

Executive Summary of SIA Report (2017)

This Social Impact Assessment (SIA) for the sustainable forest management (SFM) operations within Cherul Forest Concession (CFC) represents a follow up to an earlier SIA report prepared in 2013/2014 on the same site and subject. It has always been the policy of Pesama Timber Corporation Sdn Bhd (PESAMA) as the manager and operator of SFM within CFC since four decades ago, to continue to conduct such survey and assessment from time to time on regular basis in order to monitor the impacts of the series of forestry activities and operations to the surrounding forest dependent communities and environment. PESAMA also maintains close rapport with other relevant stakeholders, government agencies, academias, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to solicit their professional inputs on relevant issues raised by the affected local communities. In this way, PESAMA hopes to be able to conduct its SFM activities in an informed and more-or-less transparent manner while at the same time carrying out the appropriate mitigative and corrective measures commensurate with the scale and intensity of the firm's SFM operations. Such SIA initiative also serves to fulfil one of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)'s Principles and Criteria for forest stewardship. Since 2012 PESAMA had been committed to follow and abide by FSC P&C which form parts and parcel of FSC certification standards.

Among others the present SIA survey found that; apart from a very few cases, the vast majority of the populations in the four villages in the vicinity of CFC did not depend on the forest for their livelihood. The Orang Asli village of Kg Sg Pergam appeared to enjoy the highest standard of living as compared to the other three Malay villages surveyed of which Kg Ban Ho ranked the lowest. The villagers also had had mixed perceptions on the impacts of SFM activities on the environment whereby the residents of Kg Sg Pergam consistently showed deep concern on the environment but not the people in the other three Malay villages. The threat from wild elephants remained the main issue raised by residents of FELDA Cerul 01 and FELDA Cerul 02 as well as Kg Ban Ho. Appropriate measures were recommended in order to rectify the identified issues.