



Public Briefing Paper for

## Forest Management FSC Certification Annual Audit 2013 of Green Triangle Plantation Forest Company of Australia Pty Ltd (GPFL)

April 15, 2013

**Introduction** - The Rainforest Alliance is conducting forest management and chain of custody Annual Audit of Green Triangle Plantation Forest Company of Australia Pty Ltd (GPFL). The forest area under the scope of this certificate (SW-FM/CoC – 005867) is located at various sites within the Green Triangle in Victoria State, with a total area of approximately 7,000 hectares.

At this Annual Audit 2013, the audit team will visit a sample of sites from the **30<sup>th</sup> of April to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May of 2013**.

**Scope of the Annual Audit 2013** – The forest management certification audit will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forests and plantations managed by Green Triangle Plantation Forest, using the *Rainforest Alliance Interim Standard for Assessing Forest Management in Australia (version June 2008)* and *FM-35 Rainforest Alliance Chain-of-Custody Standard for Forest Management Enterprises (FMEs) February 2009*. To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact Rainforest Alliance by telephone, fax, email or website listed below. Please note that the standard may be modified to take account of stakeholder comments. Rainforest Alliance is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®) and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Audit Team Composition** - The audit team will be led by Mrs. Malory Weston (BSc, MSc Botany, Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecology) and Mrs. Maria R Gismero (MSc Forestry).

**Audit Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ Audit organization – The audit team will assemble at the Green Triangle Plantation Forest office in Mt Gambier on the 30<sup>th</sup> of April, 2013.
- ◆ Field visits – The team will visit sites managed by Green Triangle Plantation Forest during 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of May, 2013
- ◆ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding Green Triangle Plantation Forest forest management in towns surrounding the forest area. This may include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- ◆ Final audit briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Green Triangle Plantation Forest managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.

- ◆ Draft report production – The audit team will produce a confidential draft report that will be submitted for comment to Green Triangle Plantation Forest as well as internal Rainforest Alliance reviewers.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Green Triangle Plantation Forest forest managers and reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, Rainforest Alliance will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by June 2013.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Green Triangle Plantation Forest forest management in relation to compliance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the Audit, during the Audit, or prior to 10<sup>th</sup> of May so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with a Rainforest Alliance audit team member during or shortly after the fieldwork. Please, contact Lead Auditor Mrs Malory Weston for arrangements.
2. Call and give comments to Anita Neville, Representative of the Rainforest Alliance in Australia. If this person is not in the office, please contact Task Manager, Maria R Gismero
3. Submit written comments by mail, fax or email to Anita Neville. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Green Triangle Plantation Forest.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and Rainforest Alliance staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Rainforest Alliance's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at [www.rainforest-alliance.org](http://www.rainforest-alliance.org).

### **Contacting Rainforest Alliance**

- ◆ Email: [aneville.consultant@ra.org](mailto:aneville.consultant@ra.org) for Rainforest Alliance Representative in Australia
- ◆ Email: [mweston@kilter.net.au](mailto:mweston@kilter.net.au) for Lead Auditor Malory Weston
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