



APRIL Stands Firm in Protecting Forests Through Responsible Management - Moratorium Will Cause Further Environmental Degradation

*All suppliers' operate in areas designated for industrial tree plantations
and have licenses which are valid by Ministry and Local government standards*

(10 Aug 2005, Riau): APRIL today affirms that all its fiber operations, including those of its joint venture partners, are managed in a sustainable manner to protect high conservation values in its fiber plantations. The company also assures that all its concessions and those of its joint venture partners operate under valid licenses that are recognized by all levels of the Indonesian government.

“We refute any claims that some of our licenses are not valid,” said Jouko Virta, Global Head of Fiber at APRIL. “All of our licenses and those of our partners, are legitimate.”

The company's operations are also in line with the Indonesian government's Land Use Plan whereby previously exploited forests and degraded lands are zoned for development into sustainable commercial tree plantations. This Spatial Plan is approved by the Legislative and Executive branches of the Government. “This renders the call for a moratorium in any of the operating concessions without any basis,” Mr Virta stressed.

He also said there was a far greater risk of environmental destruction if a moratorium was imposed. “Leaving the forests alone in Indonesia is not an option as this would simply make it easier for illegal loggers to plunder the forests,” he explained.

APRIL's Mosaic Plantation concept was developed to protect high conservation values, which would be quickly depleted by illegal loggers if left unmanaged. By converting degraded land into productive fibre plantations, the company protects the core

forest reserves through the development of “Plantation Rings”. This concept will help prevent encroachment into the forest reserves by illegal loggers and settlers, as well as create economic opportunities for the local communities. Within the company’s plantations, the development and conservation plan sets aside at least 20% of the land area for conservation. Tiger corridors connect the biodiversity reserves within the plantations to the Kerumutan and Bukit Tigapuluh wildlife sanctuaries.

“It is our policy that we do not source fiber from areas of high conservation value. The process of identification of High Conservation Value Forests is further reinforced with the Indonesian HCVF Assessment Toolkit which was developed and published in 2003,” Mr Virta said.

APRIL reiterates its call on concerned stakeholders, such as NGOs like Eyes on the Forests and the Government, to join hands in the drive to protect Indonesia’s forest from illegal logging. The company believes that only through a concerted effort by all parties can illegal logging be eradicated and the environment truly protected.

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