

HUON VALLEY ENVIRONMENT CENTRE INC.



Submission to the Legislative Council Select Committee

Inquiry into the Tasmanian Forests Agreement Bill 2012 and
Any other matters incidental thereto

Huon Valley Environment Centre has been established for 11 years and operates out of the Huon Valley. Our organisation conducts annual social events, the very popular Herb, Health and Organic Expo, and the Salamanca Arts Centre Weld Echo are two examples. These events and others including community visits to the southern forests, have brought thousands of people together in support of our events in the Huon region and Hobart. We have created a very strong presence in the community. We are part of the global environment movement and we are connected and respected globally.

Our aim is to protect the natural environment and ensure the integrity of our global environmental heritage, in the face of accelerated climate change and unsustainable industrial exploitation, for generations to come. Our advocacy focus is for the protection of native forests in southern Tasmania, and stems from a deep, educated understanding of the intrinsic values of the environment, the social impacts of its degradation and the subsequent immediate need for its protection from destruction. Our campaigners are very familiar with the forests of the southern region and their values.

Locally, our role is to highlight the environmental values of Tasmania's natural estate and advocate for their recognition and protection. Globally, in solidarity with people around the world, we aim to highlight and protect the environmental values of threatened ecological systems worldwide. We recognise that protecting Tasmania's native forests is an essential mechanism in the mitigation of Australia's contributions to catastrophic climate change.

Our main points we would like to offer to this inquiry are the following: There is an urgent need for secure protection of the globally significant forest ecosystems as World Heritage listed National Parks. Further to this the protection of intact, natural ecosystems, and the native wildlife that depend on these ecosystems, is needed. Expanding protected areas from resource extraction is one of the best tools in reducing net carbon emissions and mitigating climate change impacts¹. There is also a desperate need for rapid transition out of industrial-scale native forest logging, a need for immediate change in logging practices, burning native forests for electricity needs to be ruled out, and the immediate restructure of Forestry Tasmania to create a better management strategy. And we don't believe Tasmania should be dealing with a company such as Ta Ann.

Out in the forests it is business as usual, clear-felling of native forests, including some with world heritage values, is still occurring. Even after a World Heritage nomination has been submitted on behalf of the Commonwealth, there is failure to comprehensively reschedule out of nominated forests. World Heritage protection for the outstanding and unique, globally significant forest ecosystems of the southern region of Tasmania is a responsibility of the Commonwealth and State Governments. With growing environmental awareness becoming an influence on political considerations, both Governments need to acknowledge voters and environmental advocates by securing protection for these unique world heritage value forests and immediately halt any activity that threatens the nominated forests.

Our expectation is that logging needs to cease immediately inside the proposed reserves and we don't accept that it can't be rescheduled. Industry experts inform us rescheduling is primarily a paper exercise.

It is our organisation's ambition to protect the forests and transition the forestry industry out of native forests, hence we see the Tasmanian Forest Agreement lacking in the vision, will and leadership required to protect all forests with ecological, social and aesthetic conservation values. In the Huon Valley areas of forest with conservation value have been excised from proposed reserves for the purposes of continued logging to supply Ta Ann. Making concessions over natural intact forests and assisting a socially divisive, mendicant and ailing industry, to continue in its current form, is against our better judgement.

We have witnessed some perverse things taking place within the forestry industry that has led us to question the unethical nature of this industry. As an environmental organisation we see the devastating loss of our natural heritage to support an extremely small percentage of Tasmanians at a consistent public financial loss as unfathomable².

There is a belief that there is no plan B for the resolution of the Tasmanian forestry industry crisis and providing forest protection, and the Tasmanian Forest Agreement is the only way forward for Tasmania. However, an alternative plan to provide forest protection and help the native forestry industry already in decline starts with: securing forest reserves, a rapid transition out of industrial scale logging of native forests, changing logging practices immediately, removing the beleaguered Forestry Tasmania and reforming the management system. This ceases the propping up of the industry with exorbitant taxpayer subsidies and results in growing political will from Government to protect our unique intact natural estate.

The Tasmanian environment movement had an agreed objective: to end industrial-scale native forest logging and secure protection of forests with conservation values in national parks, and other native forests as conservation reserves providing protection from resource extraction.

Some members of the environment movement chose to change their role in this plan and buckle to the logging industry. The change in approach by some environmental groups leading to a weakened stance on the conservation of native forests and a rapid transition away from industrial-scale native forest logging does not have the support of the Australian forest movement. It is fair to say that the environmental signatories to the Tasmanian Forest Agreement have acceded to the direction that the big forestry industry players want to take without any certainty for forest protection or maximisation of conservation outcomes.

For the last 11 years we have been the environmental body that has been advocating for protection of the Huon forests and The Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania, and Australian Conservation Foundation, have no mandate to make peace on behalf of us.

It is of great concern that some have espoused the idea that environmentalists have already received enough of an outcome, and that after this agreement there can be no further conservation gains made. The native forestry industry in Tasmania is collapsing,⁴ we need to be pushing the industry through a transition, dislocation is happening anyway for the industry and we recognise that. We question the notion that the Huon Valley will be ruined without the timber industry as we believe the region can be a thriving community without the timber industry. We recognise that employment is very important but we see that the Huon region is going through rapid demographic change and the forest industry is no longer a viable model.

Huon Valley Environment Centre rejects that this latest process, between the environmental and industry signatories, is the final protection phase for the native forests of southern Tasmania. There have been significant verifications made through the process that have identified values of the forests in the southern region, and these areas should not be traded off for the survival of the unsustainable industry that continues to damage the environment and climate.

There is still no forest protection, and logging is still ongoing. Despite the decline in the woodchip market, large scale clearfelling continues, chip logs are produced and stockpiled at an alarming rate, for example at the Hazell Bros Leslie Vale site. This is a deal that has already delivered a large amount of financial support for a failing industry and is yet to deliver any conservation outcomes. It is a deal to further secure the future of an ailing industry with the assistance of some environmental groups. On top of this entities such as Ta Ann and Forestry Tasmania continue to drive the industrial logging of native forests. These factors necessitate advocacy from environment groups as our community can do better.

The idea being propagated is that this agreement will be the green star endorsement from environment groups for the new look industry, however due to the lack of industrial reform and forests with conservation values being left unprotected, a program of forest watch and advocacy from community organisations will still be essential. This agreement has failed to end entrenched wood-chipping and clear-felling of native forests, it has endorsed the practices of a very unethical company, Ta Ann, and we will not accept those terms. There is an unreasonable expectation by some people in the logging industry and the Parliament that the environmental signatories should chastise and marginalise community members, such as our organisation, who continue to advocate for environmental protection.

We will continue to advocate for forest protection into the future. This is our democratic right and our community responsibility as an environmental organisation.

1. Background - About Huon Valley Environment Centre

Huon Valley Environment Centre is a community organisation and we have earnest aspirations and ambitions to realise the protection of native forests. We represent a sentiment in the Huon Valley, by advocating, through community engagement operations, the views of our members and supporters. We offer a service to the Huon Valley in being a community environmental organisation and shop front, with an art gallery and public information resource. Our presence is important as a shop-front; we welcome many visitors from across Australia and internationally. We provide information. And we see ourselves connected to others. The environment centre supports researchers, scientists, and artists, including photographers, printmakers, craft timber workers, etc. Support for our work is evident in the overwhelming number of participants in international days of action conducted by us in partnership with Still Wild Still Threatened. And in the thousands of people who have signed our campaign letter to customers of Ta Ann.

We are an environmental advocacy and social education centre. Locally, our role is to highlight the environmental values of Tasmania's natural estate and advocate for their recognition and protection. Our point of advocacy is the environment. We have a passion and relentless commitment to the southern forests, obvious by our activity in forests stretching from Cockle Creek in the south to West Wellington in the north of our region. Our organisation advocates for environmental gains.

Huon Valley Environment Centre is a key member of the Australian environment movement. Our organisation works closely with a number of groups around Australia and internationally.

In Australia, Huon Valley Environment Centre has strong working relationships with Still Wild Still Threatened, CODE Green, Groundswell, Friends of the Earth, Rainforest Information Centre and Markets for Change.

Internationally, Huon Valley Environment Centre has a working relationship with JATAN, (Japan Tropical Forest Action Network), Save Sarawak Rivers Network, Sarawak Report and Bruno Manser Fund.

We are a member of the Australian Forest and Climate Alliance. The Australian Forests and Climate Alliance is an Australian community network working to protect Australia's native forests and secure a safe climate for future generations.

Our vision for the Huon Valley, and Tasmania, is one of a place of opportunity, with a resilient community and economy based on harmony with the natural environment, where sustainability, rather than rampant industrial growth and resource extraction from natural ecosystems, is the fundamental tenet of society. Tasmania has a potential to become a world leader in providing protection against loss of habitat, ecological diversity and accelerated climate change.

We provide ongoing information to international markets regarding the source of wood products coming from Tasmania's forests and will continue to do so.

2. Environmental Advocacy - What is Huon Valley Environment Centre advocating for?

Native forest protection. Our organisation advocates for National Park status for the Huon forests and World Heritage protection for those with recognised World Heritage values. Huon Valley Environment Centre recognises the crucial role of World Heritage in protecting natural and cultural values, and the only appropriate tenure for World Heritage Areas is National Park. Further to this there are forested regions in the Huon district that are not world heritage value that also have values as intact natural ecosystems and should receive National Park protection.

Protection of globally significant forest ecosystems. Secure protection of World Heritage value forests and an immediate end to logging in the nominated world heritage value forests.

Protection of the intact, natural ecosystems and the native wildlife that depend on it. Protection of natural and intact native forest ecosystems and protection of native wildlife, by providing secure protection and prevention of extinction of wildlife. Strengthening of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, so as to remove the exemptions where this legislation does not apply to a forestry operation that is undertaken in accordance with a Regional Forest Agreement (RFA)⁶ and maintaining the essential role of the Federal Government in preserving the natural environment and environmental protection laws.

Take action to mitigate the impacts of climate change. There needs to be a genuine transition away from industrial-scale native forest logging over the next two years. There also needs to be an immediate change to logging practices including an end to clear-felling, regeneration burns, cable logging, shooting of native wildlife and wood-chipping. Burning of native forests for electricity or conversion to bio-ethanol for energy as green energy measures are counter-intuitive and incomprehensible.

Ethical industrial policy and practices, both here and overseas, with an immediate cessation of all involvement with any relation of and to the Taib Mahmud regime in Sarawak, Malaysian Borneo, and a review of the commercially unviable nature of the Southwood complex; Ta Ann is not an acceptable company for Tasmania to be engaged with. We see that a company such as Ta Ann with its links to the Sarawak Timber Industry and with close ties to the family of corrupt Sarawak Chief Minister, Abdul Taib Mahmud., is not an acceptable company for Tasmania to engage with. (See Appendix 1 and 2, Huon Valley Environment Centre Reports) In Sarawak, Ta Ann has been granted over 600'000 hectares of logging and oil palm plantations without public tender⁷. In 2011, Global Witness found Ta Ann to be responsible for clear-cutting orang-utan habitat in the Heart of Borneo⁸. The Taib family's worldwide assets are estimated at USD 20 billion. Last month, the Bruno Manser Fund lodged a criminal complaint against four Swiss banks over the alleged handling of over 100 million USD on behalf of the Taib family.⁹

The industrial complex located in the Huon Valley, where Ta Ann and a saw-mill operate, once known as Southwood, is not a commercially viable complex. Our view is that it should not be maintained, especially with public subsidies, particularly considering its remote location in the forests that are proposed for protection. The situation has become even more perverse at this complex with state suppliers Hydro Tasmania agreeing to supply cheaper electricity to Ta Ann¹⁰, despite a dispute over unpaid electricity bills¹¹, and at a time when domestic power prices are creating great discomfort for families across the state of Tasmania. Forestry Tasmania wrote a cheque to pay for the Huon sawmill to stay operational¹², so as to maintain the drive for wood supply, the Southwood complex and viability of Ta Ann's operations. The State owned Government Business Enterprise purchasing a mill, at a time when the viability of the mill, the location of the mill and the purchaser, (ie Forestry Tasmania) are questionable, is another serious problem.

Solutions toward a resilient community. A fully funded landscape conservation, restoration and integrated-catchment management program across Australia and; a significant boost to funding for reserve management and nature conservation in the states and territories.

Right to freedom of speech and right to protest, commitment to non-violent direct action. We have a commitment to peaceful and non-violent action for environmental advocacy. We support open public democracies and support peaceful non-violent action. We are not promising to cease community campaigning or protests and we wear the penalties that our campaigners and supporters receive as punishment for the protests we participate in. Any increase in penalties or draconian laws to intimidate peaceful protesters is not the way forward for our democratic society and will be met with sustained opposition.

Land Stewardship; Forestry Tasmania needs to be dramatically restructured to reflect the community's evolved understanding of the values of our native forest estate. In its current form FT has mismanaged and failed to protect a unique and globally significant state asset and bloody-mindedly driven the forest industry into the ground.¹³ Oversight by other government stakeholders, environmental, social and economic, is necessary as FT has shown the only thing it can deliver is social discord and financial and environmental losses.

3. Shortcomings of the Tasmanian Forest Agreement

Huon Valley Environment Centre does not support the Tasmanian Forests Agreement. The environmental signatories did not have a mandate to negotiate on our behalf. We have provided our view for public consideration through our campaigns and these views have not been entertained. There are serious shortcomings in the agreement and the legislation. These shortcomings include:

3.1 Ta Ann Tasmania and Ta Ann in Sarawak

Ta Ann is utilising wood in Sarawak that has been obtained under circumstances in which no free, prior and informed consent was given by the indigenous owners of the land.¹⁴ Contrary to the International Human Rights Convention, of which Australia is a signatory - but not Malaysia. Tribal chiefs have complained in writing, as recently as 18th February 2012, that they do not want Ta Ann on their land (please see attached letter in appendix 3). Ta Ann, in making composite product, do mix Tasmanian and Sarawak sourced material together in some product lines.¹⁵

Market endorsement, through unfounded "peace in our time" assurances, by environment groups for ongoing clear-felling of Tasmania's native forests and potential supply of high conservation value forests to Ta Ann.

A controversial aspect of the industry has been the supply of wood from high conservation value forests to Ta Ann. The agreement does not indicate that this will cease. And as it is clear the destruction of those forests is set to continue, it is evident that Ta Ann will continue to receive this wood. For Ta Ann to continue to sell ply made from such destruction and labelled as "eco" friendly does not resolve the controversy in the marketplace. International customers expect a higher environmental standard and the tick of approval from some environment groups is not enough if there is no real change in the company's practices.

Alarming, Clause 6 states "long-term compensable supply contracts, with legislated sovereign risk protection." To legislate these supplies is a risk to Tasmania, when markets could change again and continue to decline, leaving the taxpayer to compensate. In addition, it raises questions about Ta Ann and whether their controversial wood supply will be legislated, locking them into destruction of our native forests.

The unfounded "peace in our time" assurances that will be made by the signatories in the international market are unacceptable. As is the call for a government funded propaganda machine to sell clear-felled native forest products internationally. Ultimately Tasmania's wood products must stand the test of international scrutiny, and a PR campaign coupled with a tick of approval for some environment groups will not be enough to hide the fact that destruction is continuing in the forests. The only way to bring about market stability is to bring the product in line with customer expectations by adopting stricter environmental practices, the exact opposite of what this agreement does.

3.2 Ongoing logging

Throughout the process of signatories talking about the future of Tasmania's forests there has been ongoing logging. This meant the very values that were being talked about for protection were being lost, which is counter-intuitive to any sensible method of progressing the debate over the management of our forests. (See Appendix 4, Huon Valley Environment Centre Report, A Forest a Day)

3.3 No time frame for protection and false numbers on the area of forest to be protected

Although we would welcome the creation of reserves, if and when that happens, the numbers of hectares is publicly overstated and is misleading. While it has been reported that over half a million hectares will be protected, the fact is that a deeper analysis shows a very different reality in terms of real forest protection. The more realistic figure is 395 000 ha. This is a significant decrease from the reserve proposals made on behalf of the environment groups state wide which was originally 610 000ha. There is nothing certain in the agreement for secure protection.

3.4 Proposal to stage reserves and inability to protect agreed upon areas from logging

There is a very real risk that the second tranche of reserves will never be delivered. In the community and in the markets there is a disingenuous propagation of the misguided belief by the signatories that the protection outcome has been 525,000 ha, but even before the protection outcome reaches 395,000ha the industry will have achieved a measure of green-wash of their products, while continuing unacceptable practices. The remaining areas that have been agreed for protection will be held to ransom, pending silencing the rights of people to participate in a democracy, and remaining areas will be logged over ten years and then possibly protected. A conservation gain in protecting 525'000 ha will be lost.

There is no moratorium on logging of the proposed reserves in sight, and in fact there are clauses that allow for logging to continue in these areas. In addition there is no transition schedule worked out according to a timeline.

Ongoing logging within the proposed reserve area is unacceptable. Given the track-record of rescheduling efforts so far, none of which have led to the full implementation of the moratorium or conservation agreement, this clause raises serious concerns about how much forest will be logged and how long it will be before the reserves are protected. The wording in the agreement implies that the protection of these areas will only occur if and when rescheduling takes place, "The Signatories will work with governments and Forestry Tasmania (including the Chair of the Board) to develop the agreed transitional schedule prior to the issuing of the Protection Order".

The absence of immediate rescheduling out of the forests that are proposed for protection has been a failure for the duration of the Tasmanian Forests Agreement process. Huon Valley Environment Centre views it as a crucial first step to any agreement being reached. In January the Conservation Agreement allowed logging inside the 430,000 ha instead of protecting the entire area as promised under the Inter-Governmental Agreement.

Furthermore there must be no internal exemptions granted within the area for protection - it is unacceptable for areas of forest from protection agendas to be excised for logging.

Concessions have already been made on the areas proposed for protection; it is important to acknowledge that there was compromise over key areas that involved excising 55,184 ha of high conservation value forests, for Ta Ann Tasmania and the big saw millers. In the Huon region these excisions were substantially for Ta Ann.

There is no indication of how long it will take for the Protection Order to be delivered. If this process must be complete, and the first durability report compiled, before the Protection Order is put in place, there will be a considerable delay on implementing protection. In the meantime logging will continue.

The 21,411 hectares that will be logged once-off or log-of-last-resort cannot be considered to be part of the reserve figure either, because they will be open for logging. They have no guaranteed protection in the future, as their tenure status will be dependent on wood supply.

3.5 Wood chipping and clear-felling to continue in Tasmania's forests. Logging native forests for bio-energy a real risk to the environment and community.

Woodchipping

The use of the woodchips produced in the logging cycle is still left unresolved. It is alarming and unacceptable that industrial scale wood chipping and clear-felling will continue in Tasmania's forests, with the support of the environment groups signed on to the agreement. Silvicultural practices need to change, yet the deal locks in unsustainable and ecologically damaging logging practices.

Triabunna woodchip mill has been urged by the signatories to reopen, the current state of the mill requires a lot of maintenance work that could take an indefinite period of time. The current owner of the mill has ruled out reopening the mill if it needs taxpayer support.¹⁶ The agreement requests that if the mill is not reopened or another alternative for ongoing unsustainable wood chipping not found, then it be reflected as so in a durability report prior to the protection order being put in place. If the durability report and therefore the possibility of the Protection Order even being implemented are reliant on external parties such as Triabunna Mill, and reliant on the locking in of wood chipping, then there is a real risk that there will never be protection. Or that the destructive, large scale and low value industry based on wood chipping that has already failed in Tasmania, will be brought back to life and propped up by this agreement, despite the fact that this industry has demonstrably failed in Tasmania and globally. The clauses around "residues" clearly highlight the intentions to continue to log native forests on industrial scale.

Biomass conversion

Biomass conversion is not explicitly mentioned in the agreement, though it is not specifically ruled out as a domestic option that will be proposed as a future use for our forests. As energy is a great commodity it is a very real concern that the unevolved native forestry model will look to our forests to feed furnaces and/or ethanol plants.

Burning native forests and wood debris in bio-ethanol plants and biomass plants, or exporting pellets around the globe for other nations to burn in biomass plants, is an unacceptable solution for Tasmania's forestry industry in decline. Wood fired power plants are a risk to communities and the environment, because they entrench the ongoing damage to biodiversity in native forests and lock in clear felling of native forests. Pellet burning plants are inefficient and polluting, generating more carbon emissions per unit of energy than burning coal and compete with real renewables that will actually help us chart a low-carbon future, and release harmful particulates and other compounds that threaten human health¹⁷. (See Appendix 5 & 6)

3.6 Abandoned Transition out of native forests

A transition out of native forests that was a core conservation requirement and outlined in the Statement Of Principles seems to have been abandoned, as signatories agree to an "ongoing, vibrant forestry industry based in native forests." The concept of seven years of research planning is mentioned in the agreement, subsidised by the government. This delay is unacceptable, as the industry needs to make a swift transition.

Another aspect of the agreement that points to a further entrenchment of native forest logging is the redefinition of state forest areas as "Permanent Wood Production Zones." This change in language from the previous "multiple use forest" definition, indicates the real intentions of this agreement and that is to leave these forests open for logging permanently and reverts to looking as forests being providers only of wood mass and not containing any other values whatsoever.

3.7 Sawlog buyback reallocated

The saw log quota has been reduced to 137,000 m3. And this is in fact a minimum not a maximum requirement, allowing for this to be increased at any time, but never reduced.

Controversially a larger quantity of cubic metres was offered to the Government for the HQ sawlog contract voluntary buyback program that could have reduced the HQ sawlog quota to less than 137 000 cubic metres, subsequently securing more forests for protection. Now the signatories are suggesting additional funding for the loggers and the sawlog quota will not be retired but reallocated. This essentially means that the entire process of a government funded saw log buyback scheme failed to achieve the conservation outcomes intended, because the majority of the quota bought back will be re-distributed.

3.8 Durability

The details about the durability reports are absent, though there is a clear requirement that they be delivered before protection of forests. This not only leads to a very dubious delay in forest protection, but also leaves a cloud of uncertainty around whether protection will ever be implemented. The protection of these forests should not be subject to conditions.

They have been verified as of high conservation value by independent scientists and should be protected regardless. Yet, the agreement implies that the protection will not proceed unless there is "public and proactive" support for entire agreement, including in the market place. This kind of statement is akin to blackmail. To expect the public, who have not been consulted or involved in this process, to give proactive support to this agreement is a way of stifling open and honest public debate and discussion. The community should be free to critique aspects of the agreement without having those verified forests held to ransom.

The specific mention of public support in the markets is unacceptable. There are problems with this agreement in terms of the real conservation measures that would be needed to be rectified to successfully satisfy customers buying 'eco-friendly' products. These customers have a right to know about these issues. There should be space for problematic aspects of the agreement to be critiqued.

3.9 Dispute resolution

The Agreement refers to "activities external to this agreement that may undermine it," Yet, it is questionable how this agreement can control activities that are external to it. And if this clause is intended to refer to protest activity, it is extremely problematic and a dangerously undemocratic precedent to set.

3.10 Certification

The agreement appears not to rule out Australian Forestry Standard certification, which is an unacceptable form of certification for forests and which is aligned with PEFC, a certification standard that has been condemned internationally by environment groups.¹⁸ The call for FSC certification is also problematic, because it is based around the permanent timber production zones, which will consist of native forests outside the reserves. An attempt to gain FSC certification for wood from these areas shows an intention to continue to log them, indicating again the clear lack of a transition. The reality is, however, that current industry practices, including clearfelling and cable logging, are unacceptable and should not be approved by environmental certification standards such as FSC.

The agreement states that the forest manager should be "able to undertake and demonstrate full management control of the production forest estate (forest management area)." This looks suspiciously like an attempt to lock in Forestry Tasmania to managing the forests, which is in contradiction to the government's approach in relation to the URS review, which would see an immediate restructure of Forestry Tasmania.

3.11 Forest Practices Code needs strengthening

The statement that "the Forest Practices Code should be progressed in a manner consistent with this agreement" is vague and meaningless, and raises alarm bells around the critical issue of the Forest Practices Code upgrade that has been recommended by the Forest Practice Authority¹⁹. The statement in the agreement could be interpreted in a number of ways, and in fact to say that the FPC be "consistent with this agreement" seems to imply that the code, like everything else in this deal, be treated as secondary to wood supply.

3.12 Special Species Zones

There are questions around the management of such zones. In particular around those areas identified as eucalypt forest, as the agreement states "If any forest within the Special Craft and Timber Zone is typed as eucalypt forest the special management order should permit those forest areas to be harvested as if they were part of the Permanent Timber Production Zone Land." Such areas could be exposed to the same industrial scale logging as the permanent production zones, and therefore they will not receive protection and cannot be included in the reserve figure.

The community needs to be seeking alternatives to logging old growth rainforest species for special-ty timbers. There has been an opportunity lost over the many decades of wood-chipping driving the logging of Tasmania's forests and rainforest species being left to burn on the coupe floor. The industry needs to salvage the rainforest species left on the coupe floor prior to regeneration burns and store these timbers in a regionally based wood bank.

3.13 Regional Forest Agreement is flawed & should not be endorsed

This agreement implies endorsement and support for the Regional Forest Agreement – which should, instead, be thrown out. "The outcomes of this agreement should be incorporated into existing State and Federal mechanisms, including the Regional Forest Agreement". RFAs are discredited and should not be entrenched through this agreement.²⁰

Appendix

Appendix 1 – Huon Valley Environment Centre, Behind the Veneer: Forest Destruction and Ta Ann Tasmania's Lies, September 2011. http://mps.tas.greens.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Behind-the-Veneer_Forest-Destruction-And-Ta-Ann-Tasmanias-Lies.pdf
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/72216112/Ta-Ann-Final-Report-2011-Web>

Appendix 2 – Huon Valley Environment Centre, Ta Ann; Destroying Rainforest and Violating Human Rights in Sarawak. February 2012 http://taann.files.wordpress.com/2012/01/ta_ann_report_final3.pdf

Appendix 3 – Letter 18 Feb 2012 - Our demand as locals and owners of Native Customary Rights Land under Kubaan Puak Forest Management Unit which was licensed out to Ta Ann Group (Borlin Sdn. Bhd)

Appendix 4 - A Forest A Day, 15 August 2012, A report by Huon Valley Environment Centre, The Last Stand, Markets for Change, Still Wild Still Threatened, Japan Tropical Forest Action Network and CODE Green

Appendix 5 - Open Letter of Concern - incentives for native forest biomass burning - signed by Australianscientists. 1 March 2012

Appendix 6 – Open Letter of Concern – signed by US scientists. 17 May 2010.

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BEHIND THE VENEER: FOREST DESTRUCTION AND TA ANN TASMANIA'S LIES



The veracity of Ta Ann's promotional claims must be closely scrutinised. The company's support for destructive native forest logging in Tasmania, its decision to forego processing of plantation resources and its record of inaccurate or misleading statements fundamentally undermine its positioning as an 'environmentally friendly' supplier. Ta Ann Tasmania's veneer products do not represent a genuine 'ecological' alternative.

A report produced by the Huon Valley Environment Centre, September 2011
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AFS	Australian Forest Standard	pa	per annum
Austrade	Australian Trade Commission	PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification schemes
AUD	Australian Dollar	PEW	Panasonic Electronic Works Co. Ltd.
EIA	environmental impact assessment	RFA	Regional Forest Agreement
ENGO	environmental non-government organisation	RPV	rotary peeled veneer
EWPA	Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia	RTI	Right to Information
FIAT	Forest Industries Association of Tasmania	SMKC	Sumisho & Mitsuibussan Kenzai Co. Ltd.
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council	STIDC	Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
ha	hectares	TAT	Ta Ann Tasmania
HCV	high conservation value	TCA	Timber Communities Australia
HVEC	Huon Valley Environment Centre	TCFA	Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation	TFIGA	Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement
m³	cubic metres	TSU	Threatened Species Unit
MP	Member of Parliament	TWWHA	Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area
MYR	Malaysian ringgit	USD	United States Dollars

DEFINITIONS

NATIVE FOREST

A phrase normally used to describe a natural forest in Australia with a crown cover that is greater than 50 per cent, differentiated from non-native 'forests' such as plantations.

NATURAL FOREST

A natural terrestrial ecosystem that is dominated by endemic tree species and sustained through ecological processes.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE (HCV) FOREST

A natural forest containing one or more attributes deemed particularly worthy of protection. The following attributes have been used to define HCV forests in Tasmania:

- Large intact natural forest areas;
- Forest areas displaying ecological maturity;
- Forest areas of social, cultural and spiritual importance to local, national and/or international communities;
- Forest ecosystems and habitat with important biodiversity values, including rare, depleted and under-reserved forest communities and species;
- Forest areas that contribute to good reserve design (eg. buffering and ecological connectivity); and, Forests with important ecosystem services functions (eg. carbon rich forests, water catchments).

PLANTATION

An agricultural crop of trees that has been purpose-grown for commercial use.

PRIMARY FOREST

A natural forest that has never been significantly artificially disturbed. Often called old-growth forest in Australia.

REGROWTH FOREST

Forestry Tasmania itself has admitted there is a distinction between post-logging regrowth, which it calls 'aged regrowth', and natural regrowth, which it calls 'unaged regrowth'. They are defined by Forestry Tasmania as follows:

(Aged) Regrowth—Forest that has been logged and regenerated, generally since 1960, using deliberate site preparation and seeding techniques. The year of sowing is documented and the age of the trees may be determined. Also referred to as silvicultural regeneration.

(Unaged) Regrowth—Forest regenerated after wildfire or other disturbances, and containing a majority of trees less than 110 years old, where there is no deliberate site preparation or seed sowing. Unaged regrowth forest may contain scattered individuals or stands of ecologically mature trees.

In effect, Forestry Tasmania has admitted that some areas it defines as 'regrowth' contain oldgrowth forest.

In addition, the Australian Forestry Standard has a definition which allows for the occurrence of oldgrowth within a 'regrowth' forest:

Regrowth forest—Native forest containing a substantial proportion of trees that are in the younger growth phase and are actively growing in height and diameter. Regrowth forests may contain scattered individuals or small occurrences of ecologically mature, or old-growth, trees.¹

RFA-DEFINED OLD GROWTH FOREST

The Tasmanian and Australian Governments define an old growth forest, as articulated through the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process as an 'ecologically mature forest where the effects of disturbances are now negligible'.²

FRONT COVER IMAGE:

Old growth forest and high conservation value forest that was logged for Ta Ann, the logging coupes seen in this photograph are in Far South Tasmania, in the Catamaran area, CM019C, CM019E and CM019A. Logging in CM019E/CM019C proceeded to within 50 metres of the Tasmanian World Heritage Wilderness Area (TWWHA). The magnificent coastline that can be viewed in this photo is within the TWWHA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ta Ann Holdings is a Malaysian-based multinational logging and timber products company. Ta Ann Holdings has a track record of rainforest destruction and human rights violations in the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

In January 2006, Ta Ann was welcomed to Australia's island state of Tasmania with a golden political handshake and they have since established forestry operations to sell Tasmanian wood products to customers in Japan, China and Europe. Ta Ann's intention with their Tasmanian venture is to market 'eco wood' products. Ta Ann successfully advertises their 'eco' products as being sourced from plantation or sustainably managed 'regrowth' forests.

Ta Ann's decision to open shop in Tasmania was driven by two core objectives: they were offered hardwood by the state-owned forestry company, Forestry Tasmania, at lower rates than they could access in Malaysia or Indonesia and they needed Tasmania's 'clean, green image' to access an increasingly environmentally concerned and lucrative international market.

Ta Ann Tasmania (TAT) has rejected timber from plantations, staked its future on continued access to timber from native forests and has actively lobbied

to stall an industry-wide transition to plantation harvesting. TAT is now a major driver of the industrial-scale logging of Tasmania's unique native forests.

TAT has received timber from the destruction of Tasmania's world class native forests, including timber from old growth forests, forests with recognised World Heritage values and other forests that are of high conservation value.

Huon Valley Environment Centre (HVEC) has applied on-site research, obtained documents under Right to Information (RTI) and gathered primary source information from local forest workers as well as community members to reveal that – despite claims to the contrary – Ta Ann is driving unsustainable native forest, including old growth and high conservation value forest destruction in Tasmania.

Moreover, the evidence that HVEC has obtained, presented in the following report, suggests that Ta Ann has been misleading their customers and falsely promoting their products in the international marketplace as 'eco-plywood.' The evidence also clearly implicates both the Tasmanian and Australian governments as they have knowingly supported this misrepresentation and allowed the destruction of Tasmania's globally renowned old



growth and high conservation value forests.

The Tasmanian Government has announced their intention to legislate the wood supply contract for Ta Ann, which would lock in the ongoing destruction of Tasmania's forests. Recent commitments have as of August 2011 been made by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments that would see a cessation of logging in identified high conservation

value forests, pending verification. However, the HVEC has discovered logging operations that have recently commenced in old growth forests within this area of promised reserves. Timber sourced from these old growth forests will be used by Ta Ann.

**Huon Valley Environment Centre,
September, 2011**

RECOMMENDATIONS

The HVEC would like to make the following recommendations:

- 1 Ta Ann must immediately stop using timber from areas already recognized as being old growth or High Conservation Vaule Forests. The current Inter Government Agreement specifies up to 570,000 ha that has old growth or high conservation values. In addition it needs to begin a rapid transition out of native forests and into plantations in Tasmania.
- 2 All parties that have stated Ta Ann's timber in Tasmania comes from planted, plantation or regrowth forest should publicly retract their statements.
- 3 Ta Ann must inform their customers that the timber being procured for their products in Tasmania is contributing to the logging of old growth and high conservation value forests.
- 4 Ta Ann's wood supply must not be legislated.

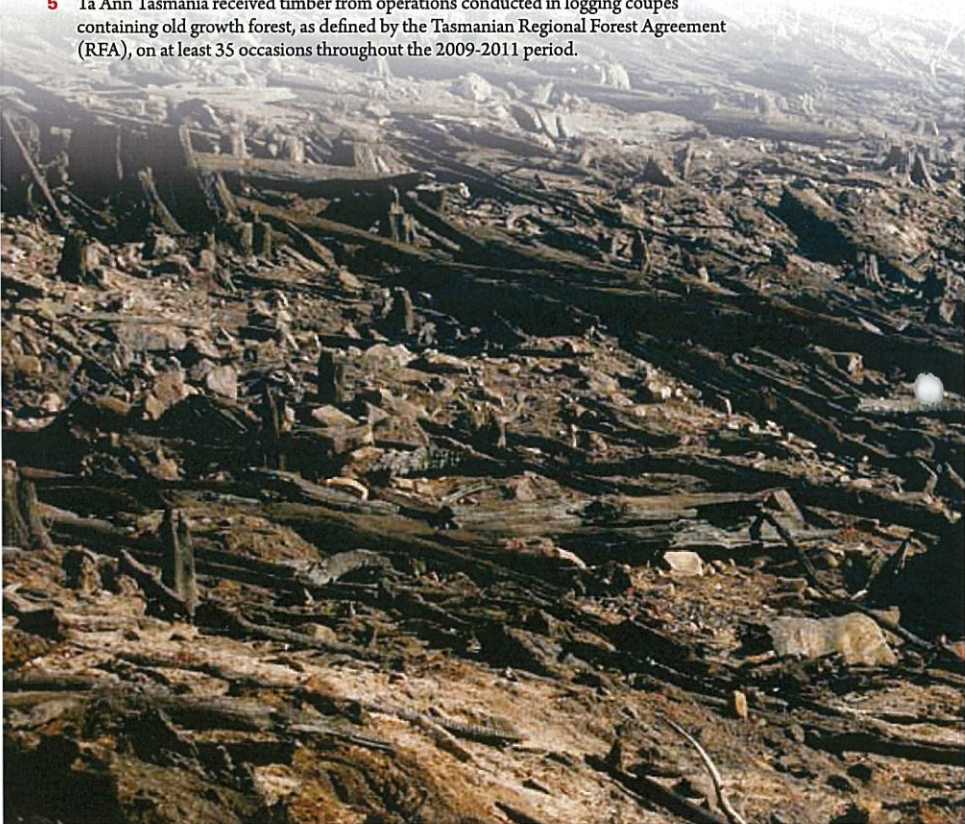
For a detailed list of recommendations please refer to page 29 of this report.



Coupe F0044A, Upper Florentine Valley.
Forest in the left of this image has been logged.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1 Ta Ann Tasmania is processing timber acquired from the logging of old growth forests, high conservation value forests and forests with recognised world heritage values in Tasmania.
- 2 Timber sourced from the destruction of Tasmania's forests is being promoted by Ta Ann Holdings as 'environmentally friendly' plywood, that is supposedly produced from plantations and sustainably managed regrowth forest. This timber is sold in lucrative overseas markets in Japan, China and Europe. The promotion and sale of these 'eco-products' is a key corporate strategy of the Ta Ann group, and has been assisted by government agencies, politicians and media outlets in Australia and internationally.
- 3 Ta Ann's 'eco-products' are not made from plantation timber. The company has stated that plantations in Tasmania are currently not suitable for their wood supply and has chosen to pursue long term access to areas of native forest, including old growth and high conservation value forest.
- 4 Ta Ann Tasmania has become a major driver of forest destruction in Tasmania. The company's demand for timber and its large wood supply contract have been used to justify ongoing logging in some of Tasmania's most important and contentious forest areas.
- 5 Ta Ann Tasmania received timber from operations conducted in logging coupes containing old growth forest, as defined by the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA), on at least 35 occasions throughout the 2009-2011 period.



- 6 Ta Ann has received timber from at least 88 logging operations undertaken in native forests in the 2008-2011 period defined as having 'high conservation value' by ENGOs The Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania and the Australian Conservation Foundation.³
- 7 HVEC has recently documented, on 7 Sep 2011, logging of old growth/HCV forests within the 430,000ha that were agreed to go into informal reserves prior to protection as agreed by the Tasmanian and Australian government. Ta Ann is receiving timber from these areas.
- 8 The Ta Ann Group has a long-term wood supply contract with the state-owned company Forestry Tasmania, which provides them with access to a large supply of Tasmanian native forest timber at below market price.
- 9 Notwithstanding that Ta Ann Tasmania has received significant public grants from state and federal governments and that it has a cheap wood supply, it is still operating at a loss in Tasmania. This is likely to drive Ta Ann to seek higher economies of scale through greater native forest clearing as well as aggressively driving down labour and fibre costs. In 2010, with both of its mills fully operational, TAT made a loss of AU\$11 million.
- 10 Ta Ann may be misleading consumers and customers who are seeking genuinely sustainable forest product alternatives.



High Conservation Value forests in the Weld Valley,
Ta Ann received timber from this coupe WR012C

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WHO IS TA ANN?

Ta Ann is one of Malaysia's biggest forest-product businesses.⁴ The Ta Ann Group's operations began in 1985 when a subsidiary of the Group was granted a 257,604 acre concession to extract timber in the Kapit District, in the Malaysian state of Sarawak.⁵

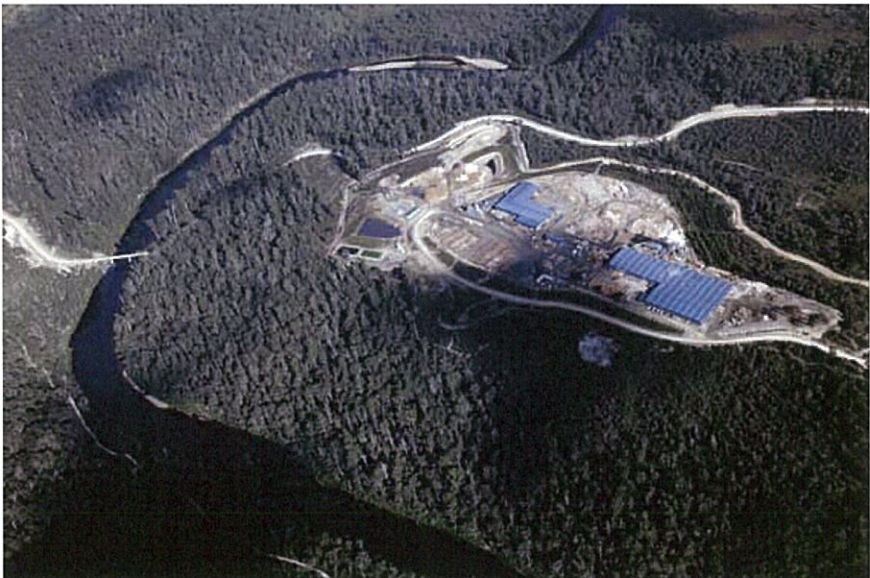
In recent years the conglomerate has grown substantially to be among the top five timber groups in Sarawak.⁶ The Ta Ann Group includes many subsidiaries and is worth US\$1.6billion.⁷

In Sarawak, Ta Ann Holdings has a track record of rainforest destruction and human rights violations.⁸

The principle activities of the Ta Ann group are in oil palm, timber concession licences, trading logs, and manufacturing as well as the sale of sawn timber and plywood products. Japan and Europe are the main markets for structural plywood and floor base boards produced by the company.⁹

In 2010, Ta Ann reported its major divisions and revenue sources as:

- Plywood production (48% of total revenue)
- Oil Palm (32%)
- Logging Division (16%)
- Sawmilling (3%)
- Property Development (1%)
- Tree Planting (0%)¹⁰



Ta Ann Tasmania, Huon mill, situated on the Huon River

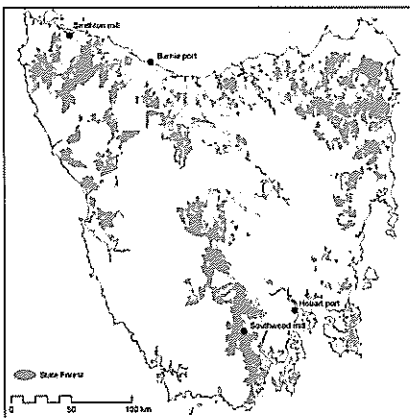
TA ANN TASMANIA

In January 2006, Ta Ann entered into a joint venture project, establishing Ta Ann Tasmania (TAT) as a veneer manufacturing company.

