

Timimbang-Botitian Sustainable Forest Management Project

The year 2014 was very significant to Timimbang-Botitian Sustainable Forest Management (SFM-TB) in many aspects. The project was assessed for the preliminary FSC audit on 07th July 2014 to 09th July 2014, which was headed by Dr. Yap. Subsequently, the final or main audit was carried out on 27th October 2014 to 31st October 2014. During the closing meeting, which was chaired by Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of Forestry, it was reported by the head auditor that TB-SFM project had 4 minors and 2 observations. Our project team was confident that this project would be officially certified by early 2015 and all issues closed.

In contrast with the previous annual report (FY 2013), we have intensified the monitoring and evaluation of activities, which are designed to keep track of the project's performance throughout the year. This was done so in order to meet the requirements of the upcoming FSC main audit. Besides that, the TB-SFM project has to meet the target set in the Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2014. Based on the Compliance Report 2014, the TB-SFM project was again awarded 100% for achieving or have complied with all the targets set during that year and making it the fifth consecutive year of success.

The silviculture operation, restoration and maintenance of planted areas had been carried out successfully despite the erratic weather condition. We have targeted 1000 hectares for silviculture treatment to be completed in 2014 and managed to complete it with an additional of 838.5 hectares, which made a total of 1838.5 hectares for this year. As far as silviculture treatment is concerned, we have completed altogether 11,862 hectares. Other activities such as forest protection, enforcement and monitoring have also been intensified progressively. We have conducted two aerial surveys to check all boundaries for encroachments by neighbouring plantations. Overall, the financial and physical progress throughout the year was very encouraging. The TB-SFM project has spent RM 1,615,533.91 or 58.8% of the total budget of RM 2,745,704.30 in 2014, leaving a balance of RM 1,130,170.40, which was carried forward for 2015.

Significant progress had been made through close collaboration and team work with the communities and stakeholders in implementing various tasks. Our project team

which was headed by Deputy Director (Development), Mr. Fidelis Edwin Bajau has been working closely and diligently to make sure all activities were carried out in accordance with the AWP. On behalf of the project team, we convey our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Director of Forestry, Datuk Sam Mannan and Deputy Director (Development) for their guidance, support and encouragement rendered since the project inception in 2007. We wish to accord a special thanks to all the communities and stakeholders for their close cooperation with the project team and also to all the FRC officers who have been working closely with the TB-SFM project.



(Top) Opening meeting chaired by Deputy Director, Mr. Fidelis Bajau during main FSC audit at Timimbang.



(L-R) Dr. Yap interviewing the community during the pre-assessment audit.



Manpower, Training and Logistics

The overall staff strength in 2014 remains at 17 staff stationed in the project area, which includes one (1) field manager, eight (8) foresters, two (2) drivers and six (6) general workers. The day to day supervision works were carried out by the field manager and assisted by the project staff. The overall implementation and management of the project is under the purview of the District Forestry Officer Beluran and Head of Enforcement, Investigation and Prosecution Officer (Superintendent Officer of TB-SFM project). Except for forest protection, monitoring and boundary surveillance against poachers and illegal cultivation inside forest reserves, all other field activities involved such as silviculture, rehabilitation and maintenance of planted areas, were carried out through contract workers.

The TB-SFM project has 4 Toyota twin-cabs of which 2 units are quite old and often break down. The project hopes that the Management Authority would replace them as soon as possible in order to ensure smooth running of the project. During the year 2014, the project had conducted two (2) meetings and two (2) in-house training among the field staff, communities and stakeholders. Both training were conducted simultaneously as part of the forest certification requirements identified during the pre-assessment audit. The preliminary FSC Audit was conducted on 07th July 2014 to 09th July 2014, which was headed by Dr. Yap and accompanied by a WWF staff as an observer. The final or main FSC audit was carried out on 27th to 31st October 2014, headed Dr. Yap Son Kheong (SCS) and Dr. Zahid Emby (SCS) and Ms. Elryce Allim (WWF-Malaysia).

