The first FSC Certification Discussion Group took place on May 18 of 2017 from 9:00 to 12:00 in Rotorua, hosted by WPMA and attended by 23 people.

OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING

The FSC Certification Discussion Group Meeting aimed at:

1. Giving an update about the FSC system and market.
2. Engaging companies to discuss how we can work together to increase the value of their FSC certificate.

NOTES FROM DISCUSSIONS

Although we did not have time to present all the topics included in the agenda, the 4 following topics were discussed:

A. DEVELOPMENT OF THE FSC MARKET IN NEW ZEALAND AND INTERNATIONALLY

1. We presented some key statistics of the FSC NZ market and actions undertaken to raise awareness (see presentation attached for more details).
2. Bill Royce, CEO at FSC Australia and New Zealand gave relevant insights about the work of FSC International on ecosystem services, policy for association, new global COO appointment, efforts for regional coordination - all intended to enhance customer relations and support.
3. The difference between Certificate Holders and Members appeared to be unclear: All Certificate Holders have the right to participate in public consultations, while Members have a voting right and are part of the FSC governance. Companies can be both or either one.

B. STATUS OF THE NEW ZEALAND FOREST MANAGEMENT STANDARDS FOR PLANTATIONS

4. Colin Maunder, Chair of the NZ group developing the national Forest Management Standards, gave a good introduction about how the group works to revise the local indicators for NZ plantations management.
5. New Zealand is one of the only two countries - with Canada - where the NZ Standards Development Groups has a 4th Chamber (Environmental, social, economic + Indigenous Chamber).
6. The current revision process is having some debates, especially about the minimum wage for workers.

7. Next step will be the submission of the draft to FSC International. All Stateholders are encouraged to contact Colin for any feedback.

C. STATUS OF THE NEW ZEALAND CENTRALISED NATIONAL RISK ASSESSMENT (CNRA)

8. There was a clear issue regarding some of the drafts made by the consultants appointed by FSC on two of the five categories for Controlled Wood.

9. As an effort to solve this issue, an independent consultant from Scion was appointed by WPMA to revise the first draft before the New Zealand public consultation.

10. The action point here is for FSC to carry out urgent corrective measures to understand NZ longstanding and internationally-accepted legislative settings on these matters. – Cyrielle and Bill to discuss this with FSC International and report back to the group.

D. IMPLEMENTING A FSC CERTIFICATION DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING REGULARLY

11. Next meeting to be organised in November, then every 6 months.

12. **Purposes:** Certificate Holders have raised the need for:
   a. Clearer and straight-forward communication
   b. Creating a dialogue between industries using FCS certified timber based products
   c. Following up on discussions of the first meeting

13. **Outcomes:**
   a. Creation of commercial opportunities for FSC certified companies
   b. Stronger impact in taking action together to raise awareness about the importance of certified timber

14. **Organisation:**
   a. One day long for the first one then others to be shorter - location to be defined
   b. FSC Forest Management Cluster to be invited

15. **Other suggestions:**
   a. Better time management (stick to agenda, longer meeting and allow more time for networking)
   b. One Representative of the packaging and printing industries is to be identified, who will attend the second FSC Certification Discussion Group Meeting.
   c. Other topics to be included: credit system, FSC role and responsibilities
FEEDBACKS

16. We have received very positive feedback which is encouraging.
17. Overall people felt supported by the work done at FSC Australia and New Zealand to improve the services delivered to companies.
18. Whilst some participants questioned the interest of others in promoting FSC, there was an appreciation that many NZ certificate holders were keen to engage in efforts to increase the value of their certification.

QUESTIONS

If you have any question or would like to be involved in the next meetings please contact Cyrielle Durand at c.durand@nz.fsc.org