

Certified Wood Update

FSC General Assembly Edition

27 June 2011

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SHARE OUR VALUES

High Conservation Values (HCVs) are biological, ecological, social or cultural values which are considered outstandingly significant at the national, regional or global level. The HCV concept was first developed by FSC and is now widely used to define the highest level of safeguards needed across a range of land uses.

HCV HIGH CONSERVATION VALUE
resource network

WHO ARE WE?

We are a network of individuals, organisations & institutions who share a mission to conserve the critical social and environmental values of forests and other ecosystems, as part of responsible land management.

The Network is a Charter-based organization with a multi-stakeholder Steering Group advised by an international Technical Panel. It brings together organizations and individuals who use the HCV approach, including: sustainability standard-setters; national and multilateral organizations; major conservation and social NGOs; forest owners and managers; suppliers, buyers and certifiers of sustainable timber, palm oil, soy and non-timber forest products; international development agencies; experts in social, ecological and landscape assessment; representatives of affected communities and concerned individuals.

WHAT DOES THE NETWORK DO?

The Network promotes the use of HCV approach by supporting collaboration, providing information on the evolving usage of the HCVs, and ensuring that a consistent approach to HCVs is understood and applied throughout the world. The Network maintains an open access on-line HCV resource centre (www.hcvnetwork.org), coordinates technical review of HCV reports and HCV training courses, and conducts outreach to regional HCV networks such as the recently established Jaringan Nilai Konservasi Tinggi Indonesia (NKT-I).

HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF THE NETWORK?

There are a number of ways that you or your organization can participate: become a Charter signatory, sign up for our email briefings, request a review of your HCV report or access our free website for a wealth of guidance documents, reports, and contacts. You can also make a donation to support the Network, which is hosted by the UK charity The Proforest Initiative.

Please contact Nilofer Ghaffar at info@hcvnetwork.org or call +44 (0) 1865 243 439 or visit our website at www.hcvnetwork.org for further information.

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In this Special Edition, we report directly from the 2011 FSC™ General Assembly on the official business and unofficial "word on the street". Newsletter design and layout by FSC Denmark. Join us online! www.nepcon.net/newsletter

Feedback on articles? communications@nepcon.net

Today's main topics

The first events at the 6th FSC General Assembly have begun and the venue in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, is buzzing with FSC talk.

We are pleased to bring you the first issue of our special edition of the Certified Wood Update bringing you news directly from this key membership event. It will include thought-provoking editorial on hard hitting issues, reports from key events, feature articles and more.

In today's issue, we report from the two-day workshop which took place over the weekend on FSC's "constitutional" document – the Principles & Criteria.

Today's side events will focus on a wide range of issues important to FSC members, leading up to the formal General Assembly sessions later in the week. In this issue, you will find perspectives on some of the key issues such as FSC Controlled Wood. Greenpeace evaluates the progress on motions related to Controlled Wood since 2008, while Uwe Sayer (FSC-Germany) and Charles Thwaites (FSC-UK) discuss the challenge of involving stakeholders in national Controlled Wood risk assessments. Several articles address the importance of engaging smallholders in FSC certification.

Also find an article on The Malaysian state of Sabah, where this GA takes place, aspires to promote FSC certification to private logging concessions. But the FSC criterion 10.4 - excluding the certification of areas that have been converted from natural forest after 1994 – constitutes a barrier to that ambition.

Today's editorial looks into how FSC can expand to cover a wider forest area, whilst maintaining and even boosting its credibility. The author proposes a series of measures that could achieve this.

Enjoy reading!

Your Rainforest Alliance & NEPCon team

Controlled Wood: hot in 2008, red-hot in 2011?

Transparency, consistency, credibility: words that express core values for FSC and are often heard in the debate surrounding FSC Controlled Wood. We asked Greenpeace how they see the development since then.

Controlled Wood During the FSC General Assembly in 2008, Controlled Wood (CW) was arguably the most debated issue. Greenpeace was behind both CW motions: proposing motion 23; and seconding 24. We have asked forest campaigner Judy Rodrigues from Greenpeace International how she sees the development since 2008.

CW evaluation: "Too little, too late"

Ms. Rodrigues says: "I am disappointed about the implementation of Motion 23 that asked FSC to evaluate the CW system. It is coming too little, too late. It evaluates the current status, while the motion's intent was to monitor if and how companies are committed to continuous uptake of FSC (i.e., monitoring input volumes, product line growth under mix and pure labels and whether a trend of dilution under the FSC mixed label was occurring) including encouraging their CW suppliers to move towards FSC. We wanted to see more commitment to move CW upstream to full certification".