Silviculture Operation

The total area left untreated for silviculture in TB-SFM was 1800 hectares, in which 1000 hectares were prescribed in the AWP 2014 to be treated. The contractor (Fresh Mumus Enterprise) has successfully completed 1000 ha ahead of the time given. Therefore an additional of 838.5 hectares were given, making a sum total of 1,838.5 hectares completed in 2014. The overall total area treated from 2008 to 2014 is 11,900.5 hectares, as shown on Table 25.1, Chart 25.1 and Map 25.1. The total cost incurred for silviculture treatment for the year 2014 was RM 643,475.00, which represents 40% of the year's total expenditure, of RM 1,615,533.91. This year (2014) marked the completion of all silviculture operation in Timimbang and Botitian. Based on the field and aerial observations, there was tremendous improvement on the forest cover and tree stands after silviculture treatment.

Table 25.1: Summary of Silviculture treatment areas (ha) by Fresh Mumus Enterprise from 2008-2014.

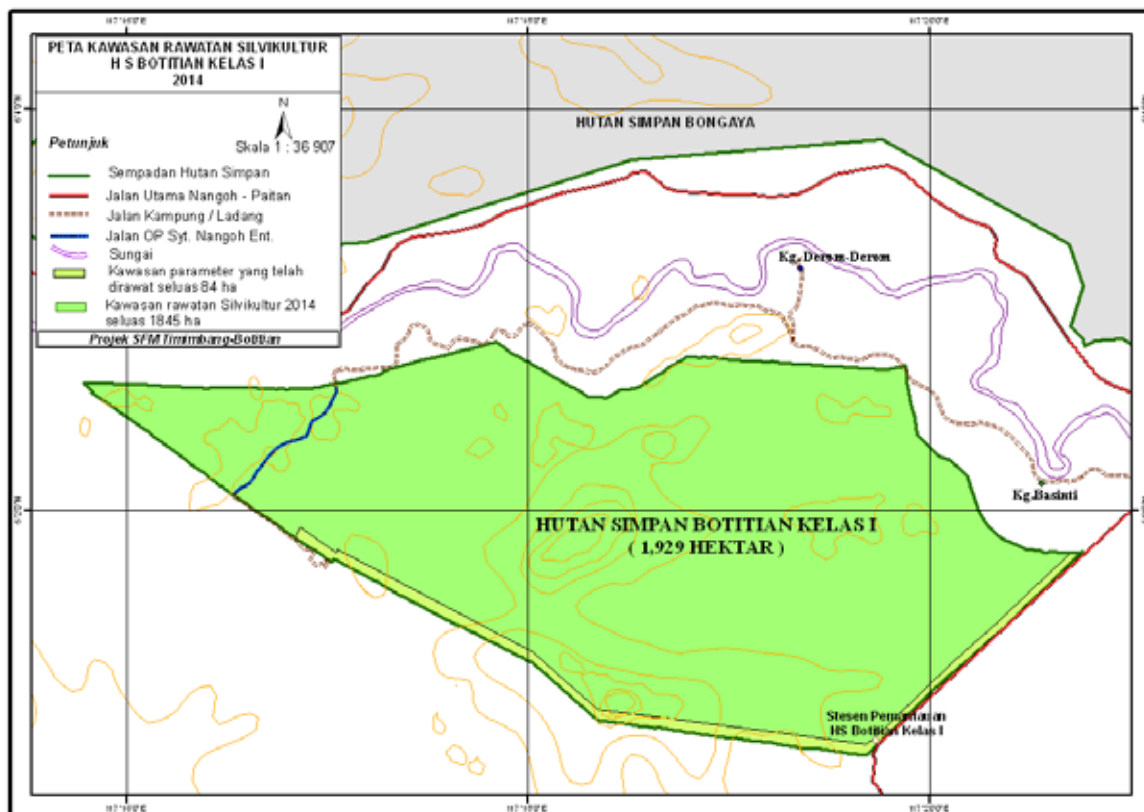
No	Year	Target (ha)	Additional area (ha)	Achieved (ha)
1.	2008	1,000		1,000
2.	2009	1,000	732	1,732
3.	2010	1,000	433	1,433
4.	2011	1,000	1,230	2,230
5.	2012	1,000	780	1,780
6.	2013	1,000	887	1,887
7.	2014	1,000	838.5	1,838.5
Total		7,000	4,900.5	11,900.5



(L-R) SFM and Fire Drill course conducted at IPS Telupid, which was participated by project staff, stakeholders and communities.



(L-R) Course facilitators and participants attended the Fire drill and SFM course.



