



## Forest Management Public Summary

**Certification Code: SCS-FM/COC-004378**

Date of Certification: October 28 2013

Date of Public Summary January 2022

This is a working document, and as such will be updated periodically as we continually evaluate, develop and refine our forest management plans and objectives.

## ACRONYMS

DOE- Department of Environment  
DOF – Department of Forest  
FBC – Forest Based Companies  
FBT – Forest Based Trust  
FFHCOP – Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice  
FFI – Fiji Forest Industries  
FMP – Forest Management Plan  
FPL – Fiji Pine Limited  
FPT – Fiji Pine Trust  
FSC – Forest Stewardship Council  
HCVF – High Conservation Value Forests  
ITLTB – I- Taukei Land Trust Board  
LO – Land Owners  
LOU – Land Owning Units  
MOL – Ministry of Lands and Survey  
RTE – Rare, Threatened and Endangered  
SCS – Scientific Certification System  
TWIL – Tropik Woods Industries Limited  
TWPL – Tropik Wood Products Limited

**INTRODUCTION**

T Wood from well managed forest is a renewable resource that will meet society’s economic, social and cultural needs without compromising the environment.

This document is intended to provide Fiji Pine Limited’s stakeholders with an overview of how we manage our forests and operations taking into account environmental, economic, social and cultural factors.

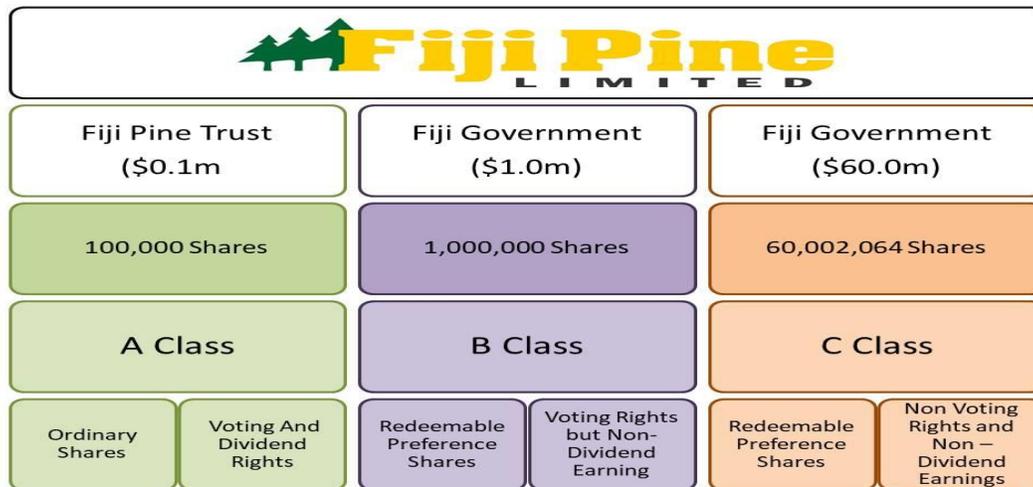
**GENERAL SUMMARY**

**1.1 Name and Contact Information**

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**1.2 Shareholding & Board Structure**

Fiji Pine Limited is a public company incorporated in 1990 as part of corporatization of Fiji Pine Commission to take over its assets, liabilities and obligations effective from 1 January 1991. The shareholders of the company are the Government of Fiji, which holds 99.8% of shares and Fiji Pine trust which holds the remaining shares. The beneficiaries of Fiji Pine Trust are the pine landowners. The shareholding structure is detailed as follows:



Despite organizational, functional and structural changes over the years, FPL has maintained its main objective to sustain and manage pine forest estate in order to sustainably supply logs to its subsidiaries.

Furthermore, the objective of Government to encourage landowner participation and sharing benefits to landowners has been paramount in the Company. FSC’s Principle 2 and 3 reinforces the Company to ensure the rights of landowners on the land leased by the Company and their user rights to access the resources they rely in the forests for their daily livelihood is not diminished.

### 1.3 General Background

#### A. Type of Operation

Fiji Pine Limited is part of the Fiji Pine Group of Companies. Fiji Pine Limited was initially established by the Government of Fiji in an effort to generate economic activities in the rural areas as well as to fully utilize “*talasiga*” (dry grass land) on which Caribaeian pine (*Pinus caribaea var. hondurensis*) was planted.

