

AN OUTLOOK OF TIMBER-BASED INDUSTRY AND FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN SARAWAK

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Abstract

The objective of this paper is to highlight the key initiatives planned and executed by both Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC) to further enhance the management of the forests and the development of the timber industry in Sarawak. The development of the timber industry in Sarawak has progressed over the years in tandem with the dynamic and structured forest management policies implemented by the State. The forest management policies will continue to be reviewed to ensure and enable it to meet all the core functions, including the continuous supply of wood to support the domestic downstream processing industry, which is the socio-economic function of our forests. The key strategic initiatives identified and implemented in forest management are to certify all management of productive permanent forest estates areas by the year 2022, restore degraded areas, improve the performance of forest plantation programmes and leverage research through collaboration with renowned researchers and universities. In addition, suitable digital technology is applied to collect data, monitor initiatives implemented, curb illegal activities as well as enhance delivery services to the industry to improve efficiency and transparency. The timber industry will be restructured to optimize the utilization of the anticipated increasing volume of logs harvested from the fast-maturing planted forests. This is to support the target to transform Sarawak into a major supplier of not only primary timber products but also high value-added timber products especially engineered wood and furniture. Ultimately, the refined forest management policies implemented will continue to sustain the timber industry as one of the major economic sectors in Sarawak.

Keywords: STIDC, Sarawak Timber Industry