

Timimbang-Botitian Sustainable Forest Management Project

The year 2011 proved to be an exciting and productive year for Timimbang/Botitian SFM Project (TBSFM). This year's report aims at providing an overview of the progress of the project. It also outlines the initiatives and activities that are being implemented from 2007 to 2011 (First Phase).

This year, we exceeded the annual target on silviculture operation of 1000 ha and successfully completed 2230 hectares. The maintenance of planted seedlings at Compartment 52 was also carried out successfully and completed on schedule. Continuous heavy rainfall during the early part of this year had caused a massive land slide affecting the staff quarters and access road to the office. A retaining wall was constructed without delay. Four hectares of illegal oil palm cultivation inside Botitian Forest Reserve were also destroyed. The oil palms had been removed from the forest and subsequently restored with fast growing tree species.

Forest protection and enforcement is another important task that needs to be implemented throughout the project tenure, in order to check illegal poachers and illegal encroachment in all sensitive areas inside and along the boundaries of Timimbang and Botitian FR. Aerial surveillance had been carried out twice this year and this exercise was considered to be the most effective means of detecting any illegal activities inside these two project areas. We are pleased to report that there was no incidence of illegal encroachment or illegal hunting detected throughout the year.

In an effort to introduce the zero net loss concept, the Timimbang-Botitian SFM Implementation Committee decided to impose conservation fees of RM 10,000 per hectare on all road Occupational Permits (OPs) inside the Timimbang-Botitian Forest Reserves, issued to the surrounding oil palm estates. This is a one off payment, and the OP holders are

allowed to pay in instalments. The fees collected are put under the "Tangkalap Pinangah Trust Account". This fund is used to pay the wages of contract staff appointed to carry out restoration work in the project area.

A total of 6 road Occupational Permits covering an area of 37.9 ha have been issued inside the Timimbang-Botitian FR. So far a total of RM 80,250.00 had been collected. Three (3) Project Implementation Committee (PIC) site meetings were conducted this year, with the objectives of monitoring and evaluating the overall progress of the project. On the 23 June 2011, the Director of Forestry, Datuk Sam Mannan also made a visit to the Botitian Field Station and had expressed his satisfaction on the overall progress of this project.

The overall project performance from 2007 to 2011 was indeed very satisfactory. Most of the planned work programs have been completed on time with remarkable achievements. For the year 2011, the project achieved a 100 percent compliance report. Congratulations to the TBSFM Implementation Committee and the Timimbang-Botitian team. This momentum needs to be maintained in the next Phase, (2012-2016). Therefore, further funding is crucial to keep the project activities going in order to ensure that the planned FSC certification can be achieved by 2014.

Manpower and Logistics

As of December 2011, the TBSFM project has 16 staff stationed at Timimbang and Botitian FR, which includes 1 field manager, 4 foresters, 2 drivers and 8 general workers. (refer to the Organization Chart 26.1). TBSFM project has 4 units of 4x4 pick-ups to support all the operational activities in the field. Job training on fire prevention and management was postponed this year as some of the equipment for firefighting were not available.

