

Asia Pulp & Paper welcomes Rainforest Alliance's independent evaluation of its Forest Conservation Policy

APP introduces its 2015 FCP implementation plan to address lessons learned from the field, stakeholder input and the findings of the evaluation

Jakarta, 5 February 2015 –[Asia Pulp & Paper](#) (APP) has today welcomed the Rainforest Alliance independent evaluation of its [Forest Conservation Policy](#) (FCP). The evaluation concludes that the company has made moderate progress towards meeting its commitments.

The FCP was [announced on February 5th 2013](#), marking an immediate end to natural forest clearance by APP's pulpwood suppliers as well as a range of other measures. APP recognised that engaging the Rainforest Alliance, a credible international organisation, to evaluate its progress would provide a valuable perspective on its work as well as increase transparency.

The [evaluation report](#), which assesses the period between 5 February 2013 and 15 August 2014, provides a view of the company's progress towards meeting each of the FCP's four policy areas, as well as additional public statements that are relevant to the FCP.

Aida Greenbury, APP's managing director, sustainability, said: "The FCP is an unprecedented initiative – developed by APP, TFT and Greenpeace – to define a new standard and a new business model for achieving Zero Deforestation in the supply chain. We're pleased that the Rainforest Alliance has recognised the progress we are making. We believe today's report shows that our efforts to achieve Zero Deforestation are on the right track.

"However, our FCP implementation measures are not carved in stone. We must have the courage to continually improve them as we learn lessons from implementation. The report has highlighted a number of areas which require additional focus. Its findings, along with feedback from other stakeholders, have been used to inform our FCP implementation plan for 2015 and beyond, which we are introducing today.

"We also believe that an evaluation like this puts a global spotlight on the issues currently at play in Indonesia's forests. Since 2013, we have been calling for other stakeholders to support us with our Zero Deforestation Policy because forest continues to be lost due to factors that, despite our efforts, we cannot completely control, such as encroachment, forest fires and illegal activities. Our hope is that this evaluation will raise awareness of forestry issues in Indonesia and prompt others, including government, NGOs and the private sector to collaborate more closely to help tackle the issues across the landscape."

Richard Donovan, Rainforest Alliance Senior Vice President of Forestry, said: “In 2013 APP set out an ambitious program for change. The Rainforest Alliance has found that APP has made moderate progress to implement the many commitments embedded in its FCP during the 18 month period we evaluated. Key steps have been taken, such as halting the clearance of natural forest by its suppliers. As with any major change initiative there remains work to be done to put the policies and procedures that have been developed into action in the field. Rainforest Alliance encourages APP to continue on the path set out in the FCP.”

Today’s [FCP Implementation Plan](#) includes the priorities for 2015 onwards, which draw upon Rainforest Alliance’s most significant findings. These are issues related to third party forest clearance, peatland best management practices as well as FPIC and social conflict resolution.

The additional areas covered in the Implementation Plan are:

- Wildfire prevention and management
- HCV Management and protection
- Workers’ rights and welfare
- Sustainable wood supply
- Landscape conservation initiative
- Internal engagement

Elements of the plan will be subject to further consultation as APP continues to implement its Forest Conservation Policy over the coming months and years.

Ends

Notes to editors:

The Rainforest Alliance Evaluation report can be found here: <http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/forestry/sourcing/independent-evaluations/asia-pulp-paper>

The APP FCP Implementation Plan: 2015 and beyond: <http://asiapulppaper.com/sustainability/vision-2020/sustainability-roadmap-vision-2020-reports>

APP’s Forest Conservation Policy can be found here: <http://asiapulppaper.com/sustainability/vision-2020/forest-conservation-policy>

About Asia Pulp & Paper

Asia Pulp & Paper Group (APP) is a trade name for a group of pulp and paper manufacturing companies in Indonesia and China. APP is responsible for delivering quality products to meet the growing global demand for

tissue, packaging and paper. On any given day, our products find their way into the hands of consumers in various branded forms from all over the world.

Started in 1972 with Tjiwi Kimia producing caustic soda, now we run operations across Indonesia and China with an annual combined pulp, paper, packaging product and converting capacity of over 19 million tons per annum. Today, APP markets its products in more than 120 countries across six continents.

Over the years, we have expanded our operations significantly through the acquisition and expansion of several of our pulp and paper mills. It's our commitment to customer satisfaction that enables us to grow our share in paper sales worldwide and broaden our presence through offices in many countries. We believe 'tradition and modernity go hand in hand' which means we value long term relationships as part of our Eastern traditions, while we also are eager to embrace the modern values of innovation and efficiency.

Maintaining the integrity of our supply chain is also crucial to APP's operations as well as our commitment to our Sustainability Roadmap Vision 2020. Learn more about APP's path to operational excellence by reading our Sustainability Reports and Forest Conservation Policy.