



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Working Group for the review of Group CoC Policy

24 August 2011

Background

The Group Chain of Custody Policy FSC-POL-40-002 was first published in July 2002 aiming to provide an option for small enterprises to access the FSC certification. The policy underwent a revision in September 2004. Since then, the document did not receive any further review, except a complementary procedure approved in August 2010 regarding to the approval procedures of national eligibility criteria for group CoC applicable to FSC National Offices. FSC wants to conduct a complete review process of the Group CoC Policy and calls for applicants for a working group to be established for this purpose.

Objective of the working group

To provide technical, scientific and strategic advice and recommendations on the development of a new standard for Group CoC certification.

Duties

With a focus on their specific areas of expertise, working group members will provide strategic input to FSC staff on:

- The current implementation and needs for improvement in the current Group CoC Policy
- Expertise on small enterprises and their needs
- Ideas and recommendations regarding to certification requirements adequate to small enterprises
- Support on the development and reviews of the draft standard.
- Support on the analysis and incorporation of comments received during two rounds on public consultation.

Note: The working language of the Working Group will be English.

Workplan and time commitment

The working group will conduct most of its work via e-mail or similar means of electronic communication (e.g. phone conference), and through one-on-one calls with FSC staff when required. However, a workshop is planned to happen in the FSC headquarters (Bonn – DE) at the early stages of the work. The expected start-date for the working group is September 2011, with completion by March 2012.

Structure, qualifications and remuneration

The Working Group will be selected based on expertise and experience on issues related to Group CoC certification and small enterprises. The Committee will be limited to a size that will allow for productive and in-depth interaction. FSC membership is not a prerequisite for participation. Selection will strive for equal representation of all interests and skills, though chamber balance is not a requirement.

Participation takes place on a voluntary non-paid basis. For the workshop, FSC will cover expenses if it is necessary for the member to be able to participate, and if all expenses are agreed upon in advance.