"I need to be convinced that Controlled Wood can't be eliminated and this is where the evaluation comes in. There are issues with small forest holders, but we question why large enterprises can't meet full certification".

Credibility still at stake

As for Motion 24, seeking to address the system's current credibility issues, Ms. Rodrigues says: "The credit system is still not working well enough. Uncontrolled material is entering the system and ending up in labelled products, and this is a huge risk to FSC's credibility. Most consumers can't distinguish between FSC Mixed and FSC Pure".

"During the past three years, we have uncovered evidence for non-compliance with the Controlled Wood standard (FSC-STD-40-005), such as insufficient stakeholder consultation with respect to High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) and unresolved social conflicts of substantial related to traditional rights .

We have evidence of non-compliance of cases in Finland, Canada and Congo DRC. Currently we're gathering evidence in Russia which is already revealing that illegal timber is entering the system under CW".

"ASI isn't doing enough to quality check field audits and to ensure that field verification of HCVF for CW is equally stringent as for full certification. That needs to change immediately", she said, referring to Accreditation Services International, the company in charge of overseeing the performance of Certification Bodies.

Risk assessments on shaky ground

"We were expecting FSC to take more control of risk designation, initially through the Global Forest Registry, and then through the FSC National Offices. Only five national risk assessments have been endorsed; we were expecting a lot more".

"There are inconsistencies among companies conducting their own CW risk assessments and this is disconcerting. And in case of unspecified risk, companies are not obliged to publish the results of their field assessments. Transparency is a big issue for us and we'd like to see the evidence for low risk designation".

Need for substantial changes

Based on these concerns, Greenpeace is demanding substantial changes in the CW system. Ms. Rodrigues says, "FSC must take control over the risk designation and the CW standard must be revised to remove the possibility of companies doing their own risk assessments. And we want to see a sunset clause that limits the time an area can supply CW. We don't want to see any extended excuses by the members and FSC for not adopting the sunset clause. These issues are addressed by 2011 motions on CW".

Motion 23 (2008) called for an evaluation of the CW system, providing a basis for choosing either of three pathways at the 2011 assembly: 1. Eliminate CW 2. Develop the CW system to link more strongly to uptake of FSC certification or 3. Develop an alternative solution creating stronger uptake of FSC.

Motion 24 (2008) required FSC to address the most pressing credibility issues surrounding Controlled Wood, placing specific focus on stakeholder consultations, transparency, and HCVF.



P&C review has been heavily debated the last two days.
Photo: FSC International

FSC Principles & Criteria review: for better or for worse?

The fundamental principles for good forest management, defined in the globally applicable Principles & Criteria (P&C) were heavily debated among FSC's members over the weekend. A key issue of concern was whether they resulted in reduced access for smallholders and the forests of the South.

P&C Review FSC is conducting its first consistent review of its "constitution" - the Principles and Criteria for good forest management - since their adoption almost 15 years ago. The P&C workshop at the FSC General Assembly was met with great interest among the FSC members; the two-day event attracted 150 participants, almost three times the expected number.

During the review process, the number of criteria has grown from 56 to 71. "This may not sound like a big deal, but you can add another 15 pages to the already complex national forest standards on that account", says Richard Donovan, Senior Vice President of the Rainforest Alliance. "This tends to make forest certification less accessible for small operations".

Major efforts have been made to ensure clarity and precision of language; however the price for this is reduced flexibility for the development of indicators that are adapted to smallholders and communities.

The P&C review has received heavy criticism that it is not applicable to all forest types and scales, despite the membership identifying this as a specific goal at the last general assembly in 2008 (motion 10). "The latest version of the P&C has become very complex and less applicable to small forest owners and local communities, to the point that they won't be able to comply with all of the criteria", explains Mauricio Voivodic, Executive Director of IMAFLORA. "I don't see how the decision from 2008 has been taken into consideration during this process," said Mr. Voivodic. "I would like to see the P&C less complicated, easier to understand and more applicable. This is a must".

