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APRIL Maintains Drive vs. Illegal Logging

Illegal logging is the single biggest threat to Sumatra's forest resources, destroying ecologically valuable forests and compromising the development potential of communities.

APRIL remains committed to eradicating illegal logging in every aspect of our operations, from establishing internal processes and regulating our suppliers through to the protection of the conservation areas in our concessions. We employ a two-prong approach in our drive against illegal logging – prevention through our own and multi-stakeholder initiatives, and poverty alleviation through the creation of economic and social development opportunities.

Prevention

With the consistent implementation of our Wood Purchase Policy, strict checks are conducted to ensure our supply chain is untainted. Suppliers must satisfy all legal requirements and present proper documentation, including a valid harvesting permit and a transport document issued by the Indonesian Government.

We have stopped receiving any logs from third parties beginning in 2004. All suppliers have long-term fiber supply contracts and legitimate harvesting licenses. We do not make spot purchases at the mill gate.

Our Wood Purchase System has undergone yearly audits since 2002 by SGS Malaysia, with WWF Indonesia as observer. Results of these audits, including the latest assessment in July 2004, confirm that no wood enters the mill without proper and complete documentation.

Part of APRIL's initiatives is a multi-stakeholder alliance with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and the local government to combat illegal logging in Tesso Nilo, a proposed National Park in Riau. The task force mans checkpoints, conducts patrols and apprehends illegal loggers in coordination with local authorities.

Poverty Alleviation

APRIL generates 30 permanent jobs for each 100 ha managed, which means we have so far created over 80,000 new jobs in Riau. Around 100,000 people are estimated to rely on APRIL's operations in the region for their livelihood.

Benefiting 73 villages to date, our Community Development programs are a benchmark in Indonesia in the creation of sustainable livelihood options for a community that could otherwise be involved in illegal logging.

Call for Coalition

Our efforts notwithstanding, we cannot stop illegal logging alone. APRIL firmly believes in the effectiveness of a multi-stakeholder approach and calls on all concerned stakeholders – NGOs, the government and the community – to co-operate and participate actively in the drive against illegal logging. Only with vigilant and concerted actions that combine legal enforcement with economic empowerment can illegal logging be significantly reduced, if not totally eradicated.

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