



FSC maintains association with Fiji Pine Ltd

BONN, Germany (29 August 2016) – The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) has decided to maintain association with Fiji Pine Ltd and its affiliate companies, Tropik Wood Industries and Tropik Wood Products. All three companies are FSC certificate holders.

This decision was arrived at after a detailed review of the companies by a chamber-balanced independent complaints panel. The review was prompted by an *FSC Policy for Association* complaint filed by Building and Wood Workers International (BWI) and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC).

However, the FSC International Board of Directors has decided to keep Fiji Pine Ltd and its affiliates under close scrutiny in the future, and the companies will be subject to a new audit by certification body SCS Global Services that will focus on employee rights and freedom of association within the companies.

National Developments

The initial complaint alleged that Fiji Pine Ltd was in breach of the FSC-POL-01-004 *Policy for Association of Organizations with FSC* after a decree by the government of Fiji declared the forestry industry to be part of its Essential National Industries. The decree would have restricted worker's freedom of association and negotiation rights in companies considered strategic for the country's economic development, infringing two International Labour Organization (ILO) Core Conventions related to Freedom of Association (ILO C87) and Collective Bargaining (ILO C98). Violations of ILO Core Conventions are unacceptable under the *Policy for Association*.

During the assessment period, the Fijian government repealed the decree and as a result, ILO closed the complaint filed by BWI and ITUC against the government of Fiji. Additionally, Fiji's National Union of Workers has renegotiated a collective bargaining agreement with Fiji Pine Ltd, a move FSC considers a step in the right direction to protect the rights of workers.

For full details, please visit the Fiji Pine Ltd [case page](#) on the FSC International website.