The intention was to use the stakeholder input from the meetings for finalising the P&C, and to go to a final voting by November 1st. But an influential delegate from Latin America, with the ability to block the process, objected to the launch of the new P&C without prior field testing

over a spectrum of operation sizes and categories. Field testing would require FSC to first develop a global set of indicators. This was required by the FSC membership in 2008 but has been put on hold due to the P&C development process.

"Many people don't recognise the importance of smallholder certification. Smallholders are in fact important ecological and economic drivers on a global scale. In many parts of Latin America, Europe and the US, smallholders manage a major part of the land and are critical to commercial wood supply", says Mr. Donovan.

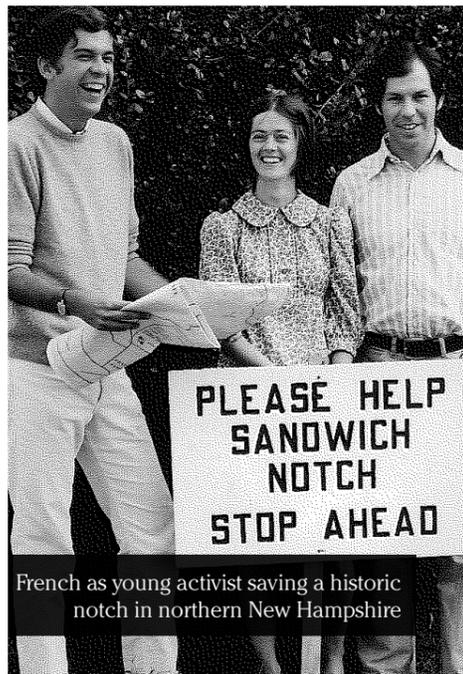
Motion 10 (2008): Ensure adequate wording of the P&C to make it applicable to every type and scale of forests in the world



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French as young activist saving a historic notch in northern New Hampshire



1990 French selling sustainable forestry to European visitor

FSC movers & shakers:

Jameson French: “Some said I was a communist”

Jameson French relays what it was like to be one of the early proponents of FSC among the US industry. Today, many of his earlier critics are certified themselves.

Feature “As hardwood people, we grew up with sustainability”, explains Jameson French, when asked why he became engaged with FSC. Jameson French owns and runs Northland Forest Products, a midsized hardwood producer and distributor on the US East Coast. “My family has been in the hardwood business since the 1880s. ‘Growing trees for your grandchildren’ was an ingrained family value”.

Growing up in New England as the 4th generation in the hardwood lumber business Northland Forest Products, Jameson French became an ardent bird-watcher and hiker at an early age. Those interests created a high level of awareness of the need to protect the natural environment. At 16, he was co-organiser of the first-ever Earth Day. A few years later, he was campaigning to stop raw sewage from flowing directly into rivers and to halt the use of DDT to fight Dutch Elm disease. “I was quite an activist in those days” Mr. French recalls. “Environmental degradation was very severe in the 1970s”.

How did your engagement with FSC come about?

“In 1995, I was invited to join a group of industry and environmental leaders

to discuss the idea of starting a US National Initiative. I guess it was because I was known both as a timber industry representative and as former chairman of The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, the largest conservation group in the state”.

“I was quite an activist in those days”

In late 1999, Mr. French was elected to the economic chamber of the FSC US Board. From 2001-2003, he served as the first chairman of the US Board from the economic sector. “The first period was difficult. The e-NGOs tended to be less progressive, and during the first FSC General Assemblies there was a lot of conflict. The initial market development was slow and finances were severely constrained. Initially, the focus was on solid tropical wood, and before the paper industry got engaged and boosted the market, grants were the only source of income for the system”.

How did your forest industry colleagues react to your commitment?

“My peers and even my friends in the industry thought I was crazy. I was even

publicly accused of being a communist! According to some, FSC was an international conspiracy to stop harvesting of wood.

All of us in the industry who got involved at that time got very much criticised for embracing the environmentalists”. Mr. French pauses. “It was tough then. But time has proven me right. Many who were very critical back then are now certified. The world has changed very much”.

“My peers and even my friends in the industry thought I was crazy. I was even publicly accused of being a communist!”

Northland Forest Products is in itself an example of the benefits of long-time engagement with FSC. “Every year, we sell more FSC-certified products in the US and other markets. Most of our European buyers are public sector projects, while our US customers are a mixture of universities, NGO projects and private sector enterprises. The markets for certified hardwood products in Australia, New Zealand and Japan seem to be largely driven by government procurement policies”.

