

Forest Management Certification reassessment of Open Bay Timber Ltd in East New Britain Province 27 April 2022

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting forest management and chain of custody and controlled wood forest management certification reassessments of the Open Bay Timber Ltd located in East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea. The reassessment will be implemented from 6 to 9 June 2022.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification reassessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the PLANTATIONS managed by Open Bay Timber Ltd, using the FSC-STD-PNG-02-2017 EN V2-0 The FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Papua New Guinea; FSC-STD-50-001 V2-0 Requirements for use of the FSC trademarks by certificate holders and FSC-STD-30-010 V2-0 EN Controlled Wood Standard for FM enterprises. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact PbN by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. Please note that the standard may be modified to take account of stakeholder comments. PbN is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™) and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved. To obtain copy of FSC accredited standard, please visit FSC document center website at <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre>. [The forest under evaluation contains areas either identified as High Conservation Value Forests or where high conservation values, as defined by the FSC, are likely found. PbN evaluates the identification, management and protection of these High Conservation Values and solicits related comments from stakeholders.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Ms. Malory Weston. The team members will be one qualified local expert.

Assessment Steps and Schedule – The assessment will be conducted using hybrid method. Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ **Assessment organization** – PbN local expert will arrive in kokopo on 5 June 2022. Lead auditor will lead the assessment remotely throughout the evaluation process.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The team will visit sites managed by Open Bay Timber Ltd from 6 to 9 June 2022.
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Open Bay Timber Ltd forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ **Final assessment briefing** – Prior to departure the team will meet with Open Bay Timber Ltd managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Draft report production** – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Open Bay Timber Ltd. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- ◆ **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Open Bay Timber Ltd forest managers and other general stakeholder comments, PbN will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by 9 August 2022.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Open Bay Timber Ltd forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME's management and protection of High Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the reassessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the reassessment, during the reassessment, or prior to 9 July 2022 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by 9 August 2022. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a PbN reassessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.

2. Call and give comments to Pratama B Kurniaji, PbN staff person responsible for coordinating this certification reassessment from Asia Pacific regional office. If Pratama is not in the office, please give your comments to either Rahmad Nanda (rnanda@preferredbynature.org).
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Pratama B Kurniaji. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the Open Bay Timber Ltd.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only to FSC and PbN staff. Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access PbN's Dispute Resolution Policy at preferredbynature.org.

Contacting PbN

- ◆ Email: pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org for Pratama.
- ◆ Worldwide Website – <https://preferredbynature.org/>
- ◆ Telephone – +62361-472 3499
- ◆ Mail address – Jalan Tantular Barat No. 88 – Dangin Puri Kelod, Denpasar Timur, Denpasar – Bali Indonesia 80114