



# Forest Stewardship Council World Forestry Congress Update

News from the XIII World Forestry Congress 2009 • 18 - 23 October 2009



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## FSC at the World Forestry Congress

FSC participated in the World Forestry Congress (WFC) in Buenos Aires last week with a variety of activities throughout the event. In side meetings, sessions, presentations and discourse, the impact and importance of FSC certification was high on the international forestry agenda.

The priorities already guiding FSC, such as increasing access to the benefits of certification for small forestry operations and improving management of tropical forests, were highlighted throughout the WFC as global concerns. The congress reaffirmed FSC's role as the most credible tool towards improving forest management and governance to include not only mechanisms to deal with legality, but solutions to address comprehensive social and environmental concerns.

read on for all FSC highlights from the WFC...



Participants in the World Forestry Congress visiting the FSC exhibit booth © FSC

## Celebrating milestones...

Among the successes in Buenos Aires, FSC celebrated two major milestones at the WFC - the issuance of the 1,000 forest management (FM) certificate and the 15,000 chain of custody (CoC) certificate (more on page 3). Additionally, in the opening plenary, Buenos Aires Mayor Mauricio Macri announced the city's commitment to procurement FSC certified wood and paper products by 2010 (more on page 4) establishing the prominence of FSC in the diverse WFC program.

## Discussions on certification, trade and finance...

FSC Board of Directors Chairman Roberto Waack engaged in WFC core sessions as a panel member on forest certification and forest products trade. He also presented in a joint side meeting organized by the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST) and WWF's Global Forest & Trade Network (GFTN), together with FSC and International Finance Corporation (IFC) where he spoke on the lessons in advancing sustainable forestry through finance.



FSC Board of Directors Chairman Roberto Waack speaking during WFC core session © FSC

## National Initiatives in Buenos Aires...

FSC National Initiatives from Latin America gathered at the WFC for a strategic meeting on developing a regional network. The meeting participants agreed on steps to follow up on efforts from the General Assembly 2008, strengthen coordination in the region and develop priorities for the next FSC General Assembly in 2011.

## Focus on high conservation value forests...

Dr. Alan Smith presented at a meeting organised by the High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) net-

work with a number of speakers drawn from the network. In a presentation on FSC's approach to HCVFs, he emphasised that FSC had pioneered that concept and was pleased to see that this had been taken up by other standards setting organisation outside the forestry sector.



Alan Smith presents on the impacts of FSC certification at the WWF exhibit booth at WFC © FSC

## Impacts of FSC certification...

Dr. Smith and FSC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Program Manager Marion Karmann presented on the impacts of FSC certification presentation at the WWF International exhibit. FSC's M&E program has recently published a full literature review on impacts and outcomes of FSC certification, both a summary and the full report are available online at <http://www.fsc.org/fscpublications.html>.

## Engaging with forward thinking governments...

FSC Policy Manager Pina Gervassi gave presentations on Controlled Wood and WTO requirements to representatives from several forward thinking governments. One of which is currently seeking FSC certification for over 22 million hectares of state owned forests.

## Pushing forestry dialogues...

Drs. Smith and Karmann, along with FSC Project Manager Gordian Fanso, presented a total of five posters at the WFC:

1. Biodiversity and forest management certification. (Karmann, Droste)

2. Evaluating the effects of forest management certification – research needs. (Karmann)

3. FSC and FairTrade pilot project – Potential opportunities through joint certification to overcome challenges for small-scale community operations. (Karmann, Cox, Smith)

4. FSC certification of small and medium-scale community-managed forests as one tool for poverty alleviation in a network of supportive mechanisms. (Karmann, Smith)

5. Lessons learned - FSC Certification as a multifold opportunity for small and medium scale forest operations. (Karmann, Fanzo, Smith).

## FSC celebrates two major milestones at the World Forestry Congress

20 October 2009 - The pioneer forest certification scheme FSC is celebrating two major milestones at the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina – issuance of the 1,000th Forest Management (FM) certificate and the 15,000th Chain of Custody (CoC) certificate. The achievements support FSC's mission to promote responsible forest management worldwide and further strengthen the positive impact that FSC generates at the forest level and along the forest product supply chain.



Gordian Fanzo, Alan Smith and FSC Board of Directors Chairman Roberto Waack at the FSC exhibit booth at WFC © FSC

"FSC is the most credible tool for forest managers, businesses and governments to engage with the global consensus on responsible forest management. Our focus is on the measurable impacts of FSC standards, governance and processes, and the remarkable milestones we've achieved within the past month only reinforce our mission commitment," said FSC Executive Director Andre de Freitas. "The FSC logo is backed by the highest environmental and social standards, which remain unmatched in the forest certification arena. The tremendous growth in chain of custody certificates and the continual adoption of FSC's Principles and Criteria by forest managers shows that FSC certification is integral to improving forest management worldwide."

The 1,000th Forest Management certificate was issued to Associação de Agricultores de Charneca (Grupo ACHARsgf), a small farmers association in Chamusca, Portugal. The certificate covers 4535 hectares and harvesting of both timber and non-timber forest



FSC Policy Manager Pina Gervassi and Emiliano Ezcurra at the FSC exhibit booth at the World Forestry Congress © FSC

### FSC in Argentina...

Emiliano Ezcurra, of the proposed FSC National Initiative in Argentina (pictured with FSC Policy Manager Pina Gervassi at the FSC WFC exhibit booth), engaged with WFC participants on the importance of FSC in the country. He also facilitated an exhibit of the first FSC certified book in Argentina – *Perdonen mi optimismo* (Excuse my optimism) by Juan Carr and Yanina Kiningsberg.