What do you see as the key challenges for FSC?

“Overall I remain very positive about the system. However, I am deeply concerned about the access to FSC certification for small and medium forest enterprises. The amount of paperwork required to get certified is a great obstacle. Look at the new FSC-US Forest Management standard for family forests – it’s 122 pages long!”

Unless we can find ways to increase smallholders access to certification, there is a risk that FSC develops into an elitist program for only the largest and wealthiest landowners”.

There is a need to go back and make it more simple. There is a big movement in this country against government regulations and bureaucracy, which are seen as discriminating against the little guy. In the Eastern US hardwood forest over 70% of the land is owned by small, non-industrial landowners. There are over 8 million of these individuals, many of whom only harvest their land every 15 or 20 years.

Unless we can find ways to increase smallholders access to certification, there is a risk that FSC develops into an elitist program for only the largest and wealthiest landowners”.

“Also, don’t abolish Controlled Wood! Companies like Northland Forest Products depend very much on an efficient Controlled Wood system for our FSC product range. Until a much larger volume of FSC products becomes available, we are not able to buy the full range of species, qualities and sizes that we need”.

“Finally, I would also urge FSC to work on keeping the brand credible. There is a need to be very careful about controlling trademark abuses and misleading statements. We have to keep the labeling strong”.



Has FSC become easier to access for smallholders? © NEPCon

Small but essential

Has FSC made the step-change needed to meet this ambitious goal in its Global Strategy to boost FSC certification in the tropics and among communities? We look at how the 2008 motions have fared and see what lies ahead.

Smallholders

Smallholders difficult to reach

“As a result of the Motion 27, there’s been an understanding that engaging smallholder is an important issue”, said Margareta Renström, Forest Certification Manager at WWF International who proposed the motion. “Smallholders are very difficult to reach.”

Over the last few months, FSC established the Smallholder Support Program to focus on outreach, marketing, networking and capacity building to boost smallholder certification. Currently 5.93 million hectares, representing 4.14% of the globally FSC certified are managed by smallholders.

SLIMF needs new approach

Mauricio Voivodic, Executive Director of IMAFLORA, a non-profit Brazilian NGO reignites an old discussion from social-south members regarding the FSC standard developed in 2004 to streamline certification for Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests (SLIMF).

“I still don’t think putting traditional, indigenous groups from tropical countries in the same basket as rich private family forests in the US or small producers from Finland is a good strategy. Their needs are completely different”, said Mr. Voivodic.

“This is why we have proposed a new motion this year to develop a mechanism for reclassifying SLIMF operations according to national or regional risk assessment”, he continued.

Under Motion 27 (2011), social and environmental risks would be identified

through regional stakeholder processes, adapting and reducing the criteria to be more applicable for and understandable to local communities, whilst also reducing costs.

Differentiate with community labels

“The SLIMF standard is a ‘hot potato’ and hasn’t helped smallholders gain access to certification”, said Jacob Ryding, Vice-President of Forests of the World – formally known as Nepenthes. “Community labelling would be a step forward”, said Mr. Ryding.

He continued to explain how the local market in Rosita, Nicaragua, is swamped with illegal timber, and that smallholders who manage their forests in responsible ways can’t compete with the prices. They have to get their products out on the national or international markets, using credible labels.

“We are also very close to launching the community label, which will hopefully help them get better returns on their investment in FSC”, reveals Mr. de Freitas.

An Advice Note, which includes the proposed text “From well managed forests of small or community producers”, is being submitted to the FSC Policy and Standards Committee at the General Assembly for approval.

“Coming into fruition, we have this exciting project with Fair Trade that will see the first products coming onto the market in the fall with both the FSC and Fair Trade labels”. Wooden floor maker Kährs from Sweden is likely to be the first company in the world to purchase dual-labelled material from Chile.



André de Freitas
FSC Director General © FSC

Andre de Freitas: Integrity remains our top priority

In an interview with NEPCon and the Rainforest Alliance, FSC Director General Andre de Freitas sheds light on FSC's progress since he took office in 2008, and unveils where FSC will place its efforts in this next crucial phase.

Interview

In 2008, you stated a vision for FSC in five years: a stronger, more credible and accessible system that brings greater value to its stakeholders. Three years on, do you think you're on track?