TAT was established as a partnership between Ta Ann Plywood, Japanese building material trading company SMKC as well as Tasmania's state-owned forest management company Forestry Tasmania.¹¹ Ta Ann Plywood invested 75 per cent, SMKC 15 per cent and Forestry Tasmania 10 per cent to the start up costs¹² (see Appendix II for more detail). Under the terms of the shareholders' agreement, the Japanese partner would purchase the plywood products made from veneer produced in Tasmania for sale in Japan.¹³

Ta Ann opened and currently operates two mills in Tasmania that use rotary-peeling technology on short eucalypt logs – known as billets –harvested from native forests. One mill is located in the south of the state, near Judbury in the Huon Valley, with the second plant installed at Circular Head near Smithton in the north-west of the state. The Huon mill opened on 18th May 2007, with the Smithton mill opening on 28th November 2008. The Huon Rotary Veneer Mill was Ta Ann's first international investment.¹⁴

The two mills have a contract to receive a combined volume of 265 000 cubic metres (m³) of Tasmanian eucalypt timber.¹⁵ In 2010, the two mills produced 134 091 m³ of veneer.¹⁶ Production by the two Tasmanian mills increased from a combined volume of 78 346 m³ of veneer products in 2008.¹⁷ This veneer is exported to Ta Ann's plywood factories in Malaysia where it is used to develop flooring, predominately for the Japanese market.¹⁸



The total volume of exported veneer has also increased significantly, from an estimated 35 000 m³ in 2008, to 107 000 m³ in 2010.¹⁹ In 2010, the value of veneer exports almost doubled from 2008 to reach AU\$55 million.

As prices for Southeast Asian hardwood floor base panel have increased markedly in recent times, Japanese building materials companies are seeking substitutes such as eucalyptus.²⁰ According to the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), veneer produced by the TAT mills will be shipped to Ta Ann Plywood in Malaysia for the manufacturing of about 60 000 m³ of floor base panel a year.²¹

Ta Ann's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Wong Kuo Hea, describes the Tasmanian venture as a 'high return initiative.'²² Executive Chairman, Datuk Hamed Sepawi, told Tasmanian media that Ta Ann was obtaining lower rates for hardwood from Tasmania than what they could obtain in Malaysia or Indonesia.²³

Ta Ann was attracted to Tasmania by the cheap timber price offered by Forestry Tasmania and they are ensuring that they capitalise on this opportunity by accessing a large supply of native forest timber.²⁴

At the time of entering the Tasmanian market in 2006, Ta Ann advised that it anticipated paying much less for Tasmanian wood than it was paying for tropical hardwoods, vis:

- 1 US\$50 per cubic metre for Tasmanian peeler billets;
- 2 US\$200 to \$230 per cubic metre for Malaysian keruing (a tropical hardwood); and
- 3 US\$210 to \$225 for Malaysian meranti (also a tropical hardwood).²⁵

Notwithstanding the cheaper price it would pay for Tasmanian hardwood, Ta Ann was confident that plywood products from Tasmanian eucalypt veneer could be sold for equivalent prices to tropical hardwood plywood products. In other words the Tasmanian hardwood was cheap.

In 2006, TAT negotiated a wood supply contract with Forestry Tasmania for the supply of 265 000 m³ of eucalypt timber per annum.²⁶ Their Huon Valley mill was granted a log supply contract of 150 000 m³ per annum for 20 years, lasting until 2027.²⁷ The Smithton mill was granted a log supply contract of 115 000 m³ per annum, for the same period of time.²⁸

In 1984, Tasmania amended the *Forestry Act 1920* to ensure security of supply to the Tasmanian forestry industry. Under section 22AA of the *Forestry Act*, Forestry Tasmania is now required to make available annually for industry a 'minimum aggregate quantity' of 300 000 m³ of eucalypt veneer logs and eucalypt sawlogs.²⁹ The volume of timber supplied to TAT's mills to produce veneer is equivalent to 88% of the legislated state-wide minimum sawlog production quota of 300 000 m³ pa.³⁰ Such large contracts are second only to the native forest pulpwood contracts of Tasmania's major woodchip exporters and make TAT a powerful driver of logging throughout the state.

The price paid for timber by Ta Ann under the terms of its contracts with Forestry Tasmania was set at 2006 rates, with an annual and five yearly price adjustment mechanism.³¹

TA ANN NEEDS TASMANIA'S GREEN IMAGE

TAT's two rotary peeled veneer (RPV) mills were developed as part of a strategic move by the group to gain access to lucrative and emerging markets that require certification of timber products. Recognising the international market demand for certified environmentally friendly products, the Ta Ann Group has stated that their focus for 2010 was the supply of 'eco-products'. One of their key action plans has been a continued market diversification 'especially in the promotion of certified eco-products'.³²

Developing the Tasmanian mills has allowed the company to access a resource that has some level of certification so that they can promote timber products as 'eco-friendly' and thereby gain a premium in export markets. Logging operations in Tasmania are accredited under the Australian Forestry Standard (AFS) which is, in turn, recognised by the Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), an international certification system. PEFC accreditation allows Ta Ann to sell 'eco-products' to markets in Japan, China and Europe.³³

Ta Ann's Managing Director and CEO Datuk Wong Kuo Hea claimed in 2010, 'We are receiving overwhelming orders for our PEFC-certified eco-products from Japan. The eco-products were also introduced in the European market as part of our diversification plan.' Wong acknowledged that a shift by Japanese house builders to environmentally

friendly materials for housing construction and eco-type flooring, meant that Ta Ann would need to manufacture an eco product.³⁴

Malaysian media reported after interviewing Wong, 'Due to Japan's adoption of an eco-friendly lifestyle this will benefit resource-based group Ta Ann Holdings Bhd. Ta Ann stands to benefit as it has a 20-year log purchase agreement with Forestry Tasmania, ensuring a steady supply of logs for the group's two veneer mills in Tasmania, Australia. The logs are sourced from PEFC-certified regrowth and planted eucalyptus forests'.³⁵

However, although PEFC is a form of accreditation and suffices for the uninformed consumer, it is important to point out that it does not include crucial environmental protections, such as: protection for old growth forests, wilderness, and other endangered forests and endangered species.³⁶

Due to their questionable practices, Ta Ann has been unable to attain even PEFC certification for its products produced from Malaysian timber. Therefore, the promotion of the claimed ecological credentials of the Tasmanian product is central to the company's growth and corporate strategy; 'the two veneer mills in Tasmania will sustain the supply of raw materials for the production of PEFC certified eco-plywood'.³⁷ In 2005 Sepawi stated, 'The launching of Ta Ann Tasmania (TAT) will see the Group venturing into the development of eco-wood products with the intention to be one of the pioneers in this area'.³⁸

Ta Ann flooring products made from Tasmanian eucalypt are promoted as 'eco-plywood' in Japan through the manufacturing companies Eidai Corporation and Panasonic Electric Works Co. Ltd. (see Appendices IV and V advertisements for these companies selling Ta Ann's product as flooring).

In China, Ta Ann has established the subsidiary Ta Ann Eco-Timber Industries, and plans a plywood plant in Yang Zhou Land at Yang Zhou Economic Development Zone.³⁹ The plant would process veneer from Tasmania into 'eco friendly' plywood products for the Chinese market.⁴⁰ The *China Forest Industry* website states that Ta Ann 'believes there is a huge market potential for this niche plywood product in China and intends to grow its presence there in due course'.⁴¹

The promotion of Ta Ann's 'eco-products' in these key markets relies upon the dissemination of specific statements about the source and quality of the timber

used in the Tasmanian mills and the nature of forest logging operations in Tasmania. The company presents the claim that its 'eco plywood' is sourced from:

- plantation or planted eucalypt forest;⁴² and
- environmentally friendly logging of regrowth forest⁴³

Close analysis of Ta Ann Tasmania's operations demonstrates that, in many cases, these key claims are incorrect and potentially misleading. However, Ta Ann is able to avoid close scrutiny because they, along with pro-logging politicians, are able to *Tasmania-wash* their operations with the island's 'clean, green' brand.

BRAND IS EVERYTHING

Tasmania's brand goes a long way. To less informed players in the forestry products market, Tasmania's brand along with a mention of international certification from PEFC, fully reassures them that Tasmanian wood is sustainably harvested.

Ta Ann claims that it specifically excludes timber from old growth forests in its Tasmanian mills,⁴⁴ and that the logging operations conducted to extract 'regrowth' timber for the mills are environmentally friendly.⁴⁵ Ta Ann asserts that their "Tasmania project has been an environmental milestone for the Group and for [the] Tasmania community."⁴⁶

These claims underpin the company's promotions and advertising in key overseas markets. Some buyers of Ta Ann's timber products, such as Japanese flooring manufacturers promote their use of Tasmanian eucalypts as an eco product. Ta Ann's major international customers, Eidai and Panasonic, have publicly stated their commitment to seek genuinely sustainable timber products, which rule out the purchase of timber from controversial and environmentally destructive sources (see Appendices IV and V). Their business partner, SMKCC, claim that they produce veneer from plantations in Tasmania through their business partnership with Ta Ann (see Appendix II).

These Japanese companies echo Ta Ann's claims that trees used for the veneer are sourced from 'planted' and PEFC-certified forests and are therefore eco-friendly.⁴⁷ Although the veneer's Tasmanian origins are promoted, Japanese users of Ta Ann's products never mention the name of "Ta Ann" in their advertisements⁴⁸ (see Appendices IV and V).

Eidai, a Japanese customer of Ta Ann, claim

that they have chosen Tasmanian eucalypts as the 'material to meet to the needs of high quality for plywood and the global standard of environmental protection.'⁴⁹ Eidai has a commitment to an environmental policy, including their 'Environment Friendly Procurement of Timber: We actively use certified timber, especially plantation timber to increase the ratio of environment-friendly material.'⁵⁰

Furthermore, Panasonic Electric Works Co., who is another customer of Ta Ann, has timber procurement guideline to increase their use of environmentally-friendly material. Their goal is to procure wood products only from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified sources and from recovered wood.⁵¹

The reality of logging practices in Tasmania combined with the demonstrable misrepresentation by authorities – like Forestry Tasmania – who are responsible for forest management regimes in Tasmania, undermine Ta Ann's promotional claims. Moreover, timber produced from Ta Ann Tasmania does not comply with the guidelines for sustainable forestry that overseas customers expect.⁵²

Ta Ann's international customers must conduct an immediate critical analysis of Ta Ann's operations in Tasmania, and make appropriate business decisions in light of this analysis.

The supply of eucalypt timber from Tasmania, then, has allowed the Ta Ann Group to side-step market resistance to the use of Southeast Asian timbers that are associated with notoriously destructive logging practices and the displacement of indigenous people. Ta Ann uses the branding of Tasmania to convince the market that timber produced from mills in Tasmania is environmentally friendly or 'eco' timber.

Access to these increasingly environmentally conscious and lucrative markets is essential for the future growth of the Ta Ann Group. TAT director David Ridley explains, 'Certification either as FSC or PEFC is becoming the norm in world forestry circles.'⁵³ Tasmanian operations, then, are a critical strategic alternative for Ta Ann as they compete in a global market that wants sustainably harvested timber.

Ta Ann unequivocally states that the development of its Tasmanian veneer mills enables the Group 'to produce environmentally friendly eco-products from their [Tasmania's] PEFC certified forests.'⁵⁴

Ta Ann also states that strong demand for certified plywood products towards the

end of the first quarter of 2010 is ‘testimony of the (Ta Ann) Group’s shrewd move in establishing veneer mills in Tasmania.’⁵⁵

The promotion of Tasmanian timber by Ta Ann is established and supported by comments from Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government. The Malaysian newspaper *The Star* reported that ‘[Ta Ann’s] first Tasmanian mill will provide premium environmentally friendly timber products to Japan, while the second mill is targeted to supply raw materials to the China plywood mill to gain entry into the emerging Chinese market.’⁵⁶

Despite the questionable value of TAT’s operations, Tasmanian politicians have taken an active role in courting and supporting Ta Ann. During a speech made at the launch of the Tasmanian Labor Party’s 2006 election campaign, Premier Paul Lennon boasted that ‘If I hadn’t talked to the

Malaysian Timber Company Ta Ann, we wouldn’t be about to build two rotary peeled veneer mills.’⁵⁷

Tasmanian Legislative Council member Paul Harris has made at least three ‘fact finding’ visits to Malaysia, accompanied by TAT Company Director David Ridley. He told Malaysian media that he is ‘very impressed with Ta Ann’s operations in Tasmania.’⁵⁸

Forestry Tasmania’s Managing Director Bob Gordon claimed that an audit of the group’s activities had proven that they were ‘a good company.’⁵⁹ The claim was publicly supported by The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT).⁶⁰

Forestry Tasmania supports Ta Ann’s operations and explains that sourcing wood from Tasmania, which has PEFC certification, ‘has provided Ta Ann with a competitive advantage in its overseas markets.’⁶¹ There is a growing preference on global markets for wood sourced from plantation or planted

WHY PEFC CAN NOT PROTECT TASMANIA’S OLD GROWTH AND HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE FORESTS

The more stringent FSC certification scheme is increasingly recognised as the global standard for good environmental management. Whilst PEFC accreditation represents a less rigorous form of certification, timber sources covered under the scheme are marketed as ‘environmentally friendly’.

Leading global conservation organisations have criticised PEFC for failing to ensure that on-the-ground forest management meets a set of rigorous, comprehensive, and performance-based forestry and environmental protection standards.⁶²

Greenpeace and the World Wildlife Fund have found that the PEFC cannot guarantee well-managed forests, lacks independence, fails to protect peoples’ rights and endorses systems that certify logging of rare old growth forests and imperilled species habitats.⁶³

This means that Ta Ann is using a ‘lighter’ form of accreditation and combining it with Tasmanian branding and image to convince an under-informed market that their Tasmanian products are environmentally friendly.



Coupe HA045E. Ta Ann received timber from these old growth forests

FALSE CLAIMS

forest, over wood sourced from native or natural forests. Wood sourced from plantations gains higher prices⁶⁴ due to its consistency and quality and because in the international market for eco-wood there is a simplified message that timber sourced from native forests is undesirable.⁶⁵

The Ta Ann Group, TAT and Tasmanian government agencies repeatedly promote the claim that the company's Tasmanian products are sourced from PEFC certified 'plantations' and 'planted eucalypt forest'.⁶⁶

Ta Ann states that it has a wood supply agreement with Forestry Tasmania for the 'monthly supply of 15 000 m³ of planted eucalypt billets from regrowth forests to each of the two veneer mills'.⁶⁷

In its presentation to the Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia (EWPA) 2009 conference, TAT stated that plantation eucalypt veneer was produced in both its mills and that its 'resource' included 'plantation and regrowth (not old growth)' and 'plantation *E. nitens* and *E. obliqua*'.⁶⁸ TAT director Simon Kang is quoted as stating that processed veneer shipped from Tasmania consisted of 're-growth and plantation wood from the southern forests'.⁶⁹

Tasmanian Government agencies, logging industry representative groups, media outlets and state promotional bodies back up Ta Ann and promote their claims that processed timber comes from planted or plantation forests.

When TAT won an Australian Export Award in 2008, promotional material on the Australian Trade Commission (Austrade) website claimed that 'Ta Ann Tasmania exports rotary peeled veneer manufactured from regrowth and plantation eucalypt logs supplied by Forestry Tasmania'.⁷⁰ The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT) asserts that both [Ta Ann's] Tasmanian mills have been designed to use regrowth and plantation logs.⁷¹

Even Michael Aird, the former Tasmanian Treasurer and Minister for Economic Development, has presented the Ta Ann mills as 'truly a value adding and exporting success story where regrowth and plantation timber is peeled and exported to Malaysia as veneer'.⁷²

Local media have also uncritically reinforced these claims, with *The Examiner* newspaper reporting

on the construction of Ta Ann Tasmania's second rotary peel veneer mill and quoting Sepawi describing their operations as, 'an innovative rotary peeling process using plantation and regrowth logs'.⁷³

Promotional material for Ta Ann's 'EcoMessage Floor'⁷⁴ uses specific imagery to reinforce the claim that plantations provide the resource base for the flooring. The company's advertisement depicts large areas of carefully planted and managed eucalypt plantations alongside foresters managing and measuring plantation timber, with many of the images provided by Forestry Tasmania.

The imagery used in these advertisements reinforces claims and statements made by the Ta Ann Group, the Australian and Tasmanian governments and government agencies and local media. These promotional messages are calculated to create the impression that Ta Ann's 'eco-plywood' products are made from Tasmanian plantation timber.

The objective of these statements from numerous players in the market, combined with Ta Ann's own promotional material, is to convince Ta Ann's international customers that the practices of Ta Ann Tasmania differ substantially from those of the Ta Ann Group in Malaysia. That is to say, international customers are being convinced that wood sourced from Tasmania is an environmentally benign product.

PEFC-COC認証ユーカリ合板

適切な管理の下で伐採された森林材を使用

PEFCの認証材であり、国産材に 材料とした合板は安心感を感じており、適切な管理 も可能な製材です。またオーストラリア産ユーカリ合板 の下で生産されていることが証明されています。

森林認証制度 (PEFC認証)

COC認証

VoicE 環境に配慮した素材の 国産に魅力

3x6x2700	3x6x2700	3x6x2700
基本価格	基本価格	基本価格
¥3,350,000/㎡	¥4,350,000/㎡	¥5,000,000/㎡

5000 Pecky Technology

An example of promotional material used by Eidai Co. Ltd., a customer of Ta Ann (see Appendix IV).



Coupe PC015B in the Picton Valley, after logging

Ta Ann has a wood supply contract guaranteed by the Government until that same year.⁸⁹

TCA notes that TAT have been assured by Forestry Tasmania that their [native forest] resource is secure until at least 2027. They would like guarantees for much longer ... but this may form part of the further negotiation process.⁹⁰

Far from supplying its customers with wood sourced from 'planted forest', TAT is actually playing a leading role in lobbying to stall a transition towards plantation timber, and is seeking to lock in the continued destruction of Tasmania's native forests.

INTERGOVERNMENT AGREEMENT FOR PROTECTION OF FORESTS UNDERMINED BY TA ANN

Ta Ann's demand for native forest timber has become one of the leading drivers for continued access to areas of old growth and HCV forest earmarked for protection during negotiations over the Statement of Principles.⁹¹

On August 7 2011, the Prime Minister and the Premier of Tasmania signed the Tasmanian Forest Intergovernmental Agreement (TFIGA). The Governments stated that 'Tasmania will immediately place 430 000 ha of native forest into informal reserve, subject to verification, which the governments will protect under a Conservation Agreement.'⁹²

Forestry Tasmania suggests the agreement contains the dual objectives of guaranteeing resource supply to timber processors and a commitment to reserving for an interim period pending verification of 430 000 ha of state forest.⁹³

Forestry Tasmania's Managing Director Bob

Gordon is required to provide the Tasmanian and Australian Governments with an analysis of what will be required for it to continue to meet its contractual obligations, including the rescheduling of forest operations from within the identified 430 000 ha to other areas of State Forest. Gordon stated that he saw 'the difficulty is that the area nominated for informal reserve already contains about a dozen coupes where contractors are working, and there are some 87 coupes scheduled over the next 12 months. *Of the 87 harvesting coupes, 59 are critical to the supply of logs to Ta Ann.*'⁹⁴

Furthermore the TFIGA states that contracts for native wood supply that are in existence at the time of the Agreement will be honoured, with direct reference to the importance of Ta Ann's contract: 'The Governments recognise the importance of this commitment for the successful implementation of the whole Agreement, particularly in relation to the guaranteed supply of peeler billets under their current contract, including the option to extend that contract.'⁹⁵

The HVEC expected that forests inside the 430 000 ha, where logging had not commenced on 7 August 2011, would be placed into informal reserves. However, in September 2011, the HVEC identified two logging coupes inside the proposed 430 000 ha that are being logged to meet the contract of Ta Ann. Logging coupe AR002B in the Arve Valley, and logging coupe PC015B in the Picton Valley, are two areas of RFA defined old growth forest where destructive logging operations have commenced after the TFIGA had been signed.⁹⁶

These findings pose fundamental questions about the environmental credentials of TAT's products and operations.

TA ANN DESTROYS TASMANIA'S NATIVE FORESTS

The Huon Valley Environment Centre has acquired evidence demonstrating that timber utilised by TAT is sourced from high conservation value forests, as well as from forests that are identified as 'old growth' under mapping systems determined by State and Federal authorities.

An examination of the logging practices and forest management regimes through which Ta Ann receives its timber demonstrates that their Tasmanian veneer products contravene publicly stated commitments by major international customers.

Native forests fulfil many important ecological functions, are of great environmental benefit and are critical for the protection of flora and fauna.

Tasmania's native forests contain important cultural heritage sites of significance to Tasmania's Aboriginal people as well as outstanding geomorphological sites, caves and karst systems.⁹⁷

In 2008-2009 almost 3.7 million m³ of wood was harvested from Tasmania's native forests.⁹⁸ In 2002 the harvesting rate of old growth forest in Tasmania's southern forests was 200-400 ha per annum.⁹⁹

Estimations by Forestry Tasmania showed a scenario in which all old growth would be logged from production forests in 12 years, by 2013.¹⁰⁰ Forestry Tasmania's annual report, lists the area of native forest logged on publicly owned land for the last three years, 2007-2010, as 34 000 ha.¹⁰¹

FORESTS UNDER THREAT

Tasmania has a large complement of endemic flora and fauna and its rainforests provide particular insights in to ancient Gondwanan relationships.¹⁰² Moreover, many endemic and threatened species rely upon critical habitat provided by native forests.¹⁰³

Threatened species that rely on Tasmania's native forests include the:

- Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax fleayi*);
- Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*);
- grey goshawk (*Accipiter novaehollandiae*);
- swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*); and
- spotted-tail quoll (*Dasyurus maculatus*).

For example, the swift parrot is an endangered migratory bird. It largely relies on forests in Tasmania's southeast for breeding and feeding in spring and summer.¹⁰⁴ The swift parrot undertakes the longest migration of any parrot in the world – travelling from Tasmania to various parts of southeast mainland Australia. In the breeding season, these birds mainly feed on the nectar of blue gum flowers (*Eucalyptus globulus*) up to 10 kilometres away from their nesting colony which is located in mature forest with abundant nest hollows.¹⁰⁵ Nest hollows are only formed in mature trees of at least 0.8 metres trunk diameter.¹⁰⁶ Stringybark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*), a typical nesting tree for swift parrots, generally does not form hollows of sufficient size until at least 140 years of age.¹⁰⁷



Spotted-tail quoll



Swift parrot

Native forests in the Esperance, the Picton Valley, Upper Florentine Valley and Weld Valley, that have been logged to provide timber for Ta Ann included:

- foraging, nesting and breeding habitat for the endangered swift parrot, including Bruny Island, and coupes PC017C, EP031B, CM019E (see case studies for details).
- habitat for the Tasmanian devil. Conservationists have filmed the devil in areas that have been logged for Ta Ann. Still Wild Still Threatened have compiled video evidence of healthy Tasmanian devils in the area identified as coupe FO045B, an area of forest adjacent to coupe FO044A which has been logged to provide timber to Ta Ann's Huon mill; and
- nesting and feeding habitat for the Tasmanian wedge tailed eagle. Ta Ann received timber from a logging area identified by Forestry Tasmania as WR003E, in the Weld Valley, where in 2009 logging occurred right up to the base of a tree containing a Wedge-Tailed eagle nest.¹⁰⁸



Tasmanian devil in threatened forest FO045B

In the case of old eucalypt growth forests that have been subjected to clearfelling, it may take several generations of the dominant overstorey (i.e. 1500-2500 years) to recover the full range of structural diversity present in the uncut forest (e.g. large live trees, large stags, collapsed large trees in various stages of decay). Clearly the nominal rotations of 60-120 years currently used in most timber harvesting plans in eucalypt forests are incompatible with the natural turnover of many eucalypt forests.¹⁰⁹

The detrimental impacts resulting from integrated forestry harvesting threaten many aspects of biodiversity including: various biological and ecological processes, genetic diversity, vertebrate and invertebrate fauna, rare and endangered species and assemblages, riparian environments and aquatic systems, and landscape diversity. Many impacts may be irreversible or effectively irreversible given the legacies of past forest-use, cumulative and synergistic effects, and the incompatibility between the natural rates of turnover of species compared to the current time horizons of intensive forestry operations. As a consequence, integrated forestry harvesting as currently conducted is not ecologically sustainable. Old-growth forest ecosystems on fertile soils are endangered.¹¹⁰



Coupe PC017C, Picton Valley

CASE STUDIES

Community conservation groups across southern Tasmania have identified Ta Ann's operations as a major threat to the natural and social values of native forests in their local areas. The following case studies are the result of community ground-truthing investigations and highlight the extent of local community opposition to Ta Ann's use of timber from native forests.

Documents received under Right To Information have identified more than 500 logging coupes, in different parts of Tasmania, during April 2008 – March 2011, from which Ta Ann has received timber. However, Ta Ann, Forestry Tasmania and the Tasmanian Government fails to publish data to show how much timber has been sourced from each area.

Ta Ann has received timber from all the logging coupes and forest areas outlined in the case studies below.

LOGGING COUPES IDENTIFIED AS RFA OLD GROWTH

The following case-studies are of logging coupes that have been defined as old growth by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments during the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) process. Ta Ann received timber from all of these logging coupes. These case-studies highlight the extreme disregard demonstrated by the Tasmanian Government and Forestry Tasmania in failing to ensure that areas of considerable ecological value are protected. This disregard further undermines their statements justifying Ta Ann operations as responsible and environmentally sound.

Logging coupe PC017C: Picton Valley

PC017C is a 64 hectare clear-felling operation in the Picton Valley, Huon District forests. This logging unit is part of a forest area excised from the Hartz Mountains National Park in 1976. Clearfell cable logging has contributed to the degradation of valuable native forest in the Picton River catchment area.

Prior to logging PC017C contained pristine tall *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest recommended for inclusion in the adjacent Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. The forest contained habitat for the endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle, Mt Mangana stag beetle, Tasmanian devil, masked owl, spotted-tail quoll and potential nesting habitat for the swift parrot.¹¹¹

A clearfell cable logging that commenced in 2010 and ceased in 2011.

Logging coupe EP031B: Esperance

EP031B is a 63 hectare aggregated retention logging operation in the Peak Rivulet area, Huon District forests. Road construction and logging operations have degraded a core section of pristine forest, part of the valuable Peak Rivulet area adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

EPO31B contains pristine tall eucalypt forest recommended for inclusion in the adjacent Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Forest types prior to logging included, tall *Eucalyptus nitida*, tall *Eucalyptus obliqua*, callidendrous and thamic rainforest.¹¹²

The area contained suitable habitat for the endangered Tasmanian wedge tailed eagle, white-bellied sea eagle, masked owl, grey goshawk, spotted-tailed quoll and Tasmanian devil. The logging coupe is within the eastern breeding range of the swift parrot.

Logging commenced in 2011. Forestry Tasmania gave permission to harvest over 2000 man ferns (*Dixonia antarctica*) from the operation.

Logging coupe FO044A:

Upper Florentine Valley

This spectacular area of native forest is the most high profile and one of the most contentious logging coupes in Australia. Camp Florentine, Tasmania's longest running forest blockade, has been located in this area of forest since November 2006.

Hundreds of people have been arrested in peaceful protests to try and prevent this forest from being logged, and the area has gained massive exposure through local, national and international media coverage. Thousands of people from all over the world have walked through this outstanding area of mixed forest over the past four years.

Roading and logging operations critically fragmented this forest in 2007 and 2009, despite significant community opposition. However Camp Florentine still defends this area of world-class native forest from further destruction.



Coupe EP031B, Esperance



Coupe FO044A, Upper Florentine Valley

Logging coupe TN034B: Tyenna Valley

This area formerly contained significant stands of tall *Eucalyptus regnans* with an understorey of rainforest species. This outstanding example of native forest was decimated by clear-felling operations in December 2010. At the same time, the Tasmanian and Australian governments were declaring a so-called moratorium on ENGO identified high conservation value forests in Tasmania.

Logging coupe TN045B: Tyenna Valley

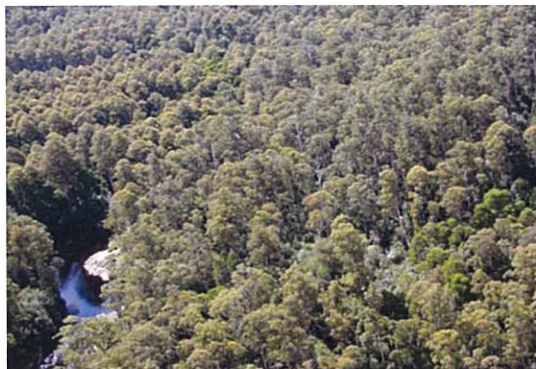
This area formerly contained spectacular stands of tall *Eucalyptus delegatensis*, *E. regnans* and *E.*



Coupe TN034B, Tyenna Valley



Coupe TN045B, Tyenna Valley



Fletcher's Eddy in the Weld Valley. Coupe BB018A located in the top left corner of this photo.

obliqua with areas of rainforest dominant in gullies and riparian zones. This site was a vital water catchment area and was abundant with creeks. The coupe includes slopes as steep as 38 degrees. The logging of slopes this steep (above 30 degrees) is prohibited in other Australian states. Cable logging, however, allows logging in Tasmania to occur on extremely steep terrain. This forest was destroyed by cable clearfelling operations in 2010.

HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE LOGGING COUPES

The following list of logging coupes are those that were identified under the Principles process (see Appendix I) as having significant high conservation value. On the signing of the Principles, the government recognised that these areas had been identified for future protection but failed to ensure that Forestry Tasmania did not continue to log them and thus destroy the very values that had caused them to be identified for protection.

Logging Coupe BB018A: The Weld Valley
BB018A is a 39 hectare clearfelling logging operation situated in a sensitive location beside the Weld River, Huon District forests. Logging has damaged a tract of diverse and pristine forest alongside the Weld River and contributed to degradation of the significant Eddy Creek basin/Glover's Bluff area.

Forest types prior to logging included: Tall *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest, dry *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest, *Eucalyptus regnans* forest, *Leptospermum* and *Melaleuca squarrosa* swamp forest, and thamnic rainforest.¹¹³

BB018A contained a diverse range of forest types and habitat valuable for endangered species.

It is situated within close proximity to Fletcher's Eddy, a popular community recreation and fishing spot on the Weld River. A blackwood swamp forest was present in the coupe area. This high conservation value forest community was excluded from harvesting but may have been impacted. Mature blackwood specimens within the harvest area were prime habitat for the endangered grey goshawk.¹¹⁴

The area contained habitat for the endangered wedge tailed eagle, grey goshawk, masked owl, Mt Mangana Stag Beetle, white bellied sea eagle, Australian grayling, caddisfly, and

spotted tail quoll. It was also potential habitat for the rare, newly discovered Little Denison burrowing crayfish (*Omrastacoides denisoni*).¹¹⁵

This logging coupe is located within a sensitive karst area and adjacent to rare marbleised karst formations (Eddy Creek karst). The area has high potential for Aboriginal and European archaeological remains.

Logging operations commenced in 2008 creating a significant incursion into forested wilderness in the lower Weld Valley.

Logging Coupe CM019E: Catamaran in far south Tasmania

CM019E is a 63 hectare clearfell logging operation undertaken directly adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area in the Catamaran area in southern Tasmania.

Logging has degraded pristine forests contiguous with the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA), just kilometres from the world-famous South Coast walking track.

Forest types prior to logging included tall *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest and tall *Eucalyptus nitida* forest with diverse rainforest understorey.¹¹⁶

CM019C and CM019E formed part of a tract of pristine tall eucalypt forest that extends beyond the boundary of the TWWHA. This constitutes Australia's southern-most native forest ecosystem and is part of a natural buffer for the internationally significant southwest Tasmanian wilderness.

The logging coupe contained suitable habitat for the endangered wedge tailed eagle, white-bellied sea eagle, grey goshawk, spotted tailed quoll and Tasmanian devil along with potential nesting habitat for the swift parrot

Clearfell logging commenced January 2010. Logging of adjacent coupe CM019A contributed to significant degradation of native forest along the TWWHA boundary. Logging in CM019E/CM019C proceeded to within 50 metres of the TWWHA boundary.

Logging coupe CO002B: Counsel area

This site offers spectacular scenic views west across the TWWHA, which is located directly adjacent to the boundary of the logging coupe. This site formerly contained significant stands of tall *Eucalyptus regnans*, including a number of



possible 'giants', one of which possessed a girth measuring 17.5 metres. Mature understorey species included outstanding examples of sassafras, horizontal and a limited distribution of musk. This spectacular area of forest was clearfelled in 2009.

Logging coupe WE005E: Wedge area

This site is located 700 metres from the TWWHA boundary, and formerly contained outstanding examples of tall *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *E. delegatensis* along with an array of mature rainforest species, including sassafras, myrtles and treeferns. This forest was decimated by industrial logging operations during 2010.

Logging coupe SB040A: Bruny Island

Logging on Bruny Island in Tasmania's south threatens the habitat of the swift parrot (*Lathamus discolor*).



Coupe CO002B, Counsel area



Coupe WE005E, Wedge area

stated that the 80-100 year old regrowth forests of South Bruny State Forest, were particularly valuable as a source of veneer billets for Ta Ann's Southwood mill. For example a memo dated 15 June 2010, from Peter Pepper to the Bruny Community Forest Group, stated that 2 500 tonnes of timber from the logging of coupe SB040A would be supplied to the rotary peeler mill at Ta Ann Huon.

A total of 13 400 tonnes of timber would be logged at the site, with 5 100 m³ being supplied to sawlogs, 5 800 tonnes to Gunns

Ltd's Triabunna woodchip mill and 2 500 tonnes supplied to Ta Ann Tasmania. This logging coupe was identified by community members, as well as TSU surveys, as key swift parrot foraging habitat.¹¹⁸

Logging coupe RU043H: West Wellington

The logging coupe RU043H is a 53ha coupe located in the West Wellington region, watershed for the Judds Creek community. Logging commenced in this forest in August 2011. Timber from this coupe was supplied to TAT (see Appendix VI). Community members of the West Wellington watershed have

The swift parrot is one of the most threatened bird species in Australia, with 1000 breeding pairs left. The swift parrot is the most significant of the endangered species with habitat range, both breeding and foraging, in Bruny Island state forests. In June 2010, a representative from Tasmania's Threatened Species Unit (TSU) communicated at a meeting of the Bruny Community Forestry Group that Tasmania's most important breeding habitat for the swift parrot for the year 2008-2009 was Bruny Island.¹¹⁷

Peter Pepper, Forestry Tasmania's Community Liaison Officer for the Huon District frequently

been in consultation with Forestry Tasmania to express their concerns about logging in the region. West Wellington is a region of native forest on the mountain range behind the rural communities of Lucaston, Crabtree and Judds Creek in southern Tasmania, all in the water catchments of this forested region. The threatened forests border the Wellington Park.

In meetings with Forestry Tasmania the community members have been informed 'to meet the requirements of Ta Ann, they need all the re-growth they can get.' Further to this, Forestry Tasmania claimed that 'plantation wood (*E. nitens*) has too many knots for veneer, partly owing to the species, mainly owing to the fact it wasn't pruned at an early stage. Blue gum plantations which would have been fine, were stopped because it was too slow growing.'¹¹⁹

Forestry Tasmania employees explained 'previously a good coupe in the Huon Valley was averaging 20% sawlogs, with the rest going for chips. Now 40% of what used to go to pulp, is recovered for Ta Ann ... For an averagely good tree, 30% of it would go for sawlog, 30% for pulp, 30% for peeler logs.'¹²⁰



Coupe RU043H, West Wellington

FINANCIAL TROUBLE AT TA ANN TASMANIA WILL DRIVE FURTHER NATIVE FOREST CLEARING

TAT's operations are neither environmentally nor financially sustainable. Despite having a cheap source of timber, TAT has made an operating loss in each of its five years of operations in Tasmania. Accumulated net losses currently stand at AU\$18 million. In 2010, with both of its mills fully operational, Ta Ann made a loss of AU\$11 million.

The table below summarises Ta Ann's financial performance over the last five years. In total, Ta Ann has made losses of AU\$17.8 million over this period. The final year's loss, of AU\$11.0 million, was made in an environment of full production capacity and record sales.

TAT's losses have occurred notwithstanding considerable financial support from the Australian public. TAT has received direct taxpayer subsidies of AU\$10.3 million and has been the indirect

beneficiary of public grants to Forestry Tasmania's subsidiary Newwood, the company that operates the two mill sites that TAT leases. Forestry Tasmania has invested AU\$23 million in TAT's Newwood sites and Newwood has been operating unprofitably since inception. The Tasmanian Auditor General has called for an impairment review into Forestry Tasmania's investment in Newwood.

TAT's operating losses (shown in the third from last row above) have continued despite growing veneer sales. The 2010 result is particularly worrying, given that TAT was operating both of its mills. Veneer sales of AU\$37.6 million were made but the direct cost of those sales (payments to staff, Forestry Tasmania and other direct operating costs) was \$42.3 million. This is, of course, not sustainable.

The reason that TAT is unable to operate

Table 1: Summary of Ta Ann profits and losses 2006–2010, AUS millions¹²¹

AUS MILLIONS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Profit/(loss)	(0.4)	(2.1)	(4.8)	0.4	(11.0)
Made up of:					
Revenue (sales of veneer)	0.0	2.8	22.6	29.8	37.6
Less costs:					
Staff costs	0.0	2.3	5.2	7.7	9.4
Wood fibre & cost of sales	0.0	1.5	15.6	23.5	32.9
Other expenses	0.9	1.9	2.1	2.6	4.2
Gives: Operating profit/(loss)	(0.9)	(2.9)	(0.3)	(4.1)	(8.9)
Plus: Finance and tax expenses/benefits	0.5	0.8	(4.4)	4.5	(2.1)
Gives: Net profit/(loss)	(0.4)	(2.1)	(4.8)	0.4	(11.0)

profitably is due to a combination of factors, including the very strong Australian dollar, the highly competitive global plywood market and its high overheads which require greater volume throughput to achieve economies of scale. The operating losses are occurring despite the fact that the price paid to Forestry Tasmania for its peeler billets is lower than Ta Ann's Asian hardwood alternatives. It is also possible that TAT's parent company is making profits at the expense of TAT (because Malaysia has a lower company tax rate than Australia) but the issue of transfer pricing is not considered in this report.

To deal with its operating losses, TAT is likely to work hard to grow economies of scale (i.e. increasing volumes of native forest logged), cut mill costs, diversify operations (for example, by becoming a bio-fuel seller) and put pressure on payments to suppliers (e.g. by downgrading billet qualities on delivery to its mills). TAT is already in dispute with its electricity provider over a AU\$1.4 million unpaid electricity bill.