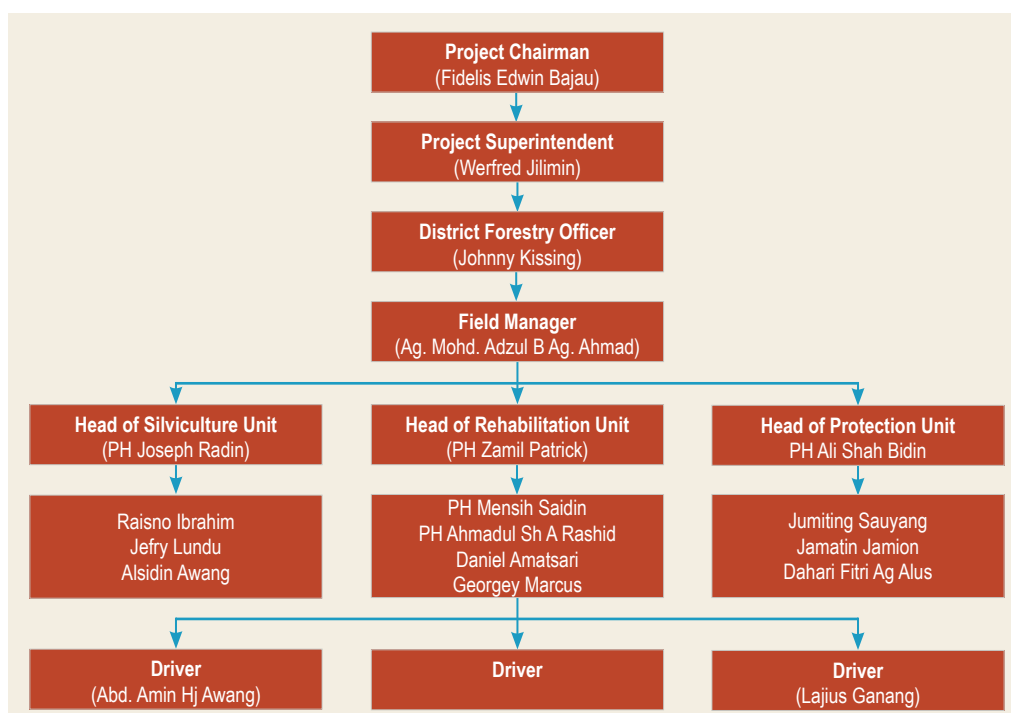


Chart 26.1: Organizational Chart of the TBSFM Project (2011).



Field manager briefing the field staff on the daily task.

Financial and Development Progress in TBSFM

Since its inception in 2007 till 2011, the TBSFM project had spent a total expenditure of RM 4,774,899.51 or 95% of the total budget of RM 5.0 million allocated to this project, (refer to Chart 26.2). This leaves a balance of RM0.225 million or 5% of the total budget. The total expenditure for the year was RM 1,223,423.58, of which RM 1,022,350.00 or 83% was spent on silviculture operation and another RM 201,073.58 or 17% was spent on services, procurement and maintenance, (refer Chart 26.3). The whole field activities as prescribed in the AWP were implemented efficiently, achieving 100 % compliance.

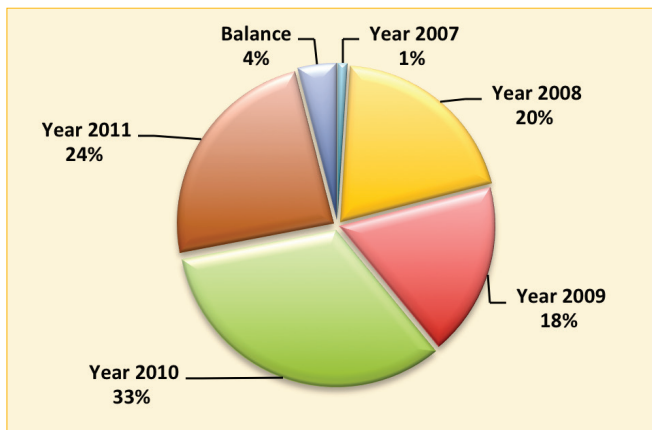


Chart 26.2: Overall Expenditure (2007 - 2011).

