

Forest Management Certification Reassessment of Kelani Valley Plantations PLC in Colombo 09/12/2022

Introduction - PbN is conducting forest management and Chain of Custody certification reassessments of the Kelani Valley Plantations PLC located in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The reassessment will be implemented from 23 to 25 January 2023.

Scope of the Certification reassessment – The forest management certification reassessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the 6,551 hectare plantation managed by Kelani Valley Plantations PLC, using the FSC-STD-LKA-01-2021 EN The FSC Interim National Standard of Sri Lanka. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact PbN by telephone, FAX, email, or access <https://fsc.org/en/document-centre>. 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 reassessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

Reassessment Team Composition – The reassessment team will be led by Mr. Aadarsh Mohandas from India. The team members will be: Mr. Anuranga Herath as technical expert.

Reassessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- **Reassessment organisation** – PbN team will assemble in Colombo on 22 January 2023.
- **Field assessments** – The team will visit sites managed by Kelani Valley Plantations PLC from 23 to 25 January.
- **Stakeholder consultation** – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Kelani Valley Plantations PLC forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and stakeholder meetings.
- **Final reassessment briefing** – Prior to departure the team will meet with Kelani Valley Plantations PLC managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- **Draft report production** – The reassessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Kelani Valley Plantations PLC. This should occur 30 days after completion of the assessment.
- **Certification decision** – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Kelani Valley Plantations PLC forest managers and independent reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, PbN will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by 20 March 2023.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification reassessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Kelani Valley Plantations PLC forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. 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 assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the reassessment, during the reassessment, or prior to 20 February 2023 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by 23 March 2023. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a PbN assessment 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 assessment from Asia Pacific Regional Office.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Pratama. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing the Kelani Valley Plantations PLC.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential, available 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 www.PbN.org.

Contacting PbN

- ◆ Email: pkurniaji@preferredbynature.org for Pratama B Kurniaji.
- ◆ Worldwide Website – www.PbN.org.
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