Ta Ann's decision to invest in Tasmania was based on an assumed exchange rate of 75 cents.¹²² In the six years since then, the Australian dollar has strengthened consistently and has been above parity with the USD for some time now. Most economists are predicting that the AUD/USD will stay above parity until the end of 2012 and possibly for much longer after that if the commodity export boom to China continues to push up the terms of trade.

This will make operating profitably very difficult for TAT. TAT has stated that it needs

to achieve a 28% sales price increase to restore profitability. Unless the Australian dollar collapses it is difficult to see how this could be achieved.

It appears that Forestry Tasmania is underselling the timber that comes from Tasmania's native forests. In a 2010 statement to the *Huon Valley News*, local timber harvesting contractor Ian Crouch explained that the logs now provided to the Ta Ann mills were previously sold as high-value sawlogs. Now, large tracts of native forest are being primarily harvested for the supply of peeler logs – a low-value product.¹²³

In a submission to the Tasmanian Government, actuary Naomi Edwards explains that although 'Ta Ann's Huon operation has been fully operational for over two years and consumed some half million tonnes of peeler logs ... there has been no uplift to Forestry Tasmania's profitability as a result of these sales.'¹²⁴ This means that there has been little to no return to the Tasmanian public from the deal between Forestry Tasmania and Ta Ann.

THE IMPLICATIONS OF ONGOING LOSSES AT TA ANN TASMANIA

Assuming that the exchange rate does not significantly move over the next few years, TAT will need to aggressively cut costs, increase volumes and diversify its activities to stem its losses. This is a similar position that Gunns found itself in during 2007 when its markets went into a downturn. Inevitably, the rate of native forest clearing will rise.

TAT has already flagged that it is pursuing these options.

For example:

- 1 TAT is actively investigating diversifying into biochar production, biomass production and electricity production through burning residues from its mill operations.¹²⁵ The commercial burning of native forests to sell electricity is likely to drive more clearing and has been recognised as environmentally damaging through the exclusion of bio-mass energy from the Renewable Energy Credit scheme in Australia. Waste is already used to generate steam to dry the veneer but TAT is also looking into becoming an electricity wholesaler with its remaining waste.
- 2 TAT is investigating a second peeling line at its Smithton mill. This is also likely to drive increased native forest clearing.
- 3 Notwithstanding that its supply agreement with Forestry Tasmania is for 265 000 m³ of fibre, TAT needs to process 300 000 m³ or more to achieve economies of scale. While some wood can come from private growers, TAT is likely to look to maintain and even expand its supply from both Forestry Tasmania and private owners. This pressure to maintain wood supply from Tasmania's native forests puts TAT in effective opposition to the native forest peace process. While TAT is neutral as to the source of its peeler billets, the fact that Tasmanian plantations have not been suitably managed to provide peeler billets means that TAT depends on continued high volume native forest logging.
- 4 TAT is already taking wood from 70 private growers in northeast Tasmania but is looking to increase those volumes. TAT is effectively replacing Gunns as a driver of private forest clearing and its associated environmental impacts.
- 5 TAT has been in dispute with its electricity supplier regarding electricity bills at its Huon mill since operations commenced. TAT has not paid its electricity bills (now at \$1.1 million unpaid) and the loss described in Section 1 does not include this electricity cost. Should TAT have to pay this (and future) costs, this will put further pressure on its operating margins.
- 6 To stem its operating losses, TAT is likely to apply considerable pressure to wages, mill maintenance, billet quality at wood merchandiser yards and contractors. Newwood, the Forestry Tasmania manager of the two mill sites that Ta Ann leases, has been operating at a loss since establishment.

In addition it is not unlikely that TAT will once again seek public subsidy for its Tasmanian operations.

Of even greater concern, the Australian National Audit concluded that the public money spent in grants under the Tasmanian Community Forest Agreement (TCFA) – of which TAT was a recipient – failed to meet commonly accepted standards for transparency and accountability. *The Australian* newspaper reports that the Tasmanian Government bypassed some of the rules in approving funding for one of the largest grants – AU\$7.9 million – which was provided to TAT.¹²⁶

CONCLUSION

Ta Ann Tasmania is a major driver of forest destruction in Tasmania. Ta Ann's large contract with the Tasmanian Government for the supply of 265 000 m³ of timber per year is contributing to the destruction of old growth and high conservation value forests in Tasmania. Ta Ann is making a financial loss, despite considerable financial support from the Australian public and their financial situation is unsustainable. In addition, the logging activities that provide the raw material for their Tasmanian operations are ecologically unsustainable.

Forests that provide habitat for endangered species, forests that have never been logged before and forests that are water catchments for communities have been logged for Ta Ann's wood supply since they established two veneer plants in Tasmania in 2006-2007.

Tasmania's pro logging politicians and forest industry supporters have welcomed a company with questionable logging and human rights practices in its home state of Sarawak. They have enabled Ta Ann to reap the benefits of Tasmania's green brand image, a cheaper source of hardwood and a certification status for their products. Ta Ann has used this certification status to misrepresent the ecological credentials of their timber products in the marketplace.

Ta Ann is promoting timber sourced from the destruction of Tasmania's forests as environmentally friendly eco-wood, through their Japanese partner SMKC. They claim that their timber products are sourced from plantations and regrowth forests. Ta Ann is aware that Japanese building companies are seeking substitutes such as eucalyptus to meet a growing demand for environmentally friendly timber. The Japanese market relies heavily on Sarawak for its plywood imports,

and accounts for more than 90% of Ta Ann's sales.

Ta Ann is using their Tasmanian wood supply to access lucrative overseas markets that are increasing their attempts to procure timber with minimal environmental impacts.

The building companies and flooring manufacturers who purchase Ta Ann's Tasmanian timber may believe that they are receiving a genuinely sustainable product. Ta Ann's claim that they receive timber from only plantation and regrowth forests allows overseas customers, including Japanese and European customers, to promote their product as 'eco plywood'.

Based on the procurement policies of Ta Ann's customers in Japan Huon Valley Environment Centre believes that these customers do not want their timber to be sourced from highly destructive logging practices such as those employed in Tasmania to feed Ta Ann's wood supply contract.

Ta Ann Tasmania claims that they do not use timber sourced from the logging of old growth forests. They claim that their timber products are sourced only from plantations and managed regrowth forests. However Huon Valley Environment Centre has clearly identified through field investigations and information obtained through Right to Information, that Ta Ann is misrepresenting their source of wood to their customers. The reality is that Ta Ann is a major driver of the logging that continues to destroy large areas of old growth and high conservation value forests in Tasmania.

Ta Ann is also lobbying strongly in Tasmania to retain long term access to native forest timber, as the company claims that Tasmania's plantation estate has not proven to be a viable resource for their mills.

Furthermore, Forestry Tasmania and Tasmanian Government is using Ta Ann and its wood supply contract to continue to log high conservation value and old growth forests that have been earmarked for protection. Both the Tasmanian Government and the logging industry want to ensure that Ta Ann's access to Tasmania's native forests is protected indefinitely through legislation guaranteeing it permanent access to the timber from these forests.

Large tract of old growth and high conservation value forest in the Weld Valley. Threatened forests in this valley should be protected under the Intergovernmental Agreement.



RECOMMENDATIONS

The Huon Valley Environment Centre would, as a matter of urgency, like to make the following recommendations to:

Ta Ann customers

- Correct any claims regarding wood source and the ecological sustainability of the product
- Request a plantation only wood source for product from Tasmanian forests
- Cease to take supply from Ta Ann whilst they:
 - source wood from old growth and high conservation value forests already identified and recommended by the Inter Government Agreement on Tasmania's Forests – this is recommended for an area comprising 572,000 hectares
 - demand legislated supply from native forests
 - fail to meet timber procurement guidelines set down by your company
- Require Ta Ann to move to a plantation only wood supply within a defined period, making a rapid transition out of native forests
- Require that the wood supply from Tasmania meets their current timber procurement guidelines. And where there is not a timber procurement guideline, publicly commit to implementing procurement guidelines that specifically exclude the purchase of timber made from Australian native forests and from primary forests overseas. In addition, such policies need to give preference to plantation timber with full Forest Stewardship Council certification.

Ta Ann Tasmania

- Clarify wood source for their Tasmanian product to customers and markets, making it clear that
 - the product is entirely sourced from native forest
 - this native forest material is on occasions sourced from forests identified by conservation organisations and experts as having high conservation values, World Heritage values, and from old growth forest areas
- Drop demands for legislated wood supply from Tasmania's publicly owned native forests
- Agree to move to a plantation wood supply, on a defined time scale. Cease taking wood

supplied from within the old growth and high conservation value forests immediately, and as recommended by the recent Inter Government Agreement on Tasmania's forests and to rapidly transition out of native forest sources

- Cease plans for wood-fired electricity generation based on Tasmanian native forests
- Support the current forest agreement and the legislated protection of forests as identified within the recent Inter Government Agreement and amounting to 572,000 hectares of forest.

Australian and Tasmanian Governments

- Do not legislate to entrench logging for Ta Ann Tasmania's wood supply from Tasmanian public native forests, nor support such legislation or wood sources for Ta Ann via intergovernmental agreement
- Direct Forestry Tasmania to immediately cease supply to Ta Ann Tasmania from within the identified high conservation value forests, amounting to 572,000 hectares of forest and to plan a rapid transition out of supplying Ta Ann with wood from native forests
- Correct the public record regarding the source of wood supply to Ta Ann Tasmania.

Forestry Tasmania

- Charge royalties to cover all costs associated with wood supply to Ta Ann, including roading and planning operations, so as to ensure a proper return to the Tasmanian people whose forests they oversee
- Immediately cease in the ENGO identified high conservation values forests, 570,000 hectares of forest as nominated in the recent Inter Government Agreement on Tasmania's forests and plan a rapid transition out of public natural forests for Ta Ann Tasmania wood supply
- Correct the public record regarding the source of wood supply to Ta Ann Tasmania, as Ta Ann are being supplied timber from old growth and high conservation value forests. No wood from plantations are being supplied to Ta Ann.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: TASMANIAN FORESTS STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES TO LEAD TO AN AGREEMENT¹²⁷

To resolve the conflict over forests in Tasmania, protect native forests, and develop a strong sustainable timber industry.

The parties to these Principles:

- Timber Communities Australia Ltd (TCA)
- The Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU)
- The National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI)
- The Forest Industries Association of Tasmania (FIAT)
- The Australian Forest Contractor's Association (AFCA)
- The Tasmanian Forest Contractor's Association (TFCA)
- Environment Tasmania Inc (ET)
- The Wilderness Society (TWS)
- Australian Conservation Foundation (ACF)
- Tasmanian Country Sawmiller's Federation (TCSF)

The parties to the Principles seek from State and Federal governments:

- Support for and delivery of all principles in full;
- Interim support for the development of a plan to deliver the Principles, including verification¹ of resource constraints and HCV boundaries;
- Implementation of the Principles through an agreed, fully-funded package and timeline that maximises benefits and reduces negative impacts;
- Immediate interim assistance for Tasmanian harvest, haulage and silvicultural contractors;
- To determine with industry, a guaranteed

sustainable quantity and quality of wood supply within 3 months that is outside of the identified high conservation value forests, for the period of the negotiations, in order to provide certainty for the industry, workers and communities;

- A progressive implementation of a moratorium on the logging of high conservation value forests commencing within 30 days – ensuring that priority, (ie those in the most advanced stages of planning for harvesting) HCV coupes identified by ENGOs² are the first to be addressed. The full moratorium is to be completed within 3 months. Any necessity for any proposed variation to this due to unavoidable planning constraints has to be independently verified;
- To provide exit assistance for industry where required;
- Not to accept new entrants into the Tasmanian industry, nor enter into new contractual relationships beyond parties who are currently in contractual relationships with the state while the negotiations are underway unless by the mutual agreement of all parties;
- Note that no party (including Forestry Tasmania) shall be required to accept a Principle which would otherwise apply to it where to do so would cause a breach of an existing contract or statutory obligation;
- Accept that delivery of these Principles will require joint agreement of the parties to timelines and funding and;
- To develop an agreed stakeholder-led implementation process with a finalised full agreement within 12 months.

¹ Draft verification process document under construction

² ENGO's in this document means those environmental non-government organisation's who are parties to this document

PRINCIPLES

The parties agree to the following:

General Wood Supply	Provide a sustainable resource supply profile to industry based on an agreed minimum quantity and quality requirement for industry. This will be underpinned by legislation.
Native Forest Wood Supply	Subject to the provisions of the transition, as legislated Native Forest entitlements are handed back, ensure these entitlements will not be allocated nor licensed to new players.
HCV Forests	Immediately protect, maintain and enhance High Conservation Value Forests identified by ENGO's on public land.

Transition	Transition the commodity (non specialty) forest industry out of public native forests into suitable plantations through a negotiated plan and timeline.
Industry	Create a strong sustainable timber industry including the development of a range of plantation based timber processing facilities including a pulp mill. There will need to be stakeholder consultation and engagement with the proponent, ENGO's and the community.
Specialty Timbers	Provide for ongoing specialty timber supply including eucalypt for our Tasmanian high value furniture and craft industries through a negotiated plan and timeline.
Plantations	Support sustainable and socially acceptable plantations including agreed reforms and new agro-forestry outcomes, including pursuing certification.
Private Forests	Encourage and support, but not mandate, private forest owners to: seek assistance for certification; and protect, maintain and enhance high conservation value forests on their properties.
Communities Impacted	Support impacted rural and regional communities, workers, contractors and businesses, through a range of economic development, financial assistance, compensation and retraining measures.
Community Engagement	Engage and involve the broad Tasmanian community in the development and implementation of a durable solution to the Tasmanian forest conflict.
Tourism	Develop Tasmania's nature-based tourism industry in line with these Principles.
Planning	Develop a fully-funded, independent, scientifically-led landscape conservation, restoration and integrated-catchment management program, and associated governance and regulatory improvements.
Government	Reform and support government agencies, policies and legislation as necessary for the implementation of an agreement associated with these Principles.
Climate Change	Seek funding for improving carbon outcomes as a result of delivering these Principles.
Biomass	In Tasmania, only permit plantation forest processing and plantation harvesting residues to be used as biomass for RECs.
Certification	Encourage Forestry Tasmania to firstly obtain Controlled Wood accreditation on delivery of the moratorium, secondly, obtain full FSC certification on resolution of an FSC National Standard and once an agreement based on these Principles has been finalised.
Durability	Undertake to ensure all elements of this agreement are fulfilled on a durable basis.
Legislation	Require State and Federal legislation to implement agreed outcomes arising from these Principles including appropriate review mechanisms, milestones and sanctions.

Signed by the following parties: Dated 14th October 2010

Trevor Richardson for Timber Communities Australia Ltd (TCA)

Michael O'Connor, National Secretary Forestry and Furnishing Products Division Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU). For the CFMEU subject to authorisation by ballot from Tasmanian members of the CFMEU Forestry and Furnishing Products Division.

Allan Hansard for the National Association of Forest Industries (NAFI)

Terry Edwards for the Forest Industries Association Tasmania

Ken Padgett for the Australian Forest Contractor's Association (AFCA)

Edmond Vincent for the Tasmanian Forest Contractor's Association (TFCA)

Phill Pullinger for Environment Tasmania Inc (ET)

David Mackenzie for The Wilderness Society Inc (TWS)

Don Henry, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation

Fred Ralph for Tasmanian Country Sawmiller's Federation (TCSF)

**APPENDIX II:
TA ANN'S BUSINESS
PARTNERS**

SMKC

SMKC invested in Ta Ann Tasmania's mills, taking up a 15% equity stake. Under the terms of the agreement, SMKC will purchase the plywood products made from veneer produced in Tasmania for sale in Japan.

Ta Ann boasts about the partnership with SMKC by stating that 'the confidence of SMKC not only lent credence to the prospects of our Tasmania project but practically guarantees the sale of the new plywood products into the Japanese market.'¹²⁸

SMKC is among the top five companies importing plywood from Malaysia.¹²⁹

SMKC is a company that, 'promotes the development and stable supply of high-performance products required by the market, as well as of environmentally friendly wood products.'¹³⁰ SMKC claim that they produce veneer from Eucalypt plantations in Tasmania.¹³¹



<http://www.smkc.co.jp/eco/participation.html>

Translation:

We participate in a manufacturing project of veneer in Tasmania for the purpose of creating sustainable forests there.

As a business enterprise intimately connected to environmental impacts, SMKC is aiming for realization of recyclable society, and we have joined a manufacturing project of Eucalyptus-based veneer in Tasmania, Australia since 2007.

We produce there veneer from high-

quality Eucalyptus plantations grown in sustainably managed forests and manufacture wood products including plywood at our affiliated plant in Malaysia in accordance with market needs. We also market the products in Asian markets like Japan and China.

We will seek expansion of our business and diversification of our manufactured articles in the future.

APPENDIX III: TA ANN'S JAPANESE MARKET

Japan has traditionally been the premium market for Malaysian plywood. Japan has become more dependent on Malaysia for its plywood supply as imports surpassed Indonesia.¹³²

Japan imported 1 196 983 cubic meters of plywood and 1 256 154 in 2009 and 2010 respectively from the state of Sarawak.¹³³ Japan accounts for nearly half of Sarawak's total plywood exports of 2.5 million cubic metres (or MYR3.43 billion).¹³⁴

Japan has always been the biggest buyer of Ta Ann's plywood products, making up more than 90% of the group's plywood sales.¹³⁵

TAT ships its material primarily to Sarawak, where it is processed into plywood. Ta Ann's timber products are then shipped to trading houses in Osaka, south of Tokyo, Japan.¹³⁶ SMKC then supply the imported base material for flooring from Sarawak to the manufacturers, EIDAI and Panasonic.¹³⁷

Malaysia remains Japan's second largest supplier of wood products, with a significant increase in sales of 14.17 percent from USD 1.03 billions in 2009 to USD 1.17 billions in 2010. Plywood and veneers is Japan's major import wood product from Malaysia. Malaysia's export of wood products into Japan registered at USD 776.09 millions in 2010 increase by 14.43 percent from 2009. Under the plywood and

veneer category, Malaysia is the main exporter to Japan and holds around 45.12 percent of market share.¹³⁸

Malaysia is also the major supplier of flooring products to the Japanese building industry. The country's recent earthquake has led to an increase demand from local home builders since a considerable number of flooring manufactures are based in the Tohoku region, and are not able to supply.¹³⁹ In 2011, Ta Ann reported that it will increase plywood production after winning orders from Japan following the country's earthquake and tsunami. Ta Ann will raise annual output by about 15 percent to 280 000 cubic metres.¹⁴⁰

Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation data shows Japan's plywood imports from Sarawak reached 499,435 m³, worth more than RM926m (US\$309.6m) in Q2, compared with 296,162 m³ valued at RM475.7m (US\$159m) in the previous quarter.

'Wong Kai Song, chairman of the Sarawak Timber Association's panel products committee, said sales began to slow in late May 2011 following a surge in demand triggered by the disaster in March. He said Japanese importers had now stopped buying (plywood) completely, after importers had filled their warehouses in preparation for reconstruction.'¹⁴¹

APPENDIX IV: EIDAI CO. LTD.

Eidai Co. Ltd. based in Osaka, Japan, is mainly engaged in the manufacturing and sale of wooden building materials and facility equipment for housing. It has nine subsidiaries and two associated companies.¹⁴² Ta Ann's Tasmanian plywood product is marketed by Eidai as 'Eco Message' flooring. See the promotional material translations that follow.

In October 2010 NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) broadcasted a new program titled 'Biodiversity Changes Businesses' dealing with environmentally-friendly companies. In the last part of the program people from Eidai promote their flooring products as 'sustainable'. According to the program Eidai, a manufacturer with imported tropical timbers, has sought alternative timbers in terms of cost and quality performance. And finally they have found a good supplier in Tasmania.¹⁴³

Eidai Co. Ltd. declared that all products on their catalogues would be all ecologically based during 2011.¹⁴⁴

Translation of key parts of Eidai Environment & Social Report 2010¹⁴⁵

Page 7:

We establish four business activities in our environmental policy.

Since 1990s Eidai has started a full-scale process for environmental conservation activities on division-by-division and business-by-business bases. In June 2000, Eidai established "Eidai's Attitude towards Environment" from our judgment that we need a company-wide commitment to the environment with vision for new century in mind. In June 2007, Eidai set our "Environment Policy" to bring our attitude towards the environment in shape. To further reinforce our commitment to the environment and to fulfill our responsibility to society Eidai partially amended "Environment Policy".



Environment Policy Basic Principle

Eidai seeks a further contribution to society by our environmental conservation activities through symbiosis with the globe, the society and the humans.

THREE COURSES OF ACTION

1. Business Activities

- *GHG Mitigation:* We seek to mitigate GHG emissions by effective use of energy and water resource.
- *Promoting 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle):* We promote 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle) and make a contribution to developing a recyclable society.
- *Control and Management of Chemical Substances:* We establish control criterion to control use and emission of environmentally hazardous substance.
- *Environment Friendly Procurement of Timber:* We actively use certified timber, especially plantation timber to increase the ratio of environment-friendly material.

2. Social Responsibility

- We comply with the laws, deepen our cooperation with the community and seek a company with the admiration of broad public.

3. Disclosure of Information

- We disclose information concerning our business activities on an as needed basis.

Page 9:

We aim to make the use ratio of environment friendly flooring material 100 percents by 2011.

Our Progressive Approach for Environment Friendly Base Material

We have used environment friendly base material and completed conversion process of interior door, finishing materials and system kitchen to environment friendly.

We have sought to convert lauan plywood to more sustainable material for conservation of tropical forests and have become the first manufacturer to realize productization of Tasmanian Eucalyptus based flooring base certified by PEFC.

EIDAI promotional material translation 1:

EIDAI is proud of our ECO-friendly flooring product. PEFC CoC certified Flooring ECOMESSAGE Floor

In order to curb environmental destructions expanding over the globe we are urgently asked to make transition of our society based on mass production, mass consumption and mass disposal to sustainable society.

Forests absorb and sequester carbon dioxide, a public function to help stop global warming. If we should use timber products while securing and developing the forests function, we are expected to keep on wise use of timber based on sustainable forest management.

Timber is a commodity product familiar with our daily life and a renewable resource. EIDAI Co. Ltd. wants to be a company that contributes to the society more than ever through promoting legal and renewable timber resources with the aim of building a sustainable society.

As part of our company's specific resolutions we acquired PEFC-CoC certificate in November 2006 as the first case for the flooring manufacturing industry in Japan. And also we launched "ECOMESSAGE Floor", a new flooring product made from PEFC certified Tasmanian eucalypt plywood in June 2007. Starting with this we plan to increase the amount of certified wood resources in manufacturing other products. We continue to make a contribution to building a sustainable society though promoting our flooring products.

**EIDAIには
環境にやさしい
フローリングが
あります**

**PEFC CoC認証フローリング 環境にやさしい
ECOMESSAGE FLOOR**

深刻化する環境破壊に懸念を募る中、「大量に生産・消費・廃棄を社会から排除可能な社会」への転換が求められています。森林にCO2の二酸化炭素を吸収し、C(炭素)を固定化する働き、また木材を燃焼・焼却せずして自然分解可能な木材を生産する機能も森林に固有の重要な機能です。また、森林は木材生産だけでなく、生態系サービスを提供する重要な役割も果たしています。また、森林は木材生産だけでなく、生態系サービスを提供する重要な役割も果たしています。また、森林は木材生産だけでなく、生態系サービスを提供する重要な役割も果たしています。

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EIDAI www.eidai.com

東京	03-379-5724	大阪	06-544-1011	福岡	092-464-2818
神戸	078-762-2111	名古屋	052-735-5200	仙台	022-241-7641
札幌	011-834-4110	東京	03-544-1110	東京	03-544-1110
福岡	092-237-8172	京都	075-623-1115	東京	03-641-6885

本社 東京都中央区 有明3-1-1000 電話 03-6461-1000 代表取締役 大田 正樹 03-6461-1000



EIDAI promotional material translation 2:

Tasmanian Eucalyptus

In the past our industry had been greatly dependent upon “Luann plywood”, a high performance building material, which was economically efficient and stable in supply. At the same time, however, we had understood too much dependence on Luann plywood might cause burdens on the environment. As a result of our long years of study and development of various wood material, whether hardwood or softwood, we (EIDAI) have reached to choose Tasmanian Eucalyptus as the material to meet to the needs of high quality for plywood and the global standard of environmental protection. Tasmanian Eucalyptus is a

hardwood species which is harvested under sustainable forest management in the state of Tasmania.

State of Tasmania

Total land area of 6.8 million ha
Population of 485,000 people

Tasmania, with warm climate and rich in forest resources, is located off the southeast corner of mainland Australia. Eucalyptus is the most abundant hardwood species in the island, more than 700 species. Eucalyptus, typically a fast-growing source of wood and evergreen tall tree, is commonly used in many timber products.

PEFC-CoC認証ユーカリ合板

適切な管理の下で伐採された森林材を使用

タスマニアユーカリはPEFCの認証材であり、将来的にも有望な森林資源です。またタスマニアユーカリを原料とした合板はCoC認証を取得しており、適切な管理の下で生産されていることが証明されています。

森林認証制度 (PEFC認証)

CoC認証

VOICE 従業員の声 環境に配慮した資材の開発に注力

原材料の持続可能な調達を考慮しながら、タスマニアユーカリに続く第2、第3の環境に配慮した資材の開発に力を入れる考えです。

建材事業部 建材開発室 宮内正文

EIDAI promotional material translation 3:

PEFC CoC Certified Eucalyptus Plywood
Use of Timber logged under Proper Management of Forests

Tasmanian Eucalyptus is PEFC certified, high-potential forest resources. Also, plywood made of Tasmanian Eucalyptus is CoC certified, and produced under proper forest management.

Forest Area of Tasmania: 3,350,000 ha
PEFC Certified Forest Area of Tasmania: 1,450,000 ha
PEFC Certified Eucalyptus Area owned by Tasmania State: 690,000 ha
(State owned PEFC certified eucalyptus area allowed for logging is not included production limitation area)
Sourced from Forestry Tasmania, 2005

(Voice of Our Employer)

Forest Certification (PEFC Certification)

Regeneration ▶ Growing ▶ Cultivation
Pictures provided by Forestry Tasmania

CoC Certification

Logging Raw Wood ▶ Manufacturing Veneer ▶ Manufacturing Plywood ▶ Distributing Plywood
▶ EIDAI: Processing and Selling Flooring Product ▶ Customers (User Companies)

「エコメッセージフロア」 環境を最大限に配慮

PEFC-CoC認証フローリング 133466-02017
ECOMESSAGE
 PEFC F L O O R

D ヨーロピアンビーチ
 ヨーロッパで200年以上前から計画的に伐採されている樹種型の木料資源

E タフテックベース
 国産闊葉材を利用したMDF

A PEFC-CoC認証 ユーカリ合板
 森林認証を受けたオーストラリア産木料を使用

3.9
ランニング
 プライス/平米

PEFC
 PEFC/01-01-22

Jun
 PEFC CoC 133466-02017

EIDA promotional material translation 4:

- A. Eco-friendly and sustainable PEFC Certified Eucalyptus based plywood material (see 'A' in the picture above)
- B. Excellent in cost performance
- C. 'Micro-veil coating' rich in durability and solidity, stain resistant
- D. Wide range of surface material including European beech, oak, sycamore, hard maple, black cherry and black walnut (see 'D' in the picture above)
- E. The middle layer is MDF, made of timber thinned from planted ciders in Japan (see 'E' in the picture above)

APPENDIX V: PANASONIC ELECTRIC WORKS CO. LTD.

Another manufacturer of Ta Ann's flooring is Panasonic Electric Works Co. Ltd. (PEW).¹⁴⁶ Panasonic Group's wood consumption totalled 440 000 m³ in 2009.¹⁴⁷ PEW's brand name for the Tasmanian Eucalyptus flooring product is 'Almighty Floor'.¹⁴⁸

In 2010 Panasonic Electric Works Co. Ltd. and Daiken Corporation entered into a business alliance agreement in the interior furnishing materials business, promoting joint procurement of materials and mutual cooperation in production.¹⁴⁹ DAIKEN and PEW will promote to create eco-friendly building products with a view to the industry-wide standardization so as to lead the industry environmentally. To switch to eco-friendly wood flooring materials completely by March 31, 2012 and promote the expansion of eco-friendly materials to other product.¹⁵⁰

Panasonic 'Almighty Floor' promotional material translation 1 (top right):

Beauty of the flooring stays long lasting without waxing due to its naturally high coated surface with high cohesion.

PWE procures Eucalyptus-based composite plywood that is managed by the cycle of growth, harvest and regrowth (planting).

The flooring is made of a material on to which marks do not adhere and difficult to smash.

The floor can withstand dents and marks from wheelchairs.

Panasonic 'Almighty Floor' promotional material translation 2 (bottom right):

Thinking about the Environment, Always Become Beautiful
Compassion towards People and Homes
Flooring resistant to marks and scratches.
Flooring whose beautify is long lasting without waxing.
The surface of 'Almighty Floor E' is covered with naturally high coated paint. The product, made of a material on to which marks do not adhere, stays long without waxing.

オーマイティフロアE
F☆☆☆☆ 4VOC GREEN R1000

パナソニック電工株式会社 信達オーケーニング事業
〒100-8555 東京都千代田区千代田1-1-1 10F
住まいの環境と健康のサポート sumai.panasonic.jp

【案内図】 【巻頭対話】

高級なナチュラルなハイコート塗装で、ワックスがけをしなくても美しく長く持ちます
環境配慮型素材を使用した安心な床材

成長・収穫・再生・循環、おサイクルが管理された
ユーカリの良木を厳選しています
へこみ傷がつきにくい床材
床材を剥がして汚れた床がきれいになります

【仕様】

【寸法図 (単位:mm)】

環境のことを考えて、いつも美しく。

汚れがつきにくく、すり傷もつきにくい床。
ワックスがけをしなくても、
美しさが長持ちします。

【特徴】

【施工】

【保証】

【お問い合わせ】

APPENDIX VI:



Forestry Tasmania

Details Requested for Reporting Protest Actions to Corporate
Report No. 3 at 3.40am 22nd August 2011

Time & Date Protest First Reported	7.45am
Reported By Whom	Terry Cowen to Mike Casey FT
Coupe Name	RU043H
Name Grp Organising the Protest	Huon valley Environment Centre
What are they protesting about (optional)	
Coupe Location	Judds Creek, Judbury
Is a map available to be Emailed	Yes
Is an Exclusion Zone active	Yes
Provisional Coupe Area	88.10
Final Harvesting Area	53.40
Percentage of Discount	39%
Estimated Percentage of Sawlog	18%
Estimated Percentage of Peeler	33%
Estimated Percentage of Pulpwood	49%
Estimated Percentage of O/Growth	44%
Regrowth/mature	Predominately regrowth with mature Elements
Is it on the Current Three Year Plan	Yes
How Long on the three year plan	Since 2010 2012/2013 3yp
Date FPP planning Commenced	Unknown at this time
Date of Certification of FPP	24/06/2011
Number of Protestors	Seven protestors left the site around 11.00am. The Tree Sitter is still in place and probably there are 1 or 2 protestors in the bush in the coupe. As a direct result of this the contractors did not start falling. They went home around lunch time. See further notes below.
Number of Vehicles	3
Have Police been notified	Yes
Is it on the ENGO original list	Yes
Is it on the ENGO updated list	Yes
Is it on the TWS Listing	Yes
Harvesting or Roading Operation	Harvesting
Equipment on Site	4 Machines
Forest Workers on site	4, two contractors two FT
Mills Affected	Ta-Ann
ADD ANY OTHER RELEVANT NOTES:	Senior Huon FT personnel have stayed on the site all day. Security personnel have been employed to commence work at 4pm and stay until 7.30am in the morning. FT staff will attend at the site in the morning and report back. The Police will be again contacted at 7.30am and if they tree sitter is still in place, Police Search and Rescue will be employed to release the equipment. If the Police Search and Rescue are required, they will have to come from Launceston and will not arrive until midday.

APPENDIX VII: COUPES WITHIN ENGO HCV AREA WHERE TA ANN HAVE SOURCED WOOD

Data was not provided by Forestry Tasmania for the location of all the coupes where Ta Ann sourced timber from, that was in the Right to Information documents. We were able to source locations for the following coupes.

TARKINE AREA (NTH WEST)

FR005B (Clearfell 10-11, 18ha) (OG)
FR013A (Clearfell 09-10, 35ha) (OG)
FR017B (Aggregated retention 09-10, 25ha) (OG)
FR026B (Clearfell 09-10, 30ha)
FR039D (Clearfell 09-10, 14ha)
TE004N (Clearfell 10-11, 28ha)
MD102B (Aggregated retention, 10-11, 13 ha)

NTH WEST

CF019B (Clearfell 10-11, 30 ha)
CF046A (Clearfell 09-10, 20ha)
CF049A (clearfell 10-11, 10ha)
FD047F (Clearfell 10-11, 40ha) (OG)

CENTRAL NTH

RM461W (Seed tree removal 10-11, 65ha)
RM463A (Adv. growth retention 09-10, 27ha)
AS122X (Adv. growth retention 10-11, 35ha)

NTH EAST

MA107D (Sawlog retention 09-10) (OG)
MA114L (Shelterwood retention 10-11, 80ha)
MA114M (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 50ha)
MA117B (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 20ha) (OG)
BW108B (Potential sawlog retention 09-10, 10ha)
BS115H (Clearfell 09-10, 45ha) (OG)
BS116C (Shelterwood retention 10-11, 46ha)
CD103C (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 15ha)(OG)
CD102A (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 45ha) (OG)
CD106B (Shelterwood retention 10-11) (OG)
BS109D (Aggregated retention 09-10, 30ha) (OG)
RS136E (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 52ha)
RR186G (Clearfell 10-11, 35ha)
FL105C (Clearfell 10-11, 70 ha) (OG)
UR019A (Seed tree retention 10-11, 30ha) (OG)
MO107D (Clearfell 10-11, 50ha)
GC083C (Clearfell 10-11, 70ha)
NL111F (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 85ha)
NL118H (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 30ha)
NL120A (Shelterwood 10-11, 40 ha)
SY008B (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 20ha)
MF057A (Shelterwood retention 09-10, 10ha)
MF075A (Shelterwood retention 10-11, 50ha) (OG)
MF068C (Shelterwood retention 10-11, 106ha)
MF057A (Shelterwood retention 09-10)

GREAT WESTERN TIERS

LR440X (Shelterwood retention 10-11, 40 ha) (OG)
HU322H (Clearfell 09-10 20ha)
NV002A (Adv. growth retention, 10-11. 10ha) (OG)
NV012C (Clearfell, 10-11, 21ha)

DERWENT

DU021A (Aggregated retention, 09-10, 12ha)
DU013F (Clearfell 09-10, 15ha)
DU014F (Clearfell 09-10, 40ha) (OG)
WE005E (Aggregated retention 10-11, 20ha) (OG)
TN008E (Potential sawlog retention, 09-10, 10ha)
TN040D (Clearfell 09-10, 13ha)
TN039C (Aggregated retention, 09-10, 80ha)
TN045B (Clearfell 09-10, 10ha)
TN047A (Clearfell 09-10, 18ha) (OG)
TN034B (Clearfell 10-11, 18ha)
TN026C (Clearfell 10-11, 25ha)
TN066B (Clearfell 09-10, 37 ha) (OG)
SX019I (Clearfell 09-10, 21ha)
SX021C (Aggregated retention 09-10, 22ha) (OG)
SX022A (Thinning, 10-11, 1ha)
SX028J (Clearfell 09-10, 19ha) (OG)
SX027E (Clearfell 09-10, 79ha)
SX025A (Clearfell 10-11, 40ha)
PL005D (Clearfell 09-10, 43ha)
PL011A (Clearfell 09-10, 39ha)
PL014G (Clearfell 09-10, 30ha)

HUON

RU023F (Clearfell 09-10, 62ha) (OG)
RU030H (Clearfell 10-11, 41ha)
RU043C (Clearfell 10-11, 42ha)
BB024A (Clearfell, 09-10, 12ha)
BB025A (Clearfell, 09-10, 51ha)
BB022I (Clearfell, 10-11, 37ha)
WR012C (Clearfell 09-10, 20ha)
AR075F (Clearfell 09-10, 122ha)
AR069G (Clearfell 10-11, 127ha)
AR041B (Aggregated retention, 09-10, 10ha) (OG)
PC017C (Clearfell 10-11, 80ha) (OG)
PC043E (Clearfell 09-10, 5ha) (OG)
AR015B (Clearfell 09-10, 15ha)
EP021B (Clearfell 10-11, 30ha) (OG)
EP031B (Aggregated retention, 10-11, 80ha) (OG)
HA011C (Aggregated retention, 10-11, 73 ha) (OG)
SO032B (Selective logging, 09-10, 30 ha)
HA045E (Clearfell, 10-11, 52ha) (OG)
LU003A (Clearfell 10-11, 61ha) (OG)
LU003B (Clearfell 10-11, 19ha) (OG)
CM019E (Clearfell 09-10, 10ha) (OG)
CM019C (Clearfell 10-11, 39ha) (OG)
SB040A (Clearfell 09-10, 35ha)
SB010B (Clearfell 09-10, 9ha)

(34 coupes containing OG)

SOURCE: Forestry Tasmania, May 2011 Lists and Registers, Right to Information request, RTI11/4.

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- According to the guidelines, wood products are classified into three groups. The first group comprises FSC certified and recovered (recycled) wood products. The second group covers wood products certified under other certification schemes. All other wood products for which legality cannot be confirmed fall into the third group. Panasonic's target for 2011 is to procure wood products only from FSC certified sources and from recovered wood (first group).
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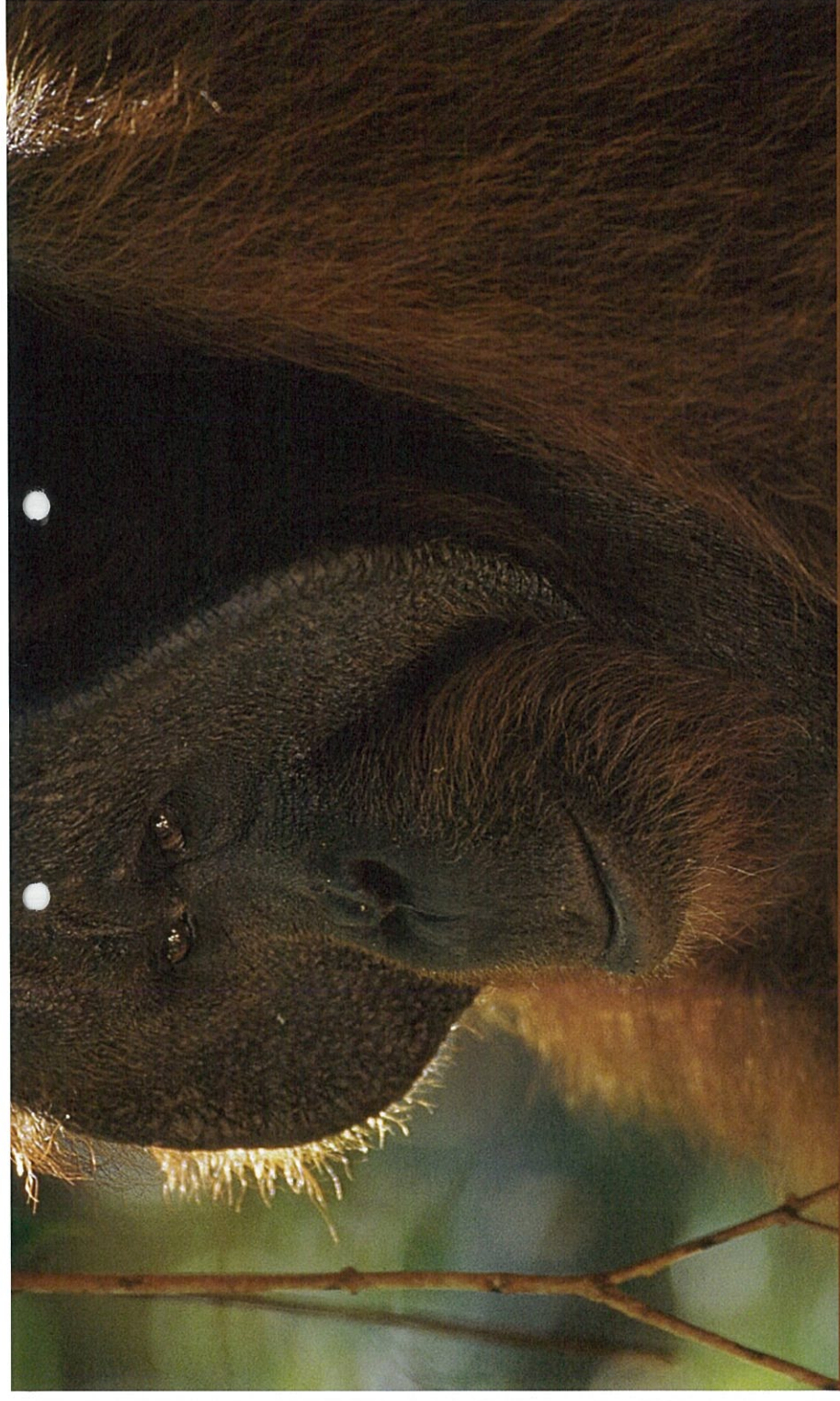
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- There has been significant debate over the ways in which particular areas of forest have been classified as 'old growth' or 'regrowth', much of which originates from the contentious manner in which old growth forest was classified and mapped during the Tasmanian RFA process. As a result of this controversial mapping, the Australian and Tasmanian Governments have failed to classify significant tracts of mature Tasmanian forest that contain old and extremely large trees, and which have not been subjected to logging, as 'old growth'. The Centurion and Triarius trees, discovered in 2008, provide a superlative example of the failures and systemic inadequacies of the RFA-defined old growth classification and mapping. Centurion (a 99.6 metre tall *Eucalyptus regnans*) and Triarius (an 86.5 metre tall *E. regnans*) were found in an unprotected 'regrowth' area of the Arve Valley in southern Tasmania. The above-mentioned failures are illustrated absolutely here, in a situation where the world's tallest known hardwood tree is classified as 'regrowth'.
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 'The Ta Ann veneer mill in the Huon Valley employs about 75 people and relies on native timber to produce high-quality flooring, but its wood supply contract runs out in 2027. The statement of principles signed by the industry and green groups endorses an end to most native forest logging.' <http://www.abc.net.au/news/stories/2010/11/19/3071458.htm?site=hobart> (viewed 5 June 2011)
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A regeneration burn in coupe WR012C. Ta Ann received timber from this coupe in the Weld Valley.





