

Forever Sabah

Smallholder Jurisdictional Certification Road Map 2020-2025

The following documents provide a Road Map towards Smallholder Jurisdictional Certification in Sabah over the period 2020-2025.

This Road Map has been crafted based upon four years of practical experience of work on smallholder readiness, community organization and training by the Certified Sustainable Palm Oil Team in a pilot program in twenty villages of the Telupid, Tongod, Beluran and Kinabatangan (TTBK) Districts.

The plan itself is an output of the UNEP-RSPO 10YFP Implementation Supporting Smallholders towards Improved Livelihoods and Sustainable Production Project (Sabah, Malaysia & Seruyan, Indonesia), a grant provided in part to Forever Sabah. It has been produced for review and discussion by Sabah's Jurisdictional Certification Steering Committee, and for the guidance of the CSPO Smallholder Team.

The Road Map is a working document. It will evolve through formal and informal input, practical experience on the ground, and the decisions by government and other stakeholder to advance or not the necessary component actions of the process, such as scaling the training and providing smallholders legal access to the recognition of their customary landholdings.

The documents included in the Road Map Package summarise the situation on the ground at the end of 2019; the transformations, goals and challenges necessary in the smallholder sector; and the broad year-on-year strategy for 2020-2025 to achieve smallholder certification in the context of the wider jurisdictional palm oil process in Sabah.

The document suite comprises the following:

1. An introductory narrative explaining the background and approach.
2. A schematic flow chart explaining how the smallholder roadmap fits into the wider Sabah jurisdictional process (including the work in other sectors and Working Groups). The flow chart indicates an important feature of the road map for smallholders, which is that it requires for its advance successful integration with other standalone work under the JCSC: on FPIC, HCV, Legal & Governance, Labour, Monitoring & Evaluation, and work with midsize producers in the same landscapes. The establishment of the Secretariat will also be key to oversight and support of the management of the smallholder work. The flow chart includes a series of thumbnail maps that show how the program will engage sub-jurisdictionally starting with completion of the Sandakan Division, proceeding to Interior and then Tawau, to complete the main smallholder oil palm regions, before rounding out the country with the Kudat and West Coast Divisions in 2023, which then allows two years to reach standards and finalize certification across all five divisions.
3. The smallholder roadmap itself detailing the current situation, needs and year-by-year strategies for taking the learning from the TTBK pilot villages to the whole of Sabah (what had been a single line in the schematic flowchart)
4. A state-level map showing the distribution of smallholder oil palm in Sabah derived from satellite and land tenure analysis by Dr. Nicola Abram of Forever Sabah/SPaCES to help clarify the geographic strategy of the roadmap.

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Growing from the pilot program in the Telupid, Tongod, Beluran and Kinabatangan (TTBK) Districts

Framework: The experience gained with preparing smallholders for certification by the Forever Sabah CSPO Smallholder Team during 2016-2019 within the larger context of the work to date by the Working Groups, teams and organizations under the auspices of the JCSC has brought us at the end of 2019 to a clearer understanding of the size of the task and the mix of strategies and institutions that need to be deployed to achieve jurisdictional certification for smallholders by 2025. This notwithstanding the fact that we are yet to work with Wild Asia on the actual certification of cohorts of these smallholders.

Current Status: a combination of CSPO field studies and state-wide satellite analysis (by Dr. Nicola Abram, SpACES/Forever Sabah) have enabled us to estimate for the first time the actual numbers and needs of smallholders in the jurisdictional process. These are presented in the accompanying road map according to each of Sabah's five administrative divisions (a division includes from three to a dozen districts). (These numbers are higher than the official figures of MPOB because field studies indicate that many smallholders have not previously been registered. Although these estimates are useful for planning purposes, only through program implementation will we develop accurate numbers.)

