

Timimbang-Botitian Sustainable Forest Management (TBSFM) Progress Report in 2010

Since the inception of the TBSFM project in 2007, there has been tremendous improvement in terms of restoration, forest protection and building infrastructures in the project area concerned. As usual, this year's report mainly focuses on the progress of the project based on the AWP 2010. The compliance report submitted for 2010 performances record showed that it has successfully achieved most of targeted activities that have been planned under the AWP 2010. The rehabilitation work on the area encroached by Fortuna Leong Sdn Bhd was not initiated due to the ongoing investigation, while the upgrading of 7 kilometres of road inside compartment 52 Timimbang Forest Reserve Part B, was not implemented as no contractors were interested to take the job.

This year, the expenditure has increased more than 50 % as compared to the previous year. The bulk of the expenditures incurred was for silviculture operations and building of infrastructures such as Timimbang Rainforest Lodge and a Checking Station at Timimbang Forest Reserve (TFR), Part B. As shown in Chart 27.1, the overall expenditure from 2007 to 2010 was RM 3,599,973.10 or 72 %, of the total PPM budget allocation of RM 5 million, leaving a balance of RM 1,400,026.90 or 28%.

TBSFM project continues to perform satisfactorily, achieving almost all of the activities planned under the AWP 2010. The silviculture contractor, Fresh Mumus Enterprise, continues to perform excellently by exceeding the target of 1000 hectares on silviculture treatment. Other major tasks carried out this year were the construction of Timimbang Rainforest Lodge and Checking Station at Timimbang FR. These two buildings were successfully completed on time, despite the erratic weather pattern for the whole year. A second year, three rounds maintenance of the 69 hectares of mixed species planting at compartment 52, TFR Part B, was also carried out successfully. In 2010, TFR had experienced quite a severe drought resulting in high seedlings mortality.

The overall project performance for the year was very encouraging, as a result of continuous support and advice from the Director of Forestry and Deputy Director (Development). Beside the support from top management, the project is very lucky to have a very good team of field staff. Their close cooperation and hard work have allowed the project to progress consistently from the beginning. The support and guidance from Deputy Director's office (FSP), has also contributed positively toward the progress of this project over



(L) The construction of the checking station at TFR Part B (Compartment 52) and (R) upon completion on the right.



(L) Putting up the concrete foundation and (R) the newly completed Timimbang Rainforest lodge.

the years. For the record; the Director of Forestry, Deputy Director (Development) and senior officers from Head quarters made a day trip working visit to TBSFM project on 9th October 2010. The Project Implementation Committee (PIC) site meetings were also successfully conducted throughout the year with the objectives of monitoring and evaluating the overall performance of the project.



(L & R) The Director of Forestry and his Deputy Director conducting a site visit at TFR.



The Director of Forestry, Deputy Director (Development) and forestry officers, checking the disputed boundaries at TFR.



(L) Datuk Sam taking a view of the forest condition after silviculture treatment and (R) the field manager in the midst of giving a briefing to the Director of Forestry and his entourage.

Human Resources and Logistics Requirement TBSFM

As of 31st December 2010, the TBSFM project has 16 staff stationed at Timimbang and Botitian, which includes 1 officer (G27), 1 Forest Ranger, 4 Foresters, 2 drivers and 8 general workers. Recruitment of more field staff and a clerk is very crucial in order to run the project smoothly. Except for the forest protection, all the other activities involved such silviculture treatment; construction of checking station at compartment 52 and Timimbang Rainforest Lodge were carried out by contract workers. The day to day supervision works were

carried out by the field manager and assisted by the Project Manager (District Forestry Officer, Beluran). The overall implementation and management of the TBSFM project is under the purview of the superintendent officer (MCEE officer Sandakan); which is closely monitored by the Deputy Director (Development), who is also the project's Chairman. In order to mobilise all these resources effectively, the project must have a very strong work force and reliable logistics in place. If necessary, selected field staff must be given a chance to undergo training to acquire specific skills for a specific job. A

study tour should be arranged for the staff to see some of the successful implementation of forest management units in the State, such as our model project; Deramakot Forest Reserve which has been certified under the FSC standard as the first well managed tropical forest in Asia and Syarikat Maxland Sdn. Bhd. FMU, known for its mosaic planting.

