FSC Remedy Framework is being applied by APRIL. *(Please see Appendix for the APRIL presentation).*

APPLICATION OF THE FSC REMEDY FRAMEWORK TO APRIL GROUP AND THE WIDER CORPORATE GROUP

The APRIL remedy process involves three chapters of process and actions. Chapters 1 and 2 apply to the entire corporate group and cover policy, risk, foundational systems, and trust, with the potential to be transformational for the group's companies in Indonesia, China, Brazil, and beyond. Important new policies have already been developed and now being adopted across the whole corporate group on human rights, sourcing, integrity, and ethics.

Chapter 3 goes further, with seven steps that the APRIL Group itself must implement, further broken down into 36 building blocks. The APRIL Group is currently in the second of these seven steps, developing the baselines through the work of the independent assessors.

The three impact areas covered in the APRIL remedy process are APRIL-managed concessions in Riau, TPL concessions in North Sumatra, as well as Adindo Hutan Lestari and Itci Hutan Manunggal concessions in North and East Kalimantan.

APRIL developed the methods now being applied by the independent assessors. The assessment involves determining conditions prior to unacceptable activities, then looking at the current state, and gathering documentation and information through site visits, interviews, historical analysis, with site visits by independent assessors to consult with rights holders. For Riau and Kalimantan, the work of the independent assessors has been paused to consider possible adaptive management of the approach before continuing.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE

APRIL welcomes and encourages input on what can be done better in the remedy process, and this stakeholder forum is a key step in communicating this message. A dialogue system with “core dialogue groups” for each impact area (provinces) is a key requirement of the FSC Remedy Framework, to convene, agree and facilitate remedy of harm, with representation from APRIL and a diversity of impacted rightsholders, as well as advisors to the rightsholders subject to the latter’s written consent. Interested stakeholders and experts may also be included with consent from the rightsholders.

SUMMARY OF THE APRIL REMEDY PROCESS

The remedy process overall has four phases:

1. Identification of harm (APRIL is in this first phase currently).
2. Remedy planning, with core dialogue groups established to support consultation and engagement.
3. Implementation of remedy.
4. Ending disassociation with FSC.

A grievance mechanism has been set up by APRIL specifically for the remedy process and Chris shared several links and channels for participants seeking further information and communication with APRIL.

Challenges and Opportunities Highlighted by Participants

Participants engaged APRIL and FSC in extensive questions and answers, provided feedback and raised concerns. There were also breakout sessions and plenary discussions and reflections. Several major topics emerged with the discussions and perspectives on each are summarized below.

THE APRIL REMEDY PROCESS IS WELCOMED BY MOST PARTICIPANTS – THEY WANT IT TO SUCCEED.

Throughout the Forum participants welcomed the adoption by FSC of its remedy framework and process. They expressed strong support to APRIL for committing to go through the process and implement environmental and social remedy. Both FSC and APRIL repeatedly stressed that this is a learning process and has never been attempted before. They urged participants to provide candid feedback through the various channels available both directly to FSC and to the company.



Lukas Nai, a village head from East Kalimantan, expressed hope that his relatively small village, which has few economic opportunities, can work with APRIL on the remedy process as they continue to live from their land.



Dirsa, a youth representative and forestry student, was grateful to APRIL and FSC for the opportunity to participate, with the expectation that the Forum will be followed by further consultations.

FSC and APRIL should help address shortcomings in capacity to participate in the remedy process in local communities and NGOs and more work is needed to build deeper understanding about the process by stakeholders and rightsholders.

The FSC remedy process is complex and for many participants this Forum was the first time they had the opportunity for a detailed firsthand overview and discussion with FSC and APRIL. It was understood that it is very important that all parties understand the remedy process. Several commented that more explanation about the remedy process is needed, and there is insufficient understanding about who has the right to receive remedy, how they are identified, and how they will be included in the process.



Patrick Anderson of Forest Peoples Programme talked about the need for funding to build community and local NGO capacity and urged FSC to address this need. He also called for this Forum to be replicated in the impacted provinces and encouraged development of pilots to share learnings to help speed up the process.



Harry Oktavian, Director of the NGO Bahtera Alam, based in Pekanbaru, Riau, described how his group has designed materials for communities to them engage in the FSC remedy process. He stressed that communities need training on FSC, preparation for negotiations and for FPIC processes.

Other participants stressed that this Forum was very useful, with more funding needed for capacity building and training. Both FSC and APRIL acknowledged the need for support for capacity building and committed to providing more support to local NGOs and communities.