Geographic Spread: Smallholder work to date in the TTBK has been focused in five pilot villages in each of four of the five districts of a single division, namely Sandakan. As indicated in the roadmap, our intention for 2020 is to scale up our approach first in those four districts, and then division-wide, completing the Sandakan Division only in 2021 as we expand work into Interior Division. In 2022 attention will shift to the Tawau Division, the second most important Division for smallholder oil palm, and in 2023 we will move to the two divisions (Kudat and West Coast) that comprise the smallest numbers of smallholders. In 2024 and 2025 focus will shift to pockets of incomplete work across all the divisions, and cases where Monitoring & Evaluation indicate that despite inclusion, the necessary standards have not yet been achieved. In other words, we propose to proceed by working at the "Administrative Division" sub-jurisdictional level of district clusters that correspond to major socio-cultural as well as landscape/ecological and economic regions of the state. This area-based approach will be more logistically efficient for our teams on the ground, will enable coherent engagement with government administrators, and facilitate engagement in other JCSC mandated processes, such as the Living Landscapes/midsize producer program being implemented by WWF. Finally, our approach is crafted to build on visible success: as each division successfully achieves its training and land legalization efforts we anticipate that government, smallholder and oil palm private sector "buzz" will incentivize other divisions to engage, growing the political will and sense of what is possible as well as the number of skilled program implementers. We hope this will speed the process and help motivate pockets of non-compliance due to hostility or indifference.

Engagement & Community Organizing: Our proven approach to grounding the work is to secure the support of local government structures through an early and complete FPIC process with the relevant District Officers, followed by FPIC with the leadership of each palm oil producing village community. Next, we find that to engage effectively in smallholder communities requires assisting them to build their own institutional/governance structures at village level so that they can lead the process of enabling farmers to share their issues and needs. These structures can become, in turn, the basis upon which to build the capacity to manage jurisdictional certification processes going forward, most likely as cooperatives or collectives.

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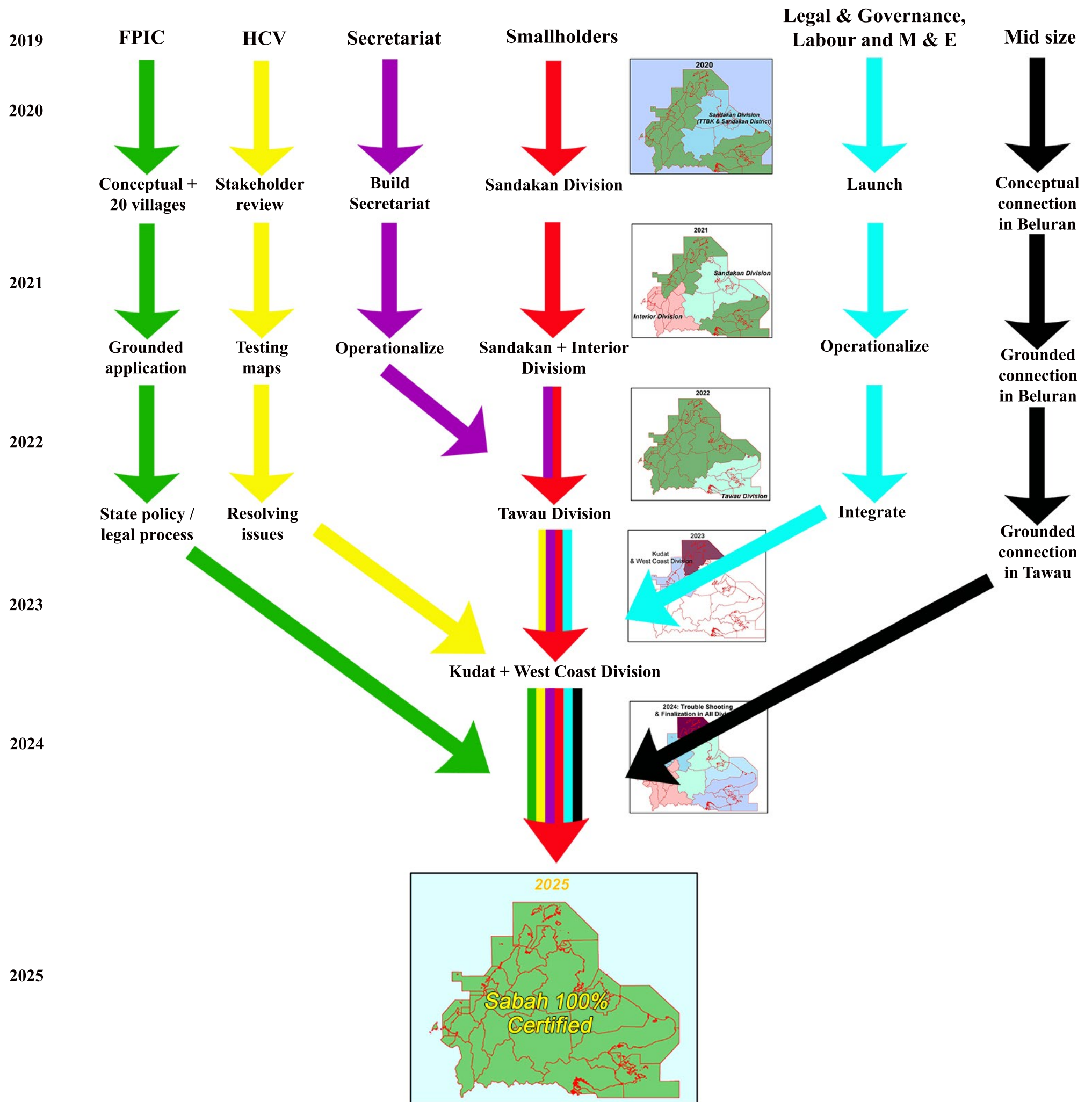
Land Legality: Around 80% of smallholders in Sabah do not have legal title; we have learned that documenting the precise issues is best done by participatory mapping of all smallholdings with each community while matching smallholder land claims to Sabah Lands & Surveys Department data. Meanwhile we have developed a Facilitated Land Application Process (FLAP) under the JCSC as a tool to help resolve these issues under existing Sabah Land Law, the problems being principally “administrative” in nature (i.e. incomplete implementation of documentation under the law). We are also still developing and piloting a collaborative approach with the Sabah Forestry Department to resolve the approximately 20% of cases where smallholders are growing oil palm in designated Forest Reserves. What has to be learned over the next several years is how to make the resolution of land tenure a political priority for the government given how much solving this will improve smallholder economic and social wellbeing. If the Government chooses not to implement the land law in respect to smallholders’ applications, certification will be delayed or even impossible.