The TBSFM project has 4 Toyota twin-cabs, of which 2 of them are quite old and often break down. The logistics requirement in the project must be timely and utilised efficiently in order to maximise the output. Unnecessary wastage such as the high running cost per kilometre for each vehicle must be avoided. The TBSFM project had experienced a very long dry weather spell for almost 4 months causing incidences of small fires occurring here and there. Early detection and swift actions by the project team managed to control and put off the fires successfully. We feel that a full set of fire suppression equipment must be made available for the project for future usage. VSAT telecommunication was acquired this year for the TBSFM project. We hope that this communication service would further improve the overall performance of the project.

Financial and Physical Achievement in 2010

The maintenance cost of the physical infrastructures such as the office building and staff quarters was quite high as both of the buildings are old and heavily infested by termites. The vehicles, generators and other machineries have been maintained and serviced regularly in order to optimize the usage. Efficiency of the operations depend on how the equipment and machineries are kept in good working condition. It is necessary that the maintenance of all these equipment on site are properly scheduled and recorded and those responsible to carry out the maintenance and their safety are specified.

A total of RM 1,669,789.32 was spent in 2010, of which RM 676,081.00 or 40% of the expenditure went to the silviculture operation and RM 457,785.50 or 27% goes to building infrastructure. A total of RM 366,621.28 or 22% was spent on general purchases and maintenance and another RM 65,770.00 or 4% for forest protection. Only RM 1,721.71 or 1 % was spent on allowances and salary (Refer Chart 27.2). Since the inception of the project in 2007 to 31st December 2010 (under Phase I), a total of RM 3,599,973.13 or 72% of the total budget of RM 5 million have been spent, leaving a balance of RM 1,400,026.87 or 28% (Refer Chart 27.1). We anticipate that the remaining balance RM 1,400,026.87 will not be enough to sustain operations until the end of 2011, and therefore this project needs a new injection of funds in order to continue with its restoration plan under Phase II (2012-2016).

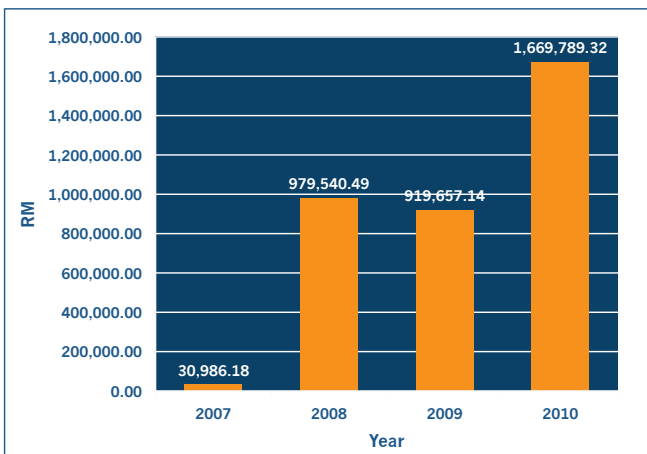


Chart 27.1: Overall Expenditures From 2007 To December 2010.

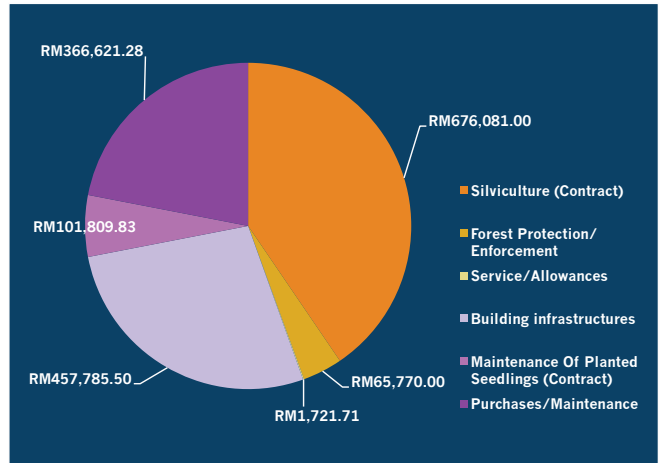


Chart 27.2: Expenditure Summary For 2010.

