



Media Release

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Capacity Building: Workshop on Strengthening Forest Management Certification

The Forest Department Sarawak (FDS), in collaboration with the Sarawak Timber Association (STA), successfully organised the Workshop on Strengthening Forest Management Certification for Natural Forests and Forest Plantations in two sessions—on 10-11 October 2024 at Mercure Miri City Centre and 17 October 2024 at Wisma STA, Kuching.

The capacity building workshops aimed to enhance participants' understanding of forest management certification processes and strengthen the implementation of Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) methods for sustainable forestry. The workshops brought together forest managers, government officials, and industry stakeholders to discuss key topics, including legal frameworks, management planning, harvesting operations, and social responsibility in the certification process.

A central focus of the workshops was the development of Forest Management Plans for natural and forest plantations, which are vital to achieving sustainable forest management and meeting certification standards. It emphasised on the importance of comprehensive management plans, covering key components such as management plan prescriptions, forest research, harvesting operation and impact assessments. These plans ensure responsible forestry operations while promoting environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

Another key highlight was the session on harvesting operations and Reduced Impact Logging (RIL). This session underscored the significance of RIL guidelines, which are designed to reduce damage to residual stands, protecting biodiversity, and ensuring the long-term sustainability of forest ecosystems.

Additionally, the workshop in Miri covered critical legal obligations governing forest management, and economic aspects of forest management. The workshop also addressed the importance of social conflict resolution mechanisms and the Forests (Trained Workmen) Rules 2015, ensuring that forestry personnel are trained and equipped to manage forestry operations effectively.

By strengthening forest management practices and promoting responsible certification, this workshop marks an important step for capacity building towards ensuring the long-term sustainability of both natural forests and forest plantations in Sarawak.

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