



## **Advisors to the FSC Forest Carbon Working Group**

### **Terms of Reference and Rules of Procedure**

FINAL – 1 May 2010

#### **1 Background**

Based on a mandate provided by the FSC Membership at the 2008 General Assembly, the FSC Board of Directors (BoD) establishes the Forest Carbon Working Group (FCWG) in order to research, advise, and facilitate decision-making processes in relation to the engagement of FSC in initiatives relating to forest-based carbon and development of FSC Policies addressing forest-based carbon management.

#### **2 Objective**

To provide technical, scientific and strategic input on issues under examination of the FCWG.

#### **3 Duties**

Advisors are generally requested to focus with their advice and recommendations on their specific area of expertise, for example 'REDD' or 'carbon footprinting', but are not restricted to these areas of expertise.

#### **4 Structure and Accountabilities**

FSC selects Advisors upon submission of an application with information on the necessary qualifications and area of expertise. While the total number of Advisors is generally not limited FSC reserves the right to limit participation to a manageable number if needed. FSC membership is not a prerequisite to act as Advisor to the FCWG nor is chamber balance aimed for.

Providing advice takes place on a voluntary non-paid basis. FSC generally will not cover costs or expenses incurred by Advisors in relation to their technical, scientific or strategic input, unless individual Advisors are specifically mandated to carry out certain research or invited to attend FCWG meetings.



## **5 Qualifications and obligations**

Applications to act as Advisor to the FCWG are welcome from any individual with long term expertise and/or in-depth knowledge about climate change issues in relation to forest-based carbon.

Advisors shall be proficient in communicating through information technology, mainly email.

While the provision of advice takes place solely on a voluntary basis, Advisors should be able to make available the time needed for providing recommendations and advice to the FCWG when sought for.

## **6 General Rules of Procedure**

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

The FSC Policy Manager in charge will serve as the communications link between Advisors and the FCWG. The Policy Manager will also be responsible for providing Advisors with the information and tools (e.g. email list servers) necessary to complete their task. The Policy Manager will not moderate Advisors' internal communication or coordination.

Advisors can provide recommendations and advice as individuals or together with some or all other Advisors.

Advisors shall submit their advice or recommendations in the working language of the FCWG which is English.

Advice and recommendations provided to the FCWG are not binding for the FCWG.