



Global Compact
Network Singapore

THE RESILIENT PIONEER: **APRIL Group's Evolution through** **Risk Disclosure and Impact-Driven** **Leadership**

Singapore Apex Corporate Sustainability Awards 2025

CATEGORY: SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS

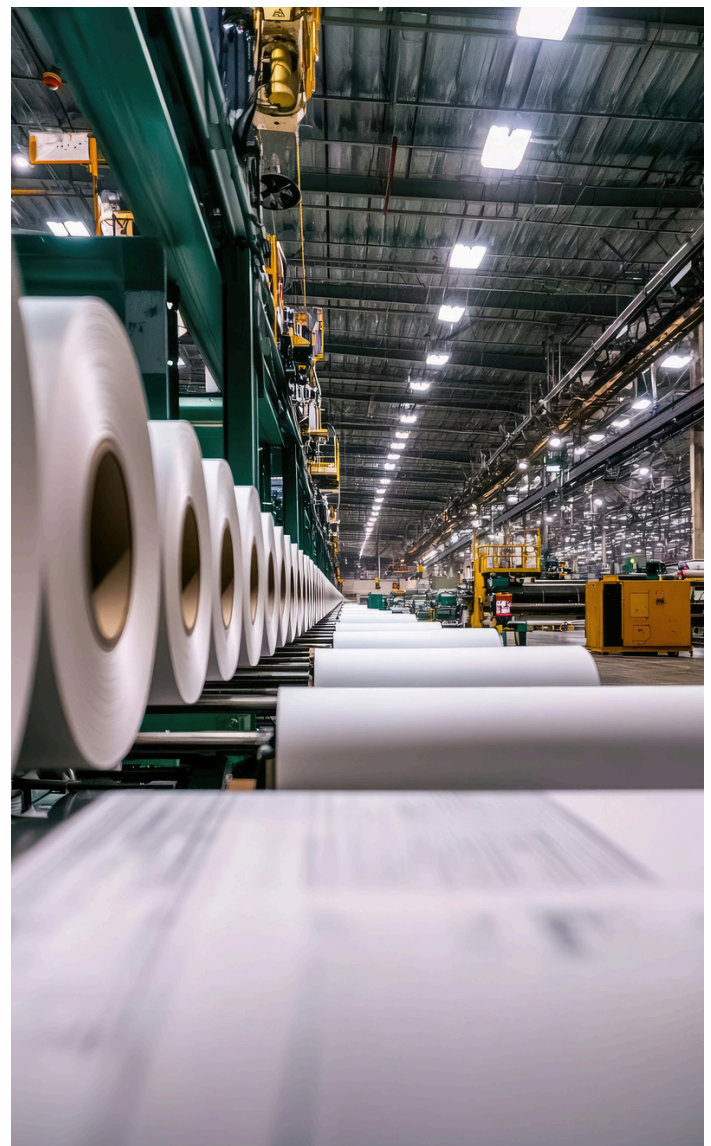




Applying Disclosure Frameworks and Impact Assessments to Manage Risks and Inform Company Culture, Decision-Making, and Best Practice

A signatory to the UN Global Compact since 2006¹, the Asia Pacific Resources International Holdings Ltd (APRIL) is a privately owned company headquartered in Singapore. As a global supplier of pulp, paper, fibre, paperboard, and tissue, it manages forestry plantations and operates manufacturing facilities in Sumatra, Kalimantan, and the Riau Province of Indonesia.²

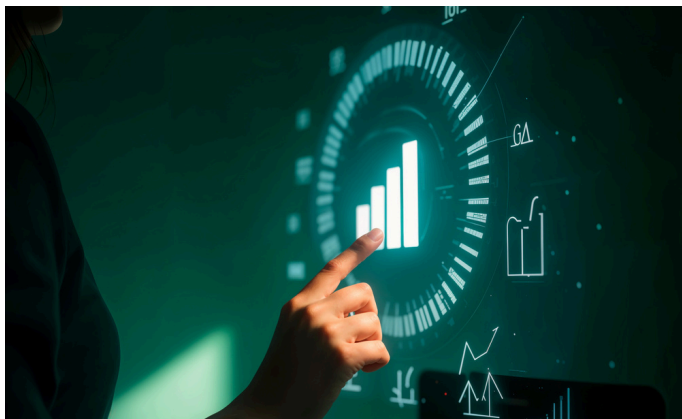
Understanding and managing risks is integral to APRIL's business practices, informing company culture and decision-making. Although a dedicated department identifies, assesses and mitigates risks across the organization, governance structures are in place to integrate risk ownership at the strategic level, along with a two-way risk management approach that involved top-down and bottom-up processes.