**TA ANN: DESTROYING RAINFORESTS AND
VIOLATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN SARAWAK**



LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CPO	Crude Palm Oil
DAP	Democratic Action Party
EIA	Environmental impact assessment
FoE	Friends of the Earth
GFTN	Global Forest and Trade Network
Ha	Hectares
HVEC	Huon Valley Environment Centre
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organisation
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
MP	Member of Parliament
NGR	Native Customary Rights
NGO	Non Government Organisation
MPOC	Malaysian Palm Oil Council
PBB	Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu
PL	Provisional Lease
POME	Palm Oil mill effluent
RM	Malaysian Ringgit
RSPO	Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil
STIDC	Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation
TAT	Ta Ann Tasmania
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

FRONT COVER IMAGE:

This photograph captures a male Bornean Orang-utan in the wild. Ta Ann's logging concessions in Sarawak threatens these rare animals. Tim Laman

BACK COVER IMAGE:

The land is stripped clear then burnt to make way for a new oil palm plantation. Ta Ann is a major player in the oil palm industry in Sarawak. Mattias Klum

The Huon Valley Environment Centre (HVEC) respects and acknowledges the traditional custodians of this land, or elders past and present. HVEC acknowledges the indigenous people of Sarawak and we stand in solidarity with them in their struggle to retain their rights to land. The Huon Valley Environment Centre (HVEC) is a not for profit volunteer run organisation. HVEC advocates for the conservation of native forests in Tasmania. Their campaign aims for the legislated protection of Tasmania's high conservation value forests and recognition that native forests have significant carbon stocks and their conservation plays an important role in climate change mitigation, regulating fresh water supplies, and protecting wildlife habitat.



1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Malaysian company Ta Ann is one of the largest timber companies in Sarawak and has a disturbing history of environmental and human rights abuses in Malaysia. Ta Ann is logging indigenous people's lands, destroying orang-utan habitat, and compromising valuable peat forests in the Malaysian state of Sarawak.

Ta Ann is a company that has achieved its rapid rise as a result of strong family and business connections with a corrupt government, and through extremely destructive logging practices.

The ecological and social consequences of logging and oil palm plantation establishment in Sarawak are well documented and of great magnitude. They include the destruction of tropical rainforest, extinction of animal and plant species, soil erosion, contamination of water supplies and release of carbon emissions. The social consequences include displacement of communities, loss of forest resources and culture, and disparity of wealth between the oil palm plantation companies and the indigenous people.

Ta Ann's Executive Chairman Abdul Hamed Sepawi is a notorious figure in Sarawak, a region noted for its entrenched political corruption. He is the first cousin of Sarawak's Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud and, as such, is one of the first in line to receive contracts for the many companies that Taib controls or influences. These companies, which are involved in construction, plantations and logging, are responsible for the ongoing and alarming destruction of Sarawak's unique ecosystems.

Ta Ann has taken very obvious steps to present itself as a socially and environmentally responsible company. This is demonstrated by their partnership with World Wildlife Fund Malaysia and the list of activities and awards Ta Ann presents in its annual report, such as Verification of Origin for three of its eight logging concessions, and obtaining a Chain of Custody standard for one of its plywood mills and one of its sawmills.

However these activities represent a thin veil of Corporate Social Responsibility which disintegrates when Ta Ann's activities are examined with closer scrutiny. The Huon Valley Environment Centre (HVEC) has undertaken research, presented in this report, which clearly highlights the critical environmental and social impacts of Ta Ann's destructive operations in Sarawak.

The HVEC condemns the environmental practices of the timber industry and the human rights abuses that are carried out in Sarawak. Ta Ann is inextricably linked to these practices.

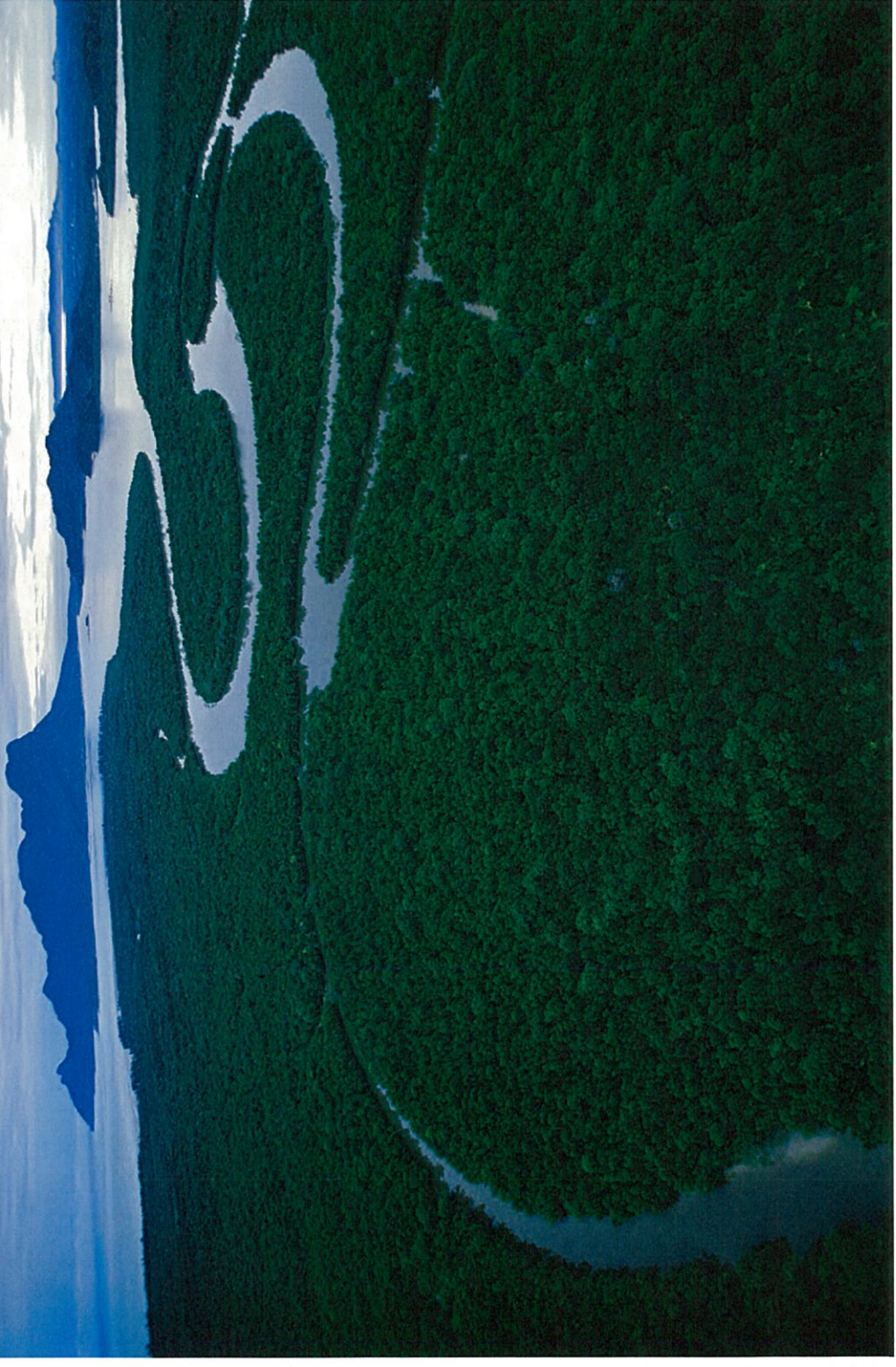
The HVEC is calling on the Tasmanian and Australian Government to critically assess their partnership with Ta Ann, and the role they play in the future of Australia's timber industry.

The HVEC aims to raise awareness about the activities of Ta Ann in its home state of Sarawak, and highlight the clear connections with Ta Ann Tasmania. Ta Ann Tasmania cannot pretend to be disconnected from the abhorrent practices of Ta Ann Group in its home state. The Australian community and authorities need to send a clear message to Ta Ann that their environmentally and socially destructive operations are an international disgrace.

OPPOSITE IMAGE:
Aerial view of the Salak River in Sarawak. This area is an example of prime Proboscis Monkey habitat. Tim Laman



TA ANNI: INI SARAWAK



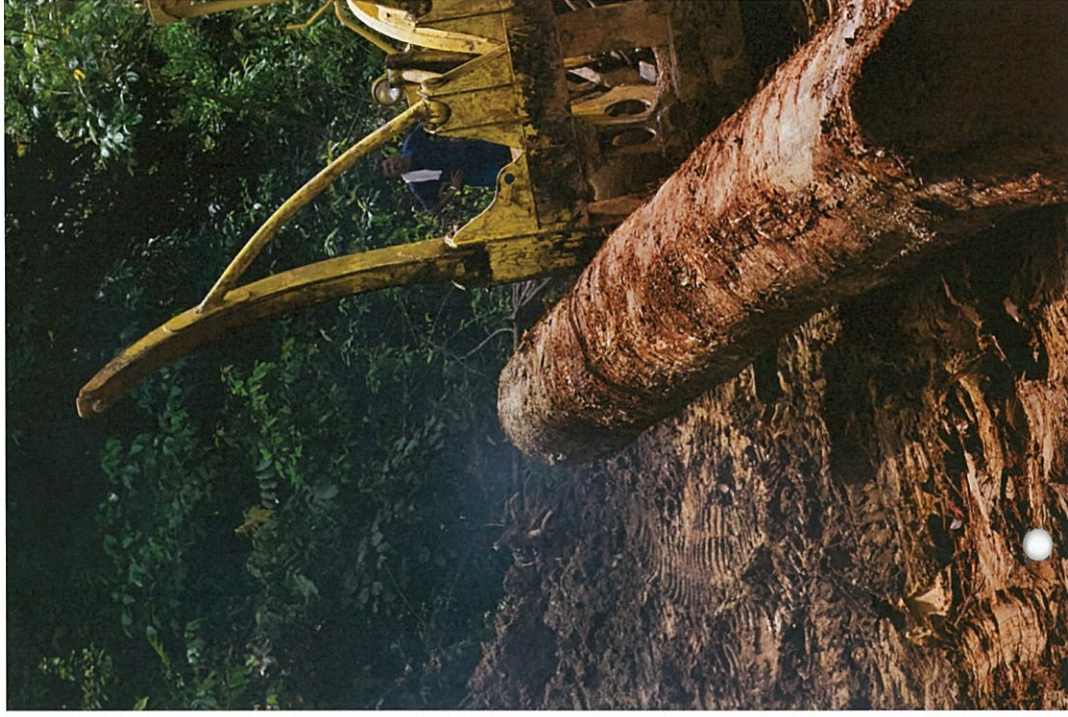


2. KEY FINDINGS

- 1 Ta Ann Holdings is a company engaged in logging and the development of industrial tree plantations and oil palm plantations in Sarawak. Their operations are causing significant environmental destruction and the widespread displacement of indigenous Sarawakians.
- 2 Ta Ann Holdings' Executive Chairman and major shareholder in the company, Abdul Hamed Sepawi, is clearly linked with these destructive forest practices and human rights abuses in Sarawak through his past and present business dealings and nepotistic relationships within Sarawak's corrupt political regime.
- 3 Key figures within Ta Ann are direct profiteers of a political regime that has been internationally condemned for its corrupt practices.
- 4 Ta Ann Holdings have profited from human rights abuses and environmental degradation in Sarawak.
Ta Ann Tasmania is a venture funded by these profits.
- 5 Ta Ann Holdings is a company that logs orang-utan habitat in Sarawak.
Orang-utans are an iconic and endangered species.
- 6 Ta Ann Holdings was found to be logging in an area called the Heart of Borneo, which is home to 10 species of primate, more than 350 birds, 150 reptiles and amphibians and 10,000 plants.
- 7 The Tasmanian Government is supporting these destructive operations by the welcome and support they have given to Ta Ann in Tasmania.

OPPOSITE IMAGE:

Forest legislation in Sarawak provides inadequate protection for the valuable forests of Sarawak as demonstrated by this photo of legal logging in the Danum Valley Conservation Area.. Mattias Klum





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3. TA ANN'S CORRUPTION CONNECTIONS

3.1 FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Ta Ann is linked to an intricate network of nepotistic business and political associates who have presided over social dislocation and environmental destruction in Sarawak. For these reasons the incursion of Ta Ann into the forests of Tasmania raises some pertinent questions for the Tasmanian community and the Tasmanian and Australian Governments.

Ta Ann is closely associated with the Administration of Chief Minister Pehin Sri Haji Abdul Taib bin Mahmud, through personal and business connections.⁸ Ta Ann Holdings has been able to achieve its rapid growth through its ties with influential figures in the Sarawak Government.⁹

Ta Ann's home state of Sarawak is run as a virtual dictatorship by Sarawak Chief Minister Taib. Taib is one of the longest serving politicians in Southeast Asia.¹⁰ He has held office since 1981, a position his uncle Tun Datuk Patinggi Haji Abdul Rahman bin Ya'kub held before him.¹¹ Taib has absolute control over Malaysia's largest and most resource rich state.¹² The Chief Minister controls all immigration, has a monopoly over all mass media and uses the 'special branch' of the police force as a tool for political repression.¹³

Taib has used his position in public office to generate a huge amount of wealth for himself and his family.¹⁴ As the Minister for Finance, State Planning and Resources, he controls forestry licences and development approvals.¹⁵ Taib distributes logging licences, like political favours, at his discretion. Taib's relatives and political allies are said to hold approximately one third, or 1.6 million hectares (ha), of Sarawak's timber concessions.¹⁶ The money generated from logging and oil palm production in Sarawak is largely distributed among the state's political and business elite, in particular those with close associations to the family of Taib.¹⁷

According to Malaysia's Democratic Action Party (DAP), Taib has failed to account for a staggering RM4.8 billion (AU\$1.55 billion) of Sarawak state funds over the past three years alone.¹⁸ Taib is under investigation by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission over allegations of corruption related to the timber industry.¹⁹

WHO IS TA ANN?

Leading figures in the Ta Ann Group have been associated with an appalling record of deforestation and destruction of indigenous people's territory in Sarawak. The Ta Ann Group is one of Malaysia's biggest forest-product businesses.¹ Its principal activities are in oil palm, timber concession licences, trading logs, manufacturing and the sale of sawn timber and plywood products. Ta Ann Tasmania (TAT) is a subsidiary of this group.

The Ta Ann Group's operations began with timber extraction from a 257 604 acre concession located in the Kapit District, in the Malaysian state of Sarawak, which was awarded to Ta Ann subsidiary, Pasin in 1985.² In recent years the conglomerate has grown substantially and is now among the top five timber groups in Sarawak.³

Ta Ann operates a plywood mill in Sibul, Sarawak,⁴ as well as a plywood mill, biomass power plant, and moulding factory in the Engkilo land district.⁵ It holds leases over large areas of vacant land for future plywood mill expansion in Engkilo.⁶

Ta Ann operates two veneer mills in Smithton and the Huon Valley in Tasmania, Australia.

The Tasmanian Government is implicated in the ongoing support of the destruction of Sarawak's unique forests. They have publicly welcomed and supported Ta Ann's operations, stating that they are a socially and environmentally responsible company.⁷

Taib's assets are also under investigation by the Swiss and German governments under suspicion of money laundering through banks in these countries.²⁰

In 2011, the Bruno Manser Fund (a Swiss NGO) released a black list of companies related to the family of Chief Minister Taib, and their involvement in corruption. The black list contains 49 companies in eight countries. Ta Ann Holdings is a high profile inclusion in the list. Corruption has been identified as one of the main drivers of deforestation in Sarawak.²¹

3.2 TA ANN'S CHAIRMAN SEPAWI

Abdul Hamed Sepawi, Ta Ann's Executive Chairman, is Taib Mahmud's cousin.²² In 2011, Forbes listed Sepawi as the 40th richest man in Malaysia.²³ He started Ta Ann as a trading firm which has grown into a conglomerate with more than 3 000 employees.²⁴

Wahab Dolah, Federal MP for the Igan region, who has an 11.2% direct and 25.91% indirect stake in the Ta Ann Group,²⁵ is one of Taib's close political associates.

Sepawi has multiple interests in companies based in Sarawak – including those engaged in logging operations, tree and oil palm plantations, construction and development.²⁶ Many of these companies have been linked to human rights abuses and environmental transgressions in Sarawak.²⁷ Sepawi is Treasurer General in the Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu (PBB), the ruling political party of Sarawak.²⁸ The PBB has consistently exacerbated the plight of the indigenous Sarawak population and contributed to the widespread ethnocide of the indigenous peoples of Sarawak.²⁹

Until 2006, Sepawi was also the director of the Sarawak Timber Industry Development Corporation (STIDC), the statutory body responsible for the development, registration, regulation and promotion of the Sarawakian timber sector.³⁰ The STIDC consists of top political elites within the Sarawak Government and the logging industry, and effectively has complete control over the forestry sector through its role as a concession grantor.³¹

As many key figures within the logging industry hold past or current positions in the STIDC (such as Ta Ann's executive chairman, Sepawi), the lack of transparency and the scope for corruption is vast.³²

The STIDC has lucrative business dealings with logging companies, including Ta Ann subsidiaries, and condones the unjust treatment of indigenous Sarawakians by those companies, despite international condemnation of these companies and their practices.³³ Due to the inherent corruption of Taib's regime and the blurring of the lines between industry and government, the alienation of the indigenous Sarawakians from their land continues.

Harwood, a subsidiary of the STIDC, have been heavily criticised for facilitating the trade of illegally sourced timber from Indonesia to Malaysia.³⁴

Indigenous Sarawakians' attempts at recourse regarding the sanctioned theft and destruction of their ancestral lands have been met with hostility and violence from logging companies and the Sarawak Government.³⁵

The wealth and power of the Taib family and its associates is sustained and enhanced through money generated by the strategic distribution of timber concessions by the Chief Minister.³⁶ In addition to its close links with the political regime of Sarawak's Chief Minister Taib, Ta Ann is also linked to the destructive timber operations of companies such as Samling and Nimbunan Hijau,³⁷ through the business dealings of Datuk Abdul Hamed Sepawi.

The ecological and social consequences of logging and oil palm plantation establishment in Sarawak are well documented and of great magnitude.³⁸ They include the destruction of tropical rainforest, extinction of animal and plant species, soil erosion, contamination of water supplies and release of carbon emissions.³⁹ The social consequences include displacement of communities, loss of forest resources and culture and disparity of wealth between the oil palm plantation companies and the indigenous people.⁴⁰

Ta Ann's operations cannot be viewed in isolation as Taib and his cronies in Sarawak use a number of companies as vehicles to increase their wealth. Sepawi is a key link with Ta Ann's poor environmental and social record, along with companies like Samling.

IMAGE OPPOSITE:

Land cleared for oil palm plantations creates a patchwork of scars across what was once Sarawak's majestic forests. Matthias Klum.





3.3 SAMLING AND TA ANN'S CHAIRMAN HAMED SEPAWI

Samling has operated logging concessions in Sarawak for 40 years.⁴¹ During that time, Samling and its subsidiaries has been accused of illegal and destructive logging practices in Sarawak, Cambodia and Papua New Guinea.⁴² Furthermore, their workers have been accused of violence and rape against indigenous Penan women living in their logging concession areas.⁴³ These allegations resulted in Samling threatening to remove transport on which the local people rely in order to access markets from their remote villages, making it clear that they would restore these services if the allegations were retracted.⁴⁴

In 2010 Samling was excluded from the Norwegian Pension Fund due to findings by their Council of Ethics that Samling had engaged in 'systematic illegal logging and extensive damage to forests and the environment'.⁴⁵ Sepawi is closely connected to Samling, through his current and past involvement with Samling companies including Lingui Developments Berhad,⁴⁶ Glenealy Plantations (Malaya) Berhad, and Ravenscourt.⁴⁷ Previously, Sepawi was a major shareholder and director of Ravenscourt, which was responsible for destructive logging within the Magoh Biosphere and Adang Reserve. These were both areas demarcated for the use by indigenous Penan.⁴⁸

3.4 RIMBUNAN HIJAU AND TA ANN'S CHAIRMAN HAMED SEPAWI

Rimbunan Hijau's destructive logging operations and human rights abuses in countries like Papua New Guinea, Malaysia, Equatorial Guinea and Indonesia have been continuously highlighted by international NGOs like Greenpeace.⁴⁹

Rimbunan Hijau's operations have been identified by the Australian Conservation Foundation as being notorious for their complete disregard of environmental sustainability, human rights, labour standards, and legal requirements. Its practices include corrupt and/or illegal acquisition of logging concessions and extensions, unsustainable exploitation of natural forests, intimidation and violence against local land owners and protestors, regular violations of labour laws and safety standards, and other abusive behaviour.⁵⁰ Sepawi owns 70% of the company Cayaha Uraya, of which Rimbunan Hijau owns a 30%.⁵¹

4. PEOPLE AND PLACE

4.1 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF SARAWAK

Indigenous peoples comprise most of the population of Sarawak, a once largely forested state in Malaysia.⁵² Much of this land is under the legal control and ownership of indigenous Sarawakians under customary law.⁵³ Customary law manages how customary lands are owned, regulated and transferred.⁵⁴

In Sarawak, Ta Ann Holdings is engaged in the establishment of industrial tree plantations and oil palm plantations, some of which involve development on Native Customary Land.⁵⁵

In Sarawak, native customary rights to land consisted of rights to cultivate the land, rights to the produce of the jungle, hunting and fishing rights, rights to use the land for burial and ceremonial purposes, and rights of inheritance and transfer. Native customary rights may only be claimed by a native, or a person who has become identified with and has become subject to native personal law, and is therefore deemed to be a native.⁵⁶

A system of dual law exists in Sarawak, where Customary Law and Native Customary Rights (NCR), upheld by the Federal Constitution, coexist with State Government legislation.⁵⁷

The customary law of forest peoples, based on their traditional practices and cultural values, has often been undermined or even replaced by statute law imposed by a colonising power or otherwise adopted and imposed over all land within State boundaries, without consultation or consent of forest peoples. In Sarawak, under the 1957 Sarawak Land Code, the Dayak's rights to land are recognised and protected by law, yet in practice these rights are ignored or not enforced, to the benefit of the forestry sector industries.⁵⁸

Due to the reliance on natural resources for their economy, and the blurring of the lines between government and industry, the Sarawak Government has consistently attempted to limit the legitimate rights of indigenous peoples to use and access this land.⁵⁹

State legislation, such as the Sarawak Forest Ordinance, has progressively limited the rights of indigenous people to access their ancestral lands, and opened up their forests to exploitation by extractive industries such as industrial logging and mining.⁶⁰

The Forest Ordinance classified large areas of forests as 'Permanent Forests', which extinguished native rights in certain areas...Native rights were totally prohibited in 'Forest Reserves'. The aim of this legislation was to curtail shifting cultivation and to reserve the forest lands for timber extraction.⁶¹ Indigenous communities effectively lose their land to companies such as Ta Ann under long-term leases for clearing or logging.

Although indigenous Sarawakians officially hold stewardship of over 1.5 to 2.8 million ha of land under NCR, the government refuses to clarify their borders and indigenous communities are forced to assert their rights to this land under customary law, case by case, in court.⁶² Court cases regarding native title are often held up in the courts for up to ten years, while forest-dwellers watch the habitat on which they rely for their livelihoods are destroyed.⁶³ According to the Bruno Manser Fund, there are currently 200 native communities that have filed land rights cases in the Sarawak courts.⁶⁴ A series of land rights cases, in which indigenous communities have sought to ascertain native title, have been upheld by the higher courts in Sarawak and Malaysia, in line with international human rights laws.⁶⁵

The principle of 'free, prior and informed consent' is not applied by the Sarawak Government or logging companies to indigenous communities in Sarawak; communities are usually only alerted to logging operations when contractors arrive to start preliminary works,⁶⁶ thus leaving insufficient time to claim their legal rights to the land in the courts.

In 1990 the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO) recommended an increase in processes of consultation and participation with indigenous communities, but these recommendations have not been heeded.⁶⁷

IMAGE OPPOSITE:

Sarawak has many indigenous ethnic groups, such as the Penan, that occupy ancestral lands in the province's rainforests. The forests are a source of food, medicine and water, while being a place of great cultural and spiritual significance. © Dang Ngo.



4.2 COMMUNITY ACTION IN SARAWAK'S FORESTS

Many communities, including the Penan, Iban, Dayak, Kelabits, Kayans and Kenyahs, have erected blockade structures to hold off logging companies.⁶⁸

The Penan has held off logging operations through the use of blockade structures whilst court cases determine NCR.⁶⁹

However, amendments to the Sarawak Forest Ordinance criminalised the Penan's existence in their forest homes to the extent that any person found at a blockade could be arrested and face jail time or a large fine.⁷⁰

4.3 RAISED VOICES

In December 2011 allegations emerged to further confirm HVEC's concerns regarding Ta Ann's practices and human rights violations in Sarawak. Radio Free Sarawak, an independent radio show in Sarawak held two interviews with villagers in Sarawak whose communities have been impacted by Ta Ann's logging and plantation practices.⁷¹

The first interview was held on 13th November 2011 with a 70 year old longhouse chief named Tuai Rumah Jugah ak. Lindi. He said:

Ta Ann which commits illegal logging activities in the area of Sungai Sut, Baleh, Kapit. In addition, hills are excavated in our area, resulting in loss of food supply for the local indigenous residents around the area of Ulu Apah, Ulu Bit and Ulu Mening. We never wish for such a thing to happen to our land, as this as well means the loss of inherited homes and especially food supplies as we depend on the local jungle produce of the affected area to survive on... We defend this land as this is our ancestral home. We have lived on this land for hundreds of years and we own this land. Dead or alive, we will defend this land, as this is rightfully ours.⁷²

Tuai also says Ta Ann employees have been logging tree species that are protected, and that if any official complaints are made against Ta Ann, gangsters are brought in to harass the villagers.⁷³

He has also observed the degradation of the river, with the depletion of local fish species, semah and empaunai, and with the water becoming undrinkable since Ta Ann started working in the area in the 1980s. It is suspected that the use of chemicals on plantations has resulted in the presence of the disease medilolysis in the water, which affects the vascular system.⁷⁴

Ta Ann contracts their operating licence to Harwood Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary company of the STIDC, which was named as a company facilitating the trade of illegally logged forest from Indonesia.⁷⁵

The second interview was held with a Melanau woman named Anna Eton binti Man⁷⁶. She said:

As regards to water supply, we can only get it when it rains, if it doesn't we do not have a constant ready available water supply especially for drinking. Before this, there was a water well in which we get our supply from. After the coming of Ta Ann plantation, our lives have been made more miserable... To us, the locals, the presence of Ta Ann here is seriously flawed.

Most of the people are unhappy with Ta Ann because first of all, they try to grab and rape the people from their land and secondly the river is polluted due to the plantation... This is how the life is here, no electricity supply, no water supply. It is more or less... it is just miserable.⁷⁷

5. TA ANN AND THE DESTRUCTION OF SARAWAK'S ENVIRONMENT

The logging industry of Sarawak has long received international attention due to its insensitive and corrupt nature, as well as its destructive impact on the environment.⁷⁸

A 2011 report found that the rate of deforestation in Sarawak was 3.5 times more rapid than in the rest of Asia.⁷⁹ Rapid deforestation in Sarawak is contributing to the loss of endangered species and unique vegetation.⁸⁰

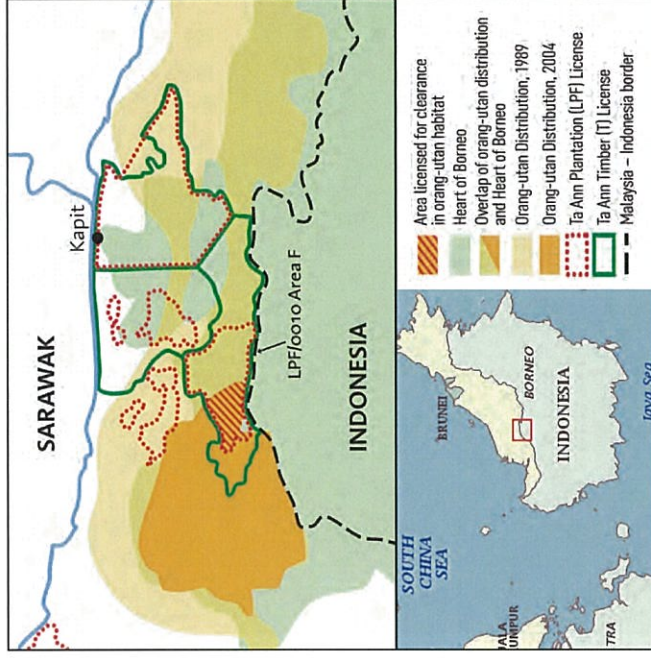
The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists 143 species of Malaysia's fauna as threatened by extinction with 22 listed as critically endangered, the highest threat classification.⁸¹ 1,500 of Malaysia's plant species are listed as threatened with 199 being critically endangered.⁸²

Malaysia takes care of 45% of the world's rapidly expanding palm oil production. As Peninsular Malaysia provides little room for expansion, new palm oil plantations in Malaysia are almost all established in the state of Sarawak on Borneo; especially in forest areas.⁸³ Two thirds of Sarawak's peatlands were, until recently, covered by thick, biodiversity-rich rainforest.⁸⁴ Sarawak's peat swamp forests, are home to many endangered species such as the proboscis monkey and the Borneo pygmy elephant.⁸⁵

By 1990, 8.8 million ha of Sarawak's reported 9.2 million ha of forest cover had been licensed for logging. By 1999 the area available for logging was reduced to 2.26 million ha as a result of deforestation.⁸⁶

On paper and in words, Malaysia implements reasonable conservationist practices but in actuality environmental activists and critics of logging are detained, censored and harassed.

Through it all, the planet's oldest rainforest, as well as the myriad plant and animal species unique to it are being annihilated, and the fragile human cultures that depend on it are on the brink of extinction.⁸⁷



Map 1: Ta Ann logging and plantation licences, orang-utan habitat and the 'Heart of Borneo'



5.1 TA ANN, WWF AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ORANG-UTAN HABITAT

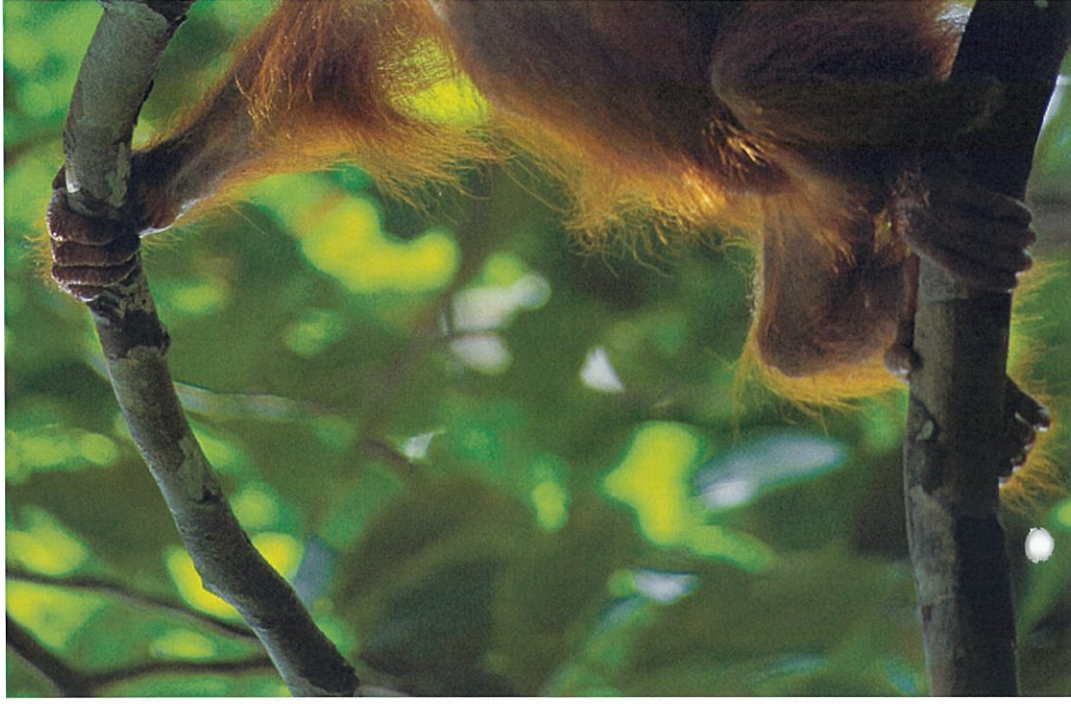
In 2009, Ta Ann proudly announced its membership in the World Wildlife Fund's (WWF) Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN).⁸⁸ This scheme aims to eliminate 'illegal and unethical practices' from within the timber industry and is one of the largest schemes of its kind in the world.⁸⁹ In 2011, a report was released by NGO Global Witness that examined the effectiveness, transparency and validity of this program.⁹⁰

Global Witness used the partnership between Ta Ann and WWF as a case study to highlight what it identified as critical problems with the GFTN program. The report found that it was questionable as to whether Ta Ann was suitable as a candidate for the GFTN, as there was evidence it had logging concession licences located in areas of orang-utan habitat.

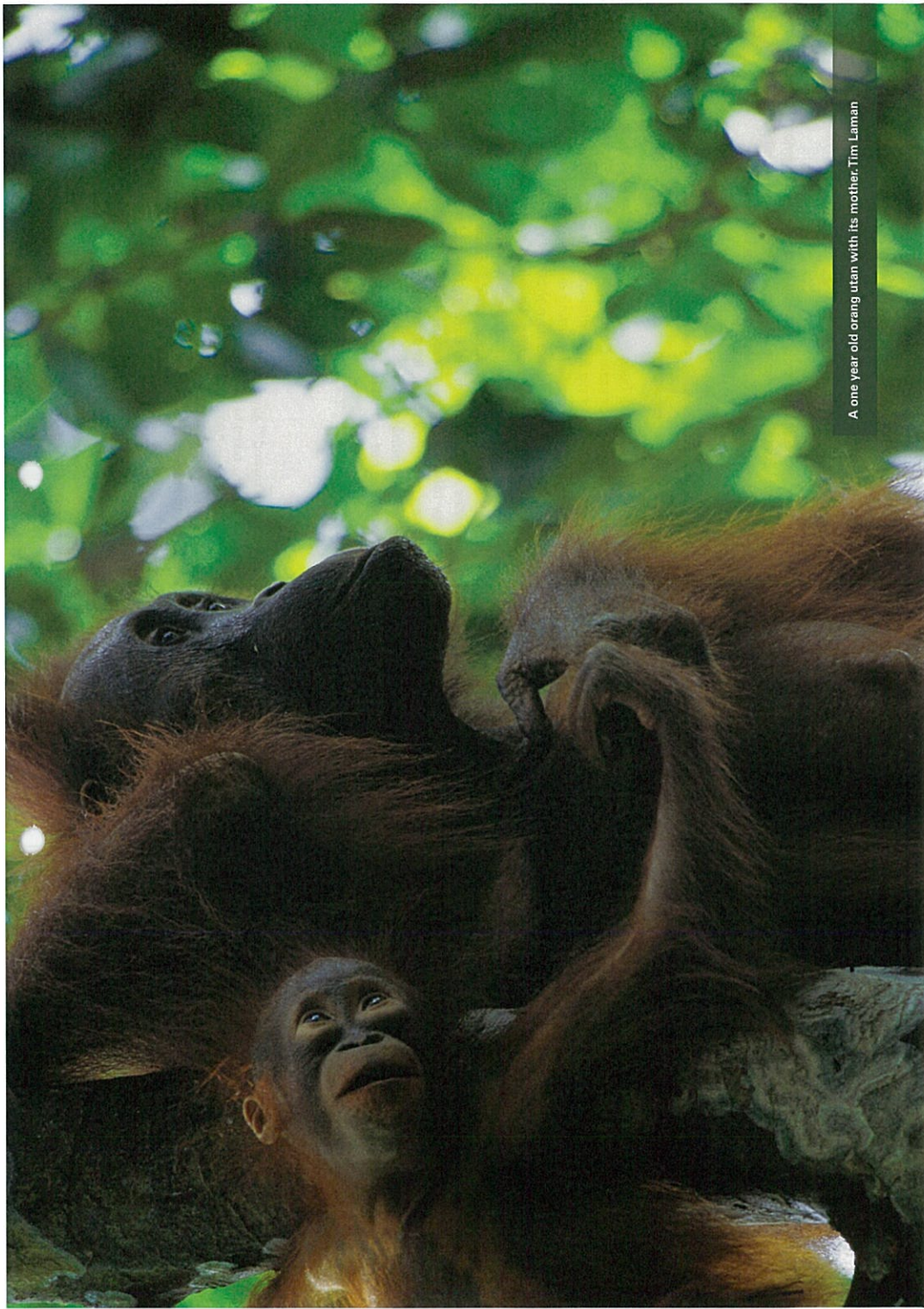
'Most of the forest Ta Ann is in the process of clearing for timber plantations falls within the boundaries of the WWF 'Heart of Borneo' project, described by WWF as the 'one place remaining in South East Asia where tropical forests can still be conserved on a grand scale.'⁹¹

Global Witness examined an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) prepared in 1999 for a Ta Ann plantation within the 'Heart of Borneo' project. The EIA noted the presence of orang-utans, spotted leopards and Bornean gibbons. The EIA predicted 'major adverse impacts' since their 'habitats will be destroyed.'⁹²

One Planted Forest EIA study reported that there were orang-utans in Block F of Ta Ann's Forest Plantation in Rajang, near the Indonesian border. The EIA report recommended no specific mitigation actions to protect the orang-utans, which are a totally protected species in Sarawak, other than for the company to educate its workers not to hunt them. The EIA report hinted that the remaining orang-utans would be displaced but could either find refuge in Lanjak Entimau wildlife reserve, or otherwise migrate to Indonesia: 'There are 8 totally protected mammals, including orang-utan which is found in Area F, but are confined to areas adjacent to the Lanjak Entimau Wild Life Sanctuary and the Indonesia border. Other totally protected mammals are the Bornean gibbon ... Clearing of land should be staggered or undertaken in a progressive way in order to allow migration of animals to adjacent forested areas. Care must be taken to ensure that rare and endangered species have moved out of an area before clearing begins.'⁹³



A one year old orang utan with its mother. Tim Laman



5.2 THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN COSTS OF TA ANN'S OIL PALM & PLANTATION EXPANSION

The overexploitation of Sarawak's forests is one of the factors resulting in the large scale movement of logging companies into plantations across Sarawak.⁹⁴

Ta Ann holds plantation licences for a net plantable area of 1 50 697 ha for oil palm and fast growing wood trees.⁹⁵

This directly affects 96 villages that exist within the land bank area. One palm oil plantation lease affected 1 734 people.⁹⁶

Oil palm plantations are used globally as a source for biofuels as the demand for alternative fuels increases, particularly within the European market.⁹⁷ This insatiable appetite for biofuels has rapidly exacerbated the many problems associated with oil palm plantations.⁹⁸ These environmental problems are aggravated in a state with minimal regulation and sensitive environments, like Sarawak.