Training Approach: The experience with the 2,000 smallholders in the 20 pilot villages of the TTBK has taught us, among other things, the need to see the smallholders not as individuals operating separately from one another on their smallholdings, but instead as a tightly knit community where people work together and share knowledge and responsibility across families and neighbours. Therefore, our approach is no longer to try to take each smallholder, whether an 82-year old grandmother, a migrant worker in KL or the resident head of a young household across the same rigid set of formal courses. Instead, our approach is to foster diverse approaches to training, so that interested members of the community gain a variety of knowledge and relationships, at the same time as providing 20% of the communities’ members with sufficient in-depth knowledge to shift the overall village production system to a new level. The figure of 20% is based on the substantial literature about “tipping points” based around the 20:80 rule; namely that once 20% of individuals in a community embrace an innovation with significant benefits the rest of society tends to follow of its own accord. Furthermore, in selecting and training the 20%, we work to actively identify those most likely to influence and assist their extended families and neighbours, and also teach them in a manner that helps them to relay skills on to others. To reach this 20% we propose to continue the mill-based and agency-based teaching courses (leveraging the generosity and knowledge of different private sector, government and NGO experts present in each corner of Sabah), notwithstanding that these courses typically reach smaller numbers of people because of limited teaching site capacity and the need to move smallholders to the teaching sites; meanwhile we shall deploy the most cost-efficient approach identified so far of reaching larger numbers, namely the village-based on-site teaching approach with PACOS using the RSPO-Aflatoun developed RSPO Smallholder Academy curricular that is delivered over four full days of intensive training in two modules. In the pilot effort we were able to produce through such training programs skilled co-trainers for doing further courses from among the smallholders themselves. Co-teaching with local smallholders increases the relevance and replicability of the courses while further reducing unit costs: our experience in TTBK, and studies around the world, consistently show that courses delivered (or co-delivered) by peer farmers are more effective at changing farmer practices than courses delivered by “distant bureaucracies”.

