



3A Composites PNG Limited

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P.O Box 1929 Kokopo 611, ENB Province, Papua New Guinea

## Public Forest Management Summary 2017

### *Management description*

3A Composites PNG Ltd. develops and harvests balsa plantations in East New Britain Province, Papua New Guinea. Plantings are *ochroma lagopus* spp. The company is FSC certified for its Forest Management as well as for its Chain of custody and sourcing of controlled wood.

An area of approximately 2,200 ha are under the company's management. Plantations are located within 80 km of the processing site in Kokopo. The company plants 300-400 hectares per annum and works with balsa seed trials to improve the quality, plantation growth and yield. In 2017 the company planted 354 ha and harvested 344 ha of FSC100% balsa. In addition it sourced FSC Controlled Wood from 49 ha of small grower areas.

The company controls the entire process of balsa growing, maintenance, silviculture, harvesting, and production procedures of Forest Management Units (FMU) that are FSC 100%. Trees are harvested after 5-7 years.

The operation's impact on the environment is monitored through Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). Buffer zones ensure the protection of water sources, settlements, and sites of historic or cultural significance. Important community non-timber resources are also protected, as well as endangered species. The company monitors its impact on the livelihood of people affected by the operations in the plantations.

The company has an internal control system in place through which standard operating procedures, training records, complaints, etc. are monitored and documented.

### *Environmental Monitoring*

Established monitoring procedures include Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and High Conservation Value (HCV) monitoring for all site disturbing activities on managed plantations. Plantations are assessed, before and after site disturbing activities. The following indicators are monitored:

Accuracy of Maps: topographical features, existing and planned roads, boundaries, inhabited spaces, camp location, water courses, buffer zones, and HCV sites.

Identified HCV sites: protection is ensured through establishment and monitoring of buffer zones.

Marking of all buffer zones: for watercourses, gardens, villages, and HCV sites.

Identified slopes greater than 30% should not be disturbed.

In 2017 the company has included small grower balsa as FSC controlled wood into their production of FSC Mix products. Environmental monitoring for those areas has been developed and incorporated into regular monitoring practices.

In addition to this, the company has initiated a pilot project in which local small growers can become Joint Venture partners and grow balsa as part of the company's FMU.

High Conservation Value (HCV) sites in plantations are monitored on an annual basis and a Wildlife Encounter Database records sightings of animals in plantations.

### ***Social Monitoring***

Every year the company analyses the impact of its operations on its stakeholders affected by its forest management operations: Plantation workers, Joint Venture partners, contractors, small growers and communities. With approximately 600 employees the company remains one of the major employers in the province. The company engages a number of contractors for harvesting and transport and thus encourages local small and medium business enterprises. The company's decision to increasingly engage local small growers in its operations has had a positive economic impact and improved community relations.

The company has implemented a number of improvements in areas of training, health and safety, and living conditions of its employees. Offering early childhood learning for the resident children in its three compounds is an ongoing commitment of the company to further education for its future workforce. Currently 50 children are enrolled. Awareness on health and safety and implementation of compulsory PPEs has been a major focus in field operations, as well as safe storage of fuels.

Feedback from mobile teams on working with the company as well as on their living conditions has been overwhelmingly positive. The company is also proactive in outreach activities.

### ***Contact***

In case you require additional information please contact us via email:  
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