



## Media Release

For Immediate Release

### **Samling Acknowledges FSC Decision to Retain Association with Conditions**

**29 April 2025, Miri Sarawak** - Samling acknowledges the decision published on **25<sup>th</sup> April 2025** by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) regarding the Policy for Association (PfA) complaint submitted by several Malaysian and international civil society organizations alleging unacceptable activities by Samling.

The FSC's Decision Panel of independent experts recommended that the FSC maintain its association with Samling, setting conditions to verify further and address potential environmental and social harms that may have occurred during Samling's forest operations.

The complaint referred to activities in forests that were not certified by FSC but were certified under the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) endorsed Malaysian Timber Certification System (MTCS). Samling was connected to this complaint by possessing two chain of custody certificates under FSC.

The Malaysian Timber Certification Council (MTCC) has informed FSC that it has concluded its complaint investigation process and considered the complaint closed in 2021. Accordingly, the PEFC-endorsed MTCS certificates remained valid.

However, the FSC Decision Panel in April 2025 found a violation outside the certified forest area which, when compared to the size of the area under review, the Panel considered to be small scale. The Panel acknowledged that while it saw risks for further alleged violations, it did not have enough information to conclude on violations in other areas.

Samling remains firmly committed to constructive dialogue with the FSC and all relevant stakeholders as we continue to enhance our sustainability performance moving forward.

#### **The Samling Group**

Samling Group is a leader in sustainable forest management. It is taking steps to drive the transition from natural forest reliance to fully sustainably managed tree plantations and nature-based forest preservation and conservation solutions. With over 60 years of timber operations, we are committed to creating long-term environmental, social, and economic value through innovation and responsible practices.