



SAMLING'S RESPONSE TO REQUEST FROM ALJAZEERA

This response was made to a request from AlJazeera with regards to the company's logging concessions in the Upper Baram and Upper Limbang areas.

Below is Samling's full response:

We refer to the email from your correspondent requesting a response from Samling with regards to the company's logging concessions in the Upper Baram and Upper Limbang areas. We understand that the allegations that you are requesting a response to were largely contained in an article in Mongabay titled:

"Threat of legal action against Indigenous Borneans protesting timber company", 1 June 2021, *Mongabay*: <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/06/threat-of-legal-action-against-indigenous-borneans-protesting-timber-company/>. Locally, these allegations were repeatedly made by an online publication, Save Rivers, and its team against Samling.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that Samling has repeatedly addressed these baseless allegations. Samling has also responded to Al Jazeera on similar allegations. These allegations have affected and tarnished the reputation of Samling. Although Samling welcomes open and constructive dialogue and engagement, Samling's previous efforts for engagement with Save Rivers were refused.

As a matter of last resort, Samling has now instituted a legal suit against Save Rivers and its team. In the circumstances, we trust you will appreciate that we are not at liberty to comment further on matters or issues in relation to the pending proceedings, including the Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) dispute resolution process.

Samling maintains that it has adhered to all conditions and requirements imposed by the MTCC scheme. The Management of the Group's licences, granted for the areas you mentioned, had implemented the requirements complying with the Malaysian Criteria & Indicators (Natural Forest) of the MTCC scheme, that is endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). The certificates for Forest Management (Natural Forest) were duly issued by a certification body accredited by Standards Malaysia.

Having operated in Sarawak and more specifically in the Baram area for over 50 years, Samling is very aware of the culture and livelihood needs of the communities living there. The mutual respect between Samling and the communities in the Baram area ensures that both parties can co-exist and benefit from our sustainable and responsible logging practices.