



## Statement in response to “Foreign Correspondent” Programme on Australian Broadcasting Corporation

8 August 2011

*Foreign Correspondent*, a programme of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC), aired a segment recently which included significant commentary regarding APRIL Indonesia.

APRIL agreed to participate in the programme with full transparency by providing access to our concessions and operations and responses to all questions put to us by the ABC’s reporter. We are disappointed that in the story that went to air *Foreign Correspondent* chose not to reflect many of the facts and important aspects of context provided.

For the past decade, APRIL has been at the forefront of developing and implementing sustainable practices that touch every aspect of our operations. It remains our firm belief, in principle and in practice, that running a successful pulp and paper business and contributing to important sustainability and environmental goals are entirely consistent outcomes.

We feel it is important therefore that we reiterate the facts on the following which are a matter of public record:

- All of our wood supply comes from legal sources. No illegal wood enters our supply chain
- All of our PaperOne products come from 100% renewable plantation sources and do not contain any mixed tropical hard wood. PaperOne’s fibre supply has been independently certified according to the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) Chain of Custody (CoC) standard and also verified to ensure it does not originate from controversial sources.
- Part of the *Foreign Correspondent* programme showed shocking footage of a Sumatran tiger caught in a poacher’s trap and viewers might have inferred that this happened on an APRIL concession. It did not. In fact APRIL goes to significant lengths to prevent poaching.
- APRIL lawfully clears areas of land on which to establish sustainable acacia plantations. APRIL also identifies and protects hundreds and thousands of hectares of high conservation value forest (HCVF) which account for 19% of our concessions and are also important habitat for wildlife.
- Our plantations are located to form buffers around these conservation areas that act as a deterrent to illegal logging and poaching and to maintain important areas of habitat for wildlife.



- Assertions in the ABC programme that our water management on peatland is designed to drain the land are categorically incorrect. We recognise that peatlands are sensitive areas and our land and water management practices are designed to maintain important ecological values on peatland. In many instances water levels have already been impacted as a result of previous illegal logging activities by parties unrelated to APRIL. Much of our peatland management work focuses on restoring and maintaining water levels in peatland to reduce carbon emissions.
- The economic alternatives we create for local communities are significant factors in alleviating poverty and providing new opportunities for communities in Riau as a whole to improve standards of living. Over 20% of our land concessions continue to be used by local communities for their own purposes, in addition to other land available outside our concessions.
- Community engagement is often complex and takes time. APRIL undertakes constructive engagement with local communities where we operate and has reached agreement with dozens of villages, reflecting social and economic development goals determined by village heads. We remain open to dialogue with any villages where concerns may remain.
- APRIL maintains high standards of corporate governance and has zero tolerance for any illegal activity. Inferences made in the ABC programme that APRIL was involved in illegal activities to gain concession licenses are baseless.

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