To date, the Fiji Pine Limited has established pine plantation on the dry grassland areas of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu with a stocked area of 29,748.50 hectares as at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 from a total leased area of 83,366.89 hectares. The Company will ensure sustainability of the forest resource base by establishing 3,000 hectares of newly planted area annually and increase efficiency of productivity by investing in appropriate technology. FPL is committed to increasing its stocked area estates in an effort to ensure longevity of the pine sector in Fiji.

#### B. Date first certified

Fiji Pine Limited attained FSC certification for “Well Managed Forest” on 28th October 2013. Under this certification Fiji Pine Limited has been shown to meet all of the necessary qualifications to be certified as a Well-Managed Forest in accordance with the Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC™) Principles & Criteria, as elaborated by the SCS Interim Standard for Natural Forest and Plantation Forest Management Certification in Fiji under the Forest Stewardship Council

### 1.4 Forest and Management System

#### A. Forest type and land use history

FPL leases cover a total of 83,368 of forest lands. However, 31.2% of the leased areas are stocked with pine plantations. On Viti Levu, 24% of the company’s leased areas are stocked while 52.3% is stocked in Vanua Levu after the inclusion of 2021 restocking areas. FPL is committed to restocking its plantation lease lands in an effort to ensure long term sustainability of the pine industry in Fiji.

Year	Area Planted (Ha)	Area Harvested (Ha)
2015	839.0	1,232.0
2016	2,662.0	541.0
2017	939.5	496.8
2018	1,281.6	968.4
2019	1,483.9	908
2020	1909.94	1377.00
2021	3466.87	1941.40

*Area Planted VS Area Harvested*

**Size of forest management unit certified and forest use and area in production forest, conservation, and/ or restoration**

***Management planning and systems summary***

<b>Owner of the land where forest operations take place:</b>	FPL’s land estate comprises of 94.5% of leased native land and the balance is made up of State land (Schedule A or B) and Freehold. Native land is leased through ITLTB under lease agreement
<b>Forest types being managed:</b>	Exotic forest almost entirely <i>Pinus caribaea</i>
<b>Status of management plan(s):</b>	FPL have plans for the establishment and operation for all is forest lands that makes up the 6 estates
<b>Annual allowable cut (AAC):</b>	The AAC is anticipated to be 440,000 tons/ year
<b>Modes of timber extraction:</b>	Extraction is by ground based low impact harvesters wherever possible. Logging will be concentrated on flat, marginal, steep to very steep slope, emphasizing great care and apply proper logging technique to avoid soil disturbance and soil erosion
<b>Summary of silvicultural approach:</b>	Weeding involves the periodic removal of vegetation re-growths. The operation starts about two to three months after planting and concludes when the plants are around 4 years old. Limited to thinning to obtain optimal growth rates and volume on a per hectare basis.
<b>Do harvesting operations include construction of primary roads?</b>	FPL contracts the construction of roads for newly planted areas as well as for the restocking of logged-over areas. FPL staff (Tallyman) are deployed on the ground to supervise the roading work and work efficiencies
<b>Percentage of timber supply from forest land directly managed by the applicant:</b>	Fiji Pine Limited manages all timber from FPL land

**Forest management unit certified by area in production forest, natural forest, conservation, and/or other uses.**

<b>Actual Land Use</b>	<b>Area (Ha)</b>	<b>% Total Area</b>
Non - stocked areas	7178.80	12.78
Forest plantations - stocked areas	29,962.00	31.77
Protected / Conservation areas	33,814.62	40.56
Other - (roads/ tracks, unplanted stream margins, boundary buffers, & internal areas; and powerlines	12,412.58	14.89
<b>Total Certified Area</b>	<b>83,368</b>	<b>100.00</b>

**B. Annual sustainable cut and/or annual harvest covered by management plan**

FPL plans to harvest 336,127 tons of logs from its Viti Levu and Vanualevu plantation estates in 2018 and then 460,000 tons annually, (Vitilevu – 80,000 tons, Vanualevu – 380,000 tons), from 2019 and onwards. The total estimated production over the planning period is estimated at 2.26 million tons of logs. Production level for both Vitilevu and Vanualevu has been reduced from 2016 and onwards because of sustainability issues. It is anticipated that the decrease will cushion the production supply, and at the same time giving way to the newly planted areas. The recommended felling age now has increased from 18 years to 20 years with the target to supply more saw logs than pulp as focus for Drasa mill is sawmilling. The Viti Levu stocks are all earmarked to meet the wood supply demand at Tropik Wood Industries Limited while the Vanua Levu stocks will cater for Tropik Wood Product Limited for pulp and Tropik Wood Industries Limited for Saw logs (transported through barge).