SEVERAL PARTICIPANTS CALLED FOR MORE TRANSPARENCY IN THE REMEDY PROCESS

Several participants expressed the need for greater transparency in some aspects of the process including the methods being used by the independent assessors and the agreement between FSC and APRIL. Regular and more detailed updates on progress were requested. As one participant noted, “Trust between all parties is needed and for this we need transparency throughout the process, including a mechanism to update all parties on progress.” Another urged, “Equality, transparency, and participatory dialogue are important throughout the process.”

APRIL thanked participants for questions on methods and definitions, as well as on transparency. They reiterated commitment to transparency and will have the methods used by the independent assessors made available to the participants.

There were concerns about the baseline assessments and the work of the independent assessors including whether the right to FPIC was being respected

“APRIL appreciates requests for the independent assessment methods to be more transparent and will make them available.”

Chris Burchmore, APRIL.

Comments and concerns were raised about the important early step in the FSC remedy process of conducting baseline assessments to identify environmental and social harm that is within the scope of the process. Points raised by participants included the following:



ALL COMMUNITY RIGHTS SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED, INCLUDING LAND OWNERSHIP AND ACCESS TO LAND AND RESOURCES.



THERE SHOULD BE A STRONGER PROCESS TO IDENTIFY THE IMPACTED COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THIS REMEDY PROCESS.



SINCE THE SITUATION IS COMPLEX IT IS IMPORTANT FOR INDEPENDENT ASSESSORS TO SPEND MORE TIME ON THE GROUND IN THE COMMUNITIES, AND THEY NEED TO ENGAGE WITH A WIDE RANGE OF PEOPLE INCLUDING YOUTH AND WOMEN.



BASELINE ASSESSMENTS NEED ROBUST METHODS WITH MUTUAL SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



THE INVOLVEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE REMEDY PROCESS IS IMPORTANT.

THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING TO VOICES OF PEOPLE WHO LOST THEIR LAND, AND OTHER MARGINALIZED GROUPS SUCH AS WOMEN AND YOUTH, AND NOT ONLY APPROACHING VILLAGE ELITES FOR CONSULTATIONS.



PROPER IDENTIFICATION AND VERIFICATION OF WHICH COMMUNITIES HAVE SUFFERED HARM AND IN WHICH WAYS IS IMPORTANT.



SECURING LONG-TERM SOCIAL REMEDY WILL REQUIRE LEGAL SECURITY OF TENURE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WHICH ONLY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA CAN PROVIDE.



Rudiansyah, Coordinator of the NGO *Yayasan Kehutanan Masyarakat Lestari*, reiterated concern about the practical challenge of conducting assessments of harm in hundreds of impacted villages over a short period of time.



Martha Doq, Director of the *Perkumpulan Nurani Perumpuan* an Indigenous Women's Group in East Kalimantan, called for assessors and auditors working with FSC to engage much more with women's groups since women often see impact directly, such as when water sources are damaged or when they lose access to herbs and traditional medicines on the forest. She stressed that Indigenous Peoples have a personal attachment to the forest, it is their life, and they will sacrifice anything to protect the forest. They ask for just one thing: to be recognized as an Indigenous community, and they want to find a way forward with APRIL, if the company respects the community.

Several participants called for more rigorous FPIC implementation to help ensure that there are no further rights violations during the remedy process itself.



Mahir Takaka with PUG, independent consultants, hoped there will be brave and bold steps from FSC to capture best practices with Indigenous Peoples who successfully manage their forests.



Isnadi Esman, village head (*kepala desa*), Pulau Padang, Riau, described how he has encouraged participatory mapping with support from government agencies, working with all families in his village to explore the conditions of the rivers, forest, and each family's needs. They reached agreement and signed an MOU with APRIL with significant positive gains including establishing a sago plantation and becoming eligible for increased government funding.

FSC took careful note of the concerns about the quality of the independent assessments stressing that the Forum has been helpful and timely for sharing these concerns.

APRIL reminded participants that the company is not yet in the remedy phase of the process and that not all rightsholders have been identified. They stressed that they understand that this needs to be done correctly.

APRIL also agreed that FPIC – and verification of FPIC – are important parts of the process, especially with affected rightsholders. APRIL noted that the independent assessors have not yet reached the point of going back to affected rightsholders with results of their assessments, which will happen in due course.

“Thank you for the valuable feedback, as independent assessors we are committed to doing the best possible job.”

