

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN JAVA

by

Lies Bahunta¹ and Iskandar Siregar²

¹ PT. Perhutani (Persero) Gd. Manggala Wanabakti Blok VII/Lt.11
Jakarta 10270-Indonesia. Email:lbahunta@hotmail.com

² Faculty of Forestry Faculty, Bogor Agricultural University.
Kampus Darmaga-Bogor, Indonesia

Why Should Forest Be Certified?

It is widely accepted that forest resources and associated lands should be managed to meet the social, economic, ecological, cultural and spiritual needs of present and future generations. This condition has led a growing of public awareness: Who should manage the forests? Why and How to manage forests well?

In order to support the sustainable world forest management people use “*market*” as a key instrument. It has led the boycotts of wood market particularly for tropical timber product. Moreover, people initiated to use *Forest Certification* as a tool in the international wood market.

The important antecedents of Forest Certification were started since Brutland report (1987) recognizing that economic, environmental, and social issues were at the core of “*sustainable development*”. One of the important environmental aspects is forest, because forests cover one-third world land.

Despite of huge asset and many advantages, in fact since last decade the world has lost about 160 million hectares of forests, most of them are tropical forest.

There has been much attention and effort on national and international levels devoted over past decades to global problems of deforestation and forest degradation and to improving forest management and conservation. The number of protected areas has increased dramatically; new funds have been established to finance protection. Also many international and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have moved to develop markets for sustainably produced forest products.

Despite these efforts, forest degradation has steadily increased throughout much of the world. At the same time there is growing realization that insecure property rights are a key underlying problem and cause of degradation.

One year after United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro (1992), which provided the fundamental principles and the program action for achieving sustainable development, WWF and other NGOs initiated Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The main idea of FSC is to provide some information about “*how wood product was made*” and hope buyers will purchase the wood product was most *sustained* produced.

Furthermore, in 1994 FSC created 10 principles and criteria to guide national and regional working group that modify them to fit local conditions.

As the effort world’s community, 441 forest management certificates have been awarded by FSC until 2002 which representing a total of 29,295,435 hectares of forests. Since Indonesia does not yet have endorsed FSC standard for forest management, Perhutani is the only one of Forest Management in South Asia that is certifying its forests according to FSC principles.

What happened with the forest?

In the way of implementing FSC certification, forest management units need to be audited (pre-audit and main audit) by doing on-the ground checks. In line with sustainable forest management, Perhutani as a Stated Owned Forestry Company has received a Certificate of Rain Forest Alliance for Sustainable Forest Management by Smart Wood since 1990. Nevertheless, some of certified forests were suspended right now. This unexpected evidence brings us to the question “*What happened with the forest?*”.

In a global condition, Indonesia is going through many political changes and this condition has impact on the general aspect including economical role. The worst on forest management is increasing “*illegal logging*” as one of the reason why some of Forest Certification in Perhutani area were suspended.

Let start to discuss from a real condition. It is known that millions of Indonesian relies on the forest resources to survive. Java as the most densely populated island has 6,000 village surrounding forests. Perhutani that has an authority to manage forests in Java then should *pay more attention* to this condition.

A case of illegal logging in Indonesia was start from 1980-s. Indonesia as a country with huge tropical rain forests has about 1 Mio. ha/year forest loss since 1980-s. The number of loss was increased until 1.7 Mio. ha/year in 1990-s and again increase about 2 Mio. ha/year since 1996. These phenomenal rates are due to high demand of forest product and worse structural management (FWI, 2001)

FSC Principles and Criteria

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) develops the *principles and criteria* in order to provide guidance of sustainable forest management (Table 1). Based on the result of pre-audit conducted by GFA Terra System last year, Perhutani in general has reflected a commitment to manage its forests in sustainable way. Nevertheless, some important remarks still need to be noticed as main weaknesses for corrections.

