TIMIMBANG-BOTITIAN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECT

This report contains a summary of TBSFM's project performance, both in terms of the implementation of the activities as prescribed in the AWP and the financial expenditures throughout the year 2013. A key highlight of this report includes:

- A summary of forest management planning activities (AWP) during the period (2013);
- A description of the financial expenditures of the project during the fiscal year;
- A description of the areas disturbed by encroachments and forest fires;
- A summary of forest restoration program's and maintenance activities;
- A description of compliance monitoring and forest protection activities that were conducted during the year;
- A summary of the status of forest certification of TBSFM; and
- A summary of the activities on the stakeholders and communities consultation.

The Forest Management Plan (FMP) was finally completed at the end of year 2013. This plan will act as a general guideline for the forest resource management for the next 10 year period. One of our challenges throughout the year had been trying to keep in line with the AWP 2013, prudent forest management and forest protection, while maintaining the budget ceiling allocated. We have implemented our tasks based on planned activities and have taken great strides to efficiently develop our everyday functions to meet our project objectives, despite some minor constraints.

Based on the Compliance Report 2013, once again TBSFM was awarded a 100 % mark on its performance. This is the fourth consecutive year that this project achieved 100% compliance. We wish to extend our deepest appreciation to all our partners (stakeholders and communities) who provided support and meaningful collaboration work on many of our programs and activities in the project area. We had developed and maintained excellent relationships through the consultations and organized workshops/trainings. The close collaboration work with the communities and stakeholders proved to be a win-win situation for both the project and the stakeholders/communities.

We have the privilege to have been visited by the SUHB team, led by Tuan Hj. Ahmad Musli on 27th November 2013.

(Left) Participants from the communities and stakeholders attending consultation workshop while on the (right) Mr. Fidelis Edwin Bajau (Deputy Director-Development) presenting a certificate to one of the participants.

(Left) Group picture with officers from SUHB and FD at Botitian and (right) SUHB officer inspecting the newly completed staff quarters at Timimbang.

The main purpose of their visit was to monitor the overall progress of TBSFM and specifically to see the completion of the new staff quarters. Indeed, the visit was timely as it came towards the end of the fiscal year 2013. Continuous support from SUHB would ensure TBSFM project progresses well in 2014. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to all the officers from SUHB for making their effort to visit the project.

We would also like to accord our utmost appreciation and thanks to the Director of Forestry, Datuk Sam Mannan for his continuous support and advice in managing the project; Mr. Fidelis Edwin Bajau, (Deputy Director (Development cum project chairman), for his guidance and leadership throughout the year. To all our dedicated officers and field staff, community leaders and stakeholders for their close cooperation and support in making 2013, another milestone success for TBSFM project.

Manpower, Training and Logistics

As of December 2013, the TBSFM project had 17 staff stationed at Timimbang and Botitian FR, which includes 1 Field Manager, 8 foresters, 2 drivers and 6 general workers. Their main tasks are to assist in the monitoring activities such as silviculture operations, rehabilitation and maintenance of planted areas. They are also responsible for forest protection which includes boundary surveillance against poachers and illegal cultivation inside the forest reserves. As far as logistics is concerned, TBSFM has 3 Toyota Vigo and 1 old Toyota Hilux of which 2 units (a unit Toyota Vigo and a unit Toyota Hilux) are in a very poor running condition and the cost of maintenance and repair is extremely high. It is hoped that TBSFM would be allocated at least one (1) new replacement vehicle to ensure a smooth running of the project in 2014.

Silviculture Operations

Based on the AWP 2013, the TBSFM project had set a target of 1000 hectares for silviculture treatment. However, the appointed contractor, (Fresh Mumus Enterprise) managed to complete their task well ahead of the time frame given. Therefore, an additional 887 hectares were allocated, making a sum total of 1,887 hectares or 188% achievement for 2013. The overall total area treated from 2008 to 2013 by Fresh Mumus is 10,062 hectares, as shown in Table 26.1 and Chart 26.1.

Table 26.1 Summary of silviculture treatment area (ha) by Fresh Mumus from 2008-2013.

Year	Target (ha)	Additional area (ha)	Achieved (ha)
2008	1,000		1,000
2009	1,000	732	1,732
2010	1,000	433	1,433
2011	1,000	1,230	2,230
2012	1,000	780	1,780
2013	1,000	887	1,887
Total	**6,000**	**4,062**	**10,062**

The total cost incurred for silviculture treatment for the year 2013 was RM 680,400.00, which represents 43% of the year's total expenditure, of RM 1,590,263.20. The main purpose of silviculture treatment is to liberate the available growing stock (potential crop tree –PCT) from any direct competitors such as climbers, climbing bamboos (wadan) and other pioneer vegetation. Field observation of the treated areas shows that the condition of the forests improved tremendously following silviculture treatment.

