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Public Notification Letter

To: Interested Parties
From: SCS Global Services
Date: April 15, 2013
Re: Notification of Pending FSC Certification Evaluation of Timberlands Pacific Pty Ltd

Summary: As part of an FSC assessment, SCS is currently seeking stakeholder input regarding the forest management of Timberlands Pacific. Please comment via email, or call our offices or representatives to discuss (contact info below).

Timberlands Pacific Pty Ltd is seeking Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) endorsed certification for their Taswood and GTFT Estates. The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) is a non-profit organization devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world's forests. FSC sets standards that ensure forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way.

Timberlands Pacific is an independently owned forest management company with its main office in Launceston, Tasmania. Timberlands Pacific manages the Taswood Estate, which was acquired by New Forests Pty Limited on behalf of the Australia New Zealand Forest Fund. The Taswood Estate comprises 46,000 ha of principally Radiata Pine, located in northern Tasmania, yielding approximately 600,000 tonnes of forest products annually. Tasmanian customers process the majority of this resource.

Timberlands Pacific also recently began managing the Green Triangle Forest Trust (GTFT) Estate. This Estate is also owned by New Forests' Australia New Zealand Forest Fund and a co-investor and consists of 41,976 ha of forests located on the border of South Australia and Victoria in the area known as the Green Triangle. The GTFT Estate produces approximately 780,000 tonnes of forest products annually, this is processed by the Timberlink Australia owned mill at Tarpeena, South Australia.

Scope and Certification Evaluation Process

SCS Global Services (SCS), a FSC-accredited certification body based in Emeryville, California, will conduct this FSC evaluation.

Performance will be evaluated against the SCS Interim Standard for Natural Forest and Plantation Forest Management Certification in Australia under the FSC (V 1.0). A copy of the standard is available from <http://www.scsglobalservices.com/certification-standards-and-program-documents> or SCS upon request.

The Evaluation Process Includes the Following Phases:

- § Public notification: distribution of the standard and solicitation of comments on the certification applicant; Audit planning and document review;
- § Field assessment: A representative sample of field sites and operations within the defined forest area are inspected by a team of auditors;
- § Stakeholder consultation;
- § Synthesis of findings: Compliance with the standard is ascertained and the certification decision is formulated;
- § Reporting: A draft report describing the evaluation process, findings, and certification decision is produced;
- § Peer review: The evaluation report is peer reviewed by 2 independent natural resource professionals;
- § Delivery of final certification report;
- § Certification decision: a public summary of the certification report is released, if certification is awarded.

Call for Public Participation

SCS welcomes comments on the forest management of Timberlands Pacific or other topics pertinent to their seeking FSC certification, such as whether Timberlands Pacific complies with the legal, social, technical, and environmental requirements of the standard or identification of high conservation value forests^[1] within the lands of the Taswood and GTFT

Estates. Comments can be submitted via email, standard mail, or facsimile to Lead Auditor, Mr. Graeme Lea (contact details below). The audit team can make arrangements to allow stakeholders to meet with them during the evaluation upon request. All comments and sources will be kept in strict confidence at the request of the commenter.

Dates

The field evaluation is scheduled to commence during the week of May 27th, 2013. SCS will make arrangements to meet with interested parties during the evaluation if appropriate, but it is preferred that comments are submitted before the evaluation commences.

Dispute Resolution Procedure

As provided by the FSC Interim Dispute Resolution Protocol and the SCS Forest Conservation Program Quality Manual, dispute resolution procedures are in place and available to interested parties at <http://www.scsglobalservices.com/your-feedback>

Additional Information

More information about FSC and SCS can be obtained from www.fsc.org and www.SCSglobalServices.com. Information on Timberlands Pacific can be found at www.tppl.com.au.

Please contact us

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