



Restoration Barometer

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April

2022 Pledge Implementation Progress Report

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2022 1T.ORG PLEDGE IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS REPORT

April

Championing Thriving Landscapes

Reporting period

January 2021 – December 2021

Pledge status

Fully on track

Intervention location

Indonesia



Progress summary

APRIL is focusing on restoring and conserving 360,200 hectares in Indonesia, specifically in Riau Province. In 2021, our focus was on finalising conservation management plans for these sites in partnership with estate conservation and environment teams. These plans incorporate estate-based conservation threat matrices, which allow local management teams to identify key threats, the intervention to address these and incorporate this into business planning processes ensuring that conservation and restoration are prioritised. The lands described are under APRIL's operational concession licensed by the Government of Indonesia.

Conservation areas continued to be patrolled and monitored, resulting in the interception of potential encroachers and allowing for the early identification of other illegal activity. This significantly reduces the damage to conservation areas and other environmental values. Work commenced on a strategic plan to identify and reduce illegal wildlife trade in partnership with the World Conservation Society across operational areas and our ecosystem restoration areas.

APRIL finalised development of the Conservation Forest Management Framework (CFMF), which is designed to increase the capability of environment and forest protection staff as well as to coordinate conservation activities at the landscape level. This framework has identified significant opportunities for additional conservation outside operational concession areas, in partnership with local communities.

The ecosystem restoration licence area was certified under the forest standard of the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, which provides assurance that the forest is managed in line with challenging environmental, social and economic requirements – balancing people, planet and profit.

Further information is available in the APRIL Sustainability Report which covers this 2021 reporting period.



Implementation method

- On-the-ground restoration through own operations or supply chains
- Financial support to local community partners

Ecosystems and restoration interventions concerned

Peatlands

Passive natural regeneration

Reducing or eliminating the sources of degradation and allowing recovery time

Assisted natural regeneration

Fire prevention change to management to account for wetlands where fire regimes may be beneficial, such as prescribed burns for bogs

Reintroduction of native species

Re-wetting / raising water table

Conserved Areas / Protected Areas

Invasive/problematic species control



Policies and strategies

The key policy underpinning our forest protection and restoration work is APRIL's [Sustainable Forest Management Policy](#) (SFMP) released in 2015. It commits to no deforestation, protection of the existing conservation areas as well as supporting "the conservation and ecosystem restoration of natural forests and forested peatlands, and other ecologically, hydrologically and culturally important areas where APRIL operates."

This policy formed the basis of our ambitious APRIL 2030 Strategy which has specific conservation and restoration targets). The Thriving Landscapes commitment includes a commitment to landscape conservation funded by US\$ 1 per tonne of plantation fibre harvested annually. This is supported by Zero Net Loss of Conservation Area, positive biodiversity gains and support for wildlife protection in Indonesia.

The policies and commitments ensure that sustainability, and forest conservation and restoration are embedded as a core business function. This is reflected in APRIL's production-protection approach, which specifically ensures that we are actively committed to forest protection in our operational areas, including long-term suppliers.

Considerations related to conservation and restoration influence operational business and management decisions including identifying areas at risk, rapid response to identified disturbance and access to annual operational budgets for conservation and restoration.

Supporting documentation

- [Sustainable Forest Management Policy](#)
- [APRIL 2030 Strategy](#)
- [KPMG SFMP Assurance](#)
- [APRIL Sustainability Report](#)

Funding

\$12 million/year, disbursed towards:

- Financing of implementing partner(s)
- Development or purchase of planning or monitoring tools
- Capacity building e.g. awareness or training activities
- Policy or technical expertise
- Staff-time

The US\$ 1 per tonne of plantation fibre fund (US\$ 12 million) is the key source of funding to support all the conservation and restoration works in APRIL owned and long-term supplier concessions. It includes the existing 360,000 hectares of conservation as well as provision for extending this area by at least 20%. This includes direct community conservation partnerships as well as other work as required. Money not spent in any one year is accrued in the conservation fund for future activities.

The direct community conservation partnerships planned for 2023 will be a new initiative where APRIL will work with local communities and Earthworm Trust to identify remaining natural forest outside concession and existing national protection for community protection. APRIL is paying communities to continue to protect these areas as part of a participatory land-use process.

