



25 March 2011

Update to stakeholders

FSC certification of Veracel plantations in Brazil

In response to stakeholder concerns submitted in September 2010, ASI-Accreditation Services International completed initial steps towards dispute resolution with a stakeholder consultation in November 2010 and a short notice on-site Witness Assessment of SGS Qualifor at Veracel Cellulose S.A. in December 2010.

ASI's assessment of SGS Qualifor found that the evaluation performed by the Certification Body was not in compliance with FSC requirements. Based on this outcome, and the recommendation from the ASI Accreditation Committee, the ASI Managing Director made a decision to suspend SGS South Africa (Pty) Ltd. (SGS) for FSC Forest Management certification in Brazil. As of 17th February 2011, the Certification Body is not allowed to perform new FSC certification evaluations or issue/re-issue new FSC certificates in Brazil until the suspension has been lifted.

The current FSC certificate held by Veracel remains valid during the suspension of SGS Qualifor. In continuance of the dispute resolution, ASI will complete the process of gathering information towards the assessment of Veracel in Bahia, Brazil during the week of April 18, 2011. ASI welcomes input towards this process from national initiatives, certification bodies, FSC members and other interested stakeholders. All interested stakeholders may send comments to Frank Katto (f.katto@accreditation-services.com).

For further information, please contact:

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Further resources:

- FSC Dispute Resolution System online at www.fsc.org/dispute-resolution.html.
- ASI-Accreditation Services International online at www.accreditation-services.com.
- Previous updates online at www.fsc.org/su_veracel.html