Smallholder Certification: Although the CSPO Program is yet to certify smallholders, the partnership with Wild Asia, who have certified all 712 RSPO-certified smallholders in Sabah leaves us confident of that stage. We estimate that from engagement in a village to certification will take more than a year, and that some individuals will likely need follow-up after that.

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Lines of Work of the Jurisdictional Certification Process and Working Groups In Relation to the Smallholder Certification Process



DRAFT Smallholder Jurisdictional Certification Roadmap 2020-2025

Year	Statewide Status, Actions & Progress	Status and Progress in the Five Divisions of Sabah					
		Themes	Sandakan	Interior	Tawau	Kudat	West Coast
		Districts	Telupid, Tongod, Beluran, Kinabatangan & Sandakan	Kuala Penyu, Beaufort, Sipitang, Tenom, Keningau, Tambunan, Nabawan	Lahad Datu, Kunak, Tawau & Semporna	Kudat, Pitas, Kota Marudu	Kota Belud, Tuaran, Ranau, Penampang, Kota Kinabalu, Papar, Putatan
Background and Challenges							
Current Status, End 2019	Development of pilot smallholder approach in TTBK with JCSC & local FPIC	Engagement	Engaged 2,000 smallholders in 20 villages in TTBK				
	Established community organizing approach & value of cooperatives through Seruyan/Kalimantan exchange visits	Community Organizing	20 Village Committees established; initial Cooperative training				
	FLAP Version 3.0 and HCV Draft Maps presented at JCSC for deliberation & approval	Land Legalities	All smallholdings mapped, 1,219 of 1,600 have completed NCR application forms				
	Training curricula and delivery approaches tested through mills and other partnerships; 282 smallholders trained (c.75% of 400 person/20% tipping point community target)	Smallholder Training	182 Smallholders received targeted training by mills, MPOB and other partners; and 100 the PACOS/RSPO/Aflatoun Prototyping Training				
	712 Smallholders in Sabah have been RSPO certified to date by Wild Asia (pre-Jurisdictional Certification)	Smallholder Certification	Forever Sabah/Wild Asia have not yet started certification/Wild Asia & Wilmar previously certified 686 smallholders to RSPO in Sandakan Division (most in Beluran District)		Wild Asia & Wilmar have previously certified 26 smallholders in Tawau District to RSPO		
Statement of Needs	Estimated 53,000 smallholders (MPOB 2018 register 34,000)	Smallholder Numbers	20,100 smallholders	7,000 smallholders	19,700 smallholders	4,000 smallholders	2,200 smallholders
	Estimated 251,442 hectares of smallholder oil palm (source Dr. N Abram satellite analysis)	Area	95,313 hectares smallholder oil palm	33,127 hectares smallholder oil palm	93,311 hectares smallholder oil palm	19,101 hectares smallholder oil palm	10,590 hectares smallholder oil palm
	Estimate 825 Oil Palm Growing villages (staff guesstimates)	Village Numbers	300 oil palm cultivating villages	140 oil palm cultivating villages	280 oil palm cultivating villages	60 oil palm cultivating villages	45 oil palm cultivating villages
	Estimated 42,400 Untitled smallholders (80% total as per TTBK)	Land Legality	16,080 untitled smallholders	5,600 untitled smallholders	15,760 untitled smallholders	3,200 untitled smallholders	1,760 untitled smallholders
	Estimated 10,600 Smallholders need "training as trainers" to reach 20% Tipping Point (trainees helped to change their peers)	Training Needed	4,020 trained smallholders needed to reach community tipping point	1,400 trained smallholders needed to reach community tipping point	3,940 trained smallholders needed to reach community tipping point	800 trained smallholders needed to reach community tipping point	440 trained smallholders needed to reach community tipping point
	Sabah Lands & Surveys Dept to engage in FLAP process; Sabah Forest Dept to engage in Forest Reserve oil palm	Land Titling	Data for 20 pilot TTBK villages has been received by Sabah Lands & Surveys and Sabah Forestry Dept				
	Integration of FPIC, HCV, Labour, Legal & Governance and Monitoring & Evaluation	Working Groups	Only FPIC Working Group has sought to ground-truth work with smallholders in the TTBK				