On the field operations, the activities were mainly focused on silviculture treatment, maintenance of planted seedlings at compartment 52, at TFR Part B and building infrastructures such as Timimbang Rainforest Lodge and Checking Station at compartment 52. To date a total of RM 676,081.00 or 40% were spent on silviculture treatments in compartment 11B, 12, 13, 14A, 14B, 15 & 16 with a total area of 1433 hectares or 143 % achieved for the year 2010. From 2008 to 31st December 2010, the total area being silviculturally treated was 4165 hectares with a total expenditure of RM 1,448,891.00. (Refer Chart: 27.2, Table 27.1 & Fig. 27.1).



(Top and above) The condition of the forest at TFR part A after silviculture treatment.

Table 27.1: Summary of Silviculture Treatment Area (Ha) by Fresh Mumus Enterprise in 2008, 2009 & 2010

Year	Compartment No	Area Treated (Ha)	Contract Fee (RM)
2008	5,6,7 & 8	1000	344,393.00
2009	3,4,5(B),9(A)	1000	348,831.00
	9(B),2(A) & 2(B) (Additional)	732	254,835.00
2010	11B, 12, 13 & 14A	1000	349,282.00
	15 & 16 (Additional)	433	151,550.00
Total		4,165	1,448,891.00

The second year of maintenance of planted seedlings, which involves clearing, weeding and fertilizing at compartment 52 of TFR (Part B), was carried out on a contractual basis. Three rounds of maintenance and fertilizer applications were carried out with a total cost of RM 59,593.23 this year.



A three and half year old binuang plot.

Forest Protection and Enforcement

In the TBSFM project, our other main emphasis is to safe guard both the forest reserves (TFR & BFR) from encroachments and any other illegal activities. Throughout the year, we have carried out scheduled patrolling, complemented by aerial surveillance. From past experience, aerial surveillance is found to be the most effective means of monitoring and detecting any illegal activities within the two project areas. However, as such operations are very costly, only 2 aerial surveys were carried out.

We have managed to control the problems of illegal agriculture cultivation, poaching and trapping inside Timimbang and Botitian FR by intensifying night and day patrols particularly in the sensitive parts of the forest reserves. Sufficient FD plates and signboards were also put in place along the forest reserve boundaries in order to deter



(Top and above) Fixing of FD plates at TFR boundaries as part of forest protection activities in 2010.



A view of compartment 52 TFR Part B.

trespassers, poachers, illegal loggers or illegal cultivators from entering the forest reserves.

There is only one (1) case still unsolved, which involved Syarikat Fortuna Leong which was suspected of committing illegal cultivation at Timimbang FR (over an area of 150 ha). Two (2) road occupation permits (OP) were issued inside Timimbang while another one (1) was issued in Botitian Forest Reserve this year. The issuance of OP inside TBSFM project is kept to the minimal to address concerns of outsiders engaging in any illegal activities inside the project area as well as to avoid loss of forest cover.



Chopping down of illegal oil palms inside Botitian FR by using chainsaws.