"Overall I believe we are on track with that vision. We're a much stronger organisation right now, and our systems have been evolving to increase the level of credibility and assurance that we need to give our stakeholders. But this is not the end point. We will need to continue our work to ensure the level of integrity keeps to the satisfaction of our stakeholders – and keeps evolving as society evolves as well".

How far have you come to address the issues you identified as critical to FSC's credibility?

"We have seen progress in all of those areas, but the job is not done yet". "I see improvements in the way ASI operates", concerning the performance of Accreditation Services International (ASI)'s – the company managing FSC's accreditation program. He explained that FSC will shift from a more procedural approach to on-the-ground performance, "perhaps not doing as many witness

assessments but focussing more on validation and compliance audits". "There's a new set of accreditation standards in place that will hopefully give us a better framework for monitoring certification bodies. ASI has a new audit management system", that he anticipates will highlight where FSC will need to make improvements to its policies.

Regarding more transparent communication with stakeholders, "I think that as an organisation we're getting better at addressing issues that are important to stakeholders and have made progress in two key areas," but recognises that FSC "can still do better at responding to stakeholders". FSC introduced a dispute resolution system and are planning to put further resources behind it, as well as a stakeholder portal.

Referring to improving FSC's policies, "I am concerned that FSC's processes have become very complex. We're going to put a lot of effort into keeping stakeholders engaged and motivated around technical processes".

On the subject of communicating FSC's impacts, "Once the new version of the Principles and Criteria are approved, we

plan to systematically collect information on specific indicators in our database that will allow us to monitor progress over time".

You also mentioned two other major challenges: FSC's resources; and smallholders and certification in the tropics. How far has FSC come to address these issues?

"We have done a fairly good job at being more self-sufficient from the system itself although grants are still very important. One of our key successes over the past few years is a new agreement and closer collaboration with our network, including a revenue sharing mechanism".

Over the last few months, FSC increased its capacity working to better engage smallholders and has made headway on several smallholder initiatives – namely community product labelling, FSC-Fair Trade dual certification and the modular approach. However, "certification in the tropics and among smallholders still needs further progress".

Since taking office, what one change that you've made do you believe has made the biggest positive impact on the ground?

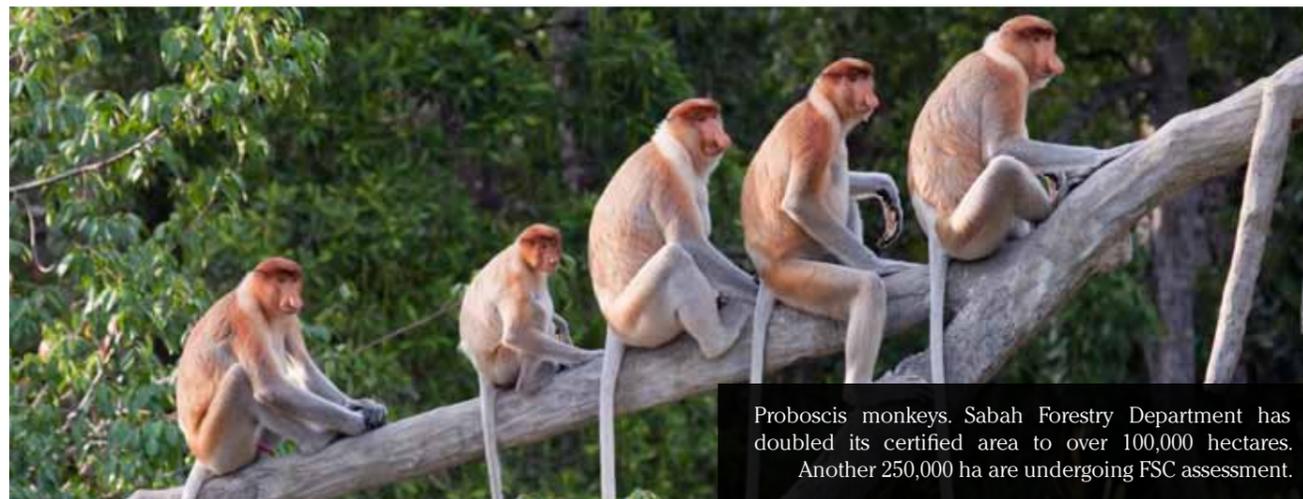
"One thing we have done as a system that I am particularly happy about is improving our relationship with the FSC Network. Our vision is that more of the communication, marketing and stakeholder engagement will happen at the local level". What is the one most important priority to you and why?

