



Linking Business with Responsible Forest Management

Press Release

KOPERASI TAMAN WIJAYA RASA (KOSTAJASA) ACHIEVED SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATION UNDER FSC SCHEME

KEBUMEN, 4 June 2009 - KSU Taman Wijaya Rasa (KOSTAJASA), a community wood cooperative based in the Kebumen Regency, Central Java Province, Indonesia, has successfully passed the sustainable forest management certification audit under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme, making them immediately eligible to sell FSC-certified mahogany timber. The cooperative serves as a group manager for smallholder farmers growing timber to become FSC Certified under FSC group 'SLIMF' (Small and Low Intensity-Managed Forest) standards.

KOSTAJASA is a cooperative that was formed as a democratic organization made up of farmers in Kebumen Regency who are committed to managing the agroforests on their private land sustainably. Formation of the cooperative grew out of a community forest development program designed and facilitated by the Tropical Forest Trust (TFT). TFT began the program in 2006 with international funding from companies and donors such as Crate and Barrel, the Body Shop Foundation, FSC Global and the Waterloo Foundation. KOSTAJASA officially became a legal entity on 27 August 2007 with 52 founding members.

As of May 30, 2009, 14 participating Farmers' Groups have been formed in 13 villages, namely Farmer Groups: Subur Mulya, Wana Makmur, Margo Makmur, Rimba Makmur, Rimba Tani, Lestari Jaya, Rimba Lestari, Rimba Mulya, Rindang Jaya, Wana Mukti, Rimba Asri, Wono Dadi, Tani Makmur and Mulya Sari. The number of registered group members is currently 553 people, with 936 plots registered totalling an area of 118.23 hectares. The 13 villages are: Candi Village, Giripurno, Clapar, Logandu, Pohkumbang, Wonorejo, Wonoharjo, Sidoagung, Kalibening, Ginandong, Tegalsari, Sidomukti, and Arjomulyo.

The audit was conducted on 31 October 2008 until 2 November 2008, by three auditors from the SmartWood certification institution (Mihyun Seol, Iwan Kurniawan Permadi and Titik Setiawati). Locations chosen as sample sites to visit during the audit included 6 Farmers Groups in 6 villages, namely, Sidoagung Village, Candi Village, Wonoharjo Village, Giripurno Village, Arjomulyo Village, and Sidomukti Village. This certification process was to assess whether or not KOSTAJASA's members are implementing sustainable forest management according to the FSC standards, which consist of 10 principles and 56 criteria covering economic, environmental and social aspects of forest management. Although achieving these high standards is not easy, the farmers' and partners' efforts have resulted in KOSTAJASA securing an FSC certificate which is valid from 2 June 2009 through 2 June 2014.

This achievement is not only an achievement for KOSTAJASA, but it also demonstrates that community forestry as carried out by small and medium enterprises can comply with international standards. It also



Linking Business with Responsible Forest Management

brings recognition and prestige to the Kebumen Regency's natural resources, especially community forests producing wood such as mahogany, rosewood and albizia .

KOSTAJASA's Chairman, Mr. Sunarto said "To me, securing the FSC Certification is something very impressive. I am glad to get the certificate in recognition of our long struggle and weary toil, we've achieved international recognition". KOSTAJASA's Secretary, Mr. Marsino, Added, "KOSTAJASA's FSC certificate is blessing for us, but at the same time it becomes a burden to us, because we need to maintain it. This is our commitment to preserve the community forest area in the Kebumen Region for the present and the future".

KOSTAJASA expects that through FSC certification, the market can appreciate their efforts to manage their forests sustainably. Even before certification, KOSTAJASA already had secured a higher price for their mahogany harvests compared to other local prices. Additionally, farmers are now aware that by enhancing their process of production, they can actually improve the economic value of their wood by ensuring that all the processes are performed in a planned and well-managed way.

Although KOSTAJASA has already achieved the FSC forest management certificate, TFT will continue to support KOSTAJASA to connect with factories and buyers that also have the same commitment to preserve forests. Such buyers are willing to pay more for wood coming from FSC certified, well-managed forests. TFT Indonesia Representative Head, Hartono Prabowo, said "TFT will fully support KOSTAJASA to develop management of all their timber species for certification and to create strategies to market KOSTAJASA products to all potential buyers directly in Indonesia, or indirectly with international wood buyers with competitive prices. TFT will also support KOSTAJASA development until it has become an independent and healthy business.

For further information, please contact:

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About the Tropical Forest Trust:

TFT has been working since 1999 to eliminate illegal wood from supply chains worldwide and replace it with wood coming from an FSC certified forest source, or from a TFT-supported forest that is making progress towards FSC certification.

Currently working in over 4.2 million hectares of forests, TFT aims to ensure that forests are managed for their long-term future and to maximize their value to people, wildlife and the environment. TFT support forest projects with expert advice, and by linking them to responsible buyers committed to sourcing sustainable timber. TFT seek to make trade in sustainable timber standard practice by raising



Linking Business with Responsible Forest Management

awareness of the importance of endangered forests, demonstrating the benefits of responsible trade, and sharing their unique practical experience.

www.tropicalforesttrust.org

About the Forest Stewardship Council:

FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not for profit organization established in 1993 to promote the responsible management of the world's forests. It provides standard setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services for companies and organizations interested in responsible forestry. Products carrying the FSC label are independently certified to assure consumers that they come from forests that are managed to meet the social, economic and ecological needs of present and future generations. The FSC Principles and Criteria include managerial aspects as well as environmental and social requirements. In fact, FSC rules are the strictest and FSC's social and environmental requirements the highest. These 10 principles and 56 criteria form the basis for all FSC forest management standards.

www.fsc.org

About the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood program:

Established in 1989, the Rainforest Alliance's SmartWood, became the world's first global forestry certification program and the first to rely on market forces as a means of conserving forests. As the world's leading Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest management certifier, SmartWood sets the international gold standard for credibility in auditing environmentally and socially responsible forestry. Since its founding, SmartWood has certified 2,876 operations and 131,884,204 acres (53,371,644 hectares) in 65 countries to FSC standards.

www.smartwood.org