

International Conference on Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests

Date: 6 – 7 March 2024 | Venue: Hilton Kuching, Sarawak

Programme Agenda

Day 1: 6 March 2024, Wednesday

Time	Agenda
08:30 am – 09:30 am	Arrival and registration of participants
09:30 am – 10:30 am	National & State Anthem Setting the Scene on Collective Action for Sustainable Forests by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dato Henry Lau, Chairman of Sarawak Timber Association • Datu Haji Hamden Bin Haji Mohammad, Director of Forests Sarawak • Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar, Chairman of WWF-Malaysia
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Keynote Address by Ms Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director, International Tropical Timber Organization <i>Sustainable tropical forestry, supply chains and investment – a pathway for a sustainable future</i>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Presentation by Forest Department Sarawak • Launching of Handbooks of Reduced Impact Logging Guideline <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – joint project between Forest Department Sarawak & Sarawak Timber Association • Launching of High Conservation Value Training Modules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – joint project of WWF-Malaysia, Sarawak Timber Association, Forest Department Sarawak and Sarawak Forestry Corporation • Signing of Project Agreement between Sarawak Government and International Tropical Timber Organization for ITTO-funded Projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management of Sungai Menyang Conservation Area for Orang Utan Protection and Uplifting Community Livelihood, and – Critical Upliftment of Local Livelihoods: Urgent Actions for Community-Based Conservation and Development in Upper Baram • Group Photo
12:00 pm – 01:30 pm	Lunch

Time	Agenda
01:30 pm – 02:50 pm	<p>Session 1: Valuing our Forest - Future Directions and Policies</p> <p>This session will explore the intricate balance required to ensure the continued health and prosperity of our invaluable forested landscapes by examining the inherent value of our forests through the multifaceted contributions they make to our ecosystems, economies, and overall well-being, and the myriad challenges that pose threats to the conservation and sustainable management of these vital natural resources.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creating and enhancing values of our forests, adopting SFM that benefits people, biodiversity and business. 2. Multifaceted challenges faced by forestry, ranging from issues such as market access and demand for sustainable products, resistance from local community, poor economic scale and many more. 3. Global trends in SFM and creating demand for sustainable tropical timber. <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr Yong Teng Koon</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Lyndall Bull (online speaker) Forestry Officer, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) <i>The importance of innovation to support sustainable supply and demand of forest products in a growing bioeconomy</i> 2. Prof. Emeritus Dr. Kanehiro Kitayama <i>Internalising ecosystem services in sustainable forestry by mapping biodiversity and carbon in production forests</i> 3. Mr Rupert Oliver Environmental Policy Director, American Hardwood Export Council (AHEC) <i>Demonstrating the sustainability of hardwood products in global markets: New challenges and innovative solutions</i> 4. Dr. Alain Karsenty (online speaker) Senior Scientist, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) <i>Using direct fiscal incentives for sustainable forest management</i>
02:50 pm – 03:05 pm	Question & Answer
03:05 pm – 03:30 pm	Tea Break

Time	Agenda
03:30 pm – 05:10 pm	<p>Session 2: Climate-smart SFM - What Are The Options?</p> <p>This session will delve into the contentious relationship between tropical forest activities and their impacts on climate, and how alternative or best practices can be prescribed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative analysis of greenhouse gas emission sources • Putting forestry-related emissions into perspective and highlighting the role of forestry and its contribution in GHG emissions. • Malaysia's net zero direction and the forestry sector: how are we heading there? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Ms Sheam Satkuru, Executive Director of International Tropical Timber Organization</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Gary William Theseira Advisor, Malaysian Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC) <i>Net-zero commitments and their impact on the forestry sector</i> 2. Mr Dave Sivaprasad (online speaker) Managing Director, Boston Consultant Group <i>TBC</i> 3. Prof. Dr. Francis Edward Putz Research Professor, Forest Research Institute, University of the Sunshine Coast <i>Transforming logging into forest management: RIL-C</i> 4. Mr Richard Laity Manager, Programme for the Enforcement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Asia Pacific <i>PEFC's Climate-smart Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)</i> 5. Ms Charmaine Chee Country Director, Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) Malaysia <i>TBC</i>
05:10 pm – 5:40pm	Question & Answer
5:40 pm	End of Day 1

Day 2: 7 March 2024, Thursday

Time	Agenda
09:00 am – 10:20am	<p>Session 3: Finance, Market and Branding - Building Opportunities</p> <p>This session aims to catalyse discussions on how financial innovation can be harnessed to advance the cause of SFM.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green finance instruments for responsible forest concessions, including the roles of international agencies in providing financial support and technical assistance for SFM initiatives. • Fostering sustainable forestry practices and insights into the collaboration between NGOs and the private sector in financing these initiatives. • Securing buyers' support for SFM costs and financing for forestry activities from financial institutions, and creating a branding for tropical timber. <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr Lawrence Chia, Chief Executive Officer, Samling Group</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Yuan Bing Chairman, Global Forest Products Green Supply Chain (Macau) Federation <i>Green Finance for Sustainable Forest Management in Asia</i> 2. Ms Francoise Van De Ven President, International Technical Association of Tropical Timber (ATIBT) <i>Managing the forests to ensure sustainability for future generations and maintain a key position for tropical timber on the markets</i> 3. Dr. Kevin Grace Director, Global Forestry Services (GFS) <i>TBC</i> 4. Prof. Dr. Claudia Romero Professor of Tropical Forestry, University of the Sunshine Coast (UniSC) <i>Improve Forest Management Opportunities to Reduce Tropical Forest Degradation & Mitigate Climate Change</i>
10:20 am – 10:35 am	Question & Answer
10:35am – 10:45 am	Tea Break

Time	Agenda
10:45 am – 11:45 am	<p>Session 4: Collaboration and Partnership - Research, Risk and Safeguards</p> <p>Building upon valuable insights gained from earlier sessions that explored the integral role of forests in mitigating climate change as well as green financing, this session aims to aid in the understanding of SFM and foster collaborative initiatives that resonate with the broader objectives of environmental sustainability and community well-being.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highlight how global conservation perspective integrates with SFM strategies, contributing to broader environmental objectives • Importance of community involvement and cooperation in SFM • Is there a foolproof approach in preventing conflicting uses and claims, or are safeguards necessary? <p><u>Moderator:</u> Dr Jason Hon, Associate Director, Sarawak and Conservation Science, WWF-Malaysia</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Andrew Heald Co-founder and Chief Operating Officer, iNovaland <i>Restoring landscapes for people and planet</i> 2. Mr Bounyadeth Phoungmala Country Director, Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) <i>RECOFTC experience in capacity building and rolling out Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes in village forest in Laos</i> 3. Ms Evelyn Jugi Senior Researcher, Forest Department Sarawak (FDS) <i>Sustainable forest management (SFM) practices in Sarawak – Local communities awareness and participation</i>
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	Question & Answer
12:15 pm – 01:00 pm	Conclusion & Closing by Mr Yong Teng Koon
01:00 pm – 02:00 pm	<p>Lunch</p> <p>End of Conference</p>