"It's difficult to prioritise one. The integrity of the system is something that we have done a lot of work on, but I recognise we need to do a lot more. As we grow as a system, is our model right for the scale that we have? We will need to have different answers to the challenges we are facing".

Do you believe the motions address these key issues?

"I think some of them do. The motions proposed this year are higher quality in technical content than last time. There will be a lot of discussion, and I expect these will evolve as a result of this debate".

Some of the motions reinforce on-going activities, he said: "I don't know if this is a further sign of how important such an issue is or that we need to better communicate our progress on these issues. Some of them bring new ideas, and this is very welcome in setting a direction for such an organisation".



Proboscis monkeys. Sabah Forestry Department has doubled its certified area to over 100,000 hectares. Another 250,000 ha are undergoing FSC assessment.

Sabah: Conversion criterion a hindrance for the expansion of FSC

FSC certification was invented as a market-based tool for change. But Criterion 10.9, forbidding certification of plantations converted from natural forest after 1994, may effectively bar the scheme from having any influence on the management of Sabah's most precious forests.

Conversion "New Zealand destroyed its natural forests and lost much of its unique wildlife before the 1950s. By comparison, not a single species has become extinct so far in Sabah. Yet today, many plantations in New Zealand are FSC-certified, while most of Sabah's forests are effectively excluded from certification due to the conversion of a small percentage of the land after 1994, in the end, not more than 10% of all reserves and conservation areas."

Datuk Sam Mannan, Director of Sabah Forestry Department, raises a point that is becoming urgent in the case of Sabah, Malaysia: How can Sabah ensure good management of its forests if the gold standard market reward scheme is excluded in advance?

Conversion – a compromise solution

In 1997, a new licensing system was introduced in Sabah as part of a privatisation process. About 2 million hectares – more than half of Sabah's total forest cover – were concessioned to private companies for periods of between 50 and 100 years.

"Due to mismanagement in the past, many areas were overlogged, and sustainable logging will only be possible in 30-40 years' time. The private sector cannot be expected to accept zero income for such a long period of time. The solution was to permit conversion of 15% of the forests to plantations in order to safeguard the remaining 85%", explains Datuk Sam. The concessionaires are further obliged to obtain certification by an internationally recognised forestry scheme by 2014.

Datuk Sam urges FSC to look at Sabah as a special case. "The Forestry Department has opted for FSC for the areas we manage, and we are expanding our commitment considerably. It would be natural for our licensees to follow our example and go for the gold standard, FSC, to cover their entire concessions. But if they are unable to gain recognition by FSC, then they will need to choose another certification system.

"This is a big-scale issue. Much of the licensed land is lowland rainforest, harboring the richest biodiversity. At the same time, it is also very suitable palm oil land".



Datuk Sam Mannan,
Director of Sabah Forestry Department

In principle, the non-converted part of the forests could still become FSC-certified; but concessionaires are likely to choose a single alternative scheme rather than working with two different schemes for different parts of their concessions.

Why does Sabah Forestry Department promote FSC certification?

"The most important benefit is the credibility aspect. We need to prove that we are doing the right thing and our FSC certification clearly helps us to keep our standards high. For example, we have carried out surveys to identify High Conservation Value Forests (HCVF) in collaboration with WWF".

"We also want to show how good forest management feeds into the long-term sustainable economy of Sabah as a whole, to justify why we are reserving so much land for forests."

We have managed to obtain price premiums for FSC timber of about 10-20% over the years. Most importantly, our certification allows us to penetrate markets – with FSC certification in place, we do not have to answer any questions from buyers. Currently most of our certified timber ends up on the European and North American markets, but China is also an important emerging green market".

Motion 18 submitted to the General Assembly 2011 suggests opening the option of certifying post-1994 converted plantations on certain conditions, in recognition of the benefits for the plantation management. The key proponent of this motion is Daemeter Consulting of the Social South.



REGIONAL OUTLOOK



For FSC Germany and FSC UK it has been a huge effort to carry out a controlled wood risk assessment. Stakeholders get confused along the way. Photo: Rainforest Alliance

Controlled Wood – engaging stakeholders in technical risk assessments

In the last few months, the FSC Network has conducted national Controlled Wood (CW) risk assessments in several countries – including in Germany and the United Kingdom. In theory, this is a technical process which requires an assessment of strictly defined CW criteria – in theory.