Jurisdictional Certification Secretariat needs establishment		Secretariat					
Smallholder Jurisdictional Certification Roadmap 2020-2025							
2020	Work conceptually on connections with WWF Midsize producers/Landscape program in Beluran District/Sugut landscapes	Engagement	FPIC & engage 12,000 smallholders in Sandakan Division, TTBK districts	Agree planned work for 2021 with Interior Division local govt officials			
	Connect FPIC with certification readiness in 20 TTBK pilot villages; support rationale for institutionalizing FPIC; Engage in stakeholder review of HCVs from smallholder perspective and launching of Labour, Legal & Governance and Monitoring & Evaluation Working Groups	Community Organizing	Establish 200 Village Committees in new villages; advance Cooperatives for 20 pilot TTBK Villages (likely in clusters)				
	Working with JCSC, secure agreement of Sabah Lands & Surveys to advance FLAP Process in 20 pilot TTBK Villages; and Sabah Forestry Dept to work on TTBK oil palm in Forest Reserves	Land Legalities	Map , and complete 9,600 NCR application forms; address Forest Reserve and LA issues under FLAP for 20 pilot TTBK villages				
	Train 3,400 smallholders in diverse ways including through 40 village workshops	Smallholder Training	Train 400 smallholders through mill & other partnerships and 3,000 through 40 village workshops under PACOS/RSP0/Aflatoun Partnership; facilitate outreach by the farmer-leaders trained to other smallholders				
	Certify 1,500 smallholders	Smallholder Certification	Certify 1,500 of 2,000 smallholders in 20 pilot TTBK villages				
2021	Develop grounded work with the WWF Midsize producers/ Living Landscape program in Beluran District/Sugut landscapes	Engagement	FPIC & engage remaining 5,100 smallholders in Sandakan Division, especially in Sandakan District	FPIC and engage 7,000 Interior Division smallholders	Agree planned work for 2022 with Tawau Division local govt officials		
	Ground FPIC work in problem resolution in smallholder communities; work on modalities for identifying and solving HCV issues with smallholders on the ground; assist application of Labour, Legal & Governance and Monitoring & Evaluation Working Groups to smallholder realities	Community Organizing	Establish 80 Village Committees in new villages; advance Cooperatives in 20 pilot TTBK Villages	Establish 140 Village Committees in new villages; advance cooperatives as necessary			
	Work with the JCSC, State Secretary and Lands & Surveys to develop political will to address smallholder land legality across Sabah	Land Legalities	Map , and complete 4,000 remaining NCR new application forms; complete Forest Reserve and LA issues for 20 pilot TTBK villages	Map landholdings and complete 5,600 NCR application forms; address Forest Reserve and LA issues under FLAP for 20 pilot TTBK villages			