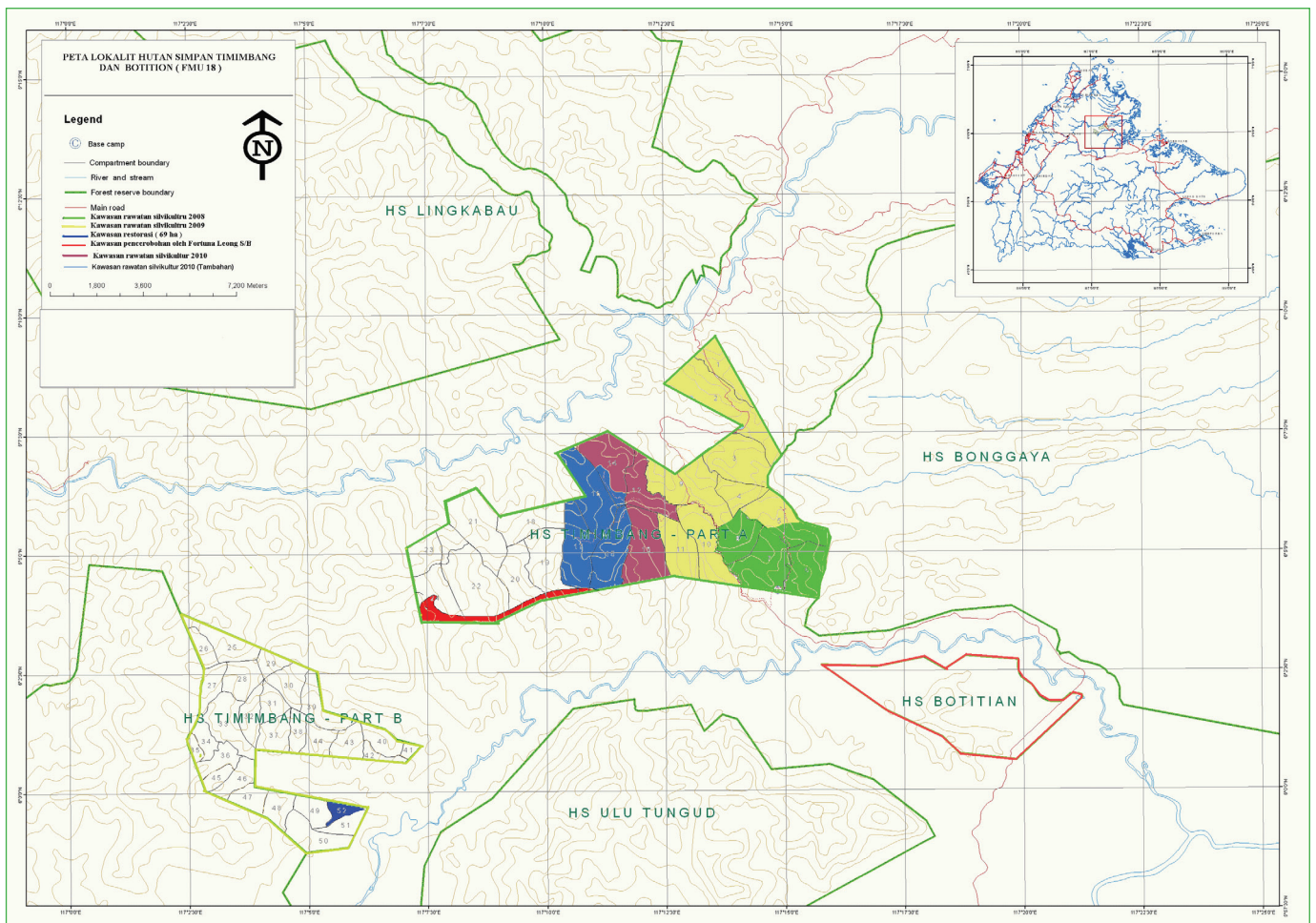


Fig. 27.1: Map showing Timimbang and Botitian Forest Reserves. Based on the legend given; the green colour stands for areas that have been silviculture treated in 2008, pale yellow are areas treated in 2009 and maroon colour are areas treated in 2010. The blue colour indicates areas to be treated in 2011. Note that the red colour along southwest of TFR, indicates the area encroached by Syt. Fortuna Leong.



Ubalus Maiwai

The large and showy flowers of *Hibiscus tiliaceus* from the Malvaceae family are pale yellow, becoming dull pink before they fall, a species common along sandy seashores, tidal creeks and often associated with mangroves.