Dwi Rahmad Muhtuman,
Director, Re-Mark Asia.

FSC clarified that on FPIC, the FSC Remedy Framework includes “verified FPIC gates” and the FPIC process specified is adapted from FSC FPIC guidance and the FSC forest management system. FSC is also developing indicators for verification of FPIC with experts and advisors who are Indigenous Peoples. This should be complete by the end of 2024 with a webinar planned to share the outputs and to which all participants in this Forum will be invited.

In response to questions about how “Indigenous Peoples” is defined, FSC noted that the FSC Remedy Framework recognizes the UN DRIP definitions and that this is part of the basis for defining affected rightsholders. Indigenous representative at the Forum welcomed this approach.



Dwi Rahmad Muhtuman, Director of Re-Mark, one of the independent assessors, said that FSC took a very important step in developing the remedy framework. He thanked the participants for the feedback to help improve their work and encouraged them to contact him to give more input. He thanked FSC and APRIL for trusting Re-Mark to become part of the process.

Some participants believe that the independent assessors may have conflicts of interest and that this must be addressed.

Concerns about conflicts of interest of the independent assessors were raised based on the history that these service providers have working on other contracts with APRIL. **Greenpeace’s Grant Rosoman** urged FSC to disclose the justification for the approval of Re-Mark Asia and Hatfield as independent assessors. FSC acknowledged the possible conflicts of interest of the independent assessors and was mindful of this in the selection process.

Some participants allege that the APRIL Group may have hidden ownership of companies engaging in deforestation and also raised specific grievances about a police case filed against a community member over alleged encroachment in the PT Adindo concession area, which resulted in the arrest and ongoing imprisonment of the community member.

Some participants raised specific concerns about allegations of hidden ownership by entities related to APRIL of companies engaged in ongoing unacceptable practices of deforestation. Others were concerned about the recent arrest and ongoing imprisonment of a community member over alleged encroachment in the PT Adindo concession area.

FSC noted that the “corporate group” has been determined by FSC for the APRIL remedy process and is [available online](#) with all the APRIL-related companies listed. FSC stated that it is investigating specific allegations from some NGOs about hidden ownership or control by entities related to APRIL of companies that have engaged in unacceptable practices after 2020. APRIL and RGE have repeatedly refused these allegations.

APRIL noted the concerns and stressed that this is partly why the remedy process is in place, to gather this information and then implement remedy, with strong policies across the whole group. In the specific case of PT Adindo, APRIL informed participants that it is looking into the situation and aims to resolve it in a way that does not involve a judicial process.

In response to a specific question, APRIL explained that if the APRIL remedy process with FSC is suspended for whatever reason then the enabling conditions for remedy would change. The incentive of FSC certification and the leverage in the wider corporate group would no longer be available. Meanwhile, important regulatory developments such as the European Union Deforestation-free Regulation could provide an alternative pathway for market access.

FSC also noted that if APRIL regains association with FSC and its land is certified, then this land would have to continue to be managed in accordance with FSC's standards with annual audits.

LANDSCAPE SCALE AND LONG-TERM THINKING IS IMPORTANT IF THE FSC REMEDY PROCESS IS TO SUCCEED

A landscape-scale approach was endorsed by some participants with remedy extending beyond directly affected areas to wider landscapes and stakeholder consultations at the landscape level. They noted that the social landscape is complex with many different claims. Social justice, economic and environmental needs should be balanced, and consensus based and it is important to allow time for the process to proceed, recognizing it is time consuming and complex.

WWF Indonesia facilitated a panel discussion with comments from **Prof. Agus Setyarso** of Gajah Mada University and **Dr. Muhammad Ali Imron**, WWF's Director of Forests and Wildlife. They explored various aspects of the APRIL FSC remedy process including definitions, external validity, and implementation opportunities and challenges with a case study of landscape scale elephant conservation in Sumatra.

“FSC must investigate with urgency common control of PT Mayawana Persada and PT Asia Forestama Raya by RGE Group, and if found to be, suspend the roadmap and remedy process with APRIL.”

Grant Rosomon,
Greenpeace.

“APRIL has repeatedly and unequivocally refuted allegations of links to hidden companies and unacceptable practices.”

Lucita Jasmin, Director of
Sustainability and External
Affairs, APRIL Group.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDONESIA IS IMPORTANT

Several participants, including Made Ali with Jikalahari, expressed the need to engage and gain support from the Government of Indonesia for the remedy process.