On planning design, Perhutani needs to anticipate political changes, because political changes may affect some company substantially for example change on decision making from federal to the regional level. (Notice: Indonesia is going through many political changes at the

moment). To gain better insight in the complex social problem related to illegal logging, sabotage and community development Perhutani need to analyze the social impacts of forestry activities. It is expected by improved the good relationship between Forest Management (Forest districts or KPHs) and local communities as well with local government will minimize a social impact of the forestry activities. To achieve sustainable forest management, Perhutani has put a lot of efforts to conduct better forest management.

Table 1. FSC Principles and Criteria

Principles #1	Compliance with Law and FSC principles
Principles #2	Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities
Principles #3	Indigenous peoples' Rights
Principles #4	Community Relations and Worker's Rights
Principles #5	Benefits From The Forest
Principles #6	Environmental Impact
Principles #7	Management Plan
Principles #8	Monitoring and Assessment
Principles #9	Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests
Principles #10	Plantations

From those principles, Perhutani is going in general on the track with the sustainable management. To anticipate *political and social changes* Perhutani has already issued a policy namely PHBM or CBFM (Community Based Forest Management).

Java has It All

"There is no sustainable without conservation and there is no conservation without sustainable vision and effort" (Astuti, 2002). This statement holds true for a long time. What about Java? Java, one of the islands that has all resources like rainforest, mountain forest, active volcanoes, limestone cavern, emerald rice fields and other resources offers so much to be explored. In order to support the *sustainable forest management* Perhutani takes active measures to manage its forests in line with sustainable way since a century ago. In case of Illegal Logging, the question is *"It is fair to blame to Perhutani only?"*

PHBM/CBFM as a new paradigm

Eradicating poverty and reducing disparities in living standards in different parts of the world are essential to achieve sustainable development and meet the basic needs of the majority.

Today, environmental quality and economics problem can often lead communities to a conflict.

Integrated planning has prepared by Perhutani in order to provide a guidance of short period activities, on the other hand Perhutani also provides long period planning. In such a way, planning need to allow creative solution to build “a good relationship” and hope it can increase a sense of belonging of multi stakeholders (forest community, local government, NGOs etc).

Due to increase pressure on forest resources, which is also influenced by the government policy of centralization district (OTDA; PP 41/2000), since April 2002 Perhutani has launched a new policy namely PHBM (Community Based Forest Management/ CBFM) followed with a regulation No. 136/KPTS/DIR/2001. The main idea of PHBM is “*participation*” and “*profit sharing*”. In general, PHBM supports the standard of FSC Principle #3 and #4 accordingly.

In essence, PHBM has changed the management that is from *timber management* to *forest resources management*. In this context Perhutani starts to manage the forest not only for producing wood.

From Rio to Johannesburg

The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, provided the fundamental principles and programs of action for achieving *sustainable development*. The world’s leaders made a number of wide-ranging promises “*human beings are at the center of concern for sustainable development*”. What achievements have been made during the past decade? The heads of governments that met in Rio have failed to live up the promises. Ten years after, the world’s leaders again met in Johannesburg in 2002 to fulfill achieving of sustainable development.

Moreover, World Summit in Johannesburg has submitted the fundamental principles and programs to achieve *sustainable world’s development*. Particularly on managing the world forest, the summit provided the guidance stated in Principles 43 (a-i). The “*keywords*” of achieving Sustainable Forest Management is partnership among interested Governments and Stakeholders, including the private sector, indigenous and local communities, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Related to Johannesburg agenda, PHBM or CBFM is already provided by Perhutani as an example to accelerate the achievement of the goal which focuses on letting outsider players taking active supporting *forest management*. On the same time, Asia Pacific Forests Forum provides ten principles of guidance to support the implementation of CBFM (from planning to action) namely GFG (Good Forest Governance). The principles are *transparency, accountability, clear role-responsibility, recognition legitimate, democratization, participation, equity and balancing of power relationship*.

All the guidance same to be easy but it is hard to be implemented.

Conclusion

1. Forest Certification is an important instrument to guide world communities to *Sustainable Forest Management*
2. PHBM or CBFM is a new paradigm, which builds “*a strong bridge*” between Perhutani and other relevant stakeholders for moving forward to a better future.

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