**C. General description of details and objectives of the management plan/systems**

The forest management plan is based on activities conducted on the Company leased land and their interactions with economic, environmental and social aspects of the broader community that the Company operates in.

The purpose of this plan is to:

- Outline the FSC principles and Management policies that FPL adheres to
- Describe the estate, silvi-cultural regimes and harvesting rates for the planning period
- Present the planned operational areas and log volumes by forest
- Provide new developments the Company will focus on in the period that will promote sustainability and increased benefits to the stakeholders.

The document will be made available to stakeholders to encourage feedbacks which can be used to modify the existing plan and development of subsequent year's plan.

The Company manages softwood plantations that produces raw log product types namely saw logs, pulp logs and posts/poles for its market. It also includes plantation management activities from nursery, plantation establishment, silvi-culture, forest protection and environment protection.

The forest management objective is to manage the forest resources to:

- Be sustainable to meet market demands
- Deliver optimal value to the shareholders
- Increase benefits to landowners
- Meeting the demands of stakeholders
- Adhering to the laws and regulations locally and externally governing best forest management practices
- Encompass sound environment management practices in management of plantation activities
- Be conducive for employees and contractors to thrive in their work environment which promotes safety and productivity.
- Look after the welfare of our employees the main drive of the industry

## **1.5 Environmental and Socioeconomic Context**

### **Environmental Aspect:**

Forestry is principally concerned with establishing a renewable natural resource that needs to be managed within an ecological system. Conservation of nature, public recreation parks and sustainability of the forest biomass is an integral part of good forestry practice. Consequently we remain committed to a policy of developing our business in harmony with the natural environment and manage our plantations on a sustainable yield forest management basis.

Our policies and practices relating to forest management and processing operations reflect our commitment to responsible environmental practice. In this regard, we work closely with statutory and voluntary institutions, nationally and locally, to ensure that these policies and practices conform to best international forestry and environmental standards.

In the promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable development, it is indispensable to establish the necessary legal and institutional arrangements such that environmental factors are considered at the early stages of project planning. Environmental assessment is an important technique to ensure that the likely impacts on the environment of proposed developments are fully understood and taken into account before such developments is allowed to proceed. EIA is essentially a preventive process. It seeks to avoid costly mistakes in project planning and development; mistakes which can be costly either because of environmental losses that result or costly due to modification that might be required subsequently to make the project environmentally acceptable to the Government and to the community. In Fiji, Environment Impact Assessments (EIA) for development projects is a requirement under the Environment Management Act (2005).

The Company had undertaken EIA studies of its resources and operations and has also identified areas for HCVF, RTE and cultural significant sites in its leased estate. Measures have also been put in place for the protection of the sites; covered in the Company's Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan. When our environment team with our external environment experts went in for high conservation value forest survey they came across regrowth of native woody species. Hence, it was concluded that micro-climate under the pine forests has acted as a catalyst to allow regeneration of such native species clear-felled during early years of the company operations.

Fiji Pine Limited contributes to the protection and conservation of the environment by planting on degraded grassland susceptible to water and wind erosion, and protecting the forest resources from uncontrolled fires.

There are no pesticides used in any of the forest operations.

### **Social Aspects**

Fiji Pine Limited's main focus is sustainability and that is **"to plant more than its harvests"**.

One of the key objectives of Fiji Pine Group is to ensure that it carries out its social responsibilities. Being a majority Government owned entity; Fiji Pine Limited ensures that there is no compromise to the social responsibility aspect of the industry. Below are some of the ways FPL contributes in this area:

1. Providing jobs to the key stakeholders of the industry who are the pine landowners. The jobs are both in the processing factory as well as contracts for forest operations which include logging, cartage, silviculture, forest restocking, firefighting, awareness programs, etc. Fiji Pine Group provides a vehicle for direct participation of over 16,000 rural Itaukei Landowners;
2. Generating economic activity to remote areas. Through this the landowners who are based in remote areas get access to facilities such as proper road access, schools, water supply, electricity, etc. Fiji Pine Limited has carried out many;

Landowner development concentrated on training and improvement of business skills to capitalize on opportunities offered through Fiji Pine Group operations

Fiji Pine Group uses the following modes of providing industry updates to landowners and also to get feedbacks from them:

- Regular meetings and discussion with Fiji Pine Trust who represent the landowners in the shareholding structure of Fiji Pine Limited;
- Regular meetings with Forest Base Companies and contractors;
- Awareness programs where Fiji Pine Limited taskforce reaches out to the remote areas to provide an update on the industry and listen to issues of the landowners;
- Fiji Pine Limited has an open door policy for everyone to come and discuss issues relating to the industry.

