



5 November 2010

Update to stakeholders
FSC certification of Veracel plantations in Brazil

A submission of concerns from stakeholders regarding Veracel plantations in Brazil was sent to FSC in September 2010. The submission entered into the FSC Dispute Resolution System and through this mechanism FSC is taking action to further engage stakeholders in the assessment process.

All of the information that has been submitted to FSC is currently under review by ASI. ASI has appointed an investigator and started the organization of an expanded stakeholder consultation process. The investigator has also determined that ASI will conduct a comprehensive witness assessment of SGS Qualifor at Veracel in Brazil in early December.

Prior to the assessment, ASI will convene a meeting with stakeholders and representatives of affected stakeholders in Brazil in order to collect and underline all the key issues related to FSC certification of Veracel with SGS Qualifor as a certifier. A full report on all the key issues from this meeting will be used to evaluate SGS Qualifor's evaluation of Veracel during the December audit. The results from this assessment, including a report detailing how the stakeholder concerns have been addressed by SGS Qualifor; will be used by ASI and FSC to determine next steps towards resolution of the dispute.

The organization of the stakeholder consultation is currently underway and ASI will soon be able to provide the details of this process with the stakeholder community. All previous and current updates regarding the progression of this complaint through the FSC Dispute Resolution System may be found online at www.fsc.org/stakeholderupdates.html.

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