Participation The goal is to clarify if forestry practices are threatening the forests in a given area. On a national level, a final conclusion can only be reached when a broad spectrum of stakeholders are involved in the process. If a region is deemed low risk, the risk assessment makes it easier for companies to source CW timber from that region.

Lack of understanding unravels into political debate

There are usually high expectations at the beginning of the process. Coupled with a poor understanding of the difference between the process needed for developing a national FSC standard and a risk assessment which is more technical, this can easily unravel into a political debate with unwanted consequences for FSC.

In both Germany and the UK, stakeholders broadly speaking did not comment on the technical aspect and the requirements of the CW criteria. Instead, they pushed their political concerns and views.

In Germany, NGOs raised their concerns over the protection of high conservation value forests in Europe and increasing felling volumes to satisfy the needs of the panel, paper and biofuels industry.

Companies on the other hand perceived the process as a threat to production by increasing the level of verification in an area most of the industry perceives the area as unquestionably low risk.

In the UK, some unexpected social issues came to the fore, such as whether Scottish crofters had the legal right to claim the status of an indigenous people. Industry worries in the UK are slightly different, revolving around whether certification would remain worth the effort, when all woodlands now have a 'free entry pass' into a sector of the certified market.

Distrust and concerns

In the end, in Germany with a risk assessment concluding Germany as low risk – so far. But the price was high: a growing number of stakeholder and FSC supporters now question the general concept of FSC mixed products with concerns that the risk assessment would lead to a parallel market in Germany.

In the UK, it remains unclear with FSC's credibility has been affected by reaching consensus on the risk assessment. The fact that Northern Ireland remains an unspecified risk – due to the felling licences in the province not being as highly developed as in the rest of the

UK – is regarded as an indication of the thoroughness of the overall assessment, however concerns have been voiced by a few NGOs that the environmental categories contain considerable gaps.

Beware of communication challenges

Never think it is purely a technical issue. There is an enormous need to better explain what the CW aims for: a step towards achieving full FSC certification, and empowering companies to produce FSC certified products that will ultimately lead to further forests certified globally.

For this we need better materials that demonstrate how the CW approach has positively impacted the growth of FSC certified area worldwide. Only if we can demonstrate that CW is a practical and reliable tool, will we be successful with defining meaningful risk assessment.

Uwe Sayer, FSC Germany Director and Charles Thwaites, FSC UK Director

FSC and forests: a long way to go

At this year's General Assembly, there are two main challenges: first, ensuring we close the loop on the commitments made in Cape Town. Second, as we push forward, not overloading the system and staying focused on the most critical improvements.

The Cape Town GA in 2008 created a huge volume of work for FSC to focus on; as we have approached this GA, there has been a race to address motions passed – sometimes successfully, sometimes not.

The overall question remains: how can FSC more effectively expand its coverage of the forests around the world?

Move forward with modular certification

Ten years ago, a few groups started working with tools for stepwise certification of forests (e.g. GFTN, SGS, Rainforest Alliance and ProForest). Rainforest Alliance and our longstanding collaborators Imaflora (Brazil) and NEPCON (Europe and Russia) have been working with loggers, smallholders and communities; however, there is not enough global support behind it and FSC has the power to change that. Today, we still don't have a formally endorsed FSC tool for "modular" certification – an enormous gap that must be addressed. It is critical that FSC get solidly behind this.

Expand Controlled Wood forest certification

For the past three years, the Rainforest Alliance has been trying to propagate the CW forest management standard (FSC-STD-30-010). It is a far more robust approach than risk assessments for dealing with CW at the forest level, particularly when there is forest conflict. A motion from the last GA reinforced this, but today the use of the standard remains small (only 19 certificates exist globally; 4 CBs involved). Considering the credibility challenges that CW faces, and the need for FSC Modular to advance, more aggressive use of the CW FM standard seems critical.

Strengthen legality assurance

FSC has the opportunity to solidly contribute to addressing the

challenges of legality in the global forest products trade. To achieve this, we need to move ahead with P&C that effectively address legality; and add more robust CoC procedures; today, CoC certified operations aren't rigorously excluding potential illegal inputs in non-FSC product lines, something that undermines confidence in the whole FSC system. Many stakeholders assume any FSC COC-certified company should only trade in legal products, but this is not locked tight.