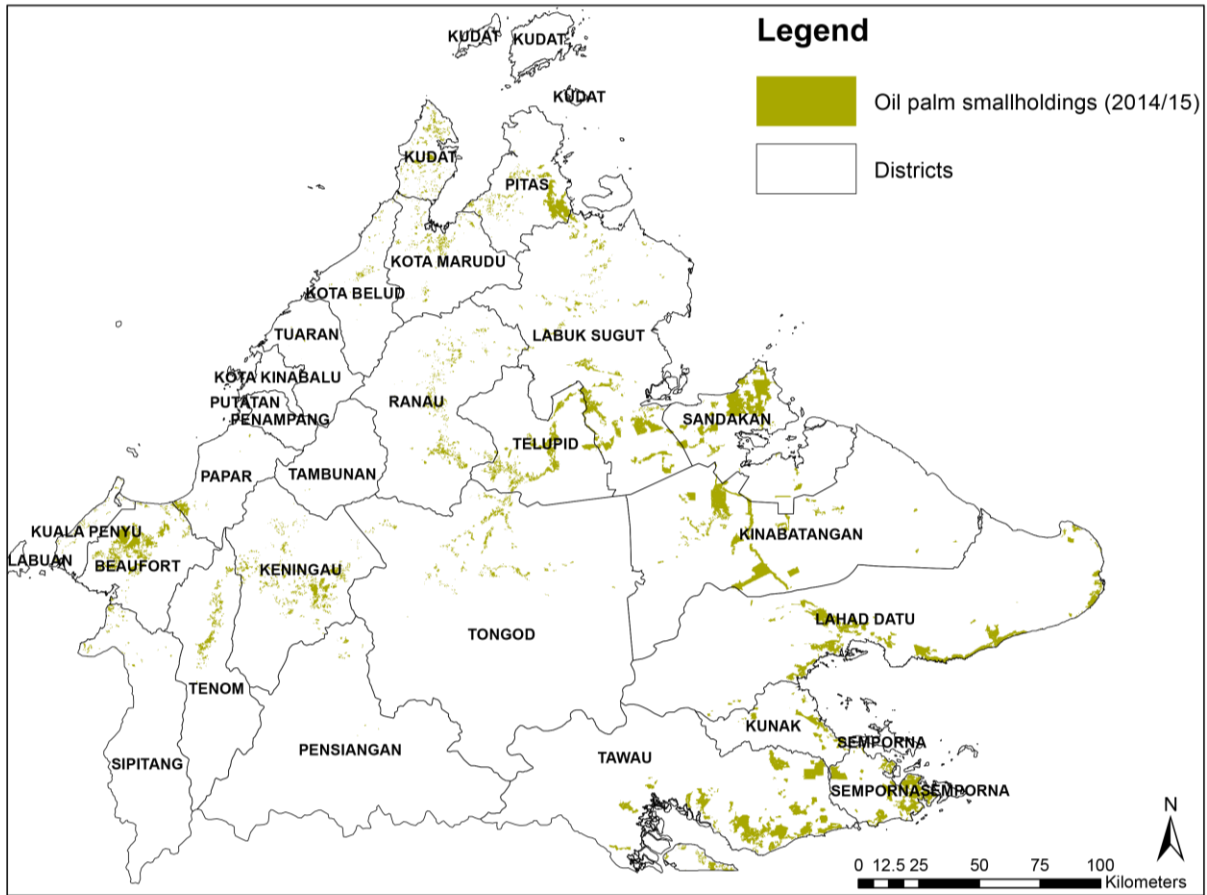
	Train 4,550 smallholders in diverse ways including through 65 village workshops	Smallholder Training	Train 150 smallholders through mill & other partnerships and 1,000 through 25 village workshops under PACOS/RSPO/Aflatoun Partnership; facilitate outreach by the farmer-leaders trained to other smallholders	Train 400 smallholders through mill & other partnerships and 3,000 through 40 village workshops under PACOS/RSPO/Aflatoun Partnership; facilitate outreach by the farmer-leaders trained to other smallholders			
	Certify 10,500 smallholders in the context of exploring sub-jurisdictional approaches	Smallholder Certification	Certify remaining 500 of 2,000 smallholders in 20 pilot TTBK villages; and certify 10,000 smallholders engaged in 2020				

2022	Develop grounded work with the WWF Midsize producers/Living Landscape program in Tawai landscapes	Engagement			FPIC & engage 19,700 smallholders in Tawau Division	Agree planned work for 2023 with Kudat Division local govt officials	Agree planned work for 2023 with West Coast Division local govt officials
	Back institutionalization of FPIC in Ministry of Justice & Native Affairs and ground it in oil palm smallholder landscapes. Explore how to integrate HCV, FPIC and other Working Group issues with smallholders	Community Organizing	Strengthen community palm oil production cooperatives	Strengthen community palm oil production cooperatives	Establish 280 Village Committees in new villages; advance Cooperatives as necessary		
	Scale resolution of land legality issues, especially in the largest smallholder districts (East Coast)	Land Legalities	Resolve land legality issues for smallholders	Resolve land legality issues for smallholders	Map landholdings, and complete 15,760 NCR application forms; address Forest Reserve and LA issues under FLAP for 20 pilot TTBK villages		
	Train 3,400 smallholders in diverse ways including through 40 village workshops	Smallholder Training			Train 400 smallholders through mill & other partnerships and 3,000 through 40 village workshops under PACOS/RSPO/Aflatoun Partnership; facilitate outreach by the farmer-leaders trained to other smallholders		
	Certify 17,500 smallholders. Explore what it would mean to declare Sandakan Division sub-jurisdictionally certified for smallholders, and Beluran potentially certified for smallholders & midsize producers	Smallholder Certification	Certify 5,000 smallholders engaged in 2021 and 1,500 engaged in 2020	Certify 6,000 smallholders	Certify 5,000 smallholders		

