



Thursday, May 15, 2008

To: FCS Certifiers
FSC Forest Managers
FSC Members

From: Richard Robertson, FSC Forest Standards Manager

Subject: FSC Consultation: FSC-STD-60-006 Forest Standards Development Process

This email is to announce the final consultation on *Process requirements for the development of Forest Stewardship Standards FSC-STD-60-006 (Draft 4-5)*. Please find this standard attached along with a flow diagram of the new development and approval process for FSC Forest Stewardship Standards.

FSC-STD-60-006 will apply to all those engaged in regional/national standards development and will effect all future development and review of such standards.

Why is this standard needed?

FSC-STD-60-006 has now been through several drafts and rounds of public consultation since it was first drafted in 2005.

The function of development and approval of Forest Stewardship Standards has been handed from ASI to the FSC Policy and Standards Program. Until now regional/national standards have been developed by FSC National Initiatives which have then submitted their standards to ASI for assessment prior to approval by FSC. Now regional/national FSC Forest Stewardship Standards will be developed as part of the function of the Policy and Standards Program, with regional/national Standards Working Groups being established as appropriate.

In light of this significant change it is imperative that standards and procedures are now put in place by FSC for the development of Forest Stewardship Standards which are more aligned with the process for development of other standards within the Policy and Standards Program.

What will it achieve and how will it help more national/regional standards processes to succeed?

FSC-STD-60-006 is designed to rationalize the process of developing an FSC Forest Stewardship Standard; ensuring that the correct procedure is followed by the Standards Development Group from the start and at each step to keep it on track. The Policy and Standards Program will be able to provide advice on content and structure as the standard develops. This will save on back tracking and disappointments that can arise.

An initial proposal must be made to FSC and if approved, terms of reference and a work plan shall be submitted to the FSC Policy and Standards Program for approval prior to commencement of the formal standard setting process. Priority will be given in the work plan of the Policy and Standards Program. Forest Stewardship Standards will not receive the support of the Policy and Standards Program or be put forward to the FSC Board for endorsement without taking formal approach.

Informal discussion

For further discussion of the issues raised please **contact Richard Robertson by emailing national.indicators@fsc.org or phone +44 (0)2081239723.**

Submitting formal comments

If you have any comments or points of clarification regarding the attached standard, please send these by the **deadline of 9th June 2008.**

Please see attached a copy of

Kind regards
Richard Robertson

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Flow Diagram for Development of Forest Stewardship Standards

Legend

Green shaded are part of FSC-STD-60-006

Blue shaded are part of FSC-PRO-xx-xxx

ED Executive Director

PSP Policy & Standards Program