Harmonization between government, NGOs, academics, and companies would help to ensure a smooth process. Meanwhile, the Government could change regulations affecting the remedy process and play a helpful role in dispute resolution.

FSC stated that it plans to be in touch with the Government of Indonesia and to engage them in the process. FSC will also explore using terms preferred by the Government of Indonesia, while not necessarily being able to fully adopt that language.

Closing Reflections from APRIL, FSC, FPP and WWF-Indonesia

WWF INDONESIA'S
ADITYA BAYUNANDA:

“I am more optimistic now and WWF Indonesia’s commitment is to continue to support the remedy process in the hope of better environmental and social outcomes.”

Aditya Bayunanda, CEO, WWF Indonesia.

“There is deep care, attention, and willingness to be part of this remedy process, evidenced by the level of participation including from those who have been consistently critical of APRIL. These critics being at the Forum says a lot, including that the remedy process is widely supported by communities, NGOs, academics, and other companies. We appreciated APRIL’s and the FSC Director General’s presence, thanked the independent assessors for listening carefully, and noted it is not too late for the independent assessors to improve their work. Similar forums are needed in the impacted landscapes, provinces, and districts. I am more optimistic now and WWF Indonesia’s commitment is to continue to support the remedy process in the hope of better environmental and social outcomes.”

FPP'S
MARCUS COLCHESTER:

“There has been a convergence of understanding, which is very important.”

Marcus Colchester,
Senior Advisor, Forest Peoples

“Thank you APRIL and participants for a very useful meeting. There has been a convergence of understanding, which is very important. It is great that APRIL clarified their approach, that FSC staff were present and able to explain their vision and role, and especially that community voices were here and heard, and that we all learned a lot. Next, we need to hear more from the independent assessors about their approach. We need to start with sharing more information and have more engagement, so we are better informed about roles and expectations. Time has been lost by starting the impact assessment before rightsholders were prepared to engage in a proper FPIC process. I hope we have more trust so we can travel the road ahead in friendship. Thank you everyone for the commitment and positive spirit, and count on FPP to stay engaged and support the process.”

FSC'S
KIM CARSTENSEN:

“We see this as a major opportunity for real impact on the ground.”

Kim Carstensen,
Director General, FSC.

“Thanks for an extraordinarily rich day. We came here to learn and to achieve results and move together with a win-win for the environment, society, business, and Indonesia. We see this as a major opportunity for real impact on the ground. FSC is happy to see real understanding of the challenges, complexity, and need for support for communities, for rightsholders to engage in a proper way, and for transparency and government engagement. For FSC this is truly important, we are putting a lot of resources into developing the remedy framework. It is important to continue the conversation at the landscape level about real issues and real situations. Our commitment is there to provide guidance, tools, solutions, and input, and we are keen to move this to success.”

APRIL'S
LUCITA JASMIN:

“APRIL is fully committed to the FSC remedy process and sees this as a very important opportunity for collective wins, for communities, the environment, Indigenous Peoples, and for Indonesia as a whole.”

Lucita Jasmin,
Director of Sustainability and External Affairs, APRIL.

as host of the Forum, closed the meeting: “Much thanks to FSC, WWF Indonesia and FPP for joining at the leadership level, without them we could not have had such diverse participants and so rich an agenda. APRIL thanks the facilitators and most importantly expresses heartfelt gratitude to all participants for two days of meaningful, credible, constructive inputs.

“APRIL clearly heard input from participants calling for more transparency and improved consultation, being much more inclusive and involving those most impacted. APRIL will discuss with FSC how to strengthen the independent assessments. APRIL is open to discuss with local NGOs and communities support to address their capacity-building needs. Specific grievances, for example about PT Adindo, will be taken back to colleagues and addressed.

“On next steps, APRIL will carefully consider the opportunity and need to organize forums at local and landscape levels, as many participants recommended.

In closing, APRIL is fully committed to the FSC remedy process and sees this as a very important opportunity for collective wins, for communities, the environment, Indigenous Peoples, and for Indonesia as a whole.”

