


Public Summary of
FOREST CERTIFICATION MANUAL

Atale and Pallegama Estates,
Kegalle Plantations PLC.



July 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Atale and Pallegama Estates are managed under FSC™ status by Kegalle Plantations PLC since 2019. The extents of Atale estate is 1,142.0 ha and Pallegama estate is 863.9 ha. Out of that, those estates maintain rubber plantations of 842.7 ha and 488.3 ha respectively. Since 2019, the two estates are managed while protecting nature and respecting stakeholder rights while making profits. Volume 2.0 of the present FSC Manual has been prepared after a five-year period of the previous FSC Manual prepared in 2019 to adhere to the FSC™ guidelines. The information included in the 2019 FSC Manual to achieve the objectives was evaluated, and the necessary changes are included in the current plan. Other than the plantation management activities conducted for the financial returns, this manual describes the actions implemented to protect the rights of the staff, workers, and community and to protect the environment including biodiversity to continuously maintain the sustainability of the enterprise. The Principles and Criteria included in the FSC-FM Interim National Standard of Sri Lanka (FSC-STD-LKA-01-2021 V1-0 EN) have been used for preparing the Version 2.0 of the FSC Manual for the KPL.

FSC-CoC Commitment Statement of the Kegalle Plantations PLC

Kegalle Plantations PLC is committed to the responsible management of forest resources and the promotion of sustainable practices throughout its operations. The management recognizes the importance of conserving biodiversity, protecting ecosystems, and supporting social and economic development in the communities we serve.

As part of the commitment of the company to the principles of the Forest Stewardship Council the management pledges to:

- i. Implement and maintain a robust Chain of Custody (CoC) system in compliance with FSC standards.
- ii. Ensure that all forest products originating from our Atale and Pallegama Estates are sustainably sourced and responsibly processed.
- iii. Prevent the use of illegally harvested, genetically modified, or controversial materials within our supply chain.
- iv. Promote transparency and integrity in all documentation and processes related to FSC-certified products.
- v. Engage stakeholders, including employees, suppliers, and communities, in the promotion of sustainable forestry practices.
- vi. Continuously improve our operations by adhering to the highest environmental, social, and ethical standards.

Vision of the Kegalle Plantations PLC

The vision of the Kegalle Plantations PLC is to conduct the forest management operations in Atale and Pallegama estates per the Principles and Criteria of the FSC™-FM Standards achieving the long-term sustainable forest management goals. In accordance with this vision, KPL does not manage any plantation established on any form of natural forest after 1994. In addition, the management of KPL does not convert any form of natural forest to other landuses including plantations in its any forest management activity.

Significant improvements of the forest management-related activities during the last five years

KPL is continuously improving the forest management-related activities to be more effective in maintaining the sustainability. Among those, the most significant activities conducted since 2019 are listed below.

- i. Increase of the conservation areas from 5% to over 10%.
- ii. Completion of the main Biodiversity Survey, covering both estates in 2024.
- iii. Compilation of the High Conservation Value assessment.
- iv. Compilation of the Environmental and Social Risk Assessment (ESRA).
- v. Adaptation of new policies on
Prevention of bribery and corruption, Gender equity and equality, and Pre, prior, and informed consent.
- vi. Updating the Policy Manual in 2024.
- vii. Completion of the main Social Impact Assessment in 2024.
- viii. Updating the estate maps.
- ix. Increase of the permanent sample plots for growth monitoring in Rubber trees.
- x. Compilation of the Core Labor Assessment.
- xi. Continuously managing the newly aggravated Rubber Leaf Spot Disease per the Rubber Research Institute guidelines.
- xii. Enriching conservation areas and buffer zones continuously by planting approximately about 200 native seedlings (Bamboo, Kumbuk, Mee, native Areca nut) and maintaining them.
- xiii. Assisting the following research projects conducted by reputed institutes on Rubber sector.
Rubber Research Institute:
Use of slow release fertilizer applications for Rubber with Rubber Research Institute
- xiv. Training and CSR activities on:
Tapping
Nursery management
Health camp with Kegalle MoH

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations at national and local levels

Many departments/ agencies of Sri Lanka have formulated laws/ regulations relevant to the forest management activities varying from land use to the labor handling. KPL Management assures the compliance with all those laws/ regulations in both estates to ensure the protection of the legal status/ regulations, which have been formulated by those departments and agencies. The followings are applicable to forest management in the country.

