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Eco-labeling in Teak Forests of PT. Perhutani, Indonesia

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Abstract

PT. Perhutani is a state-owned forestry enterprise responsible for managing state forests in Java and Madura excluding National Parks, Nature Reserves and forests in the Province of Jakarta and Yogyakarta. The total forest area managed by PT. Perhutani is 2,566,145 ha which consists of 1,936,760 ha of production forest mostly plantations and 629,385 ha of protection forests. The plantations consist for the largest part of teak trees. The teak plantations have been well managed in this form for over decades. However, the issue of forest management quality in PT. Perhutani has become a concern for consumers of timber and timber products and thereby an issue of market access, particularly for teak. Assurances are required that the raw material of teak is sourced from forests which are sustainably managed. Therefore, certification of sustainable forest management (eco-labeling) in teak forests has become a part of global market programme of PT. Perhutani. Forest certification projects applying the Generic Forest Standards of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has been carried out since 1998. International independent auditors are taking part in these forest certification projects which normally cover the following activities: 1. Pre-audit (standard adaptation and stakeholder consultation), 2. Main audit (interviews with management and the responsible delegate for certification of the enterprise, valuation of forest sites, evaluation of all relevant documentation and maps, interviews with employees and relevant stakeholders, report on the findings of the audit and certification recommendation). 3. Annual surveillance visits (evaluation of improvements regarding the general implementation of the FSC rules and regulations, evaluation of implementation of conditions as stated in the certification report, evaluation of correct logo use and traceability of certified forest products, report on the findings of the assessment, 4. Additional services (advice on correct logo use and all related questions regarding FSC certification). Considering this forest certification process as well as available resources, PT. Perhutani has planned to carry out certification projects in its twenty out of sixty forest district.

Keywords: Eco-labeling, forest certification, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), sustainable forest management, teak