Focus on non-timber values

FSC tools might be used to enhance the accountability for forests where conservation, non-timber forest products, or ecosystem services are the primary management objectives rather than timber. Exploring FSC as a tool for ensuring non-timber forest values can help us address more forests, and the needs of communities, around the world.

Away with interim forestry standards

Finally, FSC must eliminate the confusing situation with different Interim Standards developed by different certification bodies for the same country. Interim Standards have played a critical role in the past in getting the FSC where it is today, but change needs to happen, as per motions from the past 2 assemblies. Much is made of the fact that FSC has "only" certified 10% of the world's commercial forests, but in fact FSC's impact extends further than that. The FSC movement is affecting many other forests through procurement policies that are pushing forest managers towards improvement, investors requiring FSC, and the incorporation of basic FSC values (indigenous rights, High Conservation Values, free prior and informed consent) into new initiatives like REDD.

However, more remains to be done and the scheme needs to expand its coverage. The measures outlined above are part of the solution for FSC.

Richard Z. Donovan, Rainforest Alliance Senior Vice President & Vice President of Forestry Division

What's being said about....

FSC and the GA

CWU_GA_Daily Soil Association: "Some consensus found on controversial P&C issues, which was really great!"

CWU_GA_Daily CertifiedWoodUpdate Sylvania Forestry: "Tackling the entire P&C may have been too ambitious...reaching consensus will be tough to do by November #FSCGA11"

CWU_GA_Daily Over 150 people attended the P&C review session, showing issues are sufficiently important...the stakes are high

CWU_GA_Daily CertifiedWoodUpdate Sylvania Forestry: "The P&C seemed a little too ambitious...I'm concerned that they will complete by November #FSCGA11"

CWU_GA_Daily CertifiedWoodUpdate #FSC Japan: "We have a small office, it was nice to meet other countries of a similar size, and that they can have an impact, its inspiring"



Join the conversation at
www.twitter.com/FSC_GA_daily

Whose nose is this?

Figure out the owner of this nose to win the nice cut board



The person behind this nose will be here at the GA, so keep your eyes on the nose!

Guess and win!



How to win

Write the name of the owner of the nose on your businesscard, and put it in the NEPCon competition box placed in the coffe area. The winner will be announced in tomorrow's issue.

By participating you will also sign up for the next issue of Certified Wood Update online.



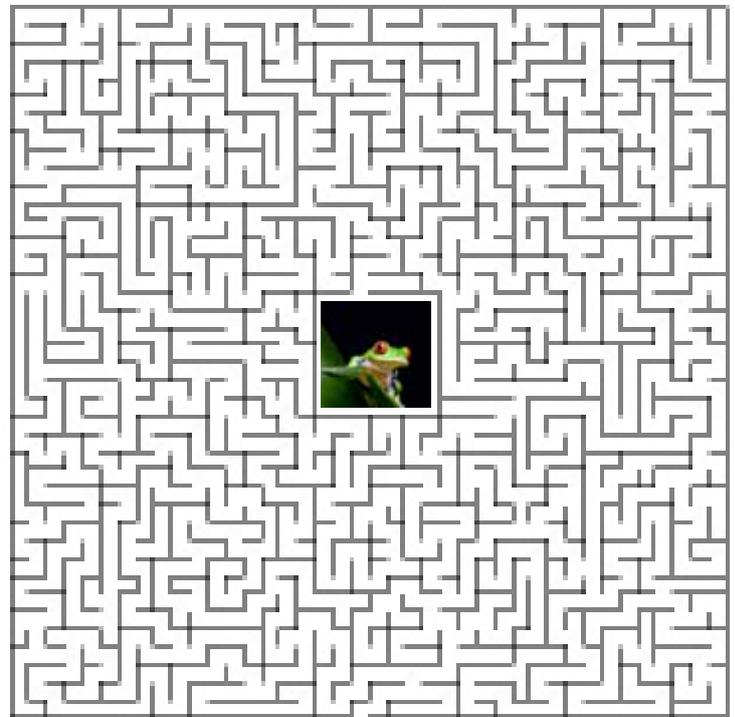
Borneo Facts:

Did you know?

The word **Orangutan** means 'person of the forest', from the Malay word "Orang" meaning people and "Hutan" meaning forest

"People who will not sustain trees will soon live in a world that will not sustain people."

Bryce Nelson



Can you find your way through the maze and catch the frog?

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