- i. National Environment Act No. 47 of 1980: Amended in 1988 (56)
- ii. Forest Ordinance No. 16 of 1907: Amendment Act 1988
- iii. Land Settlement Ordinance 1931
- iv. Land Development Ordinance 1935
- v. Crown Land Ordinance No. 8 of 1947
- vi. Fauna and Flora Protection Ordinance No 2 of 1937: Amended in 1933
- vii. Policy for Wildlife Conservation 1990
- viii. Soil Conservation Act No 25 of 1955: Amended in 1955 and 1981
- ix. National Heritage and Wilderness Areas Act No. 3 of 1988
- x. Industrial Disputes Act 1950 and 1966
- xi. Trade Unions Ordinance 1935
- xi. Factories Ordinance 1942
- xii. Shop and Office Act 1954

Compliance with applicable laws and regulations at international level

Sri Lanka is a signatory to many international conventions and some of them are directly relevant to the forest management operations of the country. KPL conducts forest management activities in accordance with those relevant laws and guidelines, especially of the following agencies. The copies of those international conventions are available in the office of each estate.

- i. ILO (International Labour Organisation) Conventions 87 and 98
- ii. CITES (International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora) Convention
- iii. ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organisation)
- iv. CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity)

Compliance with FSC Principles and Criteria

Management plans and all forest management operations of the Atale and Pallegama estates of KPL are in compliance with FSC Principles and Criteria to ensure minimum damages to the estates, surrounding environment, and to the wellbeing of the society.

KPL management works hard to make its staff, workers, and contractors familiar and comply with the laws and regulations mentioned in the above sections. The awareness of the workers is increased at the Muster Meetings conducted by the Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of both estates. The awareness of the contractors is also increased by stipulating the necessary information stated in the contractor documents, and discussions held with them.

Forest management objectives

The following objectives were formulated by the management to ensure the sustainable management of both estates in the long-run.

- i. To ensure an efficient Rubber latex production through improved planting of selected, recommended clones and tapping systems per the guidelines of the Rubber Research Institute and Rubber Development Board of Sri Lanka, while harvesting timber, fuelwood, and coconut on an annual sustained yield basis depending on the guidelines given by the relevant authorities and FSC standards.
- ii. To effectively combat against the pest and disease infestations of the planted crops to maintain their health and the continuous production.

- iii. To protect the lands against degradation due to soil erosion, floods, landslides, fire, and other effects of ecological imbalance.
- iv. To obtain periodic revenues from timber production on sustained yield basis, while providing habitats for fauna and flora.
- vi. To contribute to the growth of the local and national economies by developing forest management actions and forest based industries, and creating opportunities for income generation and employment.
- vi. To supply the basic needs of the surrounding community for staple food, fuelwood, fodder, and other forest products, and to contribute to food production through an effective interaction between forestry and farming practices.
- vii. To maintain and improve the quality of the water courses in the estates, and to increase soil productivity.
- viii. To increase wood production from plantation forests to meet domestic and export demands as raw materials, minimizing the damage on valuable natural forests.
- ix. To minimize the environmental damages such as soil erosion, water quality deterioration, noise pollution, etc. that can be caused due to the forest management activities, especially during the tree harvesting periods.
- x. To conserve the natural forests, High Conservation Value sites (HCVs), and other culturally, religiously, historically, and socially valuable lands located inside the estate lands.
- xi. To enhance the natural regeneration and restoration of the degraded lands located within the estates.

- xii. To protect the estates from illegal activities and other damages with the assistance of different stakeholders.