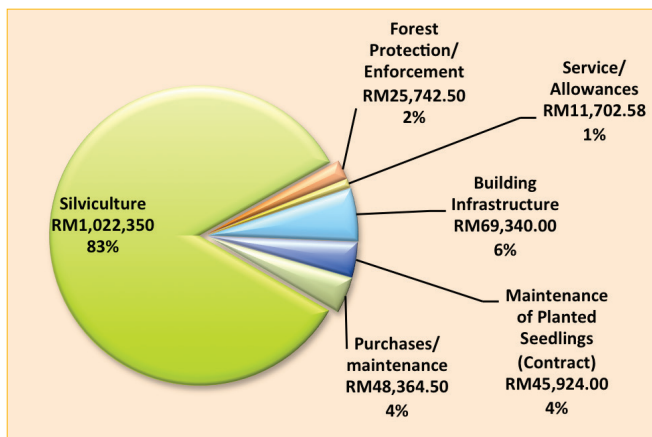


Chart 26.3: Expenditure Summary for 2011.

A total of RM 69,340.00 were spent on building infrastructure, while another RM 48,364.00 were spent on purchases and maintenance. RM 25,742.00 were spent on protection and enforcement activities which involved patrolling, manning gates and fixing of FD plates along the forest reserve boundaries.

Maintenance of planted seedlings was carried out at Compartment 52 with a total cost of RM 45, 924.00. When selecting species to be planted and seedlings to be planted, whether exotic or indigenous, one must have specific knowledge on the limiting ecological factors, such as soil, climate and condition of the area. Planting techniques from the nursery preparation of seedlings to field planting and maintenance during the first 3 years have been the subject of many trials and experiments. Suitable work programmes, including the schedule and conduct of maintenance operations, have to be established and carried out promptly.



The Timimbang Rainforest Lodge.



Reinforcing of road using gabiion embankment.

Silviculture Treatment in Timimbang Forest Reserve Part A

Silvicultural treatment is often needed in logged over forests to enhance the growth rates of potential crop trees, thereby ensuring a higher harvestable timber volume in the next cutting cycle. This will ensure a sustainable production of forest produce, while at the same time maintaining biodiversity.

The first phase (2008-2011) of the silvicultural operation was completed in 2011, with a total area of 6395 hectares treated, at a total cost of RM 2,657,690.00 (Table 26.1). This year alone, a total of 2230 hectares were treated with a total

cost of RM 1,022,350.00 or 83% from total expenditure for 2011. Once again, the contractor involved, Fresh Mumus had performed excellently this year, having done an extra 1230 ha.

Table 26.1: Summary of Silviculture Treatment Area (ha) by Fresh Mumus in 2008, 2009, 2010 & 2011.

