

25-YEAR PROJECTION OF TIMBER PRODUCTION FOR SABAH

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Abstract

Although forestry revenues generated from timber production have declined due to dwindling timber resources, it remains an important part of Sabah's economy. The long-term sustainability of timber production is of great concern, particularly to the wood-based industry. As such, the Sabah Forestry Department carried out a 25-year projection (2021–2045) of timber production for Sabah. This projection was based on input from all timber producers in Sabah, namely the Sustainable Forest Management Licence Holders. Production over the next five years will continue to come from salvage logging of areas earmarked for forest plantation development. However, planted timber trees will become increasingly important thereafter. Production from plantation-grown timber is expected to peak in year 2035 and sustained at a level of about 7 million m³ per year from a fully regulated forest plantation-estate of 400,000 *ha*. In the long term, production from the natural forests will only sustain a yield about 100,000 m³ per year. In addition, smallholder tree farms are also expected to become an increasingly important source of timber supply.

Keywords: Timber production, sustainable forest management licence holders, plantation-timber, smallholder tree farms