- xv. To monitor and evaluate the impacts of forest management activities in annual and periodic basis to take necessary actions against the negative impacts.

Policies used by the KPL

All policies practiced in managing Atale and Pallegama estates have been formulated ensuring the compliance of the laws/ regulations formulated at international, national and local levels and in compliance with the Principles and Criteria stipulated in the FSC-FM Standards.

Different policies available in the KPL Policy Manual (2024)

- i. Landuse
- ii. Harvesting
- iii. Conservation area management
- iv. Buffer zone establishment and management
- v. Invasive species control
- vi. Chemical use
- vii. Waste management
- viii. Deadwood and rotten tree handling
- ix. Occupational health and safety
- x. Wildlife protection
- xi. Protection of estate lands
- xii. Fire prevention and fire management
- xiii. Gender equality and equity
- xiv. Prevention of bribery and corruption
- xv. Labor use
- xvi. Free, prior and informed consent

Estates managed by KPL

Kegalle Plantations PLC. manages 2,042 ha of lands in Atale and Pallegama estates under the FSC-FM Scope. The extents of Atale and Pallegama estates are 1,142 ha and 90 ha respectively and both are located in the WL1 and WL2 agro-ecological regions.

Species used in Atale and Pallegama estates for commercial purpose

Rubber is the species maintained in both estates as the main crop. Additionally, Coconut, and Oil palm are maintained in those estates. Certain conservation areas are also maintained due to the values of the landscape, environment, ecology and biodiversity. The following table illustrates the species and their extents in both estates at December, 2024.

Land Use	Atale	Pallegama
Rubber	842.7	488.3
Coconut	28.0	6.9
Oil palm	9.4	28.3
Other	261.9	340.4
Total	1,142.0	863.9

Conservation areas

In accordance with the FSC-FM standards, KPL strives to maintain conservation areas over 10% of the total land extent. Those conservation areas in the following table have been identified to be samples of existing natural ecosystems of the region. Sign boards are established to demarcate those areas. The community and the workers have also been informed at stakeholder meetings and muster meetings respectively.

Estate	Total extent, ha	Conservation extent, ha
Atale	1,142.0	136.6
Pallegama	863.9	71.6

High conservation value (HCV) sites

The HCV sites in the following table were demarcated on the maps, and the workers, villagers, and other stakeholders are informed. Other than regular monitoring, special security plans are implemented in those areas upon necessity.

HCVs in Atale and Pallegama estates.

Estate	Division	Field	Extent, ha	Value
Atale	Atale	2008	8.0	Cross church, Water spring, Natural forest
Pallegama	Dunumala	1986	2.5	Rock-falling if cleared
	Narangoda	1996	2.1	Historic ruins

Social benefits

KPL management ensures sharing certain benefits with the local community. Therefore, the estates provides employment opportunities, contractor opportunities, etc. to the workers and villagers. Whenever possible, goods and services are also purchased from the local community as in the following table.

Benefits received by the local community.

Estate	Division	Benefits
Atale	Atale	Kovil-2 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1 Playground-1 Drinking water supply-1
	Boyagoda	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1
	Dikhena	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1 Playground-1
	Dorpet	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1

	Maboda	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Playground-1
	Myland	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1 Playground-1
	New Arandara	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-2 Playground-1 Drinking water supply-2
	Old Arandara	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Playground-2
	Pindenioya	Kovil-2 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1 Playground-1
Pallegama	Batuwana	Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1 Playground-1
	Dedigama	Cemetery-1
	Dunumala	Kovil-2 Cemetery-1 Playground-1
	Galapitamada	Kovil-1 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1
	Lower	Kovil-2 Cemetery-1 Housing scheme-1 Playground-1 Drinking water supply-1
	Narangoda	Housing scheme-1
	Niyadurupola	Kovil-1 Cemetery-2 Housing scheme-1

In addition to the above mentioned division-specific services, Both Atale and Pallegama estates provide coconut for concessionary prices, fuelwood, water for bathing and washing in addition to the drinking purpose, medicinal plants, and road renovations for the workers and community.

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