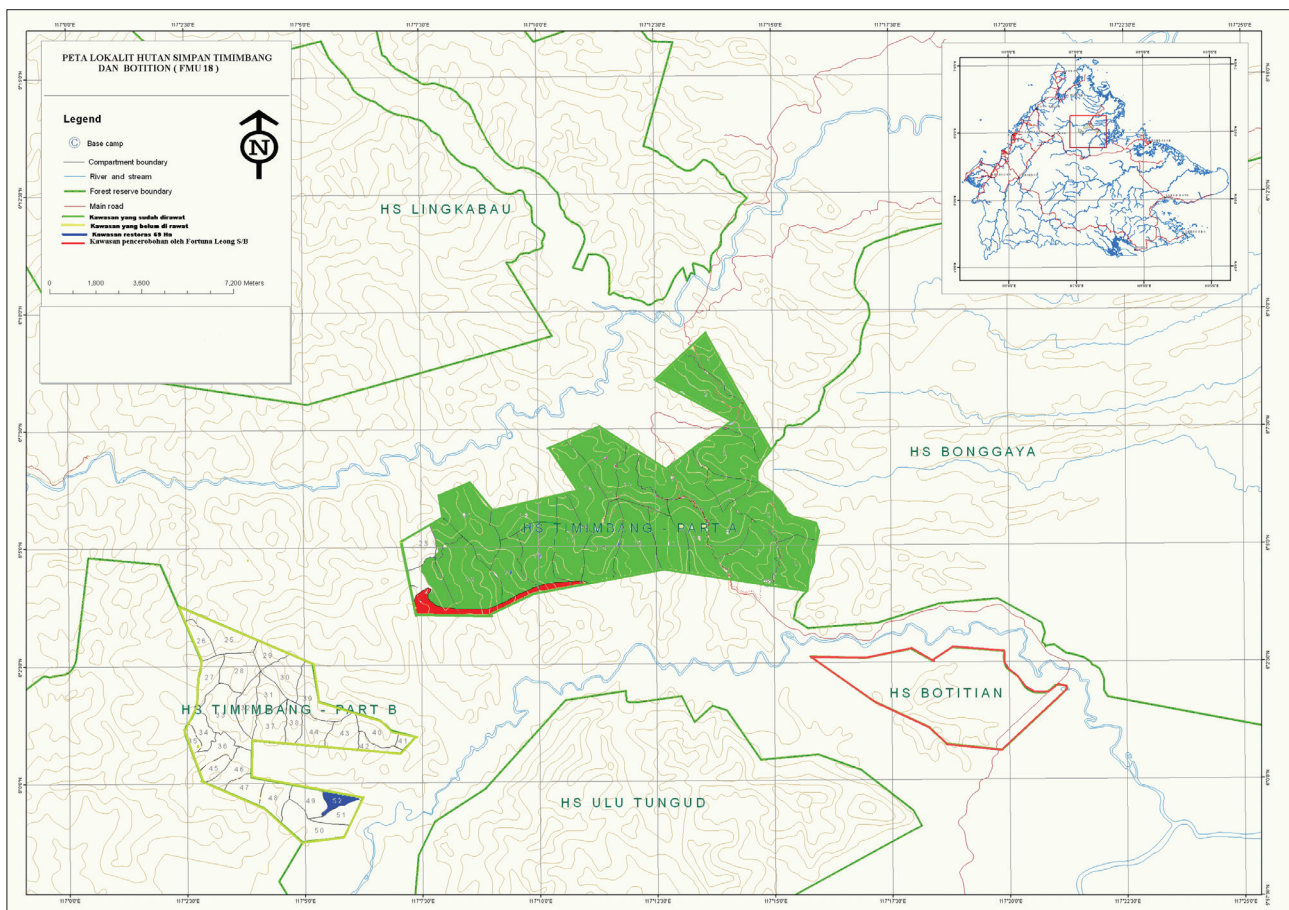
Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	Total
Target	1000	1000	1000	1000	4000
Additional area		732	433	1230	2395
Achieved (ha)	1000	1732	1433	2230	6395

Forest Protection and Enforcement

Illegal hunting and illegal settlement continue to be a major threat to both the forest reserves and their forest biodiversity. As such, continuous monitoring and enforcement works are needed. In TBSFM, the enforcement and protection strategy focuses on teamwork comprising rangers and field staff, which would carry out the field patrolling and monitoring. The monitoring and enforcement program comprises two units – wildlife monitoring which involves illegal poachers and illegal forest reserve encroachment. These programs are evaluated every year to determine their effectiveness in curbing the above illegal activities.



(L-R) Silviculture treatment being carried out in Timimbang.



Map showing Timimbang-Botitian SFM Project. The green colour indicates areas that have been silviculture treated from 2008 to 2011. The blue colour indicates areas that have been rehabilitated at Compartment 52 (TFR Part B).



(left) Putting up fence at Compartment 10 and (right) fixing FD plates as a means to deter people from entering the forest.

Open burning activities by farmers have caused the spread of forest fires. The impact of fires on the forest resources in Sabah has been devastating. Although forest fire is a seasonal problem, it is recognized as one of the most important issues in forest management. Drought by itself does not cause fire; it only enhances fire to start. For this reason, the TBSFM project has made repeated appeals to the public and local communities, particularly land owners, living adjacent to the forest reserve not to carry out open burning. Such programs were quite successful in raising public awareness on the need to avoid slash and burn land development. There was no incidence of forest fires throughout the year.



Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough.

Oprah Winfrey