Appendices

AGENDA

WEDNESDAY JUNE 19TH – WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

TIME	AGENDA	REMARKS
12:00	Optional Lunch & Registration	Ballroom foyer/hotel
14:00	Welcome and Meeting Overview – Facilitators	Ballroom 2&3
14:15	Opening remarks: APRIL, Forest Stewardship Council, Forest Peoples Programme, and WWF	Ballroom 2&3
14:45	Participant introductions and expectations	Ballroom 2&3
16:00	Wrap up for Day 1 and preview for Day 2	Ballroom 2&3
16:15	Adjourn (coffee break)	Ballroom 2&3
16:30	Optional Side Meetings	Ballroom 2&3
18:30	Group Dinner	Medja Restaurant

THURSDAY JUNE 20TH – FORUM

TIME	AGENDA	REMARKS
08:00	2 nd day Registration	Ballroom 1
08:30	Review of meeting objectives, agenda, ground rules	Ballroom 2&3
08:40	Presentation and Q&A on the FSC remedy process (hosted by FSC)	Ballroom 2&3
09:40	Update and Q&A on the APRIL-FSC Remedy process (hosted by APRIL)	Ballroom 2&3
10:30	Coffee break	Ballroom 2&3
10:45	Panel Discussion on Environmental remedy opportunities (hosted by WWF-Indonesia)	Ballroom 2&3
11:30	Panel Discussion on Social remedy opportunities (hosted by FPP)	Ballroom 2&3
12:30	Lunch break	Ballroom 1 Musala (2 nd floor)
13:30	Morning Recap and Breakout Instructions	Ballroom 2&3
13:45	Breakout session: focus on social, environmental issues and enabling conditions	Meeting Rooms A, B, & C 3 rd fl.
15:15	Coffee Break	Ballroom 2&3
15:45	Plenary session: what does success for this Remedy process look like	Ballroom 2&3
16:45	Closing reflections from participants	Ballroom 2&3
17:20	Next steps from APRIL, FSC, WWF, FPP, Facilitators	Ballroom 2&3
17:30	Adjourn	Participants return to the hotel

ATTENDEES LIST

NO	NAME	ORGANIZATION	AREA	CATEGORY
1	Gary Dunning	The Forest School, Universitas Yale	International	Facilitator
2	Rulita Widjayaningdyah	Kahutindo	National	Facilitator
3	Isnadi Esman	Village - Bagan Melibur	Riau	Community
4	Andika Sing	Village - Pulau Muda	Riau	Community
5	Abok Agustinus	Village - Penyengat	Riau	Community
6	H. Wan Said	LAM Kab. Siak, Riau	Riau	Community
7	Taufik Ikram Jamil	LAM Riau	Riau	Community
8	Muhammad Taufik	Village - Torganda	Riau	Community
9	Adi Saputra	Village - Rambah	Riau	Community
10	Saipul	Village - Penyagun	Riau	Community
11	Morlan Simanjuntak	KTH Onan Harbangan Nagasaribu	North Sumatra	Community
12	Partomuan Simanjuntak	Village - Sabungan Nihuta IV	North Sumatra	Community
13	Hotman Siagian	Komunitas Matio	North Sumatra	Community
14	Pinus Sitanggang	KTH Simataniari	North Sumatra	Community
15	Hermanto Sipayung	Lembaga Partumpuan Pemangku Adat dan Budaya Simalungun	North Sumatra	Community
16	Wahyudinur	Village - Banua Baru	East Kalimantan	Community
17	Kuspawansyah	Village - Kedang Ipil	East Kalimantan	Community
18	Lukas Nai	Village - Lung Anai	East Kalimantan	Community
19	Rusmini Hakim	Village - Srinanti	North Kalimantan	Community
20	H. Abdul Hamid	Village - Pembeliangan	North Kalimantan	Community
21	Ishak	Village - Buong Baru	North Kalimantan	Community
22	Samadik	Lembaga Adat Besar Dayak Agabag	North Kalimantan	Community
23	Kokok Yulianto	WWF Riau	Riau	NGO
24	Harry Oktavian	Bahtera Alam	Riau	NGO
25	Hasan Supriyanto	FKKM Riau	Riau	NGO
26	Woro Supartinah	LPESM	Riau	NGO
27	Eko Fambudi	JMGR	Riau	NGO
28	Nursamsu	Eyes on the Forests (EoF)	Riau	NGO
29	Made Ali	Jikalahari	Riau	NGO
30	Rinaldy Hutajulu	Sumatera Forest	North Sumatra	NGO
31	David Rajagukguk	SERBUNDO	North Sumatra	NGO
32	Petrus Taka	LP3M	North Kalimantan	NGO
33	Darwis	Green of Borneo (GoB)	North Kalimantan	NGO
34	Aditya Bayunanda	WWF Indonesia	National	NGO
35	Irfan Bachtiar	WWF Indonesia	National	NGO