In 2007-2008, Ta Ann was the third largest land bank holder of oil palm plantations, with a total of 55 000 ha of oil palm plantations in Sarawak.⁹⁹ In 2010 this estate had grown to 66 681 ha, with a planted area of 28 729 ha.¹⁰⁰ Ta Ann planned to establish a further 8 000 ha of oil palm plantation in 2011.¹⁰¹

Ta Ann is implicated in the serious encroachment onto NCR land as a result of the State Government's Oil Palm Development Scheme. In 2010, Sarawak's State Land Development Minister, James Masing, told *The Star* newspaper that the Sarawak Government had planned 'more aggressive development' into NCR lands.¹⁰²

Masing stated that there was 1.5 million ha of NCR land which was mostly 'under used' and that the Sarawak Government were working hard to bypass the 'red tape' involved in displacing the communities living on and utilising the NCR land.¹⁰³ Communities received just RM1.36 per ha in compensation,¹⁰⁴ the equivalent of AU\$44.¹⁰⁵ Indigenous communities around Sarawak demanded 'a moratorium on the development of new plantations due to the blatant disregard of native rights by the state authorities.'¹⁰⁶

Ta Ann's oil palm developments have involved the displacement of indigenous people from traditional lands. Ta Ann have been granted 9 491 acres for oil palm development in the Silas NCR Land Development Area in Bintulu.¹⁰⁷

An indigenous member of the Iban from the village of Rumah Jupiter, the area under Lot 97 disputed in the High Court case, stated;

*A company, Ta Ann Bhd has been issued a lease by the authorities to develop the lands in our area. Our community has lived in this area for many decades and we had cultivated the land with padi, fruit trees and some cash crops including oil palm on a small scale. But now, we are told that we have no rights and we were even ordered to stop using and cultivating our lands. If the government has acquired our lands and give it to the company, why are we not informed or notified and compensated accordingly? Our lands and properties are taken from our back and issued to others. This is sheer robbery. The government and our leaders should be protecting our rights to our lands and not simply giving it to others without informing and consulting us. Some people are allowed to thrive but some are left to be deprived.*¹⁰⁸

Ta Ann subsidiary Hariwood¹⁰⁹ along with a plantation consortium known as Grand Perfect¹¹⁰ were also being taken to court by Iban community Rumah Unand. The case was filed in 2006 and in 2007 was still awaiting trial.¹¹¹ Grand Perfect is a plantation consortium that until 2003 Ta Ann had shared ownership of with companies KTS and Samling. Ta Ann's Executive Chairman Sepawti still holds a major stake in this consortium through his 90% ownership of company Gasjajaya.¹¹² Gasjajaya owns a third of the Grand Perfect plantation consortium.

OPPOSITE IMAGE:

Example of an oil palm plantation that stretches to the horizon in Sarawak. Ta Ann's oil palm plantation bank covers 66 681ha. Mattias Klum



5.3 TROPICAL PEATLAND DESTRUCTION

The destruction of peatland in Sarawak is occurring at a disturbing pace. A Wetlands International report found the deforestation of peat swamp forest in Sarawak is occurring at a rate that is 11.7 times faster than all of Asia combined.¹¹³

Ta Ann is cited as 'among local oil palm companies active in peat swamp forests'.¹¹⁴ In 1992, peatlands comprised 10% of Sarawak's total land area. By 2004, this area had been reduced to 2.5%.¹¹⁵ The destruction of peat forests is one of the world's most pressing environmental issues. Loss of peat forests results in the critical degradation of biodiversity and the loss of globally significant carbon stores.

Tropical peatlands store enormous amounts of carbon.¹¹⁶ The clearance and drainage of peatlands severely compromises this crucial store by releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.¹¹⁷ Conservative estimates of emissions from disturbed peatlands are 40 tonnes of CO₂ per hectare per year.¹¹⁸ Furthermore, this leaves the peatlands increasingly susceptible to fire which, in turn, results in massive emissions of greenhouse gases. A 2006 study concluded that 'deforested and drained peatlands in SE Asia are a globally significant source of CO₂ emissions and a major obstacle to meeting the aim of stabilising greenhouse gas emissions, as expressed by the international community'.¹¹⁹

A large proportion of these tropical peatlands are being cleared for the establishment of plantations.¹²⁰ Despite Ta Ann claiming repeatedly in its public messaging that it utilises sustainable practices,¹²¹ the company has actively conducted operations in areas of peat forest, and clearly indicates a willingness to sacrifice the local and global environment in the expansion of its plantation operations.

5.4 SMOKE OVER SARAWAK

Using fire to clear areas for oil palm plantations is widely practiced in Sarawak.¹²² However the Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) claims 'zero burning is strictly enforced by Malaysia's laws'.

Malaysia is also a signatory to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Transboundary Haze Agreement which advocates against open burning for plantations.¹²³ Furthermore, the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil has a zero burn policy.¹²⁴

Ta Ann has no issues with burning as demonstrated by this statement that appears in one of its EIAs:

The classical method of slash and burn would be the most effective way of site preparation. Mechanisation in site preparation seems to have limited use in Sarawak where rainfall is high and terrain steep. Further, tropical trees have deep roots and buttresses making the use of machines impractical.¹²⁵

5.5 WATER QUALITY

Palm Oil Mill Effluent (POME) is cited by Friends of the Earth (FoE) as being one of the most potentially hazardous waste products of oil palm plantations.¹²⁶

The effluent consists of crushed shells, fat residue and water that are discharged in high quantities. This is either then discharged into filtration pools that often overflow during heavy rain or are simply channelled directly into waterways. Pollution caused to waterways is formidable, affecting aquatic life downriver, while adversely impacting communities reliant upon clean water taken directly from streams and rivers.¹²⁷

The effluent is created by Crude Palm Oil Mills that process the palm oil. The palm oil fruit must be processed within 24 hours of being picked. This results in there being a CPO mill for every 4000-5000 ha of plantation.

Ta Ann manages three CPO mills in the Sibu, Bintulu and Mukah areas of Sarawak as well as owning a mill in Naman,¹²⁸ with plans to open a second mill in Iban near Sibü this year.¹²⁹ For the year 2010 Ta Ann produced 72 536 tonnes of crude palm oil.¹³⁰



TA ANIN IN SARAWAK



The land is strip clear then burnt to make way for a new oil palm plantation.
Mattias Klum

6. CONCLUSION

Ta Ann has been identified by international NGOs as being one of the companies operating as a vehicle for corruption in the Malaysian state of Sarawak. Ta Ann has used business and family connections to achieve a rapid growth in its business interests without consideration for the indigenous people of Sarawak or its environment.

Ta Ann is linked explicitly to Sarawak's Chief Minister Taib and the Sarawak Government, which is notorious for its corrupt activities. Chief Minister Taib is under investigation by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission over allegations of timber corruption. Corruption has been identified as one of the main drivers of deforestation in Sarawak. Ta Ann Holdings' ascent to the position of one of the top five logging companies in Sarawak has been directly facilitated by logging concessions and finances gained as a result of this entrenched corruption.

It is unrealistic to expect that Ta Ann Tasmania, being a subsidiary of Ta Ann Holdings is not a direct recipient of these finances.

Development of plantations is disintegrating indigenous communities in Sarawak. It has resulted in the displacement of communities, loss of forest resources and culture and disparity of wealth. Ta Ann is aggressively pursuing its interests in the oil palm plantation industry. In 2007-2008 they were the third largest land bank holder of oil palm plantations in Sarawak.

Ta Ann is found to be logging in areas of peat forest. The logging of peat forests is of global concern due to its impact on global greenhouse gas emissions.

Ta Ann's pursuit of sustainable and ethical practices could perhaps be applauded if the attempts were genuine. However the company's connections to the corrupt Sarawak Government, their logging of peat forest, their encroachment onto Native Customary Land and their logging of precious orang-utan habitat is evidence that points to a contrary conclusion.

Ta Ann Holdings is a company that is a vehicle for corruption, displacement of the indigenous people of Sarawak and environmental destruction of global concern.





7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Hton Valley Environment Centre would, as a matter of urgency, like to make the following recommendations to:

Ta Ann Holdings

- Immediately cease logging operations in areas of Native Customary Land;
- Immediately cease logging operations in areas of peat forest;
- Immediately cease logging operations in areas of orang-utan habitat and other endangered species habitat such as that of the Borneo Gibbon;
- Immediately cease establishing plantations on Native Customary Land;
- Immediately cease establishing plantations in areas of peat forest;
- Immediately begin rehabilitation of areas converted to plantations from peat forest.

The Australian Government

- Conduct an investigation into the financial assets of Ta Ann Holdings in Australia;
- Freeze Ta Ann's assets in Australia until such time as they have been thoroughly investigated.

The Tasmanian Government

- Correct any claims it has made stating that Ta Ann Tasmania is not a party to the activities of its parent company Ta Ann Holdings
- Direct Forestry Tasmania to immediately cease supply to Ta Ann Tasmania of wood from the High Conservation Value Forests 572,000 hectares of high conservation value (HCV) forest identified by the conservation movement
- Actively support a transition program for the remaining Tasmanian native forest industry, including TAT, to shift to a plantation base. Take action to ensure this transition is achieved without requiring or allowing a corresponding intensification of logging in the native forest estate outside the 572,000 ha of HCV forest.
- Ensure there is no watering-down of exemptions to the Forest Practices Code during the transition period, and that currently planned changes to improve the biodiversity and water provisions of the Code should still be implemented.
- Immediately abandon its intention for a legislated wood supply to Ta Ann Tasmania.

IMAGE LEFT:

An adult male proboscis monkey walks through the Bako National Park. While this proboscis monkey enjoys the protection of the national park, Proboscis monkey habitat is quickly disappearing due to the logging practices of companies such as Ta Ann, Tim Laman

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Kampong Long Selulung,
Sungai Puak, Tutoh,
Baram, Sarawak.

Tarikh: 18 Februari 2012

Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC),
KM 20, Jalan Borneo Heights,
93250 Kuching,
Sarawak, Malaysia.
UP: Dr. Henry Chan.

World Wide Fund
Kuching Office,
7th Floor, Bangunan Binamas,
Lot 138, Section 54, Jalan Padungan,
93100 Kuching
Sarawak, Malaysia.
UP: Pn Cynthia Chin

Ta Ann Group
6th Floor, Wisma Naim, 2 1/2 Mile, Jalan Rock,
93200 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
UP: Pengurus, Denny Kana

Tuan/Puan

Per: Tuntutan kami sebagai orang tempatan dan pemilik Tanah Adat Bumiputra di mana Kubaan Puak FMU dilesenkan kepada Ta Ann Group (Borlin Sdn Bhd).

Dengan segala hormatnya kami yang bertanda tangan dibawa ini ingin terdahulu berterima kasih kepada pihak yang terlibat kerana membawa kami berbincang berkaitan tanah adat kami ini.

Merujuk kepada perkara tersebut;

1. Kami menegaskan bahawa kami adalah pemilik Tanah adat Bumiputra yang sah dan tidak pernah dituntut (undisputed owner) oleh mana mana pihak sebelum ini.
2. Baru baru ini, kami telah diberitahu oleh SFC (Dr. Henry Chan) dan pasukan penyelidiknya bahawa kawasan kami ini telah dilesenkan untuk pembalakan kepada Ta Ann Group tetapi tanpa pengetahuan dan persetujuan kami.
3. Kami telah difahamkan dan bersetuju dengan kajian yang dibuat oleh WWF bahawa kawasan ini tidak patut atau tidak perlu dibalakkan lagi oleh kerana ia sudah pun dibalakkan oleh kompeni balak yang terdahulu mengakibatkan kami menghadapi banyak kesukahan dalam cara kehidupan kami ini terutama pergantungan kami terhadap hutan untuk makan dan sara hidup.
4. Kami faham bahawa cara pembalakkan yang dicadangkan oleh SFC dan Ta Ann Group adalah berlainan dengan cara yang digunakan oleh kompeni yang pertama dimana ada kawasan dan

Kepada : Henry Chan (Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC)), Pn Cynthia Chin (World Wide Fund for Nature, Malaysia (WWF Malaysia)), Denny Kana (Ta Ann Group)

Daripada : Ketua-ketua kampung Long Selulong, Long Siang, Ba Taha, Ba Marong dan Ba Tepen.

Tarikh : 8hb May 2012

Perkara : Surat berkaitan Tanah Adat Bumiputra kami

Tuan/Puan,

Kami yang bertandatangan dan bercap jari dalam surat yang terlampir di sini ingin menjelaskan bahawa surat ini sebenarnya ingin disampaikan semasa pertemuan bersama SFC, WWF Malaysia dan Ta Ann pada bulan Februari 2012. Oleh yang demikian, kami menyampaikan surat ini kepada SFC dengan salinan kepada WWF Malaysia dan Ta Ann. Kami minta maaf atas sebarang kesulitan yang timbul.

Terima kasih

Lampiran : Surat berkaitan Tanah Adat Bumiputra kami dan salinan masing-masing

tanaman yang tertentu yang akan dihindung. Akan tetapi, kami mengalami banyak kesusahan untuk menampung hidup kami dengan hutan dalam keadaanya sekarang. Oleh kerana hutan kami dibalok satu ketika dulu, sumber air kami tercemar, makanan tradisi kami dari hutan tidak cukup dan susah untuk ia kembali semula, kayu dan lain-lain bahan keperluan kami amat susah dicari dan untuk kami yang sudah menetap, susah untuk kami bergantung kepada hutan apabila kami mangalami kesuntukan makan disebabkan padi bukit kami tidak mencukupi atau dilanda malapetaka.

5. Oleh yang demikian kami berada di sini hari ini, untuk memberitahu semua pihak yang terlibat, bahawa kami sebulat suara tidak menerima segala jenis pembalakan di Tanah Adat Bumiputra kami.

Sekian harap maklum. Terima kasih.

Yang benar,

01. KK Jeperi Moyong, Lg Selulung, Sg. Puak
(NRIC No. 821231-13-5913)

02. KK Asai Belat, Lg Slang, Tutoh.
(NRIC No. 766911-13-6721)

03. KK Joseph Sagong Jawa, Ba Taha, Tutoh
(NRIC No.)

04. KK Boi Buki, Ba Bare, Sg. Magoh, Tutoh
(NRIC No.)

05. KK Sagung Jemalih, Ba Marong, Tutoh
(NRIC No. 766911-13-6659)

CEWARIC BA TEPER
YUT TUENG
Disaksi oleh,

KK Ting Gadung
Long Kawa, Tutoh.

- Sk. 01. Pegawai Tadbir Sarawak, Pejabat Daerah Kecil Long Lama.
02. Pegawai Daerah Marudi, 98050 Baram.
03. Pesuruhjaya Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia, (SUHAKAM) Kuching.
04. Pengarah Perhutanan Negeri Sarawak, Kuching.

Kampong Long Aelung,
Sungai Puak, Tutoh,
Baram, Sarawak.

Date: 18th February 2012

Sarawak Forestry Corporation (SFC)
KM 20, Jalan Borneo Heights,
93250 Kuching,
Sarawak, Malaysia.
Attn: Dr. Henry Chan.

World Wide Fund,
Kuching Office,
7th Floor, Bangunan Binamas,
Lot 138, Section 54, Jalan Padungan,
93100 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Attn: Ms Cynthia Chin

Ta Ann Group,
6th Floor, Wisma Naim. 2 ½ Mile, Jalan Rock,
93200 Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.
Attn: Manager Denny Kana.

Sear Sir/Madam.

Ref: Our demand as locals and owners of Native Customary Rights Land under Kubaan Puak Forest Management Unit which was licensed out to Ta Ann Group (Borlin Sdn. Bhd)

Firstly with due respect to all stakeholders from us the undersigned for bringing us to discuss about our customary land.

With reference to the aboved matters;

1. We would like to inform you that we are the undisputed owner of the area.
2. Recently, we were told by Sarawak Forestry Corporation (Dr. Henry Chan) and his assessment team that our Native Customary Rights Land territory/area have been license out to Ta Ann Group for logging without our knowledge and consent.
3. We were made to understood and agree with WWF that this area should not be re-logged as it was being logged in the past which have made our livelihood difficult especially our food resources.
4. We do understand that SFC and Ta Ann are planning with new logging concept which is totally different from the previous logging in which some of our food resources are protected. But, with that we are facing with lots of problems with the present condition of the forest in which we totally depending on. As a result of the previous logging activities our river are now muddy where as our traditional food are depleting and it is difficult to revived/rehabilitate. For those of us who have been settled also find it difficult to get the building material and for our food supplies should our cultivated rice gave us a bad harvest.
5. Because of that, our present here are to inform all the stakeholders that we with one voice that



— フォーレスト・デイ —
A forest a day

A month-long project documenting the globally significant values and the ongoing destruction of Tasmania's magnificent forests during current forest negotiations

タスマニアにおける保護価値の高い森林伐採の現況

we dont accept any type of logging to take place within our Native Customary Rights Land.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

1. Village Chief Jepery Moyong, Lg Selulung, Sungai Puak
2. Village Chief Asai Beret, Long Siang, Tutoh
3. Village Chief Sagung Jawa, Ba Taha, Tutoh
4. Village Chief Boi Buki, Ba Bare, Sg. Magoh, Tutoh.
5. Village Chief Sagung Jemalih, Ba Marong, Tutoh
6. Asst. Village Chief Yut Tueng, Ba Tepen.



For more information visit www.taann.net
15 August 2012

This report has been prepared by:



Abbreviations

- CAR** – Comprehensive Adequate and Representative Reserve System
DFTD – devil facial tumour disease
ENGO – Environmental Non-Government Organisation
HCV – High Conservation Value
HVEC – Huon Valley Environment Centre
IGA – Inter Governmental Agreement
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
IVG – Independent Verification Group
MFC – Markets For Change
MFNP – Mount Field National Park
SWST – Still Wild Still Threatened
TLS – The Last Stand
TWWHA – Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area

*Front cover: Logging coupe TN046A, Tyenna Valley / Alan Lesheim. Back cover: Logging coupe BT013A, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers
Printed on 100% recycled paper*



Logging coupe WR00SA, Weld Valley / Rob Blakers

A forest a day

Executive Summary

There has been continuous logging in forests across Tasmania that were earmarked for protection and which have been independently verified as being of world heritage or national heritage value, despite promises of a comprehensive moratorium on logging these high conservation value forests.

Right now there are forests being logged that have been proven to be core habitat for a range of endangered and threatened species. These are the species that we risk losing if these forests are excluded from protection.

Every day of the past two years whilst negotiations over the fate of Tasmania's forests have been underway, forests whose future protection has been under discussion have been falling to the chainsaw. This inadequacy has been due to the influence of the forestry industry, with a major driver being Ta Ann, according to official documents (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a & 2011b). Sawmills supplying the domestic Australian market are also strongly implicated in these new logging incursions.

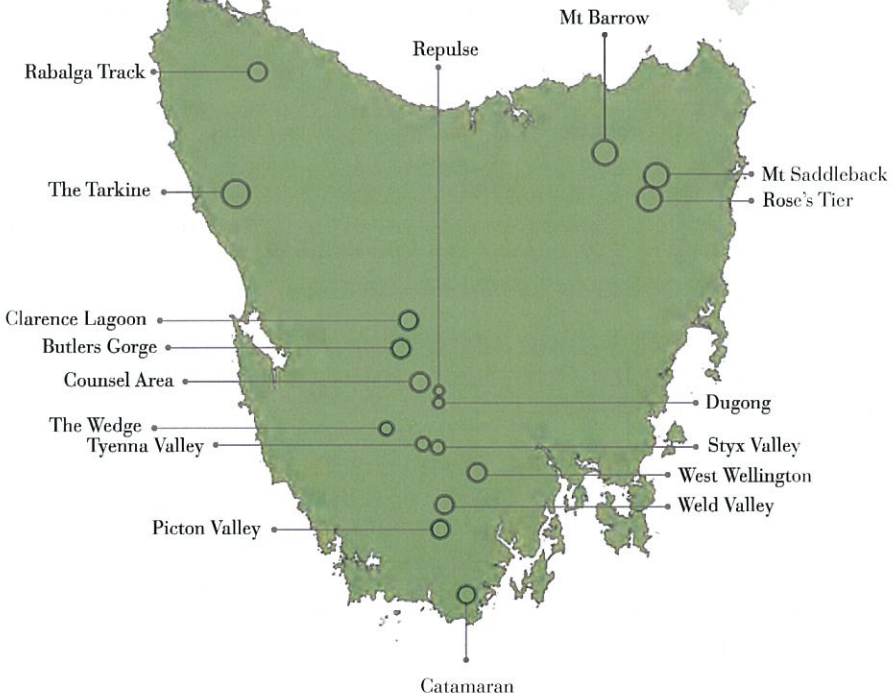
Forestry Tasmania has failed to reschedule all logging to occur outside of the forests nominated for protection. In July 2012, Tasmanian conservationists launched a new online project on taann.net and observertree.org called 'A forest a day'. Now consolidated into this report, the project showcases some of Tasmania's most significant forested ecosystems, and documents their ongoing destruction. Throughout July, a new area of forest on the current logging schedule was profiled each day. These forests are under imminent threat or had been logged in the period of time when they should have been under a moratorium.

We believe that a new three year plan constructed by Forestry Tasmania will continue to schedule logging inside proposed reserve areas, leading to yet more destruction of the very values sought to be protected. This seems likely to occur despite any final forests agreement being concluded – unless Forestry Tasmania are instructed that this is not acceptable or allowable.

Areas identified in 'A forest a day' Tasmania, Australia

The 'Forest a Day' project has been a unique opportunity for people around the globe to bear witness to the ongoing logging of Tasmania's globally and nationally significant forests. Never before has there been such an intensive account of the areas being logged or those crucial areas that remain threatened. 29 logging coupes were profiled throughout July in forests that were due for protection under the moratorium but are on logging plans instead. Of these, 15 have already been impacted by logging. This is just one small sample of significant forests around the state that are on the logging schedule right now.

This report provides a snapshot of the magnificent forests that are still under imminent threat from destructive logging and roading operations.



イントロダクション

保護価値の高い森林の伐採の暫定的な停止がオーストラリア連邦政府とタスマニア州政府によりなされているにも関わらず、タスマニアの森林が依然として伐採され続けています。こうした森林は世界遺産あるいは国家的な遺産を持つものとして、第三者の学者グループにより確認されています。

まさにこの瞬間に、多くの絶滅危惧種や危惧種にとって中核的な生息地であることが証明されている森林が伐採され続けています。こうした野生動物は、もし保護の対象から除外されれば、消失のリスクを受けることになります。

過去二年間にわたって、タスマニアの森林の命運を占う交渉が進められているいまも、まさに保護をめぐる議論の最中にある森林がチェーンソーの犠牲に供されているのです。こうした禍根はタスマニアの林産業の影響によるもの以外の何ものでもありません。公的な文書によれば(Hoffmann & Williams 2011)によれば、その主要な要因はタ・アン社です。オーストラリア国内のマーケットに木材を提供している製材業はこの新顔の参入者により深甚な影響を被っています。

タスマニア林業公社は保護が推奨されている森林の対象外で行われる伐採のすべてを見直すことができませんでした。

2012年7月、タスマニアの森林保護グループは、taann.net と observertree.org のふたつのウェブによる新しいプロジェクト、「フォーレスト・デイ(A Forest Day)」をスタートさせました。ウェブ上でアップされた情報がいま、このレポートに集約されることで、タスマニアのもっとも重要な森林生態系の一部をさらに際立たせ、現在も進められている破壊の様子を記録しています。ウェブでは7月の一ヶ月間毎日のように、林業公社のスケジュールとおりに伐採が行われている森林エリアを詳しく紹介されていました。こうした森林は、差し迫った脅威を受けているか、モロトリアム(伐採の暫定的停止)が本来なら行われるべき時期に実際に伐採されてしまったのです。

林業公社による新しい三カ年伐採計画は、保護の提唱地内部で伐採を続けるでしょうし、保護価値の高い森林のさらなる破壊がもたらされるでしょう。林業公社が承服しない限り、最終的な森林台数がかりに形成されても、破壊は続くことでしょう。

「フォーレスト・デイ」のプロジェクトは、世界中の人たちが、タスマニアの国際的にも、国家的にも重要な森林が伐採され続けている現実を目撃できる貴重な機会を提供しています。伐採されている森林、伐採の脅威を受けつづけている森がこれほどに詳述されたレポートはかつてありませんでした。7月にアップされた29の伐採地は本来なら「モロトリアム」により保護されるはずでしたが、実際には伐採リストから除外されることはありませんでした。このうち15のエリアはすでに伐採のインパクトを被りました。しかしこれらは、いまなお伐採スケジュールに載っているタスマニアの重要な森林のほんの一部なのです。

レポートが、森林破壊と道路敷設による深甚な脅威を受け続けているタスマニアの壮大な森林の点描としてご覧いただければ幸いです。



Logging coupe BT013A, Butlers Gorge

Right now one of Tasmania's most significant tracts of tall eucalypt forest is being torn apart by logging machinery. Known as BT013A, this logging coupe in Butlers Gorge, Central Tasmania, was once a part of a pristine and untouched wilderness area. For months now, machinery and chainsaws have relentlessly devastated this forest and logging continues. This is despite the fact that Butlers Gorge has been identified by the government-endorsed team of independent scientific experts as being one of, if not the most, ecologically important tracts of tall eucalypt forest in Tasmania. Due to be protected by the conservation agreement, which was a critical part of the Intergovernmental Agreement signed in August last year, this area remained excluded from any protection and its values have been systematically degraded since then, along with those of other coupes along with two brand new roads which have been pushed into the pristine forests of Butlers Gorge. This coupe was targeted primarily for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets.

BT013A is a logging coupe that spans 139 hectares in size, with 94 hectares to be felled. This area features a tall *Eucalyptus delegatensis* canopy with an understorey dominated by rainforest species including sassafras and myrtle. The coupe is bordered by a large stream and also features two smaller watercourses that run through the logged areas. These two creeks received only a small buffer, with what is called a Machinery Exclusion Zone. This means that machines can't go within 10 meters of the creeks. However, logging can be done as close as 5 meters.

This area of forest has been verified as having world heritage value and is a critical part of the proposed new reserves. We are calling for an immediate cessation of logging, and rehabilitation of this coupe. Despite the devastating impact of logging, it is not too late to protect Butlers Gorge. An extension to the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (only 1km from BT013A) to include all of Butlers Gorge would make a significant ecological contribution to the reserve and preserve this magnificent tract of tall eucalypt forest.



Logging coupe BT013A, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers



Roading operations in logging coupe BT009D, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers

DAY 2:



Logging coupe BT009D, Butlers Gorge

BT009D is a 72 hectare logging coupe in Butlers Gorge situated only 300 metres from the World Heritage Area boundary, and within the 430,000 hectares that should have been under a conservation agreement since August 2011. Yet sadly, like 42 other logging coupes, it was excluded. Logging continues right now in BT009D. This coupe is being targeted primarily for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets.

This forest features a canopy of *Eucalyptus delegatensis* and *E. subcrenulata*. The understorey is varied and includes rainforest species such as leatherwood and horizontal, as well as swampy sections dominated by tea tree. The area is ideal habitat for a range of fauna.

Butlers Gorge shows the progression from mixed species eucalypt forests in the south transitioning to pure *Eucalyptus delegatensis* stands as the elevation increases and the climatic conditions become colder. This is one of the key reasons why this unique forest is recommended to be included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, which is listed against Criterion (ix): "outstanding examples of significant on-going ecological and biological processes." The IVG report concludes that ensuring these forests remain in "as close to a wilderness condition as possible" is the best way to ensure that such ecological processes are maintained (Hitchcock 2012:146).

This is an aerial photo of BT009D taken by photographer Rob Blakers in April 2012. This photo shows the scar of logging and roading operations encroaching on the otherwise pristine wilderness of Butlers Gorge.



Logging coupe TN046A, Tyenna Valley

This 27 hectare coupe is situated at the base of Mount Mueller, near the Styx and Tyenna Valleys. There is a magnificent walking track that takes visitors up the mountain to a glacial lake called Fossil Lake. This track is located right in the middle of the area scheduled for logging. This forest contains examples of western peppermints and snow peppermint gums with a mature rainforest understorey. Sassafras, myrtle, celery top pine, horizontal and leatherwood are common throughout the area. There are also substantial areas of pure rainforest present on the site and significant stands of native laurel. Other areas within the coupe are populated with mature tea trees, pandanii and heath.

This coupe is within 700m of the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Hitchcock concludes that the Styx-Tyenna assessment area in which TN046A is located “would not only make a major contribution to the value and integrity of the TWWHA in respect of tall eucalypt forests but also facilitate maintenance of regional connectivity” (Hitchcock 2012:100).

This forest is within an area identified as having potential karst systems, based on data from the Tasmanian Karst Atlas (DPIPWE 2010). Hitchcock noted this in his report, stating “there is significant mapped karst within the ENGO-proposed lands” (Hitchcock 2012:101).

Still Wild Still Threatened have surveyed the area for wildlife using remote sensor cameras. Threatened species including Tasmanian devils and spot tailed quolls have been recorded within the coupe. There are also significant areas of mapped grey goshawk habitat in the surrounding areas that occur within a kilometer of this site.

Logging has not yet begun in this magnificent tract of forest. However, with the extension of the current inadequate “conservation agreement” it remains excluded from the moratorium and, as such, is under imminent threat of destruction. TN046A is on Forestry Tasmania’s logging schedule for this year.



Logging coupe TN046A, Tyenna Valley / Alan Lesheim



Logging coupe SX020G, Styx Valley



Logging coupe SX020G, Styx Valley / Alan Lesheim

SX020G is located in Tasmania's iconic Styx Valley. These forests are known best for their significant stands of tall trees. In fact, the Styx Valley is home to almost 30% of Tasmania's recorded "giant" trees (Hitchcock 2012:98).

Most notable are the *Eucalyptus regnans*, the tallest flowering plant in the world. Hitchcock notes that the Styx not only features giant trees, but also provides the right ecological conditions for potential future giants (Hitchcock 2012:98).

One of the key reasons why this area should be protected is to maintain regional connectivity as it is a major node in the corridor of globally significant eucalypt forests stretching north-south (Hitchcock 2012:96).

This forest features tall eucalypts with a diverse understorey. Extensive stands of myrtle and celery-top pine are present. This coupe is also within an area mapped as potential grey goshawk habitat. This species is listed as endangered (*Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act*), due to the continuing decline of mature individuals (FPA 2008:10).

According to the Forest Practices Authority, a high proportion of the core habitat for this species is in areas that are not protected (FPA 2008:10). Goshawks generally prefer forest with a closed canopy and low stem density, particularly during nesting season. While further study needs to be done on their hunting patterns, it is believed that interconnecting forest areas of 20-30km squared are required to sustain a population and that mature wet forests are their preferred hunting areas. The Forest Practices Authority also states that "one of the key threats for the grey goshawks is widespread native vegetation clearance" (FPA 2008:10).

While SX020G is within the 430,000 hectares which was due to be in a conservation agreement as of August 2011, the coupe remains open for logging. This coupe is being logged to produced saw logs and veneer (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b:8).

Logging has not yet begun in this coupe, and there is still time to ensure that this forest is protected.



Logging coupe BB021E, Weld Valley

A proposed new road and logging coupe in the Barnback Creek region has the potential to destroy the values of a previously unroaded forest area in the Lower Weld Valley. However, there is still time for these forests to be protected as logging has not commenced yet.

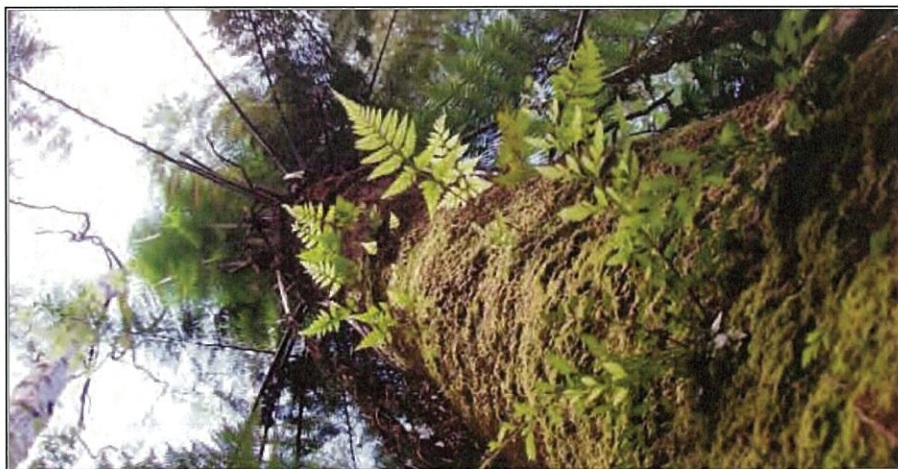
Barnback Creek, located in southern Tasmania, flows through wet fern-filled forests into the Weld River. A new 2.5km road and logging area of 70 hectares is planned for the northern flank of the creek, which would destroy significant stands of *Eucalyptus regnans* and *Eucalyptus obliqua*.

Forestry Tasmania plans to cable log the area. The Federal Government's inadequate conservation agreement left this area open for logging. This forest is a spectacular mixed aged eucalypt forest.

In 2006 a new logging road, named Eric Pettets Road, was built. After 16 months of direct action by peaceful protesters who blockaded the proposed road extension with a spectacular Weld Ark, the road was pushed further into the previously unroaded area. More than 50 people were arrested in the ensuing protests. Two areas of forest have been logged along this road. The new proposed road would push in to previously unlogged forest off Eric Pettets Rd.

Barnback Creek is a 6km tributary of the Weld River. During the community blockade and since, thousands of people visited the area, explored the forests, studied them and defended the forests from logging on the frontline. This significant roading operation was due to commence in January 2012, and then logging was to commence in winter 2012. If logged, these forests will go to feed the mill of Malaysian logging giant Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b). The delay for this new road and logging operation means that these forests still have a chance to be protected.

BB021E is in a sea of *Dicksonia antarctica* or manferns. This species is very slow growing, between 1 – 10 cms a year depending on the conditions. It can live up to 1000 years and the trunk of tree ferns provide habitat to the twelve species of Tasmanian epiphytic ferns (Gibson & Leahy 2010). *Dicksonia antarctica* is a very important component of the Tasmanian bush. It is extremely hardy and tolerates temperatures from 10 to 40 degrees celsius, prefers fertile organic soils and moist, humid conditions with some shade. The tender and fleshy croziers (the young, uncurling fronds) can be a food source for native animals such as possums and parrots (DPIPWE 2012a).



Logging coupe BB021E, Weld Valley



Logging coupe DU021B, Dugong / Alan Lesheim

• DAY 6: •



Logging coupe DU021B,
Dugong

This recently logged 96 hectare coupe is within an area north of Mount Field National Park (MFNP) that has been recommended to be added, along with the current National Park, to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012: 128).

The boundary of MFNP in the north is a straight line that cuts across the landscape and topography of the area. Hitchcock states that this is “far from ideal” (Hitchcock 2012: 136). Hence, these recommended additions would greatly improve the current reserve design.

One purpose of including the lands surrounding the Park is to strengthen the values of the current protected area. A more suitable boundary has been recommended by Hitchcock which takes into account a range of factors including protection of cave systems, catchment areas for those cave systems, connectivity of tall eucalypt forests, and natural features in the landscape (Hitchcock 2012: 135). DU021B is within this proposed extension.

“The ENGO proposed reserves associated with MFNP are an integral part of the larger assessment area and take their high conservation significance from being part of that larger block” (Hitchcock 2012:132). MFNP has significant world heritage value, including remarkable glacial features and extensive cave systems.

Yet despite these recommendations, logging has proceeded in this area. With forestry operations occurring in such close proximity to the boundary of MFNP, the conservation values of the protected area are put at risk. We are calling for an immediate cessation of logging and roading operations within the forests that are proposed for future reserves.



Logging coupe BB021C, Weld Valley

Logging coupe BB021C, located in the lower Weld Valley, is an area of forest that was left out of the conservation agreement and which was first logged in 2007. This logging operation was the first incursion into the wild Eddy Creek catchment, and commenced after the removal of the Weld Ark community blockade, which was stopping logging activity in the area and featured a full-sized replica pirate ship built on the road.

Logging continued in the coupe during 2011, and BB021C remains unprotected by the conservation agreement due to further plans to log this spectacular area.

BB021C was a community of mature wet forests – *Eucalyptus regnans*, tall *Eucalyptus obliqua* and mature blackwood - which contained suitable habitat for threatened species such as the white bellied sea eagle, wedge tailed eagle, grey goshawk, masked owl, eastern quoll, Australian grayling and eastern barred bandicoot (FT 2006).

The nearby Barnback Creek is a known location for the Little Denison crayfish, a threatened species that is endemic to this region (FT 2008).

The forested region of Barnback and Eddy Creek catchments contain *Acacia melanoxylon* forest on flats, and areas of *Acacia melanoxylon* swamp communities. These swamp communities are a nationally uncommon plant community - essentially confined to Tasmania - and now a rare aspect of Australian vegetation (Hitchcock 2012:245).



Logging coupe BB021C, Weld Valley, photographed before logging operations began in 2007



Logging coupe SX028J, Styx Valley / Emma Capp

DAY 8:



Logging coupe SX028J, Styx Valley

The spectacular forests located in coupe SX028J are currently being destroyed by logging operations. This tract of forest was formerly populated with giant eucalypt trees, a number of which had visible hollows. Below the upper canopy was a thick rainforest understorey consisting of myrtle beech, celery-top pine, sassafras and tree ferns. Mapping data indicates a wedge tailed eagle nest in the vicinity of SX028J, and also identifies this forest as quoll habitat.

Immediately adjacent to a reserve, SX028J's high conservation value has made the logging of this forest highly contentious. A number of community protest actions took place when the first section of this coupe was logged last year, at a time when it should have been protected by a moratorium. An additional section of this forest is being logged right now.

This image shows the immense size of the eucalypts in this forest as well as the clear felling that is currently occurring in SX028J. The trees in the foreground and the forest behind them will be felled in the coming days or weeks.

The much anticipated forest agreement will not come in time to save this magnificent forest from logging operations.



Logging coupe WR008A, Weld Valley



Logging coupe WR008A, Weld Valley / Rob Blakers

Ln a remote region of the Lower Weld Valley an intact old growth ecosystem remains untouched by the industrial logging regime in Tasmania. The conservation agreement, signed between the Federal Minister for the Environment Tony Burke and Tasmania's Deputy Premier Bryan Green, failed to protect these forests. Logging coupe WR008A was an agreed exclusion for the purposes of the conservation agreement and, as such, is under threat from logging operations.

WR008A is a scheduled logging coupe of 45ha inside a wilderness area contiguous with the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). This logging coupe was scheduled to start between 1 March and 30 June 2012. These forests currently remain intact. The scheduled logging has not commenced.

The threatened forests of the Weld Valley, along with the Picton and Huon Valleys were identified in the independent verification process as being collectively part of the largest single tract of tall eucalypt forest ecosystem extant in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:77).

This significant forest area is an example of the magnificent forests that are still under threat from logging operations, and which, sadly, the government had the opportunity to protect under a revised conservation agreement. However, this forest is still under imminent threat even as negotiations that will decide its future are underway.



Logging coupe TN044B, Tyenna Valley

The spectacular area of forest in which The Observer Tree is located is a prime example of Tasmania's ancient forests. This coupe is located within a kilometre of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and has been recommended for inclusion in the protected area (Hitchcock 2012:77). Yet it remains under threat from logging.

In mid-December 2011 logging machinery began work in this coupe. Two days later the Observer Tree was launched, bringing international attention to the plight of this threatened forest. By the end of the first week, logging machinery had been removed from the coupe and has not returned. However, this coupe still remains on the forestry schedule and loggers could return any day.

This world heritage valued forest features tall eucalypts towering above a rainforest understory. The giant old trees contain many hollows, providing habitat for a range of species. These tall eucalypts are the survivors of a natural fire that may have come through the area a hundred years ago. They stand side by side with a new generation of younger eucalypts. Leatherwood, celery top pine, and sassafras are abundant and the steep gullies overflow with ferns.