Map 25.1: Showing the area (green color) being treated with silviculture in Botitian FR.

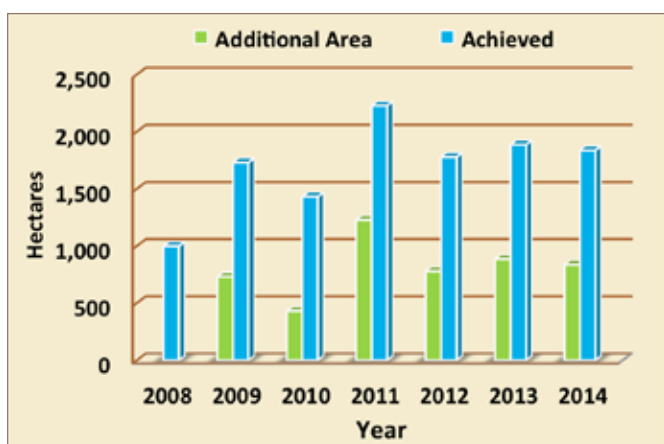


Chart 25.1: The progress of silviculture treatment (Ha) from 2008-2014 (The targeted area for silviculture treatment for each year is 1,000 hectares).

Rehabilitation and Maintenance of Planted Areas

The rehabilitation work executed at Compartments 7, 11, 13 and 15, totalling 60 hectares, had been carried out starting February 2014 and completed by October 2014. All activities involving clearing, site preparation and planting was done on contract basis and the contractor involved was Power Station Contractor with the sum amount of RM 247,200.00 or 15% of the total budget of 2014 (Refer Table 25. 2 and Chart 25.2). During the contract period for rehabilitation, the weather pattern was very erratic and it was not conducive for planting tree seedlings. It was reported that there were about 20-30 % of mortality due to the weather. Nevertheless, the contractor concerned had taken the necessary action to replace all the dead seedlings. The maintenance of planted areas in compartment 52 with the total area of 69 hectares was carried out by Pemborong ABT and completed the contract work in February 2014. Due to the non-availability of the contractor to



Both pictures represent the condition of the forest after silviculture treatment.



(L-R) Site preparation in compartments 7, 11, 13 and 15 in progress.



(L-R) Maintenance of planted area in Compartment 52 was being carried out by our own field staff.

carry out the maintenance work, our field staff had to continue the maintenance work from March 2014 up to December 2014. The total cost of maintenance involved in 2014, was RM43,696.40 or 3 % of the total budget of the year.

Building Infrastructures in TB-SFM Project

The construction of 6 units of terrace houses at Timimbang Base Camp was completed on 20th August 2013 with the total cost of RM896,900.00. The field staff finally moved into the new terrace house in December 2013 to make way for the old quarters at the Timimbang Base Camp to be demolished in the following year. Presently our project is still occupying the old office (Formerly owned by JKR's contractor, Syarikat Binapuri) and is expected to be demolished due to heavy infestation of termites. The proposed new office will be built in 2015 with the total a cost of RM 600,000.00.

Financial and Physical Progress of TB-SFM Project

The TB-SFM project was allocated RM 10,274,850.00 from 2007 to 2014 and the budget is mainly derived from the Community Forestry Project Fund (see Table 25.2). As of December 2014, a total of RM9,144,679.60 or 89 % of the total budget were spent from 2007 to 2014. The remaining balance of RM1,130,170.40 or 11 % will be carried forward to 2015 (Refer Table 25.2).

This year (2014) alone, TB-SFM project had spent a total of RM1,615,533.91 as shown in Table 25.3 and Chart 25.2, of which RM643,475.00 or 40% were spent on silviculture operations and another RM408,754.50 or 25% went to the



The staff quarters to be demolished due to termites infestation.

building infrastructure. A total of RM18,380.00 or 1% was spent on forest protection, enforcement and monitoring and another RM170,728.00 or 11% were spent on purchases and maintenance. A sum of RM 83,299.41 or 5% was spent on services/allowances and maintenance of planted areas and RM247,200.00 or 15% went to rehabilitation work. Overall the progress and achievement of the TB-SFM project for the year 2014 was excellent and has achieved 100% compliance with the prescribed AWP for 2014.