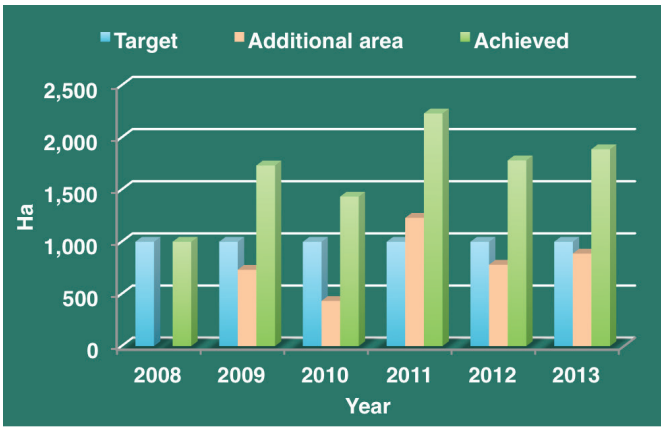

Chart 26.1 The progress of silviculture treatment from 2008 to 2013.

Silviculture treatment being carried out in Timimbang FR.

Restoration and Maintenance of Planted Areas

In 2013, maintenance of planted areas at Compartment 52 with a total area of 69 hectares was carried out in 2 rounds. The total cost of maintenance was RM12, 000.00 or 1% of the total budget of the year, (Refer Table 26.3 and Chart 26.3). A total of RM 169,685.00 was spent on the demolition of illegal oil palm and site preparation in Timimbang FR Part A, with a total area of 150 hectares. These illegally planted areas by Syarikat Fortuna Leong were scattered in small blocks in compartments 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 22 and 24. The demolition of those illegal oil palms were done on contract

(Left) Area of TFR which was encroached by Fortuna Leong and on (right) shows the demolition operation to make way for restoration.

basis. The cleared areas will be restored in stages based on the availability of funds and according to the prescribed Annual Work Plan, 2014.

Upgrading Of Road And Building Infrastructures

In order to uplift and improve the living environment for our project staff in Timimbang Base Camp, the management decided to construct 6 units of terrace houses with the total cost of RM 896,900.00 which was completed on 20th August 2013. The construction work was done by Syarikat Ilhamsama Sdn. Bhd. Maintenance and upgrading of access road was carried out during the first quarter of 2013 in compartment 52 TFR Part B with a total distance of 3.7 km. The work was completed on 19th August 2013, with a total cost of RM 247,000.00. The contract work was carried out by Power Station Contractor. Proper planning and better road network within the working compartment is crucial to implement and monitor field activities. (Refer Table 26.3 and Chart 26.3).

(Left) The staff quarters almost completed at Timimbang Base Camp and (right) upgrading the road.

(Left and right) Road upgrading (gravelling, bridge and culverts installations) in Compartment 52 TFR Part B.

Progress on Forest Certification- 2014

In line with the Principle and Criteria Indicator of FSC, the needs of training and workshops for all the field staff and its officers are necessary. During the year 2013, we have managed to organize the following workshops/training:

1. Stakeholders and communities consultation workshop from 20th -22nd May 2013 at IPS Telupid;
2. Briefing stakeholders and communities at Base camp Timimbang on 20th September 2013;
3. Training in handling fire equipment at the Beluran Forestry District on 8th November 2013;
4. EE Race State level conducted from 28th to 30th October 2013;
5. Workshop on *Monitoring of Wildlife* at the Forestry Headquarters Sandakan from 14th-15th November 2013; and
6. Field Manager (Mr.Ag Mohd Adzrul) had attended the Safety Training Course conducted by St. John Ambulance on 4th to 5th February 2013.

These programs were being organized in order to close some of the gaps identified earlier by the Auditing Team during the Pre-Assessment Audit. As of December 2013, out of 38 gaps that were identified, 28 gaps have already closed and another 10 gaps are being addressed.

TBSFM project already has a complete set of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) documents which have been duly approved by the Director of Forestry. They include the following:-

a. SOP 1- Social Evaluation
b. SOP 2- Monitoring
c. SOP 3- Resource Protection
d. SOP 4- Chemical and Fuel
e. SOP 5- Safety and Health
f. SOP 6- Campsites and Health
g. SOP 7- Communication and Dispute
h. SOP 8- Timber Stand Improvement
i. SOP 9- Forest restoration

(Left) Group photo taken with Deputy Director during the closing workshop among the communities and stakeholders, while (right) the EE Race's participants taking part in the field activities.

(Left) Field Manager, En. Awang Adrul with the participants and (right) visitors from PIBG and Tadika.

Financial and Physical Progress of TBSFM Project

Based on Table 26.2, a total of RM 9,059,850.00 were allocated to SFM Timimbang-Botitian from 2007 to 2013 and the budget is mainly derived from the Community Forestry Project Trust Fund. As of December 2013, a total of RM 7,529,145.69 or 83% of the total budget were spent from 2007 to 2013. The remaining balance of RM 1,530,704.31 or 17% will be carried forward to 2014 (Refer Table 26.2 and Chart 26.2)

Table 26.2: Overall Budget/Expenditures Summary from 2007- 2013.

