



PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Publication

APRIL ELIMINATES DEFORESTATION ACROSS ENTIRE SUPPLY CHAIN

- ***Halted harvesting of all natural forest on 15 May, 2015***
- ***New policy ensures no deforestation; adds High Carbon Stock assessments to current conservation commitments***
- ***Unprecedented 1:1 conservation to plantation commitment***

Jakarta, 3 June 2015: APRIL Group today announced new measures to ensure deforestation is completely eliminated from its supply chain through its Sustainable Forest Management Policy (SFMP) 2.0.

The enhanced policy, released today in Jakarta, builds on the company's landscape approach to conservation and means APRIL Group:

- Will not undertake any new development on forested land or forested peatland
- Has added High Carbon Stock (HCS) assessments to existing High Conservation Value (HCVF) assessments
- Reinforces unprecedented landscape conservation that will deliver conservation areas equal in size to its 480,000 ha of plantation; 70% already completed
- Strengthens peatland management with establishment of Peat Expert Working Group (PEWG); will track and report carbon footprint
- Enhances programmes for poverty alleviation, job creation, access to education and Free, Prior, Informed Consent rights for local communities
- Strengthens cooperation with NGOs

"This is a major step in our 15-year sustainability journey. This is about elimination of deforestation from our supply chain and builds on our longstanding commitment to conservation. We are delivering on conservation, social and economic benefits for Indonesia and a sustainable future for the company and our customers," said APRIL Group President, Praveen Singhavi.

Almost 15 years ago, APRIL Group pioneered implementation of a chain of custody system to ensure no illegal wood entered its mill. In 2005, it was the first to voluntarily adopt conservation assessments to protect rainforest within its land concessions. In 2013, APRIL Group commenced eco-restoration projects, now accounting for 70,000 hectares of previously degraded land. In 2014 it launched its



SFMP, which has evolved to SFMP 2.0, announced today.

“We congratulate APRIL Group for achieving such significant progress in sustainable forest management in Indonesia. This collaboration demonstrates that the private sector such as APRIL, the Government and civil society groups can work together to achieve strong outcomes in sustainable forest management,” said Siti Nurbaya Bakar, Minister of Environment & Forestry.

Chairman of APRIL Group’s Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC), Joe Lawson commented: “APRIL Group has made significant progress. The next challenge will be to ensure that these policy commitments are implemented on the ground, in a meaningful and sustainable manner. The SAC welcomes inputs and engagement from stakeholders as APRIL moves into the next phase of their sustainability journey.”

SFMP 2.0 consolidates measures for monitoring and verification of policy adherence, with regular progress reports and third party review of implementation. APRIL’s enhanced policy reflects Royal Golden Eagle (RGE) Group’s sustainability framework.¹

“APRIL’s enhanced commitments demonstrate the leadership role that business can play in creating a strong future for Indonesia. A future that balances economic development and environmental imperatives,” said Anderson Tanoto, Director RGE.

APRIL’s enhanced sustainability policy is the result of considerable stakeholder engagement including inputs from Greenpeace and WWF.

“The expanded SFMP is an encouraging signal of APRIL Group’s intention in contributing to the long term sustainability of forest in Indonesia,” said Dr. Efransjah, CEO WWF Indonesia. “As a member of APRIL Group’s SAC, we will continue to give input as well as monitor implementation with other civil society groups to ensure APRIL delivers on its commitments.”

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1. *RGE Forestry, Fibre, Pulp and Paper Sustainability Framework*
www.rgei.com/sustainability/sustainability-framework

Editors’ Note: *This media release should be read in conjunction with APRIL Group’s SFMP 2.0, which is an evolution of APRIL Group’s SFMP 1.0.*

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