### Generous support...

FSC's participation in the WFC was largely made possible with the generous support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ [www.gtz.de/en/](http://www.gtz.de/en/)).



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products including coniferous and non-coniferous wood, nuts, and natural cork. The certificate was issued by FSC accredited certification body Soil Association Woodmark based in the UK, and is valid for a period of five years, from 21 September 2009 to 20 September 2014.

Nearly thirty FSC chain of custody certificates were issued around the world on 5 October 2009 to mark the 15,000th CoC milestone. The certificates were issued in Italy, China, United States, India, Germany, The Netherlands, Hungary, and Hong Kong, among other several other countries, by a number of FSC accredited certification bodies. The milestone is relevant to the diversity of companies and countries where FSC certification has become a driving factor in market success.

Globally, over 118 million hectares of forests around are certified to FSC standards, and FSC Forest Management and Chain of Custody certificates are issued in over 100 countries worldwide.

## Mayor of Buenos Aires commits to FSC certified wood and paper by 2010

FSC high on the agenda of governments and world leaders: 18 October 2009 – Wood and paper products certified to meet the standards of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) became the preferred choice for Buenos Aires as Mayor Mauricio Macri announced the city's commitment to procure FSC certified wood and paper products by 2010 at the opening ceremony of the World Forestry Congress (WFC). The decision is aimed at ensuring sustainability, formalizing labor standards and preventing child labor.

Mayor Macri's announcement was delivered to WFC delegates from around the world during the week-long event's opening plenary. With a highly diverse program, WFC's Secretary General Leopoldo Montes opened the conference by highlighting the need to address social and environmental issues in the forestry sector, as well as relevant shared concerns such as climate change and bioenergy.

As evident in Mayor Macri's address, FSC is at the forefront of the dialogue at the XIII WFC 2009. FSC's Principles and Criteria set the highest social and environmental standards for forest management, and the role of FSC in addressing shared environmental and social concerns continues to be a model for

successful and applicable approaches to the problems created by bad forestry practices.

The concerns among delegates and dignitaries at the World Forestry Congress range from supporting tenure rights of indigenous and traditional peoples, protecting biodiversity worldwide, reversing deforestation and degradation, controlling forest fires and preventing illegal trade of timber. A recorded message from H.R.H. Prince of Wales during the opening plenary emphasized the need to ensure that forests continue to provide the needed benefits to the millions of forest-dependent people worldwide.

FSC's Principles and Criteria, governance system, and accreditation program are structured to address all of these issues within a global, democratic consensus.

## FSC National Initiatives in Latin America set priorities towards network

The World Forestry Congress (WFC) gave opportunity for FSC National Initiatives (NIs) from Latin America to gather for a strategic meeting. With support from GTZ in relation to the FSC/GTZ PPP NI Project, Emiliano Ezcurra, of the proposed FSC NI in Argentina, and FSC Network Coordination Team Leader Alan Smith coordinated an impromptu meeting in order to take advantage of the number of FSC NI representatives attending the World Forestry Congress in Buenos Aires last week.

In addition to Argentina, FSC NIs from Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru attended. Also present were observers from WWF International and SNV from The Netherlands.

The meeting established an agreement to consult with other NIs of the region and work to establish a Latin American NI network. Additionally, the participants will encourage the network to seek a common approach, to harmonize activities and find synergies to build capacity.

Specific actions would include follow up on 2008 General Assembly motions and development of motions for the 2011 General Assembly. The network initiative will be coordinated by the Chilean, Nicaraguan and Peruvian NIs. A full meeting of the establish network in Latin America has been proposed for early 2010. Find a full listing of FSC National Initiatives at <http://www.fsc.org/fsc-locations.html>.

## WFC meeting brings FSC forward in Latin America

18 October 2008 – FSC representatives met with the Minister of the Environment of Costa Rica (MINAET), Jorge Rodriguez, and other representative of Latin American organizations at the World Forestry Congress to develop strategies to further strengthen FSC's presence in the region. The meeting led to a series of commitments that will facilitate regional coordination of FSC in Latin America, with Costa Rica playing a central role.



FSC, GTZ and MINAET representatives meeting in Buenos Aires © FSC

Participants included FSC Board of Directors Chairman Roberto Waack, and FSC Network Coordination Team Leader Alan Smith who has been leading the FSC/GTZ PPP NI Project to strengthen FSC National Initiatives to promote FSC certification in tropical forests and China.

The meeting included Julia Übelhör (PPP-Central America) and Stefan Essel (Programme for Social and Ecological Standards) from GTZ headquarter, as well as Marvin Centeno from GTZ Nicaragua. Also participating were Mario Cote and Gilberto Brenes from MINAET, Guillermo Navarro from CATIE-FINNFOR and Roberto Dilger from Unidad Regional de Asistencia Técnica (RUTA).

Costa Rica currently has the pro tempore presidency of SICA and therefore the MINAET Minister presides the Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD).

Three major outcomes of the meeting are the following agreements:

1. At the national level, Pedro Gonzales of FUNDECOR will be named as FSC Contact Person in Costa Rica, establishing the first formal relationship with the forest sector in Costa Rica.
2. At the regional level, Minister Rodriguez agreed that he would include reference to the establishments of a regional FSC organization and will give the initiative his full backing. The creation of such a regional initiative would be the first in the world. It was agreed that FSC will support the implementation of the regional strategies (PERFOR, ERAS).
3. Marvin Centeno (GTZ-NI) and Robert Dilger (RUTA-CR) will prepare a draft of the mention and send it before Oct, 30th, to Mr. J. Rodriguez, with copies to all participants of this meeting.



Gordian Fanzo, Pina Gervassi and Xiangjun Yang meet with WFC participants at the FSC exhibit booth © FSC