Table 25.2: Overall Budget/Expenditures Summary from 2007-2014

No.	Description	Expenditures (RM)	Budget (RM)
1	Initial budget 2007		5,000,000.00
2	Additional budget 2012		2,250,000.00
3	Additional budget 2013		1,809,850.00
4	Additional budget 2014		1,215,000.00
Total Budget			10,274,850.00
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 for 2013	1,590,263.20	
f.	Expenditures for 2014	1,615,533.91	
Total Expenditures (a + b + c + d + e + f)			9,144,679.60
Balance C/F to 2015			1,130,170.40

Table 25.3: Expenditure summary for 2014.

No	Activity	Amount Spent (RM)	Percentage Spent (%)
1.	Silviculture	643,475.00	39.83
2.	Forest Protection/Enforcement	18,380.00	1.14
3.	Building Infrastructure	408,754.50	25.30
4.	Purchases and Maintenance	170,728.60	10.57
5.	Service and Allowances	83,299.41	5.16
6.	Maintenance of Planted area	43,696.40	2.70
7.	Rehabilitation	247,200.00	15.30
Total		1,615,533.91	100

Note: About 60% of the budget is spent on forest stand and biodiversity improvements

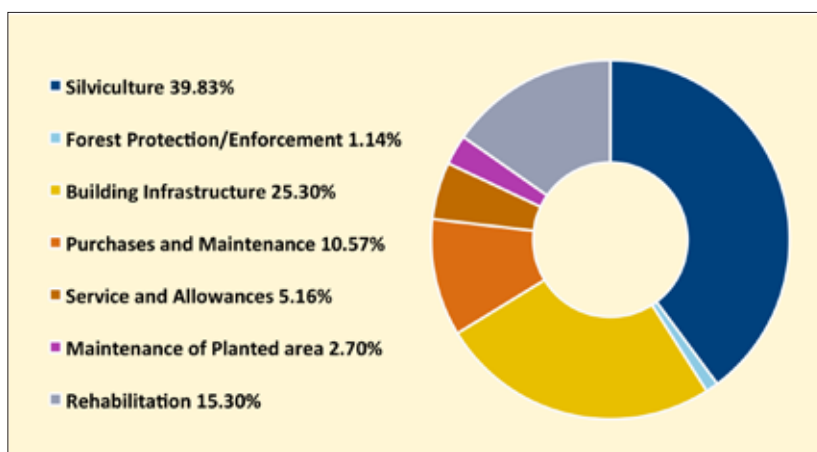


Chart 25.2: The overall expenditures summary incurred in 2014

Protection, Enforcement and Monitoring

Forest protection and enforcement is an important component in the TB-SFM project. Therefore continuous monitoring and enforcement activities are our main priorities. These include putting up relevant sign boards, FD plates, patrolling during the weekends and public holidays and aerial surveillance have been initiated. In TB-SFM, the enforcement and protection strategy focuses on teamwork comprising field staff, communities and stakeholders which involves routine inspection, patrolling (day and night) inside forest reserves and its boundaries. Aerial surveillance followed by ground checking had been conducted twice in 2014, along the forest reserves boundaries and other sensitive areas. There was no forest offence detected throughout the year.



Field staff putting up sign boards at strategic locations.





Stake holders and communities meeting in progress at Timimbang’s Meeting room.

Although the threat of forest fires in TB-SFM is not serious, nevertheless our project has always be on alert and prepared for any eventuality of fire outbreaks especially during the drought season. We have also made it a point to inform the public and local communities particularly land owners, staying adjacent to the two forest reserves, not to carry out open burning. There was no incidence of forest fires in 2014. The Sustainable Forest Management (HQ) had allocated a budget to construct fire equipment store house in TB-SFM project with a sum of RM 68,000.00 and the store was completed on 27th November 2014. Wildlife monitoring was part of the activity initiated in the TB-SFM project in 2014, to obtain the information on wildlife presence and their movement. Therefore, we have fixed 8 units of camera traps in compartments 1, 7, 13, 14 and 52 in Timimbang and Botitian Forest Reserves, with a the total cost of RM 18,000.00.



Pictures captured through camera trap in TB-SFM - (L) Argus Pheasant and (R) Bay cat.



(L) Picture of sambar deer captured by camera trap and (R) our staff fixing the camera trap at a strategic location.