

SUSTAINABILITY BRIEF

Update from the field

March 2015

First Plantation Company in Sarawak to Initiate Honorary Game Warden Programme

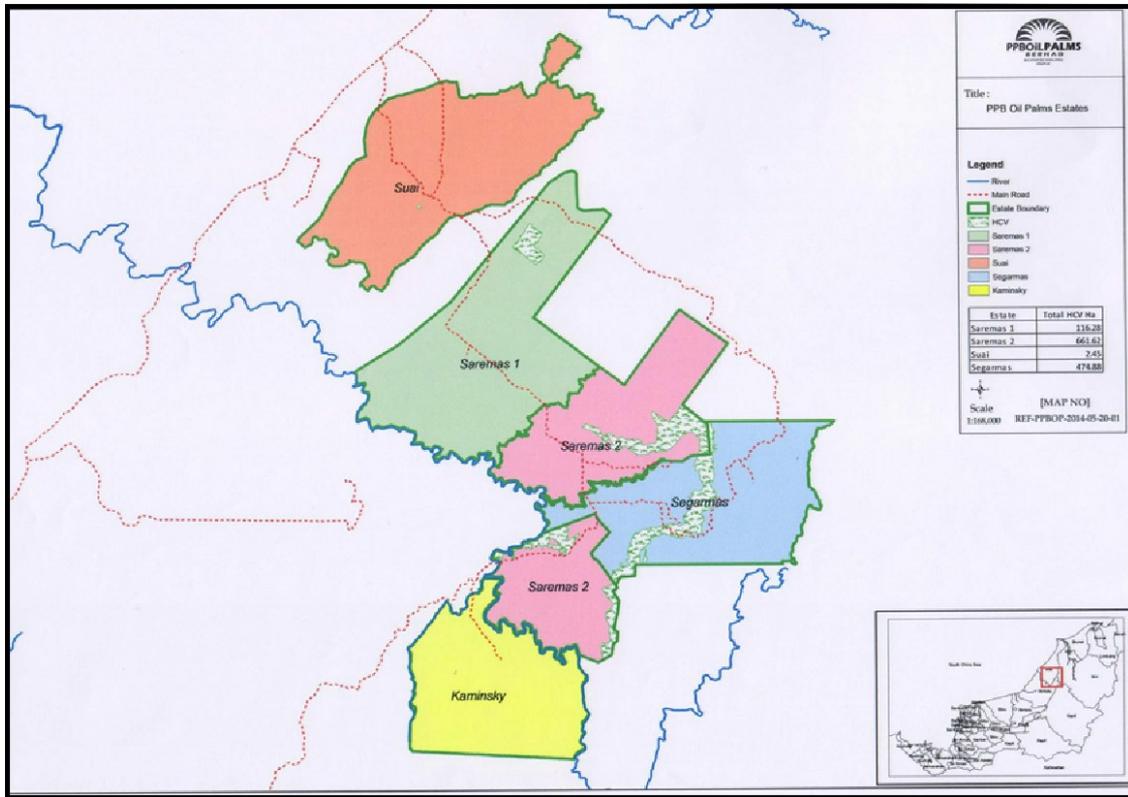


18 March 2015 was a landmark day for PPB Oil Palms Berhad, a subsidiary of Wilmar International Limited, with the appointment of 40 of its managers, staff and community representatives as Honorary Wildlife Rangers by Datuk Amar Hj. Awang Tengah bin Ali Hasan, Sarawak’s Second Minister of Resource Planning and Environment as well as Minister of Industrial Development and Minister of Public Utilities. With this appointment, they will join the ranks of over 200 other Honorary Wildlife Rangers in Sarawak, as appointed under its Wildlife Protection Ordinance, 1998. This appointment is the first for an oil palm plantation industry in support of protecting Sarawak’s rare, threatened and endangered species.

This event was also witnessed by Sarawak Forestry Corporation’s Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Wong Thing Chung and the Controller of Wildlife, Tuan Haji Sapuan Ahmad.

Wilmar’s commitment to sustainable oil palm is demonstrated with all its mills and plantations in Malaysia being certified to the international standards of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO). We have further strengthened our commitment towards sustainability with the launch of our “No Deforestation, No Peat and No Exploitation” policy on 5 December 2013 which aims to delink its supply chain from deforestation and human rights abuse.

As part of this pledge, Wilmar has set aside more than 30,000 ha of conservation areas which are managed and monitored by the Group. Our plantations in Sarawak have a total of about 1,658 ha of conservation area, with the largest being a contiguous conservation area called Bkt. Durang, which covers an area of approximately 474 ha.



High Conservation Value (HCV) area in our Sarawak plantations.

To ensure that our conservation areas are protected and managed, our teams conduct regular awareness training and socialisation programmes for staff, workers and the local communities. We also conduct patrolling of our conservation areas to prevent any illegal activities. In addition, we started a scientific collaboration with the University Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) to conduct regular studies in our conservation areas.



Commencement speech by Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah



Token of appreciation to the Minister.



Speech by Mr. Simon Siburat, General Manager, Group Sustainability, Wilmar International Limited.

Despite these efforts, illegal logging and poaching potentially remain a threat to our conservation areas. For this reason, we participated in this Honorary Game Warden programme as a step to empower our staff to act against any illegal activities in our area. The training for the 40 Honorary rangers was conducted in our plantation estate in Saremas in early May 2014 which involved classroom and field sessions, as well as awareness programmes in the longhouses (traditional homes of the Sarawak indigenous communities).

“The Honorary Wildlife Rangers are to be our eyes and ears and have since become important conservation agents in their respective communities.” said the Minister .

While Wilmar may be the first plantation company in Sarawak to have the Honorary Game Warden Programme, this is certainly not the first of such programme in the Group. We have a similar programme in Sabah which has contributed to the protection of iconic species such as orangutans and Sumatran rhinoceroses. Given our success and track record in the neighbouring State, we are confident this initiative would help us to maintain the integrity of our conservation area and contribute meaningfully to Sarawak’s conservation initiatives.



Group photo with the newly appointed Honorary Wildlife Rangers