## 1.6 Monitoring

In light of its operations, Fiji Pine conducts frequent inspections to ensure that all contracted logging crews abide by the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code Practice. FPL ensures that a system is in place to monitor its operations within its forests and along rivers and streams.

FPL conducts internal audits to confirm operations have been carried out in accordance with work prescriptions and regulatory requirements, and to identify any corrective actions required: also to ensure that they are complying with our company procedures.

FPL ensures that arrangements with Ministry of Forests and FPT to assist in monitoring including the data collection via GPS of pre-harvested and post-harvested areas. These include Coupe Opening (before harvesting commences), Field Operation Monitoring and Coupe Closures (to close off the area). This information is available to the general public for viewing.

FPL also has good organization with the Fiji Police Force (FPF), which tracks and reprimands individuals that trespass and or are involved in pine theft and arsonous behavior.

FPL maintains good stakeholder relationship with Fiji Pine Trust (FPT) who liaises with landowner representatives.

In addition to the management of its plantations, FPL monitors its various impacts on communities. Given the diversity of our stakeholders, FPL has its environmental management and monitoring policy to assess these impacts. The policy priorities and recommends practical procedures developed within the context to demonstrate cost-effectiveness and efficiency in our operations.

### 1.6.1 Monitoring Summary

The purpose of this report is to describe the range and general results of monitoring programs that are under taken by Fiji Pine Limited. This work is produced as requirement of our Forest Stewardship Council™ certification commitments. This section provides summary of the key indicators monitored by FPL that are not confidential.

- a. Forest Operations – Forest Growth & Dynamics
  - I. Forest growth is monitored through combination of permanent sample plots and regular forest inventory. Measurements from sample plots provide an accurate picture of long-term trends. This data is used to develop growth models applicable to the forest resource and to validate their performances.
  - II. Plot measurement and maintenance is done internally. The data is processed and maintained on the ATLAS Cruiser system.
  - III. The above measurements and monitoring form the basis of the yield tables used to model the likely harvest volume available from the forest estate.
- b. Social Obligations
  - I. The livelihoods of our nearby communities and landowners improving through our assistance and obligations
  - II. These are recorded theoretically with the Landowner affairs department with the GIS unit.
  - III. The deliverables of this aspect can also be monitored though our social media postings.

c. Environment & Biodiversity Monitoring

- I. High Conservation Value sites – annual monitoring of HCVF sites to monitor the health of particular values resulting in HCVF status. All registered sites are monitored and records kept with a full report. This includes majorly historical sites, cultural sites, water catchments and natural forests.  
*Data is available upon request from FPL – Environment Department.*
- II. Environmental operational and system audits – all incidents are recorded in a database where it can be tracked and closed off. FPL does not have any environmental incidences recorded thus far.

**1.7 Returns to our Landowner's**

- Lease rental of \$13 per hectare (2015 - 2021); \$14 per hectare (2022) lease commitment will increase to \$1.6M in 2022
- Stumpage payment at 12% of net revenue (revenue less direct cost of logging, cartage and roading);
- 5.5% Landowner Community Development Fund – Logging revenue which is directed to Landowner community projects, business activities with the pine industry thereby increasing landowner participation and returns;
- Lease Security Bonus Payments – this is announced based on the company's performance.

**Occupational Health and Safety**

The company has always placed special emphasis on the occupational health and safety issues of its staffs, workers and contractors. Support will be given to the Forestry Department in their drive towards the enforcement and compliance of the FFHCOP. The Company will streamline its operation with all the FBC's to ensure better management and successful supervision of OHS related issues (including the FFHCOP compliance) within the Logging Crews.

Detailed training plans will be drawn up annually as coordination with Government agencies will be required to finalize and fulfill such plans.

FPL will coordinate training with the Fiji Forestry Training Centre at the Department of Forest to ensure that its contractors are accredited operators with appropriate skills to work in the forest.

FPL will also coordinate and liaise with the Department of Labor to ensure inspections are carried out and recommended corrective actions are monitored to guarantee compliance with OHS regulations.

FPL will also liaise with the Department of Environment to ensure that relevant inspections are carried out and appropriate training undertaken to ensure compliance with regulations. *A monitoring report can be obtained through request from the Environment Department at FPL.*

\*\*\* Vinaka Vakalevu \*\*\*