Supporting documentation

- [APRIL Sustainability Report](#)



Technical Planning

APRIL developed its Conservation Forest Management Framework (CFMF) along with its Stakeholder Advisory Committee to address the policy commitments in its [Sustainable Forest Management Policy](#). This is a bespoke framework that has integrated information and guidance from a range of international models, frameworks and initiatives fit for the specific issues and challenges. The CFMF references, amongst other resources:

- The Accountability Framework initiative for common terminology and reference standards
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- FAO's "Road to Restoration" Guidelines (2019)
- IUCN Guide to Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (2014)
- HCV RN Forest Integrity Assessment (2016)
- WRI's Global Forest Watch

APRIL has defined a comprehensive approach to forest conservation and restoration in its CFMF, which includes landscape level approaches with guidance on engagement and partnerships with local community partners following a free, prior and informed consent approach and participatory mapping process. The CFMF follows international best practice under the guidance of the SDGs.

The focus of the CFMF is an inclusive framework to protect, restore and enhance identified conservation values and to address the company's conservation commitments and expand the conservation capability of local partners to help communities identify, manage and monitor conservation forests with both short-term and long-term targets and deliverables. It recognises that assuring the socio-economic health of local communities is fundamental to secure conservation outcomes.

Ecosystem restoration principles considered

1

Contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the goals of the Rio Conventions.

2

Promote inclusive and participatory governance, social fairness and equity from the start and throughout the process and outcomes.

5

Address the direct and indirect causes of ecosystem degradation.

7

Build on well-defined short-, medium- and long-term ecological, cultural and socio-economic objectives and goals.

8

Tailor to the local ecological, cultural and socioeconomic contexts, while considering the larger landscape or seascape.

9

Include monitoring, evaluation and adaptive management throughout and beyond the lifetime of the project or programme.

Supporting documentation

- [APRIL Sustainability Report](#)

Monitoring Process

The entire supply footprint, including all supply sources, is monitored by satellite imagery every 15 days. Any reported land use change requires a field investigation to clarify the change supported by a restoration and recovery plan where land use change is detected, including any conflict resolution with local communities. This is supported by estate-based ground patrols and aerial patrols in difficult to access areas.

There are standard operational procedures, following international best practices related to site monitoring and assessment. Currently the baseline for all monitoring is hectares.

Regular monitoring is critical in achieving our No Net Loss Commitment. It allows us to rapidly detect any illegal land use change in our forest protection or restoration areas and respond quickly to mitigate any large-scale impacts.

Standard monitoring procedures, including the use of camera traps is important to assess any changes in species and biodiversity across the year as well as between years and may become a useful indicator of forest and ecosystem health in the longer term.

Metrics monitored

- Restoration intervention progress
- Land cover change
- Area under restoration
- Effects on biodiversity
- Financial flows to restoration activities

Supporting documentation

- [APRIL Sustainability Report](#)
- <https://www.aprilasia.com/en/sustainability/sustainability-policy>



Area of land

150'000 hectares

The vast bulk of the 150,000 hectares is allowing for natural/passive regeneration to occur through protection and in some limited cases competition control. There are currently only very small (<1 ha) parcels subject to assisted regeneration using locally sourced seed.

Supporting documentation

- <https://www.rekoforest.org>

Biodiversity

Of the total hectares under restoration, 100% aims to recreate, enrich or protect native, primary or intact ecosystems.

There is limited data on biodiversity impacts for the reporting period. We have established good baseline data sets with an independent expert partner, which will allow for tracking changes and trends over time. Managing community impacts, including hunting, overfishing and illegal encroachment are contributing to the protection of viable habitats that support a wide range of species of interest.

Metrics for biodiversity assessment have not been defined and are currently in development.

Supporting documentation

- Information compiled by company staff

Economy

123 new full time employees are directly associated with this restoration work

Types of jobs supported

- Long-term

Benefitting stakeholders

- Company staff
- Indigenous peoples and/or local communities

APRIL works closely with local community partners to ensure conservation and restoration is undertaken with full FPIC and participatory processes. This includes ensuring that the communities have support to increase their income from agricultural production through improved yields, appropriate and sustainable crop types and improved market access.

APRIL is also developing a payment mechanism so communities can realise a value for their conservation and restoration commitments.

Supporting documentation

- www.aprilasia.com/en/community-development&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1673030307110232&usq=AOvVaw02aVKXFiuM9xTdfRNYo4Hu



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