This forest is home to a few much-loved Tasmanian devils, including a mother devil and her young. On December 12th 2011, conservationists captured footage of a mother devil carrying food in her mouth. A few months later, a healthy juvenile devil was seen in the same area, new out of the den. The protection of this area is critical, as maternal devil den sites are used from generation to generation and play an important role in the survival of this species. As well as devils, many other threatened or endangered species have been documented in the area including goshawks, wedge tail eagles, and spot tail quolls. The pristine waterways of this forest flow from the top of Mount Mueller and are home to endangered hydrobiid snails (FT 2007).

Yet the survival of the flora and fauna of this forest is at risk, due to Ta Ann's wood supply demands. This coupe was meant to be protected by a conservation agreement, when the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed in August 2011. Sadly, this forest was excluded in order to provide wood to Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b).



Logging coupe TN044B, Tyenna Valley / Rob Blakers



Logging coupe BS101D, Mount Barrow / Kip Nunn

DAY 11:



Logging coupe BS101D, Mount Barrow

Situated close to the Mount Barrow Forest Reserve, this 30 hectare logging coupe is part of a cluster of areas nominated for protection in Tasmania's north east. This forest contains significant national heritage value. A key issue with the forest reserve system in north-east Tasmania is the current lack of connectivity between reserves. By adding tracts of forest to the existing reserves, there will be greater connectivity, providing critical habitat corridors for a range of species. In recommending this area for protection, Hitchcock paid attention to the "value of recognisable corridors for achieving long term biological conservation." (Hitchcock 2012:265) and stated that "for connectivity to be effective the connecting corridors must as far as practicable be capable of facilitating movement of all relevant species, not just a particular species" (Hitchcock 2012:265).

This coupe features a *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Eucalyptus delegatensis* canopy with a rainforest understorey. Flora species in the area include: sassafras, mountain pepper, musk and daisybush, as well as a diversity of ferns. The coupe is bordered by several streams, and in addition, two creeks run through the area due to be logged (FT 2011a:5). These streams are potential habitat for the north east forest snail (FT 2011a:9). Some of the fauna seen in the area includes platypus, wombats and yellow-tailed black cockatoos. Fauna cameras have been placed in the area by forest campaign group Code Green in order to monitor for endangered species, including Tasmanian devils. The results of these studies have not been finalised, however the area has been identified as possible habitat for devils and Code Green are looking forward to finding out if there is a healthy population in the area.

A small section of this coupe has been logged. This area was felled during the time when the coupe should have been under a moratorium. The machines have left, and the majority of the coupe remains intact. But logging could begin again at any time. The major reason for logging in this coupe is to produce peeler billets (such as those required by Ta Ann) (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b:8).



Logging coupe BT011C, Butlers Gorge

This logging coupe, situated amongst the spectacular forests of Butlers Gorge, was meant to be in a moratorium many months ago. However, in recent months, Forestry Tasmania has pushed a brand new road through the Butlers Gorge wilderness to give the logging industry access to coupe BT011C. The question remains: why are Forestry Tasmania continuing to spend tax-payer funds on new roads into areas that are on the table as future reserves?

Butlers Gorge has exceptional wilderness value, and prior to the advent of logging and new roads within the past decade, it was mapped as “high quality wilderness” [Wilderness Mapping 2006] (Hitchcock 2012:147). This quality is being compromised by current and planned forestry operations in the area. However, there is still a great opportunity here to protect one of our most significant areas of tall eucalypt forest. As the IVG report states, “Only with the recent advent of roading and selective logging has the wilderness quality been eroded but with cessation of logging and some rehabilitation, this outstanding tract of tall eucalypt forest could again be restored to wilderness condition” (Hitchcock 2012:146).



Logging coupe BT009D, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers



Image captured by remote sensor fauna cameras in logging coupe BS115H, Mount Barrow

DAY 13:



Logging coupe BS115H, Mount Barrow

BS115H, a 60 hectare logging coupe, is located in north east Tasmania close to the Mount Barrow State Forest Reserve. This coupe is being targeted primarily for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:12) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets. This area was once home to a strong population (often described in plague proportions) of Tasmanian devils (Owen & Pemberton 2005). This species is now listed as endangered in both the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act*.

Members of Code Green have been monitoring the *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forest in BS115H using remote sensor fauna cameras. The results have shown the presence of Tasmanian devils which appear to be healthy and disease free. This is a particularly significant finding for this area, as the devils of north east Tasmania have been impacted most significantly by the effects of the deadly devil facial tumour disease (DFTD). The Save the Devil Program has reported that devil populations in this region of Tasmania have declined by 96% as of February 2011 (Save the Devil Program 2011).

Unfortunately for these devils logging has resumed in sections of this coupe since these images were taken. Such logging activity is potentially threatening the habitat of these devils and other populations in the area. This destruction of habitat has continued on this site despite the fact that this forest was promised protection as part of the Conservation Agreement.

Forestry Tasmania have themselves acknowledged that the forests adjacent to this coupe are potential habitat for devils (FT 2011b). Yet logging has been allowed to proceed. The impact of logging operations on devil habitat and in particular sites where maternal dens occur has been inadequately addressed by the current forestry management systems. According to Dr Peter McQuillan, 'no special effort is made to identify and protect devil den sites in Forest Practice Plans' (McQuillan 2012:29).



Logging coupe SX028C, Styx Valley



Logging coupe SX028C, Styx Valley / Emma Capp

SX028C is an area of intact high conservation value forest that is on the current logging schedule to be logged in 2012.

This forest is dominated by *Eucalyptus regnans*. These tall eucalypt trees are hundreds of years old and provide critically important habitat hollows that are a unique feature of old forests. This species is the tree that the Styx Valley is perhaps the most well-renowned for. These giants are the tallest flowering plant in the world. They are also documented as having the highest biomass carbon stocks (Mackey 2008:28).

Protecting forests as significant carbon stores is increasingly critical to mitigate climate change. Old forests such as this one have been shown to have a larger carbon store than industrialised forests, which hold around 40-60% less carbon (Mackey 2008:6). This is because significant volumes of carbon have been emitted to the atmosphere as a result of logging operations and that the carbon density is never regained on the ground unless the original forest is completely restored.

The understorey features mature wet rainforest, including myrtle, celery-top pine and a diverse array of ferns. The forest floor is abundant with moss, lichen and fungi.

This area of forest is within the 572,000 hectares of forests that has been proposed by environment groups and is the subject of ongoing negotiations.



Logging coupe SA152B, Mount Saddleback

This 45 hectare logging coupe in north east Tasmania is situated within the 572,000 hectares of forests that have been proposed for protection by environment groups and is the subject of ongoing negotiations.

Sadly, it remains on the logging schedule for 2012. This is a mixed forest with a diversity of species and a diversity of ages. Old eucalypts, some scarred by fire from the distant past, grow beside younger trees.

This forest contains a great diversity of lichen and fungi growing in the natural leaf litter on the forest floor, supporting the biological cycling of nutrients into the soil. Such leaf litter and detritus, and the tiny organisms that exist within them, are often destroyed in the high intensity burns that are conducted by the forestry industry following logging.

Lichen is a symbiotic relationship between fungi and a photosynthetic organism (most commonly algae). These two are co-dependent, the fungi providing water retention, the algae providing nutrients. One type of lichen common in this coupe is called 'old man's beard' or *Usnea*. It is known to be sensitive to air pollution, which can restrict its growth to a few millimeters. In an environment with clean air it can grow to 10–20 cm long.



Logging coupe SA152B, Mount Saddleback / Katherine Tattersall



Logging coupe WE038A, the Wedge, photographed in June 2008 / Laura Minnebo

DAY 16:



Logging coupe WE038A, The Wedge

This coupe is located in the Wedge forests, south-western Tasmania. It is situated on exceedingly steep terrain, and will therefore be subject to a clear felling cable logging operation. This coupe was already partially logged in 2007 and then subject to high intensity burns in 2008. Forestry Tasmania have now listed the coupe on their current harvest schedule, with a plan to return this year to log an addition 12 hectares (FT 2012a).

The coupe is within 500 meters of the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. And this area has been recommended for inclusion into the World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012:112). This forest contains old growth *Eucalyptus delegatensis* and *Eucalyptus obliqua* with a rainforest understorey, along with substantial stands of leatherwood. The tall eucalypt value of this forest is one of the key world heritage values. In addition, the area has significant scenic value. It is an integral part of the landscape of the adjoining TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:112).

The waterways in this coupe are known to contain rare hydrobiid snail species *Phrantela pupiformis* (Davis & Monks 2009). This species inhabits streams and can also be found in moss, on small waterfalls and in fern roots. It is listed as rare in the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*. According to the IUCN Red List "this species may be threatened to a degree by habitat degradation and land clearance from forestry and sedimentation" (IUCN 2012). It has a very small distribution and the recommendation of the IUCN is that further research should be done on the population and potential threats: "In order to maintain the stability of this species' habitat and water quality, it is advised that not only should the species' locality be protected, but also the waters upstream" (IUCN 2012).



Logging coupe CO003A, Counsel area

The Counsel forests are an area of great ecological significance, containing a high level of floristic diversity. The area consists of predominantly mixed forest with some stands of dry sclerophyll forests and some areas of callidendrous and thamnic rainforests. Still Wild Still Threatened have documented evidence of Tasmanian devils in this area. CO003A is approximately one kilometer from the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It has been recommended to be included within the boundary. The existing boundary of the TWWHA in this area is considered inadequate as it follows the contour and leaves “the best development of the tall eucalypt system” outside the boundary of the protected area (Hitchcock 2012:138).

This site is located on rocky terrain and has the potential to feature sink holes and caves. This coupe is just north of one of the most extensive tracts of karst in Australia that has been rated as nationally significant in the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database. Hitchcock recommended that this whole region, including this coupe, be protected in order to maintain the integrity of the karst systems and in particular to keep the catchment pristine.

The Counsel area is known for its tall eucalypts and this coupe was no exception, featuring significant tall trees. Of all the registered “giant trees” in Tasmania there are three main clusters in the state. The Counsel is one of these, “indicative of the superlative form of the tall eucalypt forest in the precinct” (Hitchcock 2012:138). This coupe and the areas around it are considered to be essentially the last relics of the once extensive tall eucalypt forests in this region. Industrial scale forestry has been increasingly encroaching on this particular tract. Given that so much of the surrounding forest has been decimated, these relics have become increasingly important for conservation (Hitchcock 2012:137). These forests are also important for regional conductivity, being connected to the Florentine Valley in the south, which also contains significant tall eucalypt forest (Hitchcock 2012:137). This regional connectivity is one the key reasons for this area to be protected (Hitchcock 2012:138).

This coupe has sadly been logged now, in a time when it should have been protected by a moratorium. In fact, this coupe was logged just after the March 15th deadline for the original moratorium that was promised by the Statement of Principles, that had been set to cover 572,000 hectares of forest, but was never fully implemented. However, there is still intact old growth forest surrounding this coupe. Hitchcock states: “The ENGO proposed reserves include some recently logged coupes and it is considered that these logged areas should never-the-less be included in any protection to ensure as far as possible a consolidated block of forest that facilitates on going natural processes in the protected lands in the longer term” (Hitchcock 2012:143).

We are calling for immediate formal protection of these forests, the rehabilitation of this site and the immediate cessation of any logging in the Counsel area.



Logging coupe CO003A, Counsel area / Rob Blakers



Logging coupe CO003A, Counsel area / Rob Blakers



Logging coupe CZ006C, Clarence Lagoon



Logging coupe CZ006C, Clarence Lagoon / Rob Blakers

Surrounded on three sides by the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, a section of state forest creates a hole in the protected area. Located near Lake Saint Claire, this enclave contains logging coupe CZ006C, which is scheduled for logging this year. This coupe is being targeted for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:10) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets. The coupe and the area surrounding it are “naturally vegetated by a mosaic of eucalypt forest, leptospermum woodland and treeless moorland” (Hitchcock 2012:153). Despite some logging in the vicinity the overall condition “is one of a natural landscape with natural vegetation”.

One of the critical issues for this region is the presence of Clarence Lagoon, located just inside the boundary of the TWWHA, but with its catchment area extended into the unprotected state forest. This is a critical habitat site for the endangered Clarence galaxias (*Galaxias johnstoni*) (Hitchcock 2012:153). This is an endemic freshwater fish species that is found in the lagoon and downstream in the Clarence River, which is located within the area proposed by environment groups to be included in the reserve. The only other known habitat sites are 5-6 small lagoons (Hitchcock 2012:153). The Threatened Species Listing Statement declares that “all populations of Clarence galaxias are essential to the species’ long-term viability and require protection and management” (Threatened Species Unit Listing Statement 1998:1). This region surrounding Clarence Lagoon has therefore been recommended by Hitchcock to be included in the TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:154).

A road has been built into this coupe. However, it’s not too late to protect this area from logging.



Logging coupe RP034A, Repulse / Alan Lesheim

DAY 19:



Logging coupe RP034A,
Repulse

This massive 137 hectare logging coupe is near Misery Road in the Repulse River catchment, central Tasmania. This forest is part of the core area of 430,000 hectares that was promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Yet, like many other high conservation value forests across the state, it has been subject to logging since the signing of that agreement.

The coupe has been completed in sections, with some areas already burnt. The final section was logged within the past few months. The creek that runs through the area, which was given only a small buffer zone, was badly damaged by the high intensity burn and then further degraded as the vegetation has suffered from edge effects that come with the sudden exposure to wind and sunlight.

This logging coupe is within an area that has been recommended for protection by the independent verification assessment. Its close proximity to Mount Field National Park is of particular significance. The current boundary of the park is inadequate and the inclusion of this area to the north of the current park would greatly enhance the value of the reserve.

It has been recommended by Hitchcock that the Mount Field National Park along with the Repulse forests and other surrounding areas should be incorporated into the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012:132).



Logging coupe RU043H, West Wellington



Logging coupe RU043H, West Wellington / Rob Blakers

A significant area of forest that was left out of the Conservation Agreement, and which failed to receive promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement, was logged in the West Wellington region. West Wellington is a sub-alpine region of native forests that adjoins the Mt Wellington reserve in southern Tasmania.

West Wellington is a very significant area of largely intact tall eucalyptus forest (Hitchcock 2012:104). The tall eucalypts occupy high elevations in some parts of the West Wellington region.

The eastern-most larger block of around 5,000 ha of diverse forest, including extensive regrowth tall eucalypt forest, is largely intact and is of obvious potential interest for conservation as surrounding lands are increasingly developed (Hitchcock, 2012:105). The immediately adjoining Wellington Park greatly enhances the conservation potential of the area (Hitchcock 2012: 105).

The tall eucalypt forests, which form a near intact continuous corridor connecting from Mount Wellington west to the Snowy Range, and hence the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, were assessed as being of considerable natural heritage significance (Hitchcock 2012:105).

The native forests of West Wellington are the water catchments for communities of Crabtree, Lucaston and Judbury. RU043H is an area of forest that has been logged in the past twelve months. The area of forest was a mixed forest of regrowth forest after some fire disturbance and mature old growth forest (HVEC 2011:25).

These forests were targeted by Forestry Tasmania for wood supply to Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a). In 2010 a moratorium on logging in the ENGOs' identified high conservation value forests was due to be in place in December.

The so-called 'moratorium' failed these forests in West Wellington, like so many others across the state.



Logging coupe PC015B, Picton Valley



Logging coupe PC015B / Laura Minnebo

Logging coupe PC015B, located in the Picton Valley, southern Tasmania, is an area of forest that has been logged over the past few months. This forest, and the old growth ecosystems surrounding it, could have been protected under the promised moratorium and conservation agreement.

In June 2011, a new 2.6 km logging road was pushed into a remote tract of old growth forest, which enabled the logging industry access to this section of the Picton Valley throughout the duration of a promised moratorium.

In September 2011, logging commenced in these old growth *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forests, which are part of a large tract of remote wilderness forest contiguous with the Hartz Mountains National Park and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

Tasmania's Intergovernmental Agreement on Forests was signed on 7 August 2011, and one month later Forestry Tasmania continued to schedule logging in forests that were identified as being in need of protection. PC015B was primarily targeted by Forestry Tasmania to supply wood for Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a). However, there is still time for the remaining forests in this area to be protected, as logging was suspended due to the logging road being too 'green', meaning it made it too difficult for the loggers and log trucks to access these forests (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a).

Our organisations made public pleas for these forests to be protected as part of the 'forests negotiation process', as logging in this area had not commenced when Giddings and Gillard promised the immediate protection of these forests within the ENGO nominated 430,000ha.

The ecological consequences of the logging of these old growth forests are significant, contributing to a global loss of native forests, pushing wildlife to the brink of extinction and contributing to climate change.

The Picton Valley, along with the Weld and Huon Valleys, are considered to possess important natural and cultural heritage values that relate particularly to the World Heritage values of the adjoining Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In particular, these lands contribute a new complementary 'lowland' or lower valley manifestation of attributes already within the TWWHA, for example glacial, karst, tall eucalypt forest and rainforest (Hitchcock 2012:87).



Logging coupe CM004C, Catamaran / Emma Capp

DAY 22:



Logging coupe CM004C, Catamaran

Ln far south Tasmania, a World Heritage bordering forest, known to Forestry Tasmania as logging coupe CM004C, was left out of the Conservation Agreement and subsequently logged.

This forest area was tall eucalyptus forest, core habitat for the grey goshawk, masked owl and spotted tailed quoll. The forest was potential habitat for cave dwelling invertebrates, as the logging site is a steep, high erodibility area, with a karst system down slope from the operation (FT 2011c). The Forest Practices Plan provided by Forestry Tasmania states that the new 1.4km road that was needed to access the 57 ha coupe is located in a karst catchment. Glacial deposits and possible fossils related to the Jurassic Basalt, which form the upper parts of the northern hill of the coupe, are major geomorphic considerations (FT 2011c).

The key company driving the logging in these high conservation value forests is Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a). Logging in this coupe commenced after Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Premier Lara Giddings announced that the Inter-Governmental Agreement in August 2011 would provide 'immediate protection in informal reserves' for forests such as these. CM004C is located within the 572,000ha of forests identified for legislative protection.

These world heritage value forests are located behind Recherche Bay and south of the D'Entrecasteaux River. This region contains Australia's most southerly forests.

The eucalypt forests in the region south of the D'Entrecasteaux River to Cockle Creek include some of the most southerly tracts of eucalypt forest in Australia, indeed the world. The natural diversity of this small forest complex is at the southern latitudinal limits of the Australian eucalypt and rainforest flora and fauna. The globally significant eucalypts here can be expected to be of enduring scientific interest, especially given the historic research conducted by the French scientists in the area. The eucalypt forests of the Recherche area would contribute to the ecological integrity of the adjoining Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) by preserving the natural vegetation sequence from sea level to tree limit on Mount La Perouse. This is particularly important for maintaining vegetation conditions conducive to natural fire interaction with the vegetation, especially on foothills and escarpment of the existing TWWHA. The eucalypt forests of this narrow lowland corridor are an integral part of a still existing natural connectivity of tall eucalypt communities, which extends up the eastern side (mostly outside) of the TWWHA, an important element in the long-term conservation of this ecosystem (Hitchcock 2012:58).

They remain unprotected, due to an "illogical and unsustainable boundary" (Hitchcock 2012:54). The adjacent section of the TWWHA incorporates only a disjunct series of remnant tall eucalypt forest, the greater part of the otherwise continuous tract of tall eucalypt forest being located just outside the TWWHA boundary, an artifact of the drawing of the original protected area boundary which excluded the commercially important tall eucalypt forests. The ENGO-proposed reserves include the main corridor of tall eucalypt forest otherwise excluded from this section of the TWWHA. This corridor of tall eucalypt forest is relevant to the concept outlined elsewhere for protection—within the TWWHA—of a regional-scale tall eucalypt corridor from Cockle Creek to central Tasmania as a means of ensuring regional connectivity for the globally significant tall eucalypt ecosystems in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:56).

Recent reports that have verified the values of this forest region have stated that, "given the gross under representation of the ecological diversity of tall eucalypt forest in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, there is a clear case to remedy that situation. The tall eucalypt forests in the lowlands of the Recherche Bay–D'Entrecasteaux coast potentially represents a significant contribution to the ecological integrity of the TWWHA (southern limit, alpine summit to sea sequence on one slope—the 'French transect'—Mount La Perouse to Recherche Bay). This area provides the best opportunity to capture the full range of elevation values in the TWWHA—of significant benefit to the ecological function and integrity of the TWWHA and particularly important to assist adaptation to climate change (Hitchcock 2012:57).

Protection of this southern coastal precinct of Tasmania would link up the World Heritage Area, Southport Lagoon Conservation Area and the National Heritage listed Recherche Bay area. The cultural heritage value of the Recherche Bay area would make a significant contribution to the integrity of the TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:60).

Notwithstanding a significant amount of past disturbance within the assessed area caused by coupe-based logging, the longer term view is that natural rehabilitation can be expected to progressively eliminate both the direct and indirect impacts of those logged coupes. The assessed area comprises mostly coastal lowland rising inland to foothills, and is predominantly forested with significant areas of tall eucalypt forest. The Recherche Bay region has historic significance for the discovery and first formal description of the eucalypts of the world. The first eucalypts collected for science were from the region and the first eucalypt officially described also came from the region (Bruny Island) (Hitchcock 2012:55).

Pro logging industry supporters and Ta Ann have, in the past months, tried to question the conservation values of CM004C. However the facts are that some minor disturbance occurred in the region in the start of last century. These disturbances however were negligible compared to the current forms of industrial scale clearfelling. The forests of CM004C were unroaded until 2011 and the verified values of the remaining threatened tall eucalypt forests in this region, that are part of a remote tract of wilderness area with world heritage values, require urgent protection from ongoing logging.



Logging coupe PC085A, Picton Valley



Logging coupe PC085A, Picton Valley / Nishant Datt

Some areas of tall eucalypt and old growth forests in the Picton Valley have been intensively logged for many years. However, significant large tracts of these world heritage value forests remain, and their urgent protection from ongoing logging practices will ensure their globally unique values be spared from the chainsaw. The tall eucalypt forests in the Weld, Picton and Middle Huon Valleys are collectively part of the largest single tract of tall eucalypt forest ecosystem extant in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:77).

In the Picton Valley now, there is one area of verified high conservation value forest that is being logged, and three large areas of verified high conservation value forests that remain under imminent threat. All of these forests were left out of the promised conservation agreement that could have provided interim protection for these ecosystems. One such area is logging coupe PC085A. Located on West Picton Rd, this old growth forest borders the Picton River. This forest has not had logging operations commence as yet, though logging is scheduled to start at any time. The company that is driving the logging of these forests is Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a).

This 62 hectare coupe is within the core range of the Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*) and contains significant habitat for this species (FT 2012b). The Tasmanian masked owl is an endangered species (DPIPWE 2012b) dependent on hollows in mature eucalypt trees, and is endemic to Tasmania. The Tasmanian masked owl is the second largest nocturnal raptor in Australia (DSEWPCa 2012), and has been listed as endangered in Tasmania since 1995 (DSEWPCa 2012). Threats to the masked owl include habitat clearing and fragmentation (including forestry activities). Between 1996 and 2009, approximately 142 000 hectares of native forest in Tasmania have been converted to monoculture plantation or agricultural land (FPA, 2009). This has resulted in the loss of nesting habitat (large tree hollows) and an increased level of threat to the endangered masked owl (DSEWPC 2012a).

Reports to the Independent Verification Group recently stated that the availability of mature eucalypt habitat is important for a range of hollow-dwelling and hollow-dependent vertebrate species that rely on these features for facets of their life cycle (Knight & Cullen 2012:7). Loss of hollow bearing trees is widely recognised as a threat to the survival of a wide range of Australian vertebrate fauna, and has statutory recognition as a threatening process in New South Wales and Victoria. However, information on the specific habitat requirements for a large proportion of hollow dwelling species is lacking (Knight & Cullen 2012:7). If protected, Tasmania's southern forests, including the Picton Valley, will make a significant contribution to the additional protection of the ranges of hollow-using birds. Three hollow-using species of birds that are priority forest species have core range (swift parrot & masked owl) or known ranges (forty-spotted pardalote) that intersect with proposed ENGO proposed reserves (IVG 2012a:13). Coupe PC085A is within the eastern breeding range of the swift parrot (DPIPWE 2012b), also an endangered species, and supports high density nesting habitat for this species (FT 2012b).



Logging coupe NH010A, Rabalga Track area

DAY 24:



Logging coupe NH010A, Rabalga Track area

This proposed 33 hectare logging coupe is located in the Rabalga Track area of north-west Tasmania. This forest is part of the core area of 430,000 hectares that was promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Logging and roading operations are scheduled in this spectacular tract of high conservation value forest for this year.

This mixed forest features tall eucalyptus, rainforest species and amazing stands of old growth celery top pine. The area is listed by the independent verification reports as being significant tall eucalypt forest ecosystems (Hitchcock 2012:303). The protection of this area has been recommended for protection as it would make a significant contribution to potential habitat for many fauna species. The area that this coupe is situated in is important threatened species habitat (IVG 2012b:13). For example, it is habitat for the azure kingfisher (*Ceyx azureus diemenensis*) (IVG 2012b:13). This species is listed as endangered in both the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*: “the total number of mature individuals is low and its geographic distribution is precarious for its survival given the nature of ongoing threats” (TSSC 2010:1). Habitat clearing is considered to be one of the key threats (TSSC 2010:2). The distribution of the azure kingfisher mostly occurs in the north-west of the state, a reflection of the higher rainfall in this area and the greater density of river systems (DSEWPC 2012b).



Logging coupe MD102B, The Tarkine

This logging coupe is located in the Pieman area of north-west Tasmania. This magnificent forest is part of the core area of 430,000 hectares that was promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement. A section of this 48 hectare coupe has been logged, with an additional area scheduled for this year. This area also falls within Venture Minerals' proposed strip mine site.

Volunteers from Code Green have conducted fauna surveys using remote sensor cameras. These produced evidence of healthy Tasmanian devils in this coupe. It was also identified by the Independent Verification Group (IVG) that conservation of this particular area would make a "high contribution across a large range of fauna species" (IVG 2012a:22). The area is important habitat for grey goshawk and azure kingfisher (IVG 2012a:13). Its waterways are home to freshwater hydrobiid snails (IVG 2012a:20) and giant freshwater crayfish (IVG 2012a:22).

The IVG reports also assessed priority flora and found that the "proposed reserves substantially improve the protection of a range of priority flora species (62 vascular flora species, 2 lichens)". The area in which this coupe is located was one of seven areas that were listed as "very high" priority for flora conservation. These areas "would make an outstanding contribution to the CAR Reserve system and the National Reserve System of Australia and will help to address deficiencies in the representation of threatened flora in the reserve system" (IVG 2012b:7). Two species identified in this forest that are of high priority are *Epacris glabella* and *Micrantheum serpentinum*. *Epacris glabella* is an endemic Tasmanian shrub listed as endangered under both the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act* and the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. This species occurs in the north west of the state, with 6 known locations across a geographic range of 150kms (IVG 2012b:46). *Micrantheum serpentinum* is another endemic Tasmanian shrub that is listed as rare in the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*. The IVG report stated that there were many observations of this species in this area. The species is estimated to have only 8-9 populations, in an area of 245km² (IVG 2012b:72).

This spectacular forest has been recommended for protection in the proposed Tarkine World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012:218).



Image captured by remote sensor fauna cameras in logging coupe MD102B, the Tarkine



Logging coupe PC024B, Picton Valley / Jenny Weber

DAY 26



Logging coupe PC024B, Picton Valley

Ln the Picton Valley, logging operations were recently completed in forests that were rich with habitat for the Tasmanian devil, swift parrot, masked owl, spotted tailed and eastern quolls (FT 2011d). This forest was formerly populated with tall *Eucalyptus regnans* and tall *Eucalyptus obliqua*, along with mature stands of leatherwood and thamnic rainforest (FT 2011d). A cultural heritage site has been identified by Forestry Tasmania in this coupe (FT 2011d).

This 90 hectare coupe was logged over the past seven months, while talks have been occurring between industry and some conservation groups. The State and Federal Government gave the go ahead to log in parts of the 430,000ha area that was supposed to be under moratorium. The Prime Minister promised these old growth and high conservation value (HCV) areas should be protected but as a result of pressure from Ta Ann and Forestry Tasmania, some of these forests have been lost, PC024B being one such tragic loss.

The company driving the logging of this coupe is Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011:14a).

In February, Huon Valley Environment Centre released a sample of a celery top pine from PC024B which is believed to be more than 250 years old. This sample of celery top pine clearly demonstrated that the forests being logged in the PC024B were part of an old growth ecosystem. Ta Ann has made public claims that this forest is regrowth, as a result of a wildfire in 1934 (Ta Ann Tasmania 2012). However, sections of this coupe were mapped as old growth forest during the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement process.

Ta Ann Tasmania public relations material emphasises that they mill regrowth logs. This implies incorrectly that there are no adverse environmental impacts associated with their operations. It is not true that regrowth logs will always originate from regrowth forests – old growth forests can contain regrowth elements as a result of the dynamic ecology of these forest ecosystems.



Logging coupe PC024B, Picton Valley / Jenny Weber

PC024B in the Picton Valley is within 2km of a karst system that has indigenous and environmental values of international significance (Hitchcock 2012:81). This karst system contains evidence of the human societies living in this region, which were the most southerly known peoples on earth during the last ice age (Hitchcock 2012:81). This karst system is located in the World Heritage value forests of the Middle Huon Valley. PC024B is located at the entrance to the Middle Huon Valley.

The globally significant and unique natural and cultural heritage values of the karst systems in the Middle Huon and Picton Valleys have not received the urgent protection that they need. Hitchcock states; “The likely direct physical and hydrological contact between the Blake’s Opening and Riveaux karsts suggests that a common tenure and management regime, or sympathetic cross-tenure management regime, would be the appropriate means of managing these adjacent karsts. Irrespective of this potential link, however, the undisturbed nature, significant extent and contents of the Riveaux karst and catchment, and its proximity to the recommended Blake’s Opening TWWHA extension means that the karst contributes significantly to karst World Heritage themes of the adjacent TWWHA” (Hitchcock 2012:81).

The forests in the Huon and Picton Valleys are adjacent to the boundary of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) (Mackey 2012:49). The tall eucalypt forests in the lower sections of the Weld and Picton Valleys, together with the closely associated middle Huon Valley, are collectively part of the largest single tract of tall eucalypt forest ecosystem extant in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:77).

Now that this area of forest has been logged it will need to be added to the area of disturbed forests in the Picton Valley that require restoration. As Peter Hitchcock stated, “a holistic long-term view was taken in establishing the contribution that the areas can make to conserving tall eucalypt forest and associated ongoing natural processes. Some rehabilitation will be necessary to restore the ecology of the area in the longer-term” (Hitchcock 2012:10). Sadly, there are areas in the Picton Valley that could have been protected as intact tall eucalypt and rainforest ecosystems instead, if logging operations in these magnificent areas had been halted over the past few months.



Logging coupe PC070B, Picton Valley

Adjacent to the Picton River is a *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest that is a proposed 54ha logging coupe (FT 2012c). Logging operations in this coupe were not rescheduled, as was promised by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. The primary reason given by the logging industry was that these forests needed to be logged to supply Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a).

These magnificent forests remain unlogged to date, and they still have a chance to be protected. These forests, along with other large tracts of the Picton Valley, have been verified "to possess important natural and cultural heritage values that relate particularly to World Heritage values of the adjoining Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In particular, the Weld-Huon-Picton valleys contribute a new complementary 'lowland' or lower valley manifestation of attributes already within the TWWHA, for example glacial, karst, tall eucalypt forest and rainforest" (Hitchcock 2012:87).

Forests adjacent to PC070B have been destroyed over the past two years. A 67ha area of old growth forest in logging coupe PC017C was logged to supply Ta Ann (HVEC 2011).

This forest region is potential habitat for the masked owl, spotted-tailed quolls, and nesting habitat for the swift parrot (FT 2010; FT 2012c). The ongoing logging of these magnificent native forests adjacent to the Picton River, and contiguous with the World Heritage listed Hartz Mountains National Park, marks a significant loss of spectacular eucalypt forests and crucial threatened species habitat.



Logging coupe PC070B, Picton Valley



Logging coupe PC072B, Picton Valley

Logging coupe PC072B is situated in an old growth forest adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) that runs down slope to the Picton River. The area of forest is potential habitat for the masked owl, Tasmanian devil, Tasmanian wedge tailed eagle and grey goshawk (FT 2011e).

Sadly the history of coupe PC072B, located on the East Picton Rd, where a long history of protests to protect the globally significant values of these forests have failed to stop the destruction of these ecosystems. PC072B is located in a region of 2150ha of forest that were once protected as a national park (Gee 2003:187).

The Hartz mountains, proclaimed as a scenic reserve in 1939, were protected within a National Park in 1952. At the time, the seemingly endless supply of timber in the southern forests enabled the logging industry to graciously concede the magnificent forest stretching up the flanks of the Picton River. However, by the mid-1970s, logging roads had extended further and further up the Huon and Picton River valleys and by 1977 the road along the east bank of the Picton River was at the Park Boundary (Gee 2003:187). In 1976, after a long court battle, during which conservationists fought the mining industry from accessing the wilderness area at Precipitous Bluff, a final decision was granted that the inclusion of Precipitous Bluff in the Southwest National Park was made conditional on the revocation of forested land in the Hartz Mountains National Park (Gee 2003:187). PC072B and the large tracts of forests on East Picton Rd were the victims of this decision, where wilderness areas and ancient ecosystems are compromised in the interests of environmentally destructive interests. These forests now have the opportunity to be granted secure legislated protection, and the protection of the forests of PC072B and the other areas in the Picton Valley, which you have read about over the past month, may be protected as an extension to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The Picton, being a shorter valley than the Weld and Huon Valleys, is almost a 'blind valley' hemmed in by alpine and rainforest communities on three sides so the pattern of eucalypt and rainforest communities and their interactions are different to the Huon and especially the Weld. These characteristics are illustrative of the substantial ecological diversity evident in the tall eucalypt and rainforest communities in the 'Three Valleys' (Hitchcock 2012:79). The Picton Valley has experienced various episodes and scales of glaciation with evidence of glaciation extending almost to the confluences of the valley (Hitchcock 2012:79). The Picton Valley, along with the Huon and the Weld Valleys, is one of the few areas in Tasmania where there is a major concentration of tall eucalypt-rainforest ecosystems and where the forests are mostly intact with potential for ongoing natural processes to operate. Notwithstanding that some parts of the forests have been subject to industrial-scale logging operations, the combination of the intact forests and the option of being able to naturally rehabilitate the logged areas, means the 'Three Valleys' forests still offer outstanding potential for conservation, including maintaining natural processes (Hitchcock 2012:79).

Importantly, all of the ENGO-proposed additions for protection in these valleys back onto the TWWHA. Parts of the ENGO-proposed reserves in the Picton, Huon and Weld are an integral part of that major tract of wilderness. That is, parts of these areas have wilderness values, which would clearly enhance or contribute to the integrity of the TWWHA's wilderness values. Rehabilitation of some areas would enhance the wilderness aspect of the TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:80).





Logging coupe RS117C, Rose's Tier



Left: Logging coupe PC072B, Picton Valley / Laura Minnebo. Above: Logging coupe RS117C, Rose's Tier

This 69 hectare logging coupe in Rose's Tier, north east Tasmania, was due for protection under the Intergovernmental Agreement. Like so many other high conservation value forests in Tasmania, it has been lost due to the failure of the government and industry to deliver on the promised moratoriums. This coupe was targeted for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets. Ta Ann's wood supply was also a key reason that this coupe was subject to logging (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11).

This coupe was a forest of tall *Eucalyptus delegatensis*. It featured potential habitat for Tasmanian devils and spotted tail quolls (FT 2011f). This includes areas of fallen logs, dense understorey and old wombat hollows, which may have provided shelter for these animals. This region has been listed as core range for the spotted tail quoll by the Independent Verification Report (IVG 2012a:18).

There are four creeks within, or bordering the coupe. The coupe is also potential habitat zones for the north-east forest snail (IVG 2012a:18). This species is listed in the Regional Forest Agreement as a 'Priority Species Requiring Consideration'. This is due to "slow recovery time from logging operations and perceived restricted habitat and environmental sensitivity" (FPA 2002). This species is found living in leaf litter and the underside of fallen logs, feeding on fungi and detritus from the rotting logs. According to the Forest Practices Authority "The species is likely to be eliminated by clearfelling and associated hot regeneration burns" particularly because "may take at least 90 years following clearfelling and burning for the species to fully recover in regenerated forests" (FPA 2002). The region that this logging coupe is situated in has also been identified as significant for priority flora. The verification reports indicated specific species within this region that would benefit from the formal reservation of this area. One of those species is *Acacia pataczekii*. This endemic Tasmanian shrub is listed as rare in the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*. Its population is restricted to eucalypt forest, mostly in north east Tasmania (IVG 2012b:20). Protecting the proposed reserves would improve the reservation of this species by 52% (IVG 2012b:12).

Another identified significant species is *Barbarea australis*. This herb is endemic to Tasmania and listed as endangered under the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act* and as critically endangered under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. *Barbarea australis* is known to occur in approximately 10 river systems extending from northern Tasmania to rivers flowing south from the Central Highlands (IVG 2012b:30).

In addition the region that includes this coupe has been recommended for protection due to its diversity of eucalypt species (Potts & Tilyard 2012:14). Protection would increase the bioregional reservation of *E. rubida* and *E. pauciflora*, reserve geographical and ecologically marginal populations of endemic species *E. archeria* and increase the representation of *E. viminialis* (Potts & Tilyard 2012:38). Although this coupe has sadly been logged, it is vital that the area is regenerated and included with the surrounding forests as part of Tasmania's proposed formal reserves. The regeneration of this coupe will help to maintain regional connectivity and help protect the endangered, rare and threatened flora and fauna found in this area of north-east Tasmania.

— A forest a day —

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In Upper Florentine Valley coupe F0044A. This tree has been logged.

THE TRUTH

TA ANN DOES NOT USE PLANTATIONS

The Huon Valley Environment Centre has ascertained through in-depth investigations that no 'planted' or 'plantation' timber is used in the 'eco-products' sourced from Ta Ann's Tasmanian mills.

Indeed, contrary to numerous statements made by Ta Ann, Tasmanian Government Ministers and agencies, industry bodies and media, export customers in Japan and Europe who purchase Ta Ann's Tasmanian 'eco-products' are not being sold timber sourced from plantations.

In their own submission to a Standing Committee of the Australian Federal Government in 2011, TAT admitted that 'plantations are yet to be proven as a viable substitute for regrowth from native forests for either mill' or as an additional resource.⁷⁵

In fact, TAT has made a technical and business decision **not to use** timber sourced from plantations and this is well documented, although not publicly advertised, in closed local industry circles.

Leaked minutes from the local Huon Valley branch of Timber Communities Australia (TCA),

on 7 Oct 2010, an industry lobby group, explain that Ta Ann 'have tried plantation wood but at this stage it is not suitable' for their needs.⁷⁶

TA ANN USES WOOD FROM OLD GROWTH FORESTS

HVEC undertook further investigation and obtained information – not readily available in the public domain – under Right to Information to verify that TAT received timber from operations conducted in logging coupes containing old growth forest as defined by the Regional Forest Agreement⁷⁷ on at least 35 occasions throughout the 2009-2011 period.⁷⁸

It is important to note that 'old growth forest', as defined and mapped through the Tasmanian RFA process, fails to include all old growth forests in Tasmania. Therefore, TAT would be receiving timber from logging areas *not* defined as RFA old growth, but from areas where the forest is ecologically mature and not subjected to non-negligible unnatural disturbance such as logging, roading and clearing.⁷⁹ However, this investigation has also identified logging operations in significant areas of RFA defined

old growth that TAT has received logs from.

In addition, TAT has received timber from at least 88 logging operations undertaken in native forests in the 2008-2011 period defined as having 'high conservation value' by ENGOs The Wilderness Society, Environment Tasmania and the Australian Conservation Foundation. These logging operations have significantly contributed to the degradation of native forest ecosystems, some of which have been recognised as being of world heritage significance.

Other documents also obtained under Right to Information⁸⁰ demonstrate that TAT has undertaken peeling trials using celery top pine (*Phyllocladus aspleniifolius*) logs. Celery top pine is a slow-growing, endemic Tasmanian species that thrives only in rainforest and old growth conditions, taking hundreds of years to reach maturity.