Rising Materiality of ESG Risks

In recent years, topics such as climate change and human rights have increased in material importance to the company's stakeholders. Recognising this, APRIL embarked on a two-year long process period to review their Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) framework to assess the extent to which it considers environmental, social and governance (ESG) risks and opportunities.

This included a systematic and in-depth assessment of its risk management and ESG policies, governance structures, risk inventories, reports and business plans, and benchmarking their risk management and ESG initiatives against universally adopted frameworks and against industry peers.³



Based on the review recommendations, it expanded and updated organization-wide strategic and ESG risk categories, refreshed governance structures, updated all risk-related tools, registries, policies, and standard operating procedures, rolled out risk management training for relevant employees across the group, and identified gaps and areas for improvement in risk management capacity and resources.

One of its means of identifying potential impacts of climate change on the business has been through analysing physical climate, policy and legal, technology, market, and reputational risks, in line with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). For APRIL, the value of using the TCFD framework goes beyond its function as a reporting tool to inform relevant stakeholders on the climate-related risks and opportunities in their operations, and actions they are taking.

Implementing the framework has led to improvements to the internal processes and systems such as

A science-based understanding of climate related risk on assets, workforce & supply chain

The informed development of an organization wide adaptation roadmap

Driven the maturity of their ERM framework and its governance

Built organization-wide awareness and capacity on addressing climate risks.

Similarly, commissioning a salience review together with a global non-profit organisation and a human rights consultant in 2021, identified potential salient human rights issues relevant to the pulp and paper industry in Indonesia. Building on this identification of potential salient issues, APRIL has commissioned in-depth human rights impact assessment and social impact assessments to understand the actual on-the-ground human rights risks in their operations and in surrounding communities.⁴



Turning Assessments Into Accountability: Disclosure, Integration, and Recognition



Mr. Bey Soo Khiang, Chairman of APRIL Group

These work undertaken have helped APRIL to understand, disclose, and rank their top risks for the first time in their 2024 Sustainability Report, as part of a strategic review of their enterprise-related risks.

Through engaging an independent party, APRIL was able to update its ERM framework by complementing the existing operations-focused risk approach with a strategic and organization-wide assessment of financial, human rights, climate and ecosystem risks that could impact their strategic and business objectives. APRIL's achievement of integrating sustainability-related risks into its ERM framework was recognised at the 2024 ASEAN Risk Awards where it earned the top spot in the Environmental and Social Risk Management Pioneer category.

“ It is a huge honour to win the Singapore Apex Corporate Sustainability Award. It also signifies that we have to further raise our sustainability ambitions and demonstrate that the business can grow profitably while delivering on our sustainability commitments so as to improve lives of the community around us. ”

References

¹ https://www.aprilasia.com/images/pdf_files/sr/april-sustainability-report-2022.pdf

² https://www.aprilasia.com/images/pdf_files/sr/April_Sustainability_Report_2024.pdf

³ [aprilasia-sr-2023.pdf](https://www.aprilasia.com/images/pdf_files/sr/aprilasia-sr-2023.pdf)

⁴ https://www.aprilasia.com/images/pdf_files/sr/sustainability-report-2021-building-a-resilient-future.pdf



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kai Kim Chiang is a climate finance and sustainability expert with 20+ years of experience across Asia. A UNGCNS contributor, her work focuses on climate risk integration, just transitions, and human rights benchmarking. She is passionate about fostering the cross-sector collaboration necessary for a resilient, inclusive global economy.

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