The first ever assessment of a group of medium sized forestry concessions in Indonesia was conducted from Jan 19 till 25, 2015. The assessment included field inspections of PT. Kandelia Alam and PT. Bina Ovivipari Semesta, who manage a total area of 28,220 ha mangrove forests in West Kalimantan with grant funding from both WWF and The Borneo Initiative. Both concessions are part of a group certification under management from APCS (Loy Jones, Peter Sprang), a first in Indonesia at the company level.

The FSC accredited certification body NEPCon prepared and conducted the assessment with a team of Indonesian and international auditors using both FSC® Standards and the NEPCon LegalSource™ standard.

As expected, PT. Kandelia Alam and PT. Bina Ovivipari Semesta have finally received their FSC certifications in May. This raises the total of TBI-facilitated FSC certificates to 1.34 million ha, or 1.43 million ha including the two CW certificates.

Group certification offers economies of scale especially to smaller forest concessions or community initiatives for which certification would otherwise be too expensive. It is furthermore demonstrated that also mangrove forests can be certified. These forests offer range area to the proboscis monkey, a primate species even more endangered than the orangutan. These two FSC certified mangrove concessions also put a novel product on the market - FSC certified hardwood chips and charcoal for BBQ.

The process of certification was less easy than anticipated but the two companies, and their coaches, APCS and GFTN showed great motivation to complete the process. APCS is set to grow the group to a size of at least 10 members. For more information feel free to contact the APCS group manager, Mr. Peter Sprang at psprang@apcs-pmw.com.

**Upcoming certifications**

PT. Bintuni Utama Murni Wood Indonesia (82,120 ha, mangrove forest in West Papua) and PT. Gunung Gajah Abadi (74,980 ha, East-Kalimantan) conducted their FSC audits but still need to facilitate verification audits in the coming months.

By the end of 2015, PT. Multi Wahana Wijaya is expected to achieve its FSC certification and become the first concession that brings FSC merbau to the market. Read more about its progress under TFT’s supervision: [http://www.tft-earth.org/stories/blog/deep-in-the-forests-of-west-papua](http://www.tft-earth.org/stories/blog/deep-in-the-forests-of-west-papua)
Completion of support agreements

We are proud to announce that three more forest concessions completed their support agreements with The Borneo Initiative, i.e. PT. Suka Jaya Makmur, PT. Narkata Rimba, PT. Sarmiento Prakantja Timber, and PT. SBK Delang. The first three achieved full FSC in 2011 and 2012, the latter FSC controlled wood in 2013. We will still involve these forest concessions in our upcoming market linking initiatives.

Early termination of support agreements

We also regret to announce the early termination of our support agreements with PT. Mamberamo Alas Mandiri, and PT. Sumalindo Lestari Jaya V and PT. Adimitra Lestari due to various operational challenges these companies are facing. Their replacements will be selected from a group of 15 applicants with around 1 million ha from across Indonesia.

Special feature

Double Helix Tracking Technologies (DoubleHelix) demonstrated its drone technology in our trade event in Surabaya in November 2014. Subsequently, DoubleHelix launched the first test flight of its quad-copter drones on 23 – 24 December in the forests of PT. Dwimajaya’s timber concession. The unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) mapped a section of river corridor and captured aerial photographs of road networks and the log yard.

Cheap, Efficient, Accurate

Quad-copters are inexpensive and are perfect for use in forest environments, as they are portable and able to launch vertically through gaps in the forest canopy.

A Standardised Approach

This pilot was part of a larger project funded by The World Resources Institute to develop a standardized methodology for using drones in land use monitoring, termed Systemised Operational Land Use Aerial Reconnaissance (SOLAR). Other forest concessions are invited to trial this system - feel free to contact the Communications Manager of DoubleHelix, Ms. Soo Lin Goh at soo@doublehelixtracking.com.