



GERAK
SAGA

MANAGEMENT PLAN SUMMARY

JAN 2017- DEC 2026

Gerak Saga Sdn. Bhd.

Bengkoka and Tambalugu Class II Forest Reserves

The Sabah State Government has allocated both the Bengkoka and Tambalugu Forest Reserves, a combined area of 6,467ha, to Gerak Saga Sdn. Bhd. (GSSB) for the purpose of industrial tree plantation development. Both forest reserves are managed as a single FMU and divided into four (4) Coupes. The current timber stocking in both forest reserves is relatively poor due to the effects of fire and disease. Both areas are dominated by variable stands of *Acacia mangium* and open grassland. In order to restore the timber production of the Project Area, GSSB will establish an industrial tree plantation by planting mainly Eucalyptus species with a rotation period of 10 years. The net plantable area is approximately 5,625ha.

This Forest Management Plan (2017-2026) provides a comprehensive source of information and defines the broad development and management objectives and standards to be applied by GSSB. This plan is organized into 10 core Chapters or Parts. Part 1 is the introduction, which highlights the background of the project, policy statements and objectives. Part 2 describes the general information of the Project Area, which contains amongst others the physical features of the Project area, vegetation types, wildlife resources, socio and cultural aspects of the local communities living in the vicinity and within the Project Area and high conservation value forests. Part 3, in general, highlights the current scenarios of the forest resource base whereas, Part 4 provides the medium-term directions/actions for forest Conservation and Protection, Timber management, Wildlife management and managing high conservation value forests.

Part 5 highlights the forest plantation development program, which is the core activity of Gerak Saga Sdn. Bhd. during the planning period. Parts 6 - 10 prescribe on the issues of fire management, manpower requirement, financial analysis, environmental impact assessment and monitoring.

GSSB planning provides that not all of the project area will be developed for ITP. The FMU is therefore zoned into two categories of landuse, i.e, Conservation Areas and Industrial Tree Plantation Areas (ITP Areas). The focus of management in the ITP zone will be on the establishment, maintenance and utilization of plantations for timber production. The Conservation Areas will consist of totally protected areas, such as riparian zones, water catchment areas, high conservation value areas and land that is either too steep or too nutrient poor for plantation development.

Most of the designated Conservation Areas are currently populated with *Acacia mangium* trees. GSSB will work with the Sabah Forestry Department to design measures to ensure that these stands are protected and that species population health improves over the project lifetime. There are no fences around the project. As such, the FMU's wild Acacia forests form, together with the surrounding plantations, a continuous habitat for numerous species. As with neighboring estates, the ITP to be established on the FMU will have mixed age classes, with approximately 70% of the land remaining under a closed canopy of at least 10m height at all times.

It is the intention of the company to gradually restore areas currently dominated by wild *Acacia mangium* regrowth, to natural forest over a period of several decades. As this is a technically challenging program, assistance will be sought from organizations and individuals with experience in natural forest succession management. A pilot area will be selected for species testing and *Acacia* eradication trials. Seedlings will be obtained from various indigenous species nurseries throughout Sabah. After a sufficiently robust restoration protocol has been developed, the project will be expanded to the other remaining HCV areas.

There are no settlements within the FMU boundary. However there are thirteen (13) villages adjacent to the Project Area. In collaboration with the managers of neighboring plantation estates, GSSB has carried out a detailed socio-economic survey to determine the needs of the local communities. This study will be used to guide company-community partnerships that are aimed at supporting the community livelihoods, increasing economic opportunities, providing access to education and generally raising living standards through improved communications, access to health services, water and electricity supply and sanitation. A Community Development Master Plan covering the first 10 years of the project period has been compiled.

Plantation growth will be monitored through a network of Permanent Sample Plots and two cruising exercises. In addition, in order to secure the long term productivity of the plantations, GSSB will conduct extensive tree breeding and Silviculture research.

Measures to be taken for HCV's identified are available in the HCV Report which can be accessed at <https://www.geraksaga.com/>

Figure 1: Location of Project Area