No.	Description	Expenditures	Budget
1.	Initial budget 2007		5,000,000.00
2.	Additional budget 2012		2,250,000.00
3.	Additional budget 2013		1,809,850.00
Total Budget			**9,059,850.00**
a.	Expenditures for 2007-2009	1,874,611.81	
b.	Expenditures for 2010	1,669,789.32	
c.	Expenditures for 2011	1,223,423.58	
d.	Expenditures for 2012	1,171,057.78	
e.	Expenditures from 2013	1,590,263.20	
Total Expenditures (a+b+c+d+e)			**7,529,145.69**
Balance C/F to 2014			**1,530,704.31**

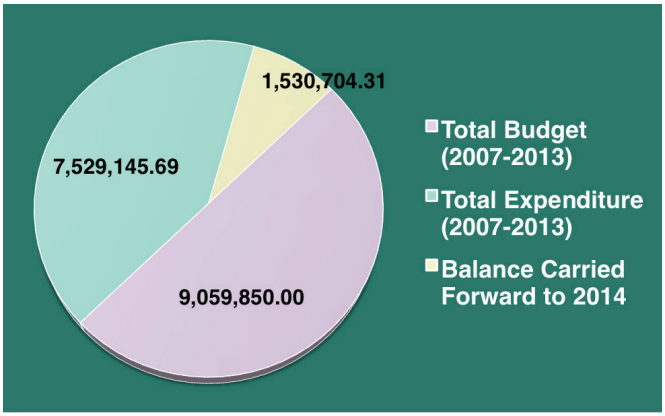

Chart 26.2 The overall budget and expenditures from 2007-2013.

This year (2013) alone, TBSFM had spent a total of RM 1,590,263.20 as shown on Table 26.3 and Chart 26.3, of which RM 680,400.00 or 43% were spent on silviculture operations and another RM 607,127.44 or 38% were spent on building and road infrastructure. A total of RM 186,171.50 or 12% was spent on Forest Protection and Enforcement and another RM 65,183.90 or 4% were spent on purchases and maintenance. A sum of RM51,380.36 or 3% was spent on services/ allowances and maintenance of planted areas. Overall the progress and achievement of the project for the year 2013 was indeed excellent and this has proven another year of 100% compliance and the credit goes to all our dedicated project staff and all the contractors involved.

Table 26.3 Expenditures summary for 2013.

No.	Activity	Amount spent (RM)	Percentage spent (%)
1	Silviculture	680,400.00	43
2	Forest Protection/Enforcement	186,171.50	12
3	Building Infrastructure	607,127.44	38
4	Purchases and Maintenance	65,183.90	4
5	Services and Allowances	39,380.36	2
6	Maintenance of Planted areas	12,000.00	1
Total		**1,590,263.20**	**100**

Protection, Enforcement and Monitoring

Continuous forest protection and enforcement activities are our main priorities in TBSFM. Therefore, public participation and awareness program among the communities and stakeholders have been carried out to prevent poaching, forest encroachments and other illegal activities, such as open burning, which could endanger the forest reserves. In TBSFM, the enforcement and protection strategy focuses on teamwork comprising field staff and communities nearby, which would carry out the field patrolling and monitoring. Aerial surveillance followed by ground patrolling were conducted twice a year in all sensitive areas. It was noted that throughout the year, there were no forest offences detected.

Although forest fire is a seasonal problem, it is recognized as one of the most important issues in forest management. For this reason, TBSFM project has made repeated appeals to the public and local communities, particularly land owners staying adjacent to the forest reserve not to carry out open burning. Fire equipment for the project has been supplied through the SFM Division with a total cost of RM 64,690.00. There was no incidence of forest fire throughout 2013.

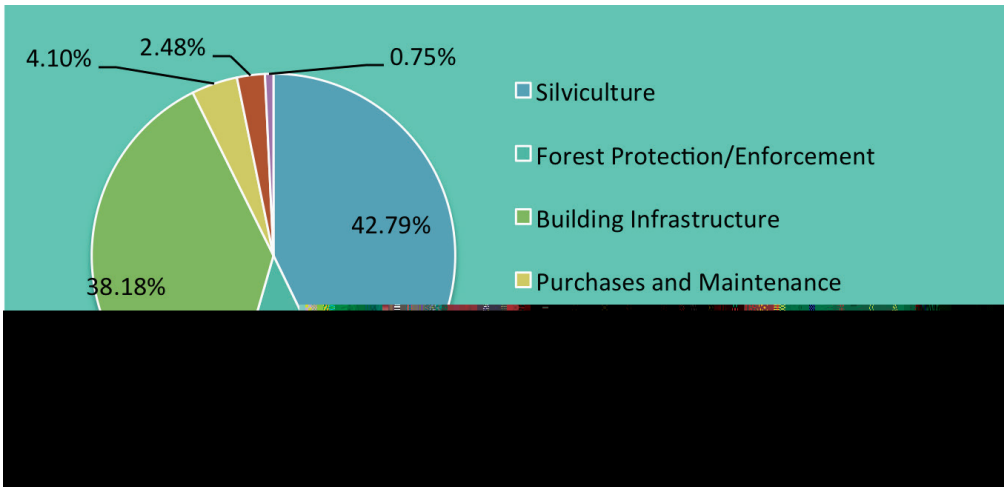

Chart 26.3 The overall expenditures for 2013.