

Bumitama Additional Response to Peer Review Process of HCS Assessment in PT Agriplus

PT Agriplus (subsidiary of Bumitama Agri Ltd.) carried out the HCS Assessment in August 2017 following the HCS Toolkit V 1.0, with the assessment report submitted for peer review process in February 2020. We also noted that just prior to the submission of PT Agriplus assessment for the peer review process, the HCS Toolkit V 2.0 was introduced.

The HCS assessment in 2017 was carried out independently all the way from the HCV, peat assessment, social engagement to the FPIC processes. We also conducted field assessments in parallel at the same time. We had to wait for the HCV report to be reviewed as satisfactory by HCVRN, before we could submit the HCS Assessment for the HCS Approach Review. The delay in the approval of the HCV assessment had extended this whole process to a long time.

Due to the difference in time between the assessment and its review, during which the new Toolkit was introduced, we realize that there are certain matters that may need refinement, especially in consideration for the implementation of the Social Requirements based on the latest HCS Approach Toolkit. Nevertheless, we are committed to meet the requirements by incorporating active involvement of local communities in the implementation of the management plan for our conservation areas (HCV & HCS).

As stipulated in our Sustainability Policy, Bumitama will apply the principles of FPIC in all community related activities; allowing communities to express their opinion in the process of participatory mapping, land compensation, management of conservation areas, in order to ensure that the development of plantation operations does not have negative impact on the local communities.