2023	Mainstream diverse Working Group issues with smallholders	Engagement				FPIC & engage 4,000 smallholders in Kudat Division	FPIC & engage 2,200 smallholders in West Coast Division
	Ensure cooperatives connected and able to meet aspirations	Community Organizing			Strengthen community palm oil production cooperatives	Establish 60 Village Committees in new villages; advance Cooperatives as necessary	Establish 45 Village Committees in new villages, mainly in Ranau and Papar; advance Cooperatives as necessary
	Maintain land legality momentum post-elections	Land Legalities			Resolve land legality issues for smallholders	Map landholdings, and complete 3,200 NCR application forms; address Forest Reserve and LA issues	Map landholdings, and complete 1,7650 NCR application forms; address Forest Reserve and LA issues

2023	Train 1,240 smallholders in diverse ways including through 30 village workshops		Smallholder Training				Train 200 smallholders through mill & other partnerships and 600 through 20 village workshops under PACOS/RSPO/Aflatoun Partnership; facilitate outreach by the farmer-leaders trained to other smallholders	Train 100 smallholders through mill & other partnerships and 340 through 10 village workshops under PACOS/RSPO/Aflatoun Partnership; facilitate outreach by the farmer-leaders trained to other smallholders
	Certify 13,414 smallholders		Smallholder Certification	Certify remaining 914 smallholders in Sandakan Division	Certify remaining 1,000 smallholders in Interior Division	Certify 10,000 smallholders in Tawau Division	Certify 1,000 smallholders in Kudat Division	Certify 500 smallholders in West Coast Division
2024	Ensure smallholder cooperatives successfully operational and that they enhance livelihoods & traceability		Community Organizing				Strengthen community palm oil production cooperatives	Strengthen community palm oil production cooperatives
	Resolve remaining land legality issues		Land Legalities	Resolve remaining land legality issues for smallholders	Resolve remaining land legality issues for smallholders	Resolve remaining land legality issues for smallholders	Resolve land legality issues for smallholders	Resolve land legality issues for smallholders
	Certify 9,374 smallholders		Smallholder Certification			Certify remaining 4,674 smallholders in Tawau Division	Certify remaining 3,000 smallholders in Kudat Division	Certify remaining 1,700 smallholders in West Coast Division
	Operationalize Monitoring & Evaluation and use it to find and tackle issues		Problem Solving	Trouble-shooting & Mop-Up of Missing & Non-Compliant Areas	Trouble-shooting & Mop-Up of Missing & Non-Compliant Areas	Trouble-shooting & Mop-Up of Missing & Non-Compliant Areas	Trouble-shooting & Mop-Up of Missing & Non-Compliant Areas	Trouble-shooting & Mop-Up of Missing & Non-Compliant Areas
2025	Follow-Up on issues raised through Monitoring & Evaluation		Follow-Up	Follow-Up on issues raised through Monitoring & Evaluation	Follow-Up on issues raised through Monitoring & Evaluation	Follow-Up on issues raised through Monitoring & Evaluation	Follow-Up on issues raised through Monitoring & Evaluation	Follow-Up on issues raised through Monitoring & Evaluation
	Certification of all 53,000 smallholders in Sabah		Outcome	100% Certification	100% Certification	100% Certification	100% Certification	100% Certification

The Smallholder Certification Geographical Challenge: The Distribution of Smallholder Oil Palm in Sabah



Source: Satellite and Land Tenure Data Analysis, Dr. Nicola Abram, Forever Sabah/SPaCES