NO	NAME	ORGANIZATION	AREA	CATEGORY
36	Ratna Dewi	WWF Indonesia	National	NGO
37	Muhammad Ali Imron	WWF Indonesia	National	NGO
38	Ratih Loekito	Yayasan Konservasi Alam Nusantara (YKAN)	National	NGO
39	Zulfahmi	EcoNusantara	National	NGO
40	Gamma Galudra	RECOFTC Indonesia	National	NGO
41	Cahyo Nugroho	FFI Indonesia	National	NGO
42	Mangarah Silalahi	FKKM Nasional	National	NGO
43	Rudiansyah	YMKL	National	NGO
44	Refki Saputra	Greenpeace Indonesia	National	NGO
45	Grant Rosoman	Greenpeace International	International	NGO
46	Tom Walsh	Burung Indonesia / Birdlife	National	NGO
47	Martua Sirait	Samdhana Institute	National	NGO
48	Malik	Samdhana Institute	National	NGO
49	Muhammad Hairul Sobri	Koalisi Jaga Hutan Alam / Hutan Kita Institute	National	NGO
50	Marcus Colchester	Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)	International	NGO
51	Patrick Anderson	Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)	International	NGO
52	Lan Mei	Forest Peoples Programme (FPP)	International	NGO
53	Mukti Ali	Yayasan Kawal Borneo (KBCF)	East Kalimantan	NGO
54	Hairudin Alexander	AMAN Kalimantan Timur	East Kalimantan	NGO
55	Martha Doq	Perkumpulan Nurani Perempuan	East Kalimantan	NGO
56	Kim Carstensen	FSC International	International	FSC
57	Salem Jones	FSC International	International	FSC
58	Daneetha Muniandy	FSC International	International	FSC
59	Michelle Than	FSC International	International	FSC
60	Cindy Cheng	FSC Asia Pacific	International	FSC
61	Jaki Yeung	FSC Asia Pacific	International	FSC
62	Hartono Prabowo	FSC Indonesia	Indonesia	FSC
63	Indra Setia Dewi	FSC Indonesia	Indonesia	FSC
64	Dr. Putera Parthama	FSC Member in Indonesia	National	FSC
65	Dr. Petrus Gunarso	FSC Member in Indonesia	National	FSC
66	Happy Tarumadevyanto	FSC Member in Indonesia	National	FSC
67	Purwadi Soeprihanto	APHI	National	Association
68	Prof. Soeryo Adiwibowo	IPB University	National	Academic
69	Dr. Agus Setyarso	Instiper	National	Academic
70	Prof. Ashaluddin Jalil	Universitas Riau	Riau	Academic
71	M. Mardiansyah	Universitas Riau	Riau	Academic
72	Sukarjo	Kahutindo	National	CSO / Consultant

NO	NAME	ORGANIZATION	AREA	CATEGORY
73	Nazir Foead	Petala Unggul Gesang (PUG)	National	CSO / Consultant
74	Mahir Takaka	Petala Unggul Gesang (PUG)	National	CSO / Consultant
75	Dejan Lewis	Earthworm Foundation	International	CSO / Consultant
76	Berdy Stevens	Earthworm Foundation	International	CSO / Consultant
77	Dwi Rahmad Muhtaman	Remark Asia	National	Independent Assessor
78	Sutji Shinto	Remark Asia	National	Independent Assessor
79	Jim Webb	Hatfield Indonesia	National	Independent Assessor
80	Mawardah Hanifiyani	Hatfield Indonesia	National	Independent Assessor
81	Nurjaya	Hatfield Indonesia	National	Independent Assessor
82	Dito Akbar	IFSA UGM	National	Youth
83	Canakya Galerita	IFSA IPB	National	Youth
84	Nigel Sizer	APRIL	International	APRIL Group
85	Lucita Jasmin	APRIL	National	APRIL Group
86	Dian Novarina	APRIL	National	APRIL Group
87	Christopher Burchmore	APRIL	National	APRIL Group
88	Mulia Nauli	Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP)	Riau	APRIL Group
89	Wan Jakh	Riau Andalan Pulp and Paper (RAPP)	Riau	APRIL Group
90	Juanda Panjaitan	Toba Pulp Lestari (TPL)	North Sumatra	APRIL Group
91	Dani Sumitran	Toba Pulp Lestari (TPL)	North Sumatra	APRIL Group
92	Andang Priadi	Adindo Hutani Lestari (AHL)	North Kalimantan	APRIL Group
93	Arif Fadillah	Itci Hutani Manunggal (IHM)	East Kalimantan	APRIL Group

