

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is recognized for its potential to promote and deliver sustainable development. Basically it is defined as an activity which predicts the impacts of the proposed project or action on human well-being, including the well-being of ecosystems on which human survival depends. Thus, EIA is normally a predictive exercise aimed at foreseeing the environmental and related socio-economic impacts of development.

Batu Hitam Enterprise has planned to undertake the logging activity on the government state land area with an area of approximately 60 hectares at Mukim Relai, Daerah Chiku, Jajahan Gua Musang, Kelantan Darul Naim with certain term and conditions. The project proponent has initially secured approval from Forestry Department Kelantan State through letter with the reference number: PHN.KN.195/3/1335 (55) dated 1 December 2011 that attached in Appendix A.

### 1.2 STATUTORY REQUIREMENT

By legal definition, the proposed logging project classified as a Prescribed Activity under Schedule 6(b) of the Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 1987 which states that ***“Logging or conversion of forest land to other land use within the catchment area of reservoirs used for municipal water supply, irrigation or hydropower generation or in areas adjacent to state and national parks and national marine parks”*** requires the submission of the Preliminary Environmental Impact Assessment report to the DOE for approval (please refer to Appendix B).

This report has been prepared in accordance to:

- The Environmental Quality (Prescribed Activities) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Order 1987; and
- The “Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines for Forestry”: Department of Environment, First Edition, November 1998.

### **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE EIA STUDY**

The main objective of the Preliminary EIA study on the proposed Project is to ensure that potential environmental problems arising from the development of the project are foreseen and addressed at an early stage in the project planning and design.

The others specific objectives are to:

- i. Provide requisite information and analysis to the Project Proponent for submission to the DOE and other relevant Government authorities on the extent and severity of short and long term potential environmental impacts which are likely to occur during every phases of the project development;
- ii. Review and identify the major environmental impacts that may result from project development;
- iii. Assess significant environmental impacts of the proposed development on the basis of information collected from existing sources and on supplementary information collected in the field;
- iv. Recommend practical and cost effective mitigation measures for those impacts that exceed acceptable levels or standards;
- v. Recommend environmental management and monitoring requirements for the project during development phase;
- vi. Discuss the environmental significance of potential residual impacts.

In general terms, most industrial activities are to satisfy the human needs and all these activities are governed by resources available to them. The harmful impacts produced from these activities are rather diverse in nature based on the complexity of the process chain of those activities. Therefore, we need to analyze those impacts in relations to our life and our environment. As permitted, this EIA study should not be viewed as an obstacle to the development of this project but just one of the legal requirements to protect the harmful and threatening effect to the environment and human itself.

## 1.4 STUDY APPROACH

The study approaches for Preliminary EIA of the proposed project are provided below. This report was adapted from DOE Handbook of Environmental Impact Assessment Guidelines (Forth Edition, October 2007) and EIA Guidelines for Forestry Projects produced by DOE (First Edition, November 1998). As required by DOE under the EIA Guidelines for Forestry Projects, the Table 1.1 below listed the contents of each chapter in this EIA to comply with the study approach in accordance with the said guidelines.

**Table 1.1: EIA Report Contents**

CHAPTER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
1	Introduction	Brief introduction on the Project, statutory requirement, objectives and scope of work for the EIA.
2	Project Title	Title of project outlining the type, size and location of the site/ area facility which is being studied.
3	Project Proponent	Information of the Project Initiator, Technical Consultants and Environmental Consultants.
4	Statement of Need	Indicates principle objectives and need for the projects.
5	Project Description	Overall description of the Project, concept, components and infrastructure and project implementation schedule.
6	Project Options	Describes the site selection and available options.
7	Existing Environment	Describes the existing environment that is classified into physical-chemical, biological and social-economics as well as their individual components. This information will form the baseline for subsequent impact assessment.
8	Assessment of Impact	This chapter sets out and discusses the potentially significant adverse and beneficial impacts that the project preferred could have on the physical (physic-chemical), ecological (biological) and social (human) components of the environment.
9	Mitigation and Abatement Measures	This chapter specifically describes the appropriate mitigation measures to be minimized and eliminate the potential negative impacts.
10	Residual Impact	This chapter examines the residual impacts that would remain despite all mitigation measures having been taken.
11	Environmental Management Plan	Describe the allocation of responsibility for implementing the mitigation measures and monitoring the effects of the key sector project, setting a programme of environmental monitoring and listing remedial actions in the events that environmental monitoring identifies significant adverse effects.
12	Conclusion	Conclusion drawn for this study.

Baseline studies were conducted on February 2012 to obtain data on aspects which were felt to be important or where no information is available. Meetings with experts consultant engineers and the relevant government authorities were held and their views given due consideration. Apart from the baseline data, information is sourced from published secondary data. In the assessment of environmental impacts, apart from qualitative analysis, attempts have been made to quantify certain cause-effect relationships and to make various numeric assumptions to derive the conclusions. Such exercise, if used and interpreted judiciously, may shed light on the direction and magnitude of the resulting impacts.

The conclusion of the EIA is based on an objective assessment of the data and information gathered during the study period by members of the EIA Consultant Team. The view and opinions presented in this study are the professional views of those contributing to its preparation and should not be taken to reflect the views or positions of the institutions and organizations they are associated with.

## **1.5 LIST OF EIA STUDY TEAM MEMBERS**

The project proponent has appointed a team of consultants from Surawaki Environmental Sdn. Bhd. to conduct and report this preliminary environmental impact assessment. The project team members that prepared this report are tabulated in Table 1.2.

**Table 1.2: EIA Study Team Members (EIA Consultants and Assistant Consultant)**

<b>NAME/ REGISTRATION NO./ POSITION</b>	<b>ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION</b>	<b>REGISTERED AREAS</b>	<b>AREA (S) OF STUDY IN EIA</b>
<b>A) EIA CONSULTANTS</b>			
Abdul Wahab bin Ali / C0002 / EIA Team Leader	Bachelor Hons. (Chemical Engineering), University of Technology Malaysia  Master Science (Safety, Health and Environment), University of Technology Malaysia	i) Wastewater ii) Chemical Processes & Other Industrial Process iii) General Environmental Management	- Wastewater Management - Air Quality
Dr. Md Salim Khan/ C0156/ EIA Team Member	Bachelor of Science (Fisheries)  Master of Science (Fish Biology)  Phd (Fish Biology)	i) Biology ii) Ecology	- Ecology
Salasiah binti Abd Rahman C0913/ EIA Team Member	Diploma in Science, Universiti Teknologi Mara  Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical), Universiti Putra Malaysia	i) Water Quality ii) Scheduled Waste Management iii) General Environmental Management	- Water Quality - Scheduled Waste Management
<b>B) ASSISTANT CONSULTANT</b>			
Engr. Dr. Sivakumar a/l Chinnasamy/ AC0133/ EIA Team Member	Bachelor of Engineering (Mechanical), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia  Master of Technology (Environmental Management), Universiti Malaya  PhD (Safety Engineering), Ashwood University, USA	i) General Environmental Management ii) Air Quality iii) Noise and vibration	- Air quality - Noise and vibration