The results of the peeling 'trials' have not been ascertained, but the experimental use of this rainforest species brings into question TAT's commitment and intention to source timber only from 'non old growth' sources. Celery-top pine takes on average over 150 years to reach 30cm diameter.⁸¹

Forestry Tasmania has discussed plans to use rainforest species for RPV. Of concern to the Huon Valley Environment Centre, Forestry Tasmania suggest in their innovation plan that old growth species such as Myrtle and Sassafras could be processed at the Ta Ann rotary veneer mills.⁸²

TA ANN IS UNDERMINING FOREST PROTECTION

This evidence is further backed up by the active role Ta Ann has taken in the process following the signing of the Statement of Principles (see Appendix I) in Tasmania in October 2010. The Statement of Principles is an agreement between major logging industry and environmental groups to charter a transition out of native forest logging in Tasmania.

The Principles call for immediate protection of ENGO identified high conservation value (HCV) forest and a rapid transition out of native forest logging into a plantation-based timber industry.

Major players in the Tasmanian native forest processing industry have made public commitments to transition out of native forest logging in line with these principles.⁸³ Tasmania's largest logging company Gunns Ltd have already announced that due to lack of market demand they are exiting the native forest sector.⁸⁴

TAT's publicly advertised commitment to



processing plantation timber should place them in a perfect position to embrace this transition. However, the company has played an active role in lobbying to retain access to native forest, thereby jeopardising the opportunity for an industry transition to plantation processing.⁸⁵ This continued lobbying against a rapid transition out of native forest is most likely motivated by the fact that TAT's operations are completely reliant on native forest timber.⁸⁶

In complete contradiction to the aforementioned advertising material and public statements to the international wood market, TAT's wood supply contract has been used by the Tasmanian Government and the state's forest management agency, Forestry Tasmania, to justify continued logging in environmentally significant areas of native forest.

When the Principles were first announced, the former Tasmanian Premier David Bartlett pledged that 'only after a plentiful high-quality native-timber wood supply guaranteed to saw millers and companies like Malaysian veneer maker Ta Ann, would the Government work out how much high-conservation-value forest was available to be protected.'⁸⁷ In August 2011, the Tasmanian Government made a public commitment to legislate to secure the wood supply to TAT.⁸⁸

Under pressure from TAT and Forestry Tasmania, the Tasmanian Government has made public commitments to extend access to native forest for at least 17 years, until 2027, in line with the company's contract. The Tasmanian *Mercury* reported that 'contracts for logging native forests are being promised by the [Tasmanian Government] until 2027 because Malaysian veneer company



Mr Rob Oakeshott MP
Parliament House
Canberra
cc Mr Tony Windsor MP
cc Members of the Federal Parliament

Dear Mr Oakeshott,

Re: Open Letter of Concern - incentives for native forest biomass burning

Your decision to support incentives for native forest-burning power stations has alarming ramifications for communities and natural ecosystems across Australia.

These include:

- The likelihood that carbon emissions will increase. In many circumstances, forest biomass emits more greenhouse gases than fossil fuels per unit of energy produced.ⁱ Australia's current accounting rules also mean most logging emissions are not accounted for, hiding real emissions.
- Australia's forests are some of the most carbon dense on Earth.ⁱⁱ Government policy that encourages the logging and burning of these forests to produce energy will lead to significant carbon emissions that would take centuries to recover.
- Current logging regimes are not ecologically sustainable. The logging of old growth and high conservation value forests and threatened species' habitats continues in Australia under existing regulatory regimes, and these regimes are demonstrably failing to protect environmental values.ⁱⁱⁱ Biomass harvesting is likely to involve intensified logging and heightened impacts on soil and invertebrate biodiversity and other forest values.^{iv}
- Under the 'high value test' covering biomass harvesting, the majority of timber from a logging operation could still be used as feedstock. High value products may form only a small percentage of the volume of timber removed from a logging area, indirectly making biomass the primary beneficiary of harvesting, just as low-value woodchips have historically been the driver for large scale logging.
- Biomass is a dirty fuel. In the United States, leading Medical Societies and health advocacy groups have called for a ban on biomass power plants as they pose an unacceptable risk to the public's health by increasing air pollution. Burning hundreds of thousands of tonnes of native forest will generate dangerous emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulphur dioxide.^v
- Providing renewable energy subsidies to the logging industry will undermine opportunities for the development of clean energy technologies and could decrease funding available to clean energy technologies through the Clean Energy Fund. The cap on Renewable Energy Certificates means native forest burning power stations could displace other, less polluting and damaging forms of renewable electricity.^{vi}
- Australians do not want energy generated from the burning of native forests supplied to their homes.^{vii} Major electricity retailers and the National GreenPower group have also rejected native forest biomass power.^{viii}

Australians overwhelmingly support greater native forest protection.

Mr Oakeshott, we urge you to consider seriously all the evidence and potential consequences related to your disallowance motion. It is our considered opinion that an evidence-based policy in this circumstance would retain the changes as proposed by the Multi-Party Climate Committee. We urge you to support this sensible policy change and act to safeguard Australian communities and ecosystems.

Yours sincerely,

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- ¹ Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. *Biomass Sustainability and Carbon Policy Study* Executive Summary. June 2010 and Hudiberg, T.W., Law, B.E., Wirth, C. and Luyssaert, S. (2011) 'Regional carbon dioxide implications of forest bioenergy production', *Nature Climate Change*, Vol 1 October 2011
- ¹¹ Heather Keith, Brendan G. Mackey, and David B. Lindenmayer. 'Re-evaluation of forest biomass carbon stocks and lessons from the world's most carbon-dense forests', *PNAS* 2009 106 (28) 11635-11640.
- ¹² For example, several successful and current court cases have and are proving the failure of forest management regulations to ensure the protection of endangered species' habitat in Victoria's public native forests.
- ¹³ Raison, R.J. et al. *Review of the science relevant to the sustainable use of native and plantation forest-harvesting residues for energy production in Tasmania*. CSIRO, 2002.
- ¹⁴ Charles D. Connor. President & CEO. American Lung Association. *Letter to United States House of Representatives*. June 24, 2009., Massachusetts Medical Society Adopts Policy Opposing Biomass Power Plants" December 9, 2009. <http://www.massmed.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search&template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=32796>
- ¹⁵ Macinstosh, Andrew. 'Oakeshott, Windsor biomass burner scheme Pythonesque.' *Crikey*. Monday, 13 February. <http://www.crikey.com.au/2012/02/13/oakeshott-windsor-biomass-burner-scheme/>
- ¹⁶ A Morgan Poll commissioned by the Wilderness Society in 2001 found that 88% of people opposed the use of native forest for wood-fired power.
- ¹⁷ Simon Miller, Acting Director-General, New South Wales Department of Water and Energy. Letter to Senator Bob Brown. August 2007.

May 17, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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The Honorable Harry Reid
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United States Senate
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Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Senator Reid,

We write to bring to your attention the importance of accurately accounting for carbon dioxide emissions from bioenergy in any law or regulation designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy use. Proper accounting can enable bioenergy to contribute to greenhouse gas reductions; improper accounting can lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions both domestically and internationally.

Replacement of fossil fuels with bioenergy does not directly stop carbon dioxide emissions from tailpipes or smokestacks. Although fossil fuel emissions are reduced or eliminated, the combustion of biomass replaces fossil emissions with its own emissions (which may even be higher per unit of energy because of the lower energy to carbon ratio of biomass). Bioenergy can reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide if land and plants are managed to take up additional carbon dioxide beyond what they would absorb without bioenergy. Alternatively, bioenergy can use some vegetative residues that would otherwise decompose and release carbon to the atmosphere rapidly. Whether land and plants sequester additional carbon to offset emissions from burning the biomass depends on changes both in the rates of plant growth and in the carbon storage in plants and soils. For example, planting fast-growing energy crops on otherwise unproductive land leads to additional carbon absorption by plants that offsets emissions from their use for energy without displacing carbon storage in plants and soils. On the other hand, clearing or cutting forests for energy, either to burn trees directly in power plants or to replace forests with bioenergy crops, has the net effect of releasing otherwise sequestered carbon into the atmosphere, just like the extraction and burning of fossil fuels. That creates a carbon debt, may reduce ongoing carbon uptake by the forest, and as a result may increase net greenhouse gas emissions for an extended time period and thereby undercut greenhouse gas reductions needed over the next several decades¹.

Many international treaties and domestic laws and bills account for bioenergy incorrectly by treating all bioenergy as causing a 100% reduction in emissions regardless of the source of the biomass. They perpetuate this error by exempting carbon dioxide from bioenergy from national emissions limits or from domestic requirements to hold allowances for energy emissions. Most renewable energy standards for electric utilities have the same effect because bioenergy is viewed as a renewable energy even when the biomass does not eliminate or even reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This general approach

¹ J. Fargione, J. Hill, Tilman D., Polasky S., Hawthorne P (2008), Land Clearing and the Biofuel Carbon Debt, *Science* 319:1235-1238

appears to be based on a misunderstanding of IPCC guidance². Under some scenarios, this approach could eliminate most of the expected greenhouse gas reductions during the next several decades.

U.S. laws will also influence world treatment of bioenergy. A number of studies in distinguished journals have estimated that globally improper accounting of bioenergy could lead to large-scale clearing of the world's forests³.

The lesson is that any legal measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must include a system to differentiate emissions from bioenergy based on the source of the biomass. The National Academy of Sciences has estimated significant potential energy production from the right sources of biomass⁴. Proper accounting will provide incentives for these sources of bioenergy.

Sincerely,

² T.D. Searchinger, S.P. Hamburg, J.Mellillo, W. Chameides, P.Havlik, D.M. Kammen, G.E. Likens, R. N. Lubowski, M. Obersteiner, M. Oppenheimer, G. P. Robertson, W.H. Schlesinger, G.D. Tilman (2009), Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error, *Science* 326:527-528

³ E.g., J.M. Mellillo, J.M. Reilly, D.W. Kicklighter, A.C. Gurgel, T.W. Cronin, S. Patsev, B.S. Felzer, X. Wang, C.A. Schlosser (2009), Indirect Emissions from Biofuels: How Important?, *Science* 326:1397-1399; Marshall Wise, Katherine Calvin, Allison Thomson, Leon Clarke, Benjamin Bond-Lamberty, Ronald Sands, Steven J. Smith, Anthony Janetos, James Edmonds (2009), Implications of Limiting CO2 Concentrations for Land Use and Energy, *Science* 324:1183-1186

⁴ National Research Council (2009), *Liquid Transportation Fuels from Coal and Biomass: Technological Status, Costs, and Environmental Impacts* (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.)

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— フォーレスト・デイ —

 **A forest a day**

A month-long project documenting the globally significant values and the ongoing destruction of Tasmania's magnificent forests during current forest negotiations

タスマニアにおける保護価値の高い森林伐採の現況

For more information visit www.taann.net
15 August 2012

This report has been prepared by:



Abbreviations

- CAR** – Comprehensive Adequate and Representative Reserve System
DFTD – devil facial tumour disease
ENGO – Environmental Non-Government Organisation
HCV – High Conservation Value
HVEC – Huon Valley Environment Centre
IGA – Inter Governmental Agreement
IUCN – International Union for Conservation of Nature
IVG – Independent Verification Group
MFC – Markets For Change
MFNP – Mount Field National Park
SWST – Still Wild Still Threatened
TLS – The Last Stand
TWWHA – Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area



Logging coupe WR00SA, Weld Valley / Rob Blakers

A forest a day

Executive Summary

There has been continuous logging in forests across Tasmania that were earmarked for protection and which have been independently verified as being of world heritage or national heritage value, despite promises of a comprehensive moratorium on logging these high conservation value forests.

Right now there are forests being logged that have been proven to be core habitat for a range of endangered and threatened species. These are the species that we risk losing if these forests are excluded from protection.

Every day of the past two years whilst negotiations over the fate of Tasmania's forests have been underway, forests whose future protection has been under discussion have been falling to the chainsaw. This inadequacy has been due to the influence of the forestry industry, with a major driver being Ta Ann, according to official documents (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a & 2011b). Sawmills supplying the domestic Australian market are also strongly implicated in these new logging incursions.

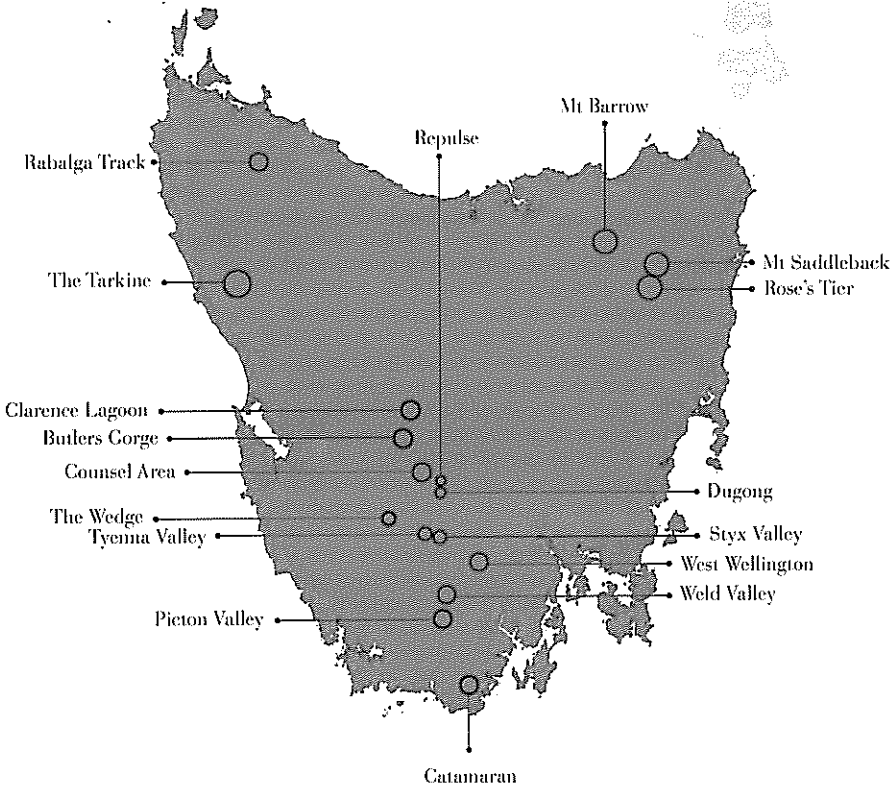
Forestry Tasmania has failed to reschedule all logging to occur outside of the forests nominated for protection. In July 2012, Tasmanian conservationists launched a new online project on taann.net and observertree.org called 'A forest a day'. Now consolidated into this report, the project showcases some of Tasmania's most significant forested ecosystems, and documents their ongoing destruction. Throughout July, a new area of forest on the current logging schedule was profiled each day. These forests are under imminent threat or had been logged in the period of time when they should have been under a moratorium.

We believe that a new three year plan constructed by Forestry Tasmania will continue to schedule logging inside proposed reserve areas, leading to yet more destruction of the very values sought to be protected. This seems likely to occur despite any final forests agreement being concluded – unless Forestry Tasmania are instructed that this is not acceptable or allowable.

Areas identified in 'A forest a day' Tasmania, Australia

The 'Forest a Day' project has been a unique opportunity for people around the globe to bear witness to the ongoing logging of Tasmania's globally and nationally significant forests. Never before has there been such an intensive account of the areas being logged or those crucial areas that remain threatened. 29 logging coupes were profiled throughout July in forests that were due for protection under the moratorium but are on logging plans instead. Of these, 15 have already been impacted by logging. This is just one small sample of significant forests around the state that are on the logging schedule right now.

This report provides a snapshot of the magnificent forests that are still under imminent threat from destructive logging and roading operations.



イントロダクション

景観価値の高い森林の伐採の暫定的な停止がオーストラリア連邦政府とタスマニア州政府により合意されているにも関わらず、タスマニアの森林が依然として伐採され続けています。こうした森林は世界遺産あるいは国家的な遺産を持つものとして、第三者の学術者グループにより確認されています。

まさにこの瞬間に、多くの絶滅危惧種や危惧種にとって中核的な生息地であることが証明されている森林が伐採され続けています。こうした野生動物は、もし保護の対象から除外されれば、消失のリスクを受けることになります。

過去二年間にわたって、タスマニアの森林の命運を占う交渉が進められているいまも、まさに保護をめぐる議論の最中にある森林がチェーンソーの犠牲に供されているのです。こうした禍根はタスマニアの林産業の影響によるもの以外の何ものでもありません。公的な文書によれば(Hoffmann & Williams 2011)によれば、その主要な要因はタ・アン社です。オーストラリア国内のマーケットに木材を提供している製材業はこの新顔の参入者により深甚な影響を被っています。

タスマニア林業公社は保護が推奨されている森林の対象外で行われる伐採のすべてを見直しすることができませんでした。

2012年7月、タスマニアの森林保護グループは、taannet と observertree.org のふたつのウェブによる新しいプロジェクト、「フォーレスト・デイ(A Forest Day)」をスタートさせました。ウェブにアップされた情報がいま、このレポートに集約されることで、タスマニアのもっとも重要な森林生態系の一部をさらに際立たせ、現在も進められている破壊の様子を記録しています。ウェブでは7月の一ヶ月間毎日のように、林業公社のスケジュールとおりに伐採が行われている森林エリアを詳しく紹介されていました。こうした森林は、差し迫った脅威を受けているか、モラトリウム(伐採の暫定的な停止)が本来なら行われるべき時期に実際に伐採されてしまったのです。

林業公社による新しい三カ年伐採計画は、保護の提唱地内部で伐採を続けるでしょうし、景観価値の高い森林のさらなる破壊がもたらされるでしょう。林業公社が承服しない限り、最終的な森林台数がかりに形成されても、破壊は続くことでしょう。

「フォーレスト・デイ」のプロジェクトは、世界中の人たちが、タスマニアの国際的にも、国家的にも重要な森林が伐採され続けている現実を目撃できる貴重な機会を提供しています。伐採されている森林、伐採の脅威を受けつつある森がこれほどに詳述されたレポートはかつてありませんでした。7月にアップされた29の伐採地は本来なら「モラトリウム」により保護されるはずでしたが、実際には伐採リストから除外されることはありませんでした。このうち15のエリアはすでに伐採のインパクトを被りました。しかしこれらは、いまなお伐採スケジュールに載っているタスマニアの重要な森林のほんの一部なのです。

レポートが、森林破壊と道路敷設による深甚な脅威を受け続けているタスマニアの壮大な森林の点描としてご覧いただければ幸いです。



Logging coupe BT013A, Butlers Gorge

Right now one of Tasmania's most significant tracts of tall eucalypt forest is being torn apart by logging machinery. Known as BT013A, this logging coupe in Butlers Gorge, Central Tasmania, was once a part of a pristine and untouched wilderness area. For months now, machinery and chainsaws have relentlessly devastated this forest and logging continues. This is despite the fact that Butlers Gorge has been identified by the government-endorsed team of independent scientific experts as being one of, if not the most, ecologically important tracts of tall eucalypt forest in Tasmania. Due to be protected by the conservation agreement, which was a critical part of the Intergovernmental Agreement signed in August last year, this area remained excluded from any protection and its values have been systematically degraded since then, along with those of other coupes along with two brand new roads which have been pushed into the pristine forests of Butlers Gorge. This coupe was targeted primarily for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets.

BT013A is a logging coupe that spans 139 hectares in size, with 94 hectares to be felled. This area features a tall *Eucalyptus delegatensis* canopy with an understorey dominated by rainforest species including sassafras and myrtle. The coupe is bordered by a large stream and also features two smaller watercourses that run through the logged areas. These two creeks received only a small buffer, with what is called a Machinery Exclusion Zone. This means that machines can't go within 10 meters of the creeks. However, logging can be done as close as 5 meters.

This area of forest has been verified as having world heritage value and is a critical part of the proposed new reserves. We are calling for an immediate cessation of logging, and rehabilitation of this coupe. Despite the devastating impact of logging, it is not too late to protect Butlers Gorge. An extension to the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (only 1km from BT013A) to include all of Butlers Gorge would make a significant ecological contribution to the reserve and preserve this magnificent tract of tall eucalypt forest.



Logging coupe BT013A, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers



Roading operations in logging coupe BT009D, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers

DAY 2:



Logging coupe BT009D, Butlers Gorge

BT009D is a 72 hectare logging coupe in Butlers Gorge situated only 300 metres from the World Heritage Area boundary, and within the 430,000 hectares that should have been under a conservation agreement since August 2011. Yet sadly, like 42 other logging coupes, it was excluded. Logging continues right now in BT009D. This coupe is being targeted primarily for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets.

This forest features a canopy of *Eucalyptus delegatensis* and *E. subcrenulata*. The understorey is varied and includes rainforest species such as leatherwood and horizontal, as well as swampy sections dominated by tea tree. The area is ideal habitat for a range of fauna.

Butlers Gorge shows the progression from mixed species eucalypt forests in the south transitioning to pure *Eucalyptus delegatensis* stands as the elevation increases and the climatic conditions become colder. This is one of the key reasons why this unique forest is recommended to be included in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, which is listed against Criterion (ix): “outstanding examples of significant on-going ecological and biological processes.” The IVG report concludes that ensuring these forests remain in “as close to a wilderness condition as possible” is the best way to ensure that such ecological processes are maintained (Hitchcock 2012:146).

This is an aerial photo of BT009D taken by photographer Rob Blakers in April 2012. This photo shows the scar of logging and roading operations encroaching on the otherwise pristine wilderness of Butlers Gorge.



Logging coupe TN046A, Tyenna Valley

This 27 hectare coupe is situated at the base of Mount Mueller, near the Styx and Tyenna Valleys. There is a magnificent walking track that takes visitors up the mountain to a glacial lake called Fossil Lake. This track is located right in the middle of the area scheduled for logging. This forest contains examples of western peppermints and snow peppermint gums with a mature rainforest understorey. Sassafras, myrtle, celery top pine, horizontal and leatherwood are common throughout the area. There are also substantial areas of pure rainforest present on the site and significant stands of native laurel. Other areas within the coupe are populated with mature tea trees, pandanii and heath.

This coupe is within 700m of the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. Hitchcock concludes that the Styx-Tyenna assessment area in which TN046A is located "would not only make a major contribution to the value and integrity of the TWWHA in respect of tall eucalypt forests but also facilitate maintenance of regional connectivity" (Hitchcock 2012:100).

This forest is within an area identified as having potential karst systems, based on data from the Tasmanian Karst Atlas (DPIPWE 2010). Hitchcock noted this in his report, stating "there is significant mapped karst within the ENGO-proposed lands" (Hitchcock 2012:101).

Still Wild Still Threatened have surveyed the area for wildlife using remote sensor cameras. Threatened species including Tasmanian devils and spot tailed quolls have been recorded within the coupe. There are also significant areas of mapped grey goshawk habitat in the surrounding areas that occur within a kilometer of this site.

Logging has not yet begun in this magnificent tract of forest. However, with the extension of the current inadequate "conservation agreement" it remains excluded from the moratorium and, as such, is under imminent threat of destruction. TN046A is on Forestry Tasmania's logging schedule for this year.



Logging coupe TN046A, Tyenna Valley / Alan Lesheim



Logging coupe SX020G, Styx Valley



Logging coupe SX020G, Styx Valley / Alan Lesheim

SX020G is located in Tasmania's iconic Styx Valley. These forests are known best for their significant stands of tall trees. In fact, the Styx Valley is home to almost 30% of Tasmania's recorded "giant" trees (Hitchcock 2012:98).

Most notable are the *Eucalyptus regnans*, the tallest flowering plant in the world. Hitchcock notes that the Styx not only features giant trees, but also provides the right ecological conditions for potential future giants (Hitchcock 2012:98).

One of the key reasons why this area should be protected is to maintain regional connectivity as it is a major node in the corridor of globally significant eucalypt forests stretching north-south (Hitchcock 2012:96).

This forest features tall eucalypts with a diverse understorey. Extensive stands of myrtle and celery-top pine are present. This coupe is also within an area mapped as potential grey goshawk habitat. This species is listed as endangered (*Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act*), due to the continuing decline of mature individuals (FPA 2008:10).

According to the Forest Practices Authority, a high proportion of the core habitat for this species is in areas that are not protected (FPA 2008:10). Goshawks generally prefer forest with a closed canopy and low stem density, particularly during nesting season. While further study needs to be done on their hunting patterns, it is believed that interconnecting forest areas of 20-30km squared are required to sustain a population and that mature wet forests are their preferred hunting areas. The Forest Practices Authority also states that "one of the key threats for the grey goshawks is widespread native vegetation clearance" (FPA 2008:10).

While SX020G is within the 430,000 hectares which was due to be in a conservation agreement as of August 2011, the coupe remains open for logging. This coupe is being logged to produce saw logs and veneer (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b:8).

Logging has not yet begun in this coupe, and there is still time to ensure that this forest is protected.



Logging coupe BB021E, Weld Valley

A proposed new road and logging coupe in the Barnback Creek region has the potential to destroy the values of a previously unroaded forest area in the Lower Weld Valley. However, there is still time for these forests to be protected as logging has not commenced yet.

Barnback Creek, located in southern Tasmania, flows through wet fern-filled forests into the Weld River. A new 2.5km road and logging area of 70 hectares is planned for the northern flank of the creek, which would destroy significant stands of *Eucalyptus regnans* and *Eucalyptus obliqua*.

Forestry Tasmania plans to cable log the area. The Federal Government's inadequate conservation agreement left this area open for logging. This forest is a spectacular mixed aged eucalypt forest.

In 2006 a new logging road, named Eric Pettets Road, was built. After 16 months of direct action by peaceful protesters who blockaded the proposed road extension with a spectacular Weld Ark, the road was pushed further into the previously unroaded area. More than 50 people were arrested in the ensuing protests. Two areas of forest have been logged along this road. The new proposed road would push in to previously unlogged forest off Eric Pettets Rd.

Barnback Creek is a 6km tributary of the Weld River. During the community blockade and since, thousands of people visited the area, explored the forests, studied them and defended the forests from logging on the frontline. This significant roading operation was due to commence in January 2012, and then logging was to commence in winter 2012. If logged, these forests will go to feed the mill of Malaysian logging giant Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b). The delay for this new road and logging operation means that these forests still have a chance to be protected.

BB021E is in a sea of *Dicksonia antarctica* or manferns. This species is very slow growing, between 1 – 10 cms a year depending on the conditions. It can live up to 1000 years and the trunk of tree ferns provide habitat to the twelve species of Tasmanian epiphytic ferns (Gibson & Leahy 2010). *Dicksonia antarctica* is a very important component of the Tasmanian bush. It is extremely hardy and tolerates temperatures from 10 to 40 degrees celsius, prefers fertile organic soils and moist, humid conditions with some shade. The tender and fleshy croziers (the young, uncurling fronds) can be a food source for native animals such as possums and parrots (DPIPWE 2012a).




Logging coupe BB021E, Weld Valley



Logging coupe DU021B, Dugong / Alan Lesheim

DAY 6:



Logging coupe DU021B,
Dugong

This recently logged 96 hectare coupe is within an area north of Mount Field National Park (MFNP) that has been recommended to be added, along with the current National Park, to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012: 128).

The boundary of MFNP in the north is a straight line that cuts across the landscape and topography of the area. Hitchcock states that this is “far from ideal” (Hitchcock 2012: 136). Hence, these recommended additions would greatly improve the current reserve design.

One purpose of including the lands surrounding the Park is to strengthen the values of the current protected area. A more suitable boundary has been recommended by Hitchcock which takes into account a range of factors including protection of cave systems, catchment areas for those cave systems, connectivity of tall eucalypt forests, and natural features in the landscape (Hitchcock 2012: 135). DU021B is within this proposed extension.

“The ENGO proposed reserves associated with MFNP are an integral part of the larger assessment area and take their high conservation significance from being part of that larger block” (Hitchcock 2012:132). MFNP has significant world heritage value, including remarkable glacial features and extensive cave systems.

Yet despite these recommendations, logging has proceeded in this area. With forestry operations occurring in such close proximity to the boundary of MFNP, the conservation values of the protected area are put at risk. We are calling for an immediate cessation of logging and roading operations within the forests that are proposed for future reserves.



Logging coupe BB021C, Weld Valley

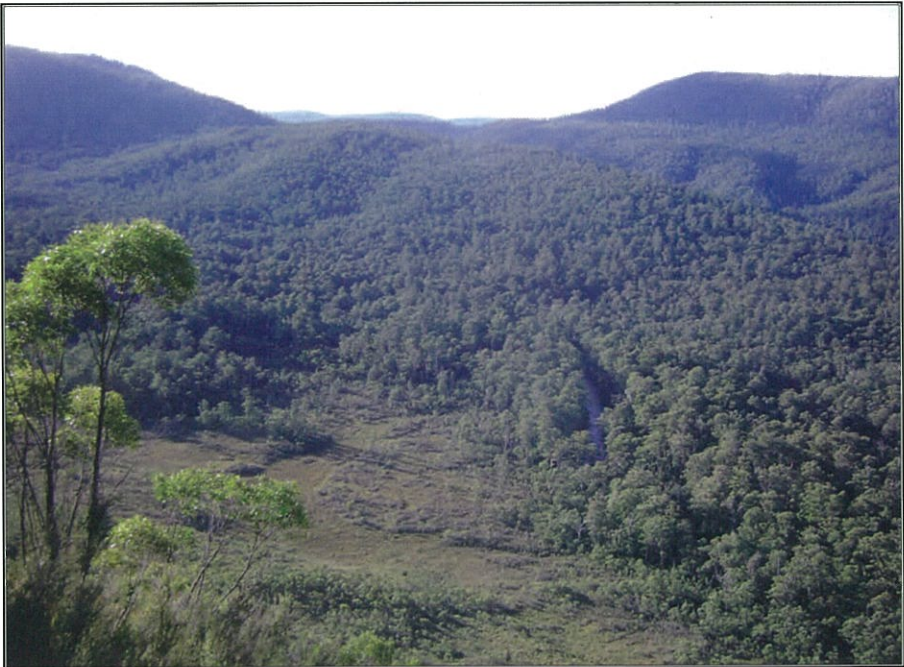
Logging coupe BB021C, located in the lower Weld Valley, is an area of forest that was left out of the conservation agreement and which was first logged in 2007. This logging operation was the first incursion into the wild Eddy Creek catchment, and commenced after the removal of the Weld Ark community blockade, which was stopping logging activity in the area and featured a full-sized replica pirate ship built on the road.

Logging continued in the coupe during 2011, and BB021C remains unprotected by the conservation agreement due to further plans to log this spectacular area.

BB021C was a community of mature wet forests – *Eucalyptus regnans*, tall *Eucalyptus obliqua* and mature blackwood - which contained suitable habitat for threatened species such as the white bellied sea eagle, wedge tailed eagle, grey goshawk, masked owl, eastern quoll, Australian grayling and eastern barred bandicoot (FT 2006).

The nearby Barnback Creek is a known location for the Little Denison crayfish, a threatened species that is endemic to this region (FT 2008).

The forested region of Barnback and Eddy Creek catchments contain *Acacia melanoxylon* forest on flats, and areas of *Acacia melanoxylon* swamp communities. These swamp communities are a nationally uncommon plant community - essentially confined to Tasmania - and now a rare aspect of Australian vegetation (Hitchcock 2012:245).



Logging coupe BB021C, Weld Valley, photographed before logging operations began in 2007



Logging coupe SX028J, Styx Valley / Emma Capp

DAY 8:



Logging coupe SX028J, Styx Valley

The spectacular forests located in coupe SX028J are currently being destroyed by logging operations. This tract of forest was formerly populated with giant eucalypt trees, a number of which had visible hollows. Below the upper canopy was a thick rainforest understorey consisting of myrtle beech, celery-top pine, sassafras and tree ferns. Mapping data indicates a wedge tailed eagle nest in the vicinity of SX028J, and also identifies this forest as quoll habitat.

Immediately adjacent to a reserve, SX028J's high conservation value has made the logging of this forest highly contentious. A number of community protest actions took place when the first section of this coupe was logged last year, at a time when it should have been protected by a moratorium. An additional section of this forest is being logged right now.

This image shows the immense size of the eucalypts in this forest as well as the clear felling that is currently occurring in SX028J. The trees in the foreground and the forest behind them will be felled in the coming days or weeks.

The much anticipated forest agreement will not come in time to save this magnificent forest from logging operations.



Logging coupe WR008A, Weld Valley



Logging coupe WR008A, Weld Valley / Rob Blakers

In a remote region of the Lower Weld Valley an intact old growth ecosystem remains untouched by the industrial logging regime in Tasmania. The conservation agreement, signed between the Federal Minister for the Environment Tony Burke and Tasmania's Deputy Premier Bryan Green, failed to protect these forests. Logging coupe WR008A was an agreed exclusion for the purposes of the conservation agreement and, as such, is under threat from logging operations.

WR008A is a scheduled logging coupe of 45ha inside a wilderness area contiguous with the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA). This logging coupe was scheduled to start between 1 March and 30 June 2012. These forests currently remain intact. The scheduled logging has not commenced.

The threatened forests of the Weld Valley, along with the Picton and Huon Valleys were identified in the independent verification process as being collectively part of the largest single tract of tall eucalypt forest ecosystem extant in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:77).

This significant forest area is an example of the magnificent forests that are still under threat from logging operations, and which, sadly, the government had the opportunity to protect under a revised conservation agreement. However, this forest is still under imminent threat even as negotiations that will decide its future are underway.



Logging coupe TN044B, Tyenna Valley

The spectacular area of forest in which The Observer Tree is located is a prime example of Tasmania's ancient forests. This coupe is located within a kilometre of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area and has been recommended for inclusion in the protected area (Hitchcock 2012:77). Yet it remains under threat from logging.

In mid-December 2011 logging machinery began work in this coupe. Two days later the Observer Tree was launched, bringing international attention to the plight of this threatened forest. By the end of the first week, logging machinery had been removed from the coupe and has not returned. However, this coupe still remains on the forestry schedule and loggers could return any day.

This world heritage valued forest features tall eucalypts towering above a rainforest understorey. The giant old trees contain many hollows, providing habitat for a range of species. These tall eucalypts are the survivors of a natural fire that may have come through the area a hundred years ago. They stand side by side with a new generation of younger eucalypts. Leatherwood, celery top pine, and sassafras are abundant and the steep gullies overflow with ferns.

This forest is home to a few much-loved Tasmanian devils, including a mother devil and her young. On December 12th 2011, conservationists captured footage of a mother devil carrying food in her mouth. A few months later, a healthy juvenile devil was seen in the same area, new out of the den. The protection of this area is critical, as maternal devil den sites are used from generation to generation and play an important role in the survival of this species. As well as devils, many other threatened or endangered species have been documented in the area including goshawks, wedge tail eagles, and spot tail quolls. The pristine waterways of this forest flow from the top of Mount Mueller and are home to endangered hydrobiid snails (FT 2007).

Yet the survival of the flora and fauna of this forest is at risk, due to Ta Ann's wood supply demands. This coupe was meant to be protected by a conservation agreement, when the Inter Governmental Agreement (IGA) was signed in August 2011. Sadly, this forest was excluded in order to provide wood to Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b).



Logging coupe TN044B, Tyenna Valley / Rob Blakers



Logging coupe BS101D, Mount Barrow / Kip Nunn

DAY 11:



Logging coupe BS101D, Mount Barrow

Situated close to the Mount Barrow Forest Reserve, this 30 hectare logging coupe is part of a cluster of areas nominated for protection in Tasmania's north east. This forest contains significant national heritage value. A key issue with the forest reserve system in north-east Tasmania is the current lack of connectivity between reserves. By adding tracts of forest to the existing reserves, there will be greater connectivity, providing critical habitat corridors for a range of species. In recommending this area for protection, Hitchcock paid attention to the "value of recognisable corridors for achieving long term biological conservation." (Hitchcock 2012:265) and stated that "for connectivity to be effective the connecting corridors must as far as practicable be capable of facilitating movement of all relevant species, not just a particular species" (Hitchcock 2012:265).

This coupe features a *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Eucalyptus delegatensis* canopy with a rainforest understorey. Flora species in the area include: sassafra, mountain pepper, musk and daisybush, as well as a diversity of ferns. The coupe is bordered by several streams, and in addition, two creeks run through the area due to be logged (FT 2011a:5). These streams are potential habitat for the north east forest snail (FT 2011a:9). Some of the fauna seen in the area includes platypus, wombats and yellow-tailed black cockatoos. Fauna cameras have been placed in the area by forest campaign group Code Green in order to monitor for endangered species, including Tasmanian devils. The results of these studies have not been finalised, however the area has been identified as possible habitat for devils and Code Green are looking forward to finding out if there is a healthy population in the area.

A small section of this coupe has been logged. This area was felled during the time when the coupe should have been under a moratorium. The machines have left, and the majority of the coupe remains intact. But logging could begin again at any time. The major reason for logging in this coupe is to produce peeler billets (such as those required by Ta Ann) (Hoffmann & Williams 2011b:8).



Logging coupe BT011C, Butlers Gorge

This logging coupe, situated amongst the spectacular forests of Butlers Gorge, was meant to be in a moratorium many months ago. However, in recent months, Forestry Tasmania has pushed a brand new road through the Butlers Gorge wilderness to give the logging industry access to coupe BT011C. The question remains: why are Forestry Tasmania continuing to spend tax-payer funds on new roads into areas that are on the table as future reserves?

Butlers Gorge has exceptional wilderness value, and prior to the advent of logging and new roads within the past decade, it was mapped as "high quality wilderness" [Wilderness Mapping 2006] (Hitchcock 2012:147). This quality is being compromised by current and planned forestry operations in the area. However, there is still a great opportunity here to protect one of our most significant areas of tall eucalypt forest. As the IVG report states, "Only with the recent advent of roading and selective logging has the wilderness quality been eroded but with cessation of logging and some rehabilitation, this outstanding tract of tall eucalypt forest could again be restored to wilderness condition" (Hitchcock 2012:146).



Logging coupe BT009D, Butlers Gorge / Rob Blakers



Image captured by remote sensor fauna cameras in logging coupe BS115H, Mount Barrow

DAY 13:



Logging coupe BS115H, Mount Barrow

BS115H, a 60 hectare logging coupe, is located in north east Tasmania close to the Mount Barrow State Forest Reserve. This coupe is being targeted primarily for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:12) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets. This area was once home to a strong population (often described in plague proportions) of Tasmanian devils (Owen & Pemberton 2005). This species is now listed as endangered in both the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Protection Act*.

Members of Code Green have been monitoring the *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forest in BS115H using remote sensor fauna cameras. The results have shown the presence of Tasmanian devils which appear to be healthy and disease free. This is a particularly significant finding for this area, as the devils of north east Tasmania have been impacted most significantly by the effects of the deadly devil facial tumour disease (DFTD). The Save the Devil Program has reported that devil populations in this region of Tasmania have declined by 96% as of February 2011 (Save the Devil Program 2011).

Unfortunately for these devils logging has resumed in sections of this coupe since these images were taken. Such logging activity is potentially threatening the habitat of these devils and other populations in the area. This destruction of habitat has continued on this site despite the fact that this forest was promised protection as part of the Conservation Agreement.

Forestry Tasmania have themselves acknowledged that the forests adjacent to this coupe are potential habitat for devils (FT 2011b). Yet logging has been allowed to proceed. The impact of logging operations on devil habitat and in particular sites where maternal dens occur has been inadequately addressed by the current forestry management systems. According to Dr Peter McQuillan, 'no special effort is made to identify and protect devil den sites in Forest Practice Plans' (McQuillan 2012:29).

Logging coupe SX028C,
Styx Valley



Logging coupe SX028C, Styx Valley / Emma Capp

SX028C is an area of intact high conservation value forest that is on the current logging schedule to be logged in 2012.

This forest is dominated by *Eucalyptus regnans*. These tall eucalypt trees are hundreds of years old and provide critically important habitat hollows that are a unique feature of old forests. This species is the tree that the Styx Valley is perhaps the most well-renowned for. These giants are the tallest flowering plant in the world. They are also documented as having the highest biomass carbon stocks (Mackey 2008:28).

Protecting forests as significant carbon stores is increasingly critical to mitigate climate change. Old forests such as this one have been shown to have a larger carbon store than industrialised forests, which hold around 40-60% less carbon (Mackey 2008:6). This is because significant volumes of carbon have been emitted to the atmosphere as a result of logging operations and that the carbon density is never regained on the ground unless the original forest is completely restored.

