



Media Release

For Immediate Release

Clarifying the Facts: Addressing Misleading Claims on Samling Group's MTCS Withdrawal

21 February 2025, Miri Sarawak - We appreciate your inquiry regarding Samling Group's decision to withdraw several of our timber concessions from the Malaysian Timber Certification Scheme (MTCS). This statement is categorically inaccurate.

Since before COVID, Samling has embarked on a transformation of our traditional natural forest business to focus on the forest plantation business, in support of the Government's policy of reducing the demand for timber from natural forests with timber from plantations. Over the years, we have scaled down our activities in our natural forest concessions and concentrated on building our plantation businesses. As a result, it is no longer viable to maintain the certifications for certain natural forest areas.

Will Samling continue to log the concession areas to harvest non-MTCS certified timber?

Logging is permitted under the timber concessions, whether certified or not but with the permission of the Forestry Department, however Samling will only log in areas that are certified under the MTCS and approved by the Forestry Department. As previously mentioned, we are focusing our forest activities in our certified ITP concessions and nature-based solutions.

Can I get a comment from Samling on this matter?

We disagree with the interpretation of events presented in the statement from Save Rivers. The decision to withdraw from MTCS certification is part of our broader strategy to prioritize our activities in ITPs and nature-based solutions, not a reduction in our commitment to sustainability. Samling remains dedicated to transparent and responsible land management, and we welcome constructive feedback from all stakeholders.

Should you require further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Email: enquiry@samling.com