



Advisory Group for the Review and Revision of the FSC Principles and Criteria

Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure

March 13, 2009

1. Background

The FSC Principles and Criteria were first approved in 1994. Since then partial amendments but no complete review and revision of the Principles and Criteria has taken place. In 2008 FSC took the decision to embark on a comprehensive review and revision of the P&C. The goal of this review and revision is to analyze all issues identified in the past and to propose, when necessary, revisions to the Principles and Criteria needed to solve the identified issues. The review and revision covers the entire Principles and Criteria including their introduction and glossary of terms and follows FSC PRO-01-001 (Version 2-0) for the Development and Approval of FSC Social and Environmental International Standards.

2. Objective

According FSC-PRO-01-001 (Version 2-0) FSC has established the P&C Review Working Group as the main body responsible for the P&C Review and Revision.

However, in order to support the Working Group in ensuring that actual and potential views of all FSC stakeholder groups receive due consideration in the course of preparing draft versions of the P&C the Board of Directors requested that FSC establishes an additional Advisory Group for this process.

3. Duties

The role of the Advisory Group is to provide technical advice and recommendations to the P&C Review Working Group on how to consider stakeholder comments as received on the public drafts of the revised P&C.

Advisory Group members are generally requested to focus with their advice and recommendations on their specific area of expertise, for example Indigenous Peoples issues, but are not restricted to these areas of expertise.



4. Structure and Accountabilities

FSC will select Advisory Group members upon submission of an application with information on the necessary qualifications and area of expertise. A number of individuals have already indicated their interest to serve on the Advisory Group. Their continued interest will be confirmed by FSC.

While the Advisory Group is generally not limited in size FSC reserves the right to limit participation to manageable number if needed. Chamber balance is not a prerequisite for constituting the Advisory Group. However, FSC will strive to achieve adequate participation of all sub chambers (Social North and South, Environmental North and South, Economic North and South).

The Advisory Group submits its advice and recommendations the P&C Review Working Group but these are not binding for the Working Group.

The Advisory Group will be supported by the FSC Policy and Standards Unit through the facilitator of the P&C Review Working Group.

Advice and recommendations from the Advisory Group are required on two occasions: in June 2009 after completion of the public consultation on the 1st draft and in September 2009 after completion of the public consultation on the 2nd draft of the revised P&C (changes to these timelines might apply)

5. Member qualifications and obligations

Advisory Group membership will be open to individuals with long term expertise and in-depth knowledge about the FSC Principles and Criteria. Advisory Group members shall be proficient in communicating through information technology, mainly email.

While participation in the Advisory Group takes place solely on a voluntary basis Advisory Group members should be able to make available the time needed for providing recommendations and advice to the P&C Working Group on comments received on the 1st and 2nd public draft of the revised P&C.

6. General Rules of Procedure

The Advisory Group will work via email or similar means of electronic communication, e.g. an online discussion forum.



Advisory Group members can provide recommendations and advice as individuals or together with other Advisory Group members as a sub group of the Advisory Group.

The facilitator will serve as the communications link between the Advisory Group and the P&C Review and Revision Working Group. The facilitator will also be responsible for providing the Advisory Group with the information (e.g. comments on the drafts for public consultation) and tools (e.g. email list servers) necessary for the Advisory Group members to successfully complete their task. The facilitator will not moderate Advisory Group internal communication or decision making.

Advisory Group members may submit their advice or recommendation in any language, preferably in English or Spanish.

Participation in the Working Group takes place on a voluntary non-paid basis. FSC cannot cover any costs or expenses incurred by members in relation to their participation in the Advisory Group.