The understorey features mature wet rainforest, including myrtle, celery-top pine and a diverse array of ferns. The forest floor is abundant with moss, lichen and fungi.

This area of forest is within the 572,000 hectares of forests that has been proposed by environment groups and is the subject of ongoing negotiations.



Logging coupe SA152B, Mount Saddleback

This 45 hectare logging coupe in north east Tasmania is situated within the 572,000 hectares of forests that have been proposed for protection by environment groups and is the subject of ongoing negotiations.

Sadly, it remains on the logging schedule for 2012. This is a mixed forest with a diversity of species and a diversity of ages. Old eucalypts, some scarred by fire from the distant past, grow beside younger trees.

This forest contains a great diversity of lichen and fungi growing in the natural leaf litter on the forest floor, supporting the biological cycling of nutrients into the soil. Such leaf litter and detritus, and the tiny organisms that exist within them, are often destroyed in the high intensity burns that are conducted by the forestry industry following logging.

Lichen is a symbiotic relationship between fungi and a photosynthetic organism (most commonly algae). These two are co-dependent, the fungi providing water retention, the algae providing nutrients. One type of lichen common in this coupe is called 'old man's beard' or *Usnea*. It is known to be sensitive to air pollution, which can restrict its growth to a few millimeters. In an environment with clean air it can grow to 10–20 cm long.



Logging coupe SA152B, Mount Saddleback / Katherine Tattersall



Logging coupe WE038A, the Wedge, photographed in June 2008 / Laura Minnebo

DAY 16:



Logging coupe WE038A, The Wedge

This coupe is located in the Wedge forests, south-western Tasmania. It is situated on exceedingly steep terrain, and will therefore be subject to a clear felling cable logging operation. This coupe was already partially logged in 2007 and then subject to high intensity burns in 2008. Forestry Tasmania have now listed the coupe on their current harvest schedule, with a plan to return this year to log an addition 12 hectares (FT 2012a).

The coupe is within 500 meters of the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. And this area has been recommended for inclusion into the World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012:112). This forest contains old growth *Eucalyptus delegatensis* and *Eucalyptus obliqua* with a rainforest understorey, along with substantial stands of leatherwood. The tall eucalypt value of this forest is one of the key world heritage values. In addition, the area has significant scenic value. It is an integral part of the landscape of the adjoining TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:112).

The waterways in this coupe are known to contain rare hydrobiid snail species *Phrantela pupiformis* (Davis & Monks 2009). This species inhabits streams and can also be found in moss, on small waterfalls and in fern roots. It is listed as rare in the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*. According to the IUCN Red List “this species may be threatened to a degree by habitat degradation and land clearance from forestry and sedimentation” (IUCN 2012). It has a very small distribution and the recommendation of the IUCN is that further research should be done on the population and potential threats: “In order to maintain the stability of this species’ habitat and water quality, it is advised that not only should the species’ locality be protected, but also the waters upstream” (IUCN 2012).



Logging coupe CO003A, Counsel area

The Counsel forests are an area of great ecological significance, containing a high level of floristic diversity. The area consists of predominantly mixed forest with some stands of dry sclerophyll forests and some areas of callidendrous and thamnic rainforests. Still Wild Still Threatened have documented evidence of Tasmanian devils in this area. CO003A is approximately one kilometer from the current Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. It has been recommended to be included within the boundary. The existing boundary of the TWWHA in this area is considered inadequate as it follows the contour and leaves "the best development of the tall eucalypt system" outside the boundary of the protected area (Hitchcock 2012:138).

This site is located on rocky terrain and has the potential to feature sink holes and caves. This coupe is just north of one of the most extensive tracts of karst in Australia that has been rated as nationally significant in the Tasmanian Geoconservation Database. Hitchcock recommended that this whole region, including this coupe, be protected in order to maintain the integrity of the karst systems and in particular to keep the catchment pristine.

The Counsel area is known for its tall eucalypts and this coupe was no exception, featuring significant tall trees. Of all the registered "giant trees" in Tasmania there are three main clusters in the state. The Counsel is one of these, "indicative of the superlative form of the tall eucalypt forest in the precinct" (Hitchcock 2012:138). This coupe and the areas around it are considered to be essentially the last relics of the once extensive tall eucalypt forests in this region. Industrial scale forestry has been increasingly encroaching on this particular tract. Given that so much of the surrounding forest has been decimated, these relics have become increasingly important for conservation (Hitchcock 2012:137). These forests are also important for regional conductivity, being connected to the Florentine Valley in the south, which also contains significant tall eucalypt forest (Hitchcock 2012:137). This regional connectivity is one the key reasons for this area to be protected (Hitchcock 2012:138).

This coupe has sadly been logged now, in a time when it should have been protected by a moratorium. In fact, this coupe was logged just after the March 15th deadline for the original moratorium that was promised by the Statement of Principles, that had been set to cover 572,000 hectares of forest, but was never fully implemented. However, there is still intact old growth forest surrounding this coupe. Hitchcock states: "The ENGO proposed reserves include some recently logged coupes and it is considered that these logged areas should never-the-less be included in any protection to ensure as far as possible a consolidated block of forest that facilitates on going natural processes in the protected lands in the longer term" (Hitchcock 2012:143).

We are calling for immediate formal protection of these forests, the rehabilitation of this site and the immediate cessation of any logging in the Counsel area.



Logging coupe C0003A, Counsel area / Rob Blakers



Logging coupe C0003A, Counsel area / Rob Blakers



Logging coupe CZ006C, Clarence Lagoon



Logging coupe CZ006C, Clarence Lagoon / Rob Blakers

Surrounded on three sides by the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, a section of state forest creates a hole in the protected area. Located near Lake Saint Claire, this enclave contains logging coupe CZ006C, which is scheduled for logging this year. This coupe is being targeted for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:10) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets. The coupe and the area surrounding it are “naturally vegetated by a mosaic of eucalypt forest, leptospermum woodland and treeless moorland” (Hitchcock 2012:153). Despite some logging in the vicinity the overall condition “is one of a natural landscape with natural vegetation”.

One of the critical issues for this region is the presence of Clarence Lagoon, located just inside the boundary of the TWWHA, but with its catchment area extended into the unprotected state forest. This is a critical habitat site for the endangered Clarence galaxias (*Galaxias johnstoni*) (Hitchcock 2012:153). This is an endemic freshwater fish species that is found in the lagoon and downstream in the Clarence River, which is located within the area proposed by environment groups to be included in the reserve. The only other known habitat sites are 5-6 small lagoons (Hitchcock 2012:153). The Threatened Species Listing Statement declares that “all populations of Clarence galaxias are essential to the species’ long-term viability and require protection and management” (Threatened Species Unit Listing Statement 1998:1). This region surrounding Clarence Lagoon has therefore been recommended by Hitchcock to be included in the TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:154).

A road has been built into this coupe. However, it’s not too late to protect this area from logging.



Logging coupe RP034A, Repulse / Alan Leshem

DAY 19:



Logging coupe RP034A,
Repulse

This massive 137 hectare logging coupe is near Misery Road in the Repulse River catchment, central Tasmania. This forest is part of the core area of 430,000 hectares that was promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Yet, like many other high conservation value forests across the state, it has been subject to logging since the signing of that agreement.

The coupe has been completed in sections, with some areas already burnt. The final section was logged within the past few months. The creek that runs through the area, which was given only a small buffer zone, was badly damaged by the high intensity burn and then further degraded as the vegetation has suffered from edge effects that come with the sudden exposure to wind and sunlight.

This logging coupe is within an area that has been recommended for protection by the independent verification assessment. Its close proximity to Mount Field National Park is of particular significance. The current boundary of the park is inadequate and the inclusion of this area to the north of the current park would greatly enhance the value of the reserve.

It has been recommended by Hitchcock that the Mount Field National Park along with the Repulse forests and other surrounding areas should be incorporated into the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012:132).



Logging coupe RU043H, West Wellington



Logging coupe RU043H, West Wellington / Rob Blakers

A significant area of forest that was left out of the Conservation Agreement, and which failed to receive promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement, was logged in the West Wellington region. West Wellington is a sub-alpine region of native forests that adjoins the Mt Wellington reserve in southern Tasmania.

West Wellington is a very significant area of largely intact tall eucalyptus forest (Hitchcock 2012:104). The tall eucalypts occupy high elevations in some parts of the West Wellington region.

The eastern-most larger block of around 5,000 ha of diverse forest, including extensive regrowth tall eucalypt forest, is largely intact and is of obvious potential interest for conservation as surrounding lands are increasingly developed (Hitchcock, 2012:105). The immediately adjoining Wellington Park greatly enhances the conservation potential of the area (Hitchcock 2012: 105).

The tall eucalypt forests, which form a near intact continuous corridor connecting from Mount Wellington west to the Snowy Range, and hence the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, were assessed as being of considerable natural heritage significance (Hitchcock 2012:105).

The native forests of West Wellington are the water catchments for communities of Crabtree, Lucaston and Judbury. RU043H is an area of forest that has been logged in the past twelve months. The area of forest was a mixed forest of regrowth forest after some fire disturbance and mature old growth forest (HVEC 2011:25).

These forests were targeted by Forestry Tasmania for wood supply to Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a). In 2010 a moratorium on logging in the ENGOs' identified high conservation value forests was due to be in place in December.

The so-called 'moratorium' failed these forests in West Wellington, like so many others across the state.



Logging coupe PC015B, Picton Valley



Logging coupe PC015B / Laura Minnebo

Logging coupe PC015B, located in the Picton Valley, southern Tasmania, is an area of forest that has been logged over the past few months. This forest, and the old growth ecosystems surrounding it, could have been protected under the promised moratorium and conservation agreement.

In June 2011, a new 2.6 km logging road was pushed into a remote tract of old growth forest, which enabled the logging industry access to this section of the Picton Valley throughout the duration of a promised moratorium.

In September 2011, logging commenced in these old growth *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forests, which are part of a large tract of remote wilderness forest contiguous with the Hartz Mountains National Park and the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA).

Tasmania's Intergovernmental Agreement on Forests was signed on 7 August 2011, and one month later Forestry Tasmania continued to schedule logging in forests that were identified as being in need of protection. PC015B was primarily targeted by Forestry Tasmania to supply wood for Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a). However, there is still time for the remaining forests in this area to be protected, as logging was suspended due to the logging road being too 'green', meaning it made it too difficult for the loggers and log trucks to access these forests (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a).

Our organisations made public pleas for these forests to be protected as part of the 'forests negotiation process', as logging in this area had not commenced when Giddings and Gillard promised the immediate protection of these forests within the ENGO nominated 430,000ha.

The ecological consequences of the logging of these old growth forests are significant, contributing to a global loss of native forests, pushing wildlife to the brink of extinction and contributing to climate change.

The Picton Valley, along with the Weld and Huon Valleys, are considered to possess important natural and cultural heritage values that relate particularly to the World Heritage values of the adjoining Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In particular, these lands contribute a new complementary 'lowland' or lower valley manifestation of attributes already within the TWWHA, for example glacial, karst, tall eucalypt forest and rainforest (Hitchcock 2012:87).



Logging coupe CM004C, Catamaran / Emma Capp

DAY 22:



Logging coupe CM004C, Catamaran

Ln far south Tasmania, a World Heritage bordering forest, known to Forestry Tasmania as logging coupe CM004C, was left out of the Conservation Agreement and subsequently logged.

This forest area was tall eucalyptus forest, core habitat for the grey goshawk, masked owl and spotted tailed quoll. The forest was potential habitat for cave dwelling invertebrates, as the logging site is a steep, high erodibility area, with a karst system down slope from the operation (FT 2011c). The Forest Practices Plan provided by Forestry Tasmania states that the new 1.4km road that was needed to access the 57 ha coupe is located in a karst catchment. Glacial deposits and possible fossils related to the Jurassic Basalt, which form the upper parts of the northern hill of the coupe, are major geomorphic considerations (FT 2011c).

The key company driving the logging in these high conservation value forests is Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a). Logging in this coupe commenced after Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Premier Lara Giddings announced that the Inter-Governmental Agreement in August 2011 would provide 'immediate protection in informal reserves' for forests such as these. CM004C is located within the 572,000ha of forests identified for legislated protection.

These world heritage value forests are located behind Recherche Bay and south of the D'Entrecasteaux River. This region contains Australia's most southerly forests.

The eucalypt forests in the region south of the D'Entrecasteaux River to Cockle Creek include some of the most southerly tracts of eucalypt forest in Australia, indeed the world. The natural diversity of this small forest complex is at the southern latitudinal limits of the Australian eucalypt and rainforest flora and fauna. The globally significant eucalypts here can be expected to be of enduring scientific interest, especially given the historic research conducted by the French scientists in the area. The eucalypt forests of the Recherche area would contribute to the ecological integrity of the adjoining Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) by preserving the natural vegetation sequence from sea level to tree limit on Mount La Perouse. This is particularly important for maintaining vegetation conditions conducive to natural fire interaction with the vegetation, especially on foothills and escarpment of the existing TWWHA. The eucalypt forests of this narrow lowland corridor are an integral part of a still existing natural connectivity of tall eucalypt communities, which extends up the eastern side (mostly outside) of the TWWHA, an important element in the long-term conservation of this ecosystem (Hitchcock 2012:58).

They remain unprotected, due to an "illogical and unsustainable boundary" (Hitchcock 2012:54). The adjacent section of the TWWHA incorporates only a disjunct series of remnant tall eucalypt forest, the greater part of the otherwise continuous tract of tall eucalypt forest being located just outside the TWWHA boundary, an artifact of the drawing of the original protected area boundary which excluded the commercially important tall eucalypt forests. The ENGO-proposed reserves include the main corridor of tall eucalypt forest otherwise excluded from this section of the TWWHA. This corridor of tall eucalypt forest is relevant to the concept outlined elsewhere for protection—within the TWWHA—of a regional-scale tall eucalypt corridor from Cockle Creek to central Tasmania as a means of ensuring regional connectivity for the globally significant tall eucalypt ecosystems in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:56).

Recent reports that have verified the values of this forest region have stated that, "given the gross under representation of the ecological diversity of tall eucalypt forest in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area, there is a clear case to remedy that situation. The tall eucalypt forests in the lowlands of the Recherche Bay—D'Entrecasteaux coast potentially represents a significant contribution to the ecological integrity of the TWWHA (southern limit, alpine summit to sea sequence on one slope—The 'French transect'—Mount La Perouse to Recherche Bay). This area provides the best opportunity to capture the full range of elevation values in the TWWHA—of significant benefit to the ecological function and integrity of the TWWHA and particularly important to assist adaptation to climate change (Hitchcock 2012:57).

Protection of this southern coastal precinct of Tasmania would link up the World Heritage Area, Southport Lagoon Conservation Area and the National Heritage listed Recherche Bay area. The cultural heritage value of the Recherche Bay area would make a significant contribution to the integrity of the TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:60).

Notwithstanding a significant amount of past disturbance within the assessed area caused by coupe-based logging, the longer term view is that natural rehabilitation can be expected to progressively eliminate both the direct and indirect impacts of those logged coupes. The assessed area comprises mostly coastal lowland rising inland to foothills, and is predominantly forested with significant areas of tall eucalypt forest. The Recherche Bay region has historic significance for the discovery and first formal description of the eucalypts of the world. The first eucalypts collected for science were from the region and the first eucalypt officially described also came from the region (Bruny Island) (Hitchcock 2012:55).

Pro logging industry supporters and Ta Ann have, in the past months, tried to question the conservation values of CM004C. However the facts are that some minor disturbance occurred in the region in the start of last century. These disturbances however were negligible compared to the current forms of industrial scale clearfelling. The forests of CM004C were unroaded until 2011 and the verified values of the remaining threatened tall eucalypt forests in this region, that are part of a remote tract of wilderness area with world heritage values, require urgent protection from ongoing logging.



Logging coupe PC085A, Picton Valley



Logging coupe PC085A, Picton Valley / Nishant Datt

Some areas of tall eucalypt and old growth forests in the Picton Valley have been intensively logged for many years. However, significant large tracts of these world heritage value forests remain, and their urgent protection from ongoing logging practices will ensure their globally unique values be spared from the chainsaw. The tall eucalypt forests in the Weld, Picton and Middle Huon Valleys are collectively part of the largest single tract of tall eucalypt forest ecosystem extant in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:77).

In the Picton Valley now, there is one area of verified high conservation value forest that is being logged, and three large areas of verified high conservation value forests that remain under imminent threat. All of these forests were left out of the promised conservation agreement that could have provided interim protection for these ecosystems. One such area is logging coupe PC085A. Located on West Picton Rd, this old growth forest borders the Picton River. This forest has not had logging operations commence as yet, though logging is scheduled to start at any time. The company that is driving the logging of these forests is Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a).

This 62 hectare coupe is within the core range of the Tasmanian masked owl (*Tyto novaehollandiae castanops*) and contains significant habitat for this species (FT 2012b). The Tasmanian masked owl is an endangered species (DPIPWE 2012b) dependent on hollows in mature eucalypt trees, and is endemic to Tasmania. The Tasmanian masked owl is the second largest nocturnal raptor in Australia (DSEWPCa 2012), and has been listed as endangered in Tasmania since 1995 (DSEWPCa 2012). Threats to the masked owl include habitat clearing and fragmentation (including forestry activities). Between 1996 and 2009, approximately 142 000 hectares of native forest in Tasmania have been converted to monoculture plantation or agricultural land (FPA, 2009). This has resulted in the loss of nesting habitat (large tree hollows) and an increased level of threat to the endangered masked owl (DSEWPC 2012a).

Reports to the Independent Verification Group recently stated that the availability of mature eucalypt habitat is important for a range of hollow-dwelling and hollow-dependent vertebrate species that rely on these features for facets of their life cycle (Knight & Cullen 2012:7). Loss of hollow bearing trees is widely recognised as a threat to the survival of a wide range of Australian vertebrate fauna, and has statutory recognition as a threatening process in New South Wales and Victoria. However, information on the specific habitat requirements for a large proportion of hollow dwelling species is lacking (Knight & Cullen 2012:7). If protected, Tasmania's southern forests, including the Picton Valley, will make a significant contribution to the additional protection of the ranges of hollow-using birds. Three hollow-using species of birds that are priority forest species have core range (swift parrot & masked owl) or known ranges (forty-spotted pardalote) that intersect with proposed ENGO proposed reserves (IVG 2012a:13). Coupe PC085A is within the eastern breeding range of the swift parrot (DPIPWE 2012b), also an endangered species, and supports high density nesting habitat for this species (FT 2012b).



Logging coupe NH010A, Rabalga Track area

DAY 24:



Logging coupe NH010A, Rabalga Track area

This proposed 33 hectare logging coupe is located in the Rabalga Track area of north-west Tasmania. This forest is part of the core area of 430,000 hectares that was promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement. Logging and roading operations are scheduled in this spectacular tract of high conservation value forest for this year.

This mixed forest features tall eucalyptus, rainforest species and amazing stands of old growth celery top pine. The area is listed by the independent verification reports as being significant tall eucalypt forest ecosystems (Hitchcock 2012:303). The protection of this area has been recommended for protection as it would make a significant contribution to potential habitat for many fauna species. The area that this coupe is situated in is important threatened species habitat (IVG 2012b:13). For example, it is habitat for the azure kingfisher (*Ceyx azureus diemenensis*) (IVG 2012b:13). This species is listed as endangered in both the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act* and the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*: “the total number of mature individuals is low and its geographic distribution is precarious for its survival given the nature of ongoing threats” (TSSC 2010:1). Habitat clearing is considered to be one of the key threats (TSSC 2010:2). The distribution of the azure kingfisher mostly occurs in the north-west of the state, a reflection of the higher rainfall in this area and the greater density of river systems (DSEWPC 2012b).



Logging coupe MD102B, The Tarkine

This logging coupe is located in the Pieman area of north-west Tasmania. This magnificent forest is part of the core area of 430,000 hectares that was promised protection as part of the Intergovernmental Agreement. A section of this 48 hectare coupe has been logged, with an additional area scheduled for this year. This area also falls within Venture Minerals' proposed strip mine site.

Volunteers from Code Green have conducted fauna surveys using remote sensor cameras. These produced evidence of healthy Tasmanian devils in this coupe. It was also identified by the Independent Verification Group (IVG) that conservation of this particular area would make a "high contribution across a large range of fauna species" (IVG 2012a:22). The area is important habitat for grey goshawk and azure kingfisher (IVG 2012a:13). Its waterways are home to freshwater hydrobiid snails (IVG 2012a:20) and giant freshwater crayfish (IVG 2012a:22).

The IVG reports also assessed priority flora and found that the "proposed reserves substantially improve the protection of a range of priority flora species (62 vascular flora species, 2 lichens)". The area in which this coupe is located was one of seven areas that were listed as "very high" priority for flora conservation. These areas "would make an outstanding contribution to the CAR Reserve system and the National Reserve System of Australia and will help to address deficiencies in the representation of threatened flora in the reserve system" (IVG 2012b:7). Two species identified in this forest that are of high priority are *Epacris glabella* and *Micrantheum serpentinum*. *Epacris glabella* is an endemic Tasmanian shrub listed as endangered under both the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act* and the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. This species occurs in the north west of the state, with 6 known locations across a geographic range of 150kms (IVG 2012b:46). *Micrantheum serpentinum* is another endemic Tasmanian shrub that is listed as rare in the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*. The IVG report stated that there were many observations of this species in this area. The species is estimated to have only 8-9 populations, in an area of 245km² (IVG 2012b:72).

This spectacular forest has been recommended for protection in the proposed Tarkine World Heritage Area (Hitchcock 2012:218).



Image captured by remote sensor fauna cameras in logging coupe MD102B, the Tarkine



Logging coupe PC024B, Picton Valley / Jenny Weber

DAY 26



Logging coupe PC024B, Picton Valley

In the Picton Valley, logging operations were recently completed in forests that were rich with habitat for the Tasmanian devil, swift parrot, masked owl, spotted tailed and eastern quolls (FT 2011d). This forest was formerly populated with tall *Eucalyptus regnans* and tall *Eucalyptus obliqua*, along with mature stands of leatherwood and thamnic rainforest (FT 2011d). A cultural heritage site has been identified by Forestry Tasmania in this coupe (FT 2011d).

This 90 hectare coupe was logged over the past seven months, while talks have been occurring between industry and some conservation groups. The State and Federal Government gave the go ahead to log in parts of the 430,000ha area that was supposed to be under moratorium. The Prime Minister promised these old growth and high conservation value (HCV) areas should be protected but as a result of pressure from Ta Ann and Forestry Tasmania, some of these forests have been lost, PC024B being one such tragic loss.

The company driving the logging of this coupe is Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011:14a).

In February, Huon Valley Environment Centre released a sample of a celery top pine from PC024B which is believed to be more than 250 years old. This sample of celery top pine clearly demonstrated that the forests being logged in the PC024B were part of an old growth ecosystem. Ta Ann has made public claims that this forest is regrowth, as a result of a wildfire in 1934 (Ta Ann Tasmania 2012). However, sections of this coupe were mapped as old growth forest during the Tasmanian Regional Forest Agreement process.

Ta Ann Tasmania public relations material emphasises that they mill regrowth logs. This implies incorrectly that there are no adverse environmental impacts associated with their operations. It is not true that regrowth logs will always originate from regrowth forests – old growth forests can contain regrowth elements as a result of the dynamic ecology of these forest ecosystems.



Logging coupe PC024B, Picton Valley / Jenny Weber

PC024B in the Picton Valley is within 2km of a karst system that has indigenous and environmental values of international significance (Hitchcock 2012:81). This karst system contains evidence of the human societies living in this region, which were the most southerly known peoples on earth during the last ice age (Hitchcock 2012:81). This karst system is located in the World Heritage value forests of the Middle Huon Valley. PC024B is located at the entrance to the Middle Huon Valley.

The globally significant and unique natural and cultural heritage values of the karst systems in the Middle Huon and Picton Valleys have not received the urgent protection that they need. Hitchcock states; "The likely direct physical and hydrological contact between the Blake's Opening and Riveaux karsts suggests that a common tenure and management regime, or sympathetic cross-tenure management regime, would be the appropriate means of managing these adjacent karsts. Irrespective of this potential link, however, the undisturbed nature, significant extent and contents of the Riveaux karst and catchment, and its proximity to the recommended Blake's Opening TWWHA extension means that the karst contributes significantly to karst World Heritage themes of the adjacent TWWHA" (Hitchcock 2012:81).

The forests in the Huon and Picton Valleys are adjacent to the boundary of the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) (Mackey 2012:49). The tall eucalypt forests in the lower sections of the Weld and Picton Valleys, together with the closely associated middle Huon Valley, are collectively part of the largest single tract of tall eucalypt forest ecosystem extant in Tasmania (Hitchcock 2012:77).

Now that this area of forest has been logged it will need to be added to the area of disturbed forests in the Picton Valley that require restoration. As Peter Hitchcock stated, "a holistic long-term view was taken in establishing the contribution that the areas can make to conserving tall eucalypt forest and associated ongoing natural processes. Some rehabilitation will be necessary to restore the ecology of the area in the longer-term" (Hitchcock 2012:10). Sadly, there are areas in the Picton Valley that could have been protected as intact tall eucalypt and rainforest ecosystems instead, if logging operations in these magnificent areas had been halted over the past few months.



Logging coupe PC070B, Picton Valley

Adjacent to the Picton River is a *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest that is a proposed 54ha logging coupe (FT 2012c). Logging operations in this coupe were not rescheduled, as was promised by the Tasmanian and Australian Governments. The primary reason given by the logging industry was that these forests needed to be logged to supply Ta Ann (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a).

These magnificent forests remain unlogged to date, and they still have a chance to be protected. These forests, along with other large tracts of the Picton Valley, have been verified "to possess important natural and cultural heritage values that relate particularly to World Heritage values of the adjoining Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area. In particular, the Weld-Huon-Picton valleys contribute a new complementary 'lowland' or lower valley manifestation of attributes already within the TWWHA, for example glacial, karst, tall eucalypt forest and rainforest" (Hitchcock 2012:87).

Forests adjacent to PC070B have been destroyed over the past two years. A 67ha area of old growth forest in logging coupe PC017C was logged to supply Ta Ann (HVEC 2011).

This forest region is potential habitat for the masked owl, spotted-tailed quolls, and nesting habitat for the swift parrot (FT 2010; FT 2012c). The ongoing logging of these magnificent native forests adjacent to the Picton River, and contiguous with the World Heritage listed Hartz Mountains National Park, marks a significant loss of spectacular eucalypt forests and crucial threatened species habitat.



Logging coupe PC070B, Picton Valley



Logging coupe PC072B, Picton Valley

Logging coupe PC072B is situated in an old growth forest adjacent to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area (TWWHA) that runs down slope to the Picton River. The area of forest is potential habitat for the masked owl, Tasmanian devil, Tasmanian wedge tailed eagle and grey goshawk (FT 2011e).

Sadly the history of coupe PC072B, located on the East Picton Rd, where a long history of protests to protect the globally significant values of these forests have failed to stop the destruction of these ecosystems. PC072B is located in a region of 2150ha of forest that were once protected as a national park (Gee 2003:187).

The Hartz mountains, proclaimed as a scenic reserve in 1939, were protected within a National Park in 1952. At the time, the seemingly endless supply of timber in the southern forests enabled the logging industry to graciously concede the magnificent forest stretching up the flanks of the Picton River. However, by the mid-1970s, logging roads had extended further and further up the Huon and Picton River valleys and by 1977 the road along the east bank of the Picton River was at the Park Boundary (Gee 2003:187). In 1976, after a long court battle, during which conservationists fought the mining industry from accessing the wilderness area at Precipitous Bluff, a final decision was granted that the inclusion of Precipitous Bluff in the Southwest National Park was made conditional on the revocation of forested land in the Hartz Mountains National Park (Gee 2003:187). PC072B and the large tracts of forests on East Picton Rd were the victims of this decision, where wilderness areas and ancient ecosystems are compromised in the interests of environmentally destructive interests. These forests now have the opportunity to be granted secure legislated protection, and the protection of the forests of PC072B and the other areas in the Picton Valley, which you have read about over the past month, may be protected as an extension to the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area.

The Picton, being a shorter valley than the Weld and Huon Valleys, is almost a 'blind valley' hemmed in by alpine and rainforest communities on three sides so the pattern of eucalypt and rainforest communities and their interactions are different to the Huon and especially the Weld. These characteristics are illustrative of the substantial ecological diversity evident in the tall eucalypt and rainforest communities in the 'Three Valleys' (Hitchcock 2012:79). The Picton Valley has experienced various episodes and scales of glaciation with evidence of glaciation extending almost to the confluences of the valley (Hitchcock 2012:79). The Picton Valley, along with the Huon and the Weld Valleys, is one of the few areas in Tasmania where there is a major concentration of tall eucalypt-rainforest ecosystems and where the forests are mostly intact with potential for ongoing natural processes to operate. Notwithstanding that some parts of the forests have been subject to industrial-scale logging operations, the combination of the intact forests and the option of being able to naturally rehabilitate the logged areas, means the 'Three Valleys' forests still offer outstanding potential for conservation, including maintaining natural processes (Hitchcock 2012:79).

Importantly, all of the ENGO-proposed additions for protection in these valleys back onto the TWWHA. Parts of the ENGO-proposed reserves in the Picton, Huon and Weld are an integral part of that major tract of wilderness. That is, parts of these areas have wilderness values, which would clearly enhance or contribute to the integrity of the TWWHA's wilderness values. Rehabilitation of some areas would enhance the wilderness aspect of the TWWHA (Hitchcock 2012:80).





Logging coupe RS117C, Rose's Tier



Left: Logging coupe PC072B, Picton Valley / Laura Minnebo. Above: Logging coupe RS117C, Rose's Tier

This 69 hectare logging coupe in Rose's Tier, north east Tasmania, was due for protection under the Intergovernmental Agreement. Like so many other high conservation value forests in Tasmania, it has been lost due to the failure of the government and industry to deliver on the promised moratoriums. This coupe was targeted for sawlog production (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11) to supply the Australian domestic and international markets. Ta Ann's wood supply was also a key reason that this coupe was subject to logging (Hoffmann & Williams 2011a:11).

This coupe was a forest of tall *Eucalyptus delegatensis*. It featured potential habitat for Tasmanian devils and spotted tail quolls (FT 2011f). This includes areas of fallen logs, dense understorey and old wombat hollows, which may have provided shelter for these animals. This region has been listed as core range for the spotted tail quoll by the Independent Verification Report (IVG 2012a:18).

There are four creeks within, or bordering the coupe. The coupe is also potential habitat zones for the north-east forest snail (IVG 2012a:18). This species is listed in the Regional Forest Agreement as a 'Priority Species Requiring Consideration'. This is due to "slow recovery time from logging operations and perceived restricted habitat and environmental sensitivity" (FPA 2002). This species is found living in leaf litter and the underside of fallen logs, feeding on fungi and detritus from the rotting logs. According to the Forest Practices Authority "The species is likely to be eliminated by clearfelling and associated hot regeneration burns" particularly because "may take at least 90 years following clearfelling and burning for the species to fully recover in regenerated forests" (FPA 2002). The region that this logging coupe is situated in has also been identified as significant for priority flora. The verification reports indicated specific species within this region that would benefit from the formal reservation of this area. One of those species is *Acacia pataczekii*. This endemic Tasmanian shrub is listed as rare in the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act*. Its population is restricted to eucalypt forest, mostly in north east Tasmania (IVG 2012b:20). Protecting the proposed reserves would improve the reservation of this species by 52% (IVG 2012b:12).

Another identified significant species is *Barbarea australis*. This herb is endemic to Tasmania and listed as endangered under the *Tasmanian Threatened Species Act* and as critically endangered under the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act*. *Barbarea australis* is known to occur in approximately 10 river systems extending from northern Tasmania to rivers flowing south from the Central Highlands (IVG 2012b:30).

In addition the region that includes this coupe has been recommended for protection due to its diversity of eucalypt species (Potts & Tilyard 2012:14). Protection would increase the bioregional reservation of *E. rubida* and *E. pauciflora*, reserve geographical and ecologically marginal populations of endemic species *E. archeria* and increase the representation of *E. viminalis* (Potts & Tilyard 2012:38). Although this coupe has sadly been logged, it is vital that the area is regenerated and included with the surrounding forests as part of Tasmania's proposed formal reserves. The regeneration of this coupe will help to maintain regional connectivity and help protect the endangered, rare and threatened flora and fauna found in this area of north-east Tasmania.

— A forest a day —

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Mr Rob Oakeshott MP
Parliament House
Canberra
cc Mr Tony Windsor MP
cc Members of the Federal Parliament

Dear Mr Oakeshott,

Re: Open Letter of Concern - incentives for native forest biomass burning

Your decision to support incentives for native forest-burning power stations has alarming ramifications for communities and natural ecosystems across Australia.

These include:

- The likelihood that carbon emissions will increase. In many circumstances, forest biomass emits more greenhouse gases than fossil fuels per unit of energy produced.ⁱ Australia's current accounting rules also mean most logging emissions are not accounted for, hiding real emissions.
- Australia's forests are some of the most carbon dense on Earth.ⁱⁱ Government policy that encourages the logging and burning of these forests to produce energy will lead to significant carbon emissions that would take centuries to recover.
- Current logging regimes are not ecologically sustainable. The logging of old growth and high conservation value forests and threatened species' habitats continues in Australia under existing regulatory regimes, and these regimes are demonstrably failing to protect environmental values.ⁱⁱⁱ Biomass harvesting is likely to involve intensified logging and heightened impacts on soil and invertebrate biodiversity and other forest values.^{iv}
- Under the 'high value test' covering biomass harvesting, the majority of timber from a logging operation could still be used as feedstock. High value products may form only a small percentage of the volume of timber removed from a logging area, indirectly making biomass the primary beneficiary of harvesting, just as low-value woodchips have historically been the driver for large scale logging.
- Biomass is a dirty fuel. In the United States, leading Medical Societies and health advocacy groups have called for a ban on biomass power plants as they pose an unacceptable risk to the public's health by increasing air pollution. Burning hundreds of thousands of tonnes of native forest will generate dangerous emissions of nitrogen oxides, particulate matter and sulphur dioxide.^v
- Providing renewable energy subsidies to the logging industry will undermine opportunities for the development of clean energy technologies and could decrease funding available to clean energy technologies through the Clean Energy Fund. The cap on Renewable Energy Certificates means native forest burning power stations could displace other, less polluting and damaging forms of renewable electricity.^{vi}
- Australians do not want energy generated from the burning of native forests supplied to their homes.^{vii} Major electricity retailers and the National GreenPower group have also rejected native forest biomass power.^{viii}

Australians overwhelmingly support greater native forest protection.

Mr Oakeshott, we urge you to consider seriously all the evidence and potential consequences related to your disallowance motion. It is our considered opinion that an evidence-based policy in this circumstance would retain the changes as proposed by the Multi-Party Climate Committee. We urge you to support this sensible policy change and act to safeguard Australian communities and ecosystems.

Yours sincerely,

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- ¹ Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences. *Biomass Sustainability and Carbon Policy Study* Executive Summary. June 2010 and Hudiberg, T.W., Law, B.E., Wirth, C. and Luyssaert, S. (2011) 'Regional carbon dioxide implications of forest bioenergy production', *Nature Climate Change*, Vol 1 October 2011
- ⁱⁱ Heather Keith, Brendan G. Mackey, and David B. Lindenmayer. 'Re-evaluation of forest biomass carbon stocks and lessons from the world's most carbon-dense forests' , *PNAS* 2009 106 (28) 11635-11640.
- ⁱⁱⁱ For example, several successful and current court cases have and are proving the failure of forest management regulations to ensure the protection of endangered species' habitat in Victoria's public native forests.
- ^{iv} Raison, R.J. et al. *Review of the science relevant to the sustainable use of native and plantation forest-harvesting residues for energy production in Tasmania*. CSIRO. 2002.
- ^v Charles D. Connor. President & CEO. American Lung Association. *Letter to United States House of Representatives*. June 24, 2009., Massachusetts Medical Society Adopts Policy Opposing Biomass Power Plants" December 9, 2009. <http://www.massmed.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Search&template=/CM/HTMLDisplay.cfm&ContentID=32796>
- ^{vi} Macintosh, Andrew. 'Oakeshott, Windsor biomass burner scheme Pythonesque.' *Crikey*. Monday, 13 February. <http://www.crikey.com.au/2012/02/13/oakeshott-windsor-biomass-burner-scheme/>
- ^{vii} A Morgan Poll commissioned by the Wilderness Society in 2001 found that 88% of people opposed the use of native forest for wood-fired power.
- ^{viii} Simon Miller, Acting Director-General, New South Wales Department of Water and Energy. Letter to Senator Bob Brown. August 2007.

May 17, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
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Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Senator Reid,

We write to bring to your attention the importance of accurately accounting for carbon dioxide emissions from bioenergy in any law or regulation designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from energy use. Proper accounting can enable bioenergy to contribute to greenhouse gas reductions; improper accounting can lead to increases in greenhouse gas emissions both domestically and internationally.

Replacement of fossil fuels with bioenergy does not directly stop carbon dioxide emissions from tailpipes or smokestacks. Although fossil fuel emissions are reduced or eliminated, the combustion of biomass replaces fossil emissions with its own emissions (which may even be higher per unit of energy because of the lower energy to carbon ratio of biomass). Bioenergy can reduce atmospheric carbon dioxide if land and plants are managed to take up additional carbon dioxide beyond what they would absorb without bioenergy. Alternatively, bioenergy can use some vegetative residues that would otherwise decompose and release carbon to the atmosphere rapidly. Whether land and plants sequester additional carbon to offset emissions from burning the biomass depends on changes both in the rates of plant growth and in the carbon storage in plants and soils. For example, planting fast-growing energy crops on otherwise unproductive land leads to additional carbon absorption by plants that offsets emissions from their use for energy without displacing carbon storage in plants and soils. On the other hand, clearing or cutting forests for energy, either to burn trees directly in power plants or to replace forests with bioenergy crops, has the net effect of releasing otherwise sequestered carbon into the atmosphere, just like the extraction and burning of fossil fuels. That creates a carbon debt, may reduce ongoing carbon uptake by the forest, and as a result may increase net greenhouse gas emissions for an extended time period and thereby undercut greenhouse gas reductions needed over the next several decades¹.

Many international treaties and domestic laws and bills account for bioenergy incorrectly by treating all bioenergy as causing a 100% reduction in emissions regardless of the source of the biomass. They perpetuate this error by exempting carbon dioxide from bioenergy from national emissions limits or from domestic requirements to hold allowances for energy emissions. Most renewable energy standards for electric utilities have the same effect because bioenergy is viewed as a renewable energy even when the biomass does not eliminate or even reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This general approach

¹ J. Fargione, J. Hill, Tilman D., Polasky S., Hawthorne P (2008), Land Clearing and the Biofuel Carbon Debt, *Science* 319:1235-1238

appears to be based on a misunderstanding of IPCC guidance². Under some scenarios, this approach could eliminate most of the expected greenhouse gas reductions during the next several decades.

U.S. laws will also influence world treatment of bioenergy. A number of studies in distinguished journals have estimated that globally improper accounting of bioenergy could lead to large-scale clearing of the world's forests³.

The lesson is that any legal measure to reduce greenhouse gas emissions must include a system to differentiate emissions from bioenergy based on the source of the biomass. The National Academy of Sciences has estimated significant potential energy production from the right sources of biomass⁴. Proper accounting will provide incentives for these sources of bioenergy.

Sincerely,

² T.D. Searchinger, S.P. Hamburg, J.Mellillo, W. Chameldes, P.Havlik, D.M. Kammen, G.E. Likens, R. N. Lubowski, M. Obersteiner, M. Oppenheimer, G. P. Robertson, W.H. Schlesinger, G.D. Tilman (2009), Fixing a Critical Climate Accounting Error, *Science* 326:527-528

³ E.g., J.M. Mellillo, J.M. Reilly, D.W. Kicklighter, A.C. Gurgel, T.W. Cronin, S. Patsev, B.S. Felzer, X. Wang, C.A. Schlosser (2009), Indirect Emissions from Biofuels: How Important?, *Science* 326:1397-1399; Marshall Wise, Katherine Calvin, Allison Thomson, Leon Clarke, Benjamin Bond-Lamberty, Ronald Sands, Steven J. Smith, Anthony Janetos, James Edmonds (2009), Implications of Limiting CO2 Concentrations for Land Use and Energy, *Science* 324:1183-1186

⁴ National Research Council (2009), *Liquid Transportation Fuels from Coal and Biomass: Technological Status, Costs, and Environmental Impacts* (National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D.C.)

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