



## **FINAL DRAFT Decision Record of the 88<sup>th</sup> meeting of the FSC Board of Directors held as virtual meeting from 14 – 18 June 2021**

**Date:** 29 June 2021  
**Author:** Kim Carstensen  
**Status:** for circulation

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### Attendees FSC Board:

1. Barbara J. Bramble, Chairperson (BJB)
2. Alan Thorne, Vice-Chair (AT)
3. Rulita Wijayaningdyah, Vice-chair (RW)
4. Ralph Schmidt-Liermann, Treasurer (RSL)
5. Carla Cardenas (CC)
6. Ivone Namikawa (IN)
7. Janne Näräkkä (JaN)
8. Leo van der Vlist (LvdV)
9. Linda Fienberg (LiF)
10. Mauro Armelin (MA)
11. Per Larsson (PL)
12. Zandra Martinez (ZM)

### FSC Network and Member Coordinators:

1. Lev Fedorovich, FSC Belarus. Member Coordinator CIS (LeF), partly
2. Nikolay Shmatkov, FSC Russia (NS), partly

### FSC Staff (alphabetical order):

1. Achim Droste, Chief Policy Officer (AcD), partly
2. Anakarina Perez Oropeza, Strategic Development Advisor (APO)
3. Anand Punja, European Regional Director (AP), partly
4. André Selbach, Head of Finances (AS), partly
5. Bin Yan, Programme Manager, Value Chain Development (BY), partly
6. Bruno Rath, Latin American Regional Director (BR), partly
7. Carmina Mogollón, Senior Legal Counsel (CM)
8. Cindy Cheng, Asia-Pacific Regional Director (CC), partly
9. Fernando Rodriguez, Network Liaison Manager (FR), partly
10. Franck Trolliet, Evaluation and Learning Officer (FT), partly
11. Frank Harnischfeger, Chief Operating Officer (FH)
12. Gemma Boetekees, Director Stakeholder Solutions (GB), partly
13. Guillermina Garza, Membership Director (GG), partly
14. Jeremy Harrison, Chief Markets Officer (JH), partly
15. Joanna Nowakowska, Deputy Director of Technology and Information Unit (JN), partly
16. Karen Bennett, Communications Director (KB), partly



17. Kim Carstensen, Director General (KC)
18. Lieske van Santen, Global Network Director (LvS), partly
19. Marc Jessel, Chief Integrity Officer (MJ), partly
20. Maria Pilar Melero, Program Manager Forest Management (MPM), partly
21. Maria Sveistrup, Network Development Manager (MS), partly
22. Matteo Mascolo, EU Advocacy Manager (MaM), partly
23. Saija Hotti, Dispute Management Program Manager (SH), partly
24. Salem Jones, Dispute Management Program Manager (SJ), partly
25. Sebastian Wieschalla, Head of Legal (SW), partly
26. Stefan Salvador, Director Policy Operations (SS), partly
27. Vera Santos, New Approaches Project Manager (VS), partly
28. Yan Li, Policy Manager PSU (YL), partly

## Approval of agenda, quorum, Conflict of Interest

The chairperson welcomed the members of the FSC board to the 88<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Directors, which due to the COVID-19 Pandemic was held as a virtual meeting.

She noted a quorum with the participation of all 12 board members and asked the board members for their consent to holding the meeting virtually. All board members expressed their consent to this and to having the meeting recorded.

### Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

### COI declaration:

The chair thanked all board members for having delivered their updated COI declarations. These led to discussion of a few new potential COIs. The board recognized one new COI related to the appointment of a new non-voting chair of the Policy and Standards Committee (PSC). The board concluded that the other potential COIs raised by board members did not constitute actual COIs.

## New non-voting chair of the PSC

### Decision:

Expressing its appreciation and gratitude for the quality of the candidates for the role as non-voting chair of the PSC, the board made the decision in consensus to appoint Sarah Harris to the role for a two-year period.

## Decision on panel pool of candidates for PfA processes

### Decision:

The board decided to appoint the following candidates to the Decision Pool for Processes under the Policy for Association (PfA) for a three-year term:

- Felicity Henman Weir
- Ugo Lapointe
- Christine Davis
- Alexander Cappel



- Karl Mackie
- Keith Moore
- Marina Gurgel Neves
- Beate Degen

The board decided to appoint the following candidates to the backup list for the panel,

- Dalia Gesualdi-Fecteau
- Jeanette Clarke
- Christina Hund

The board requested the secretariat to keep an open application for additional candidates for the Decision Panel and its backup list with a focus on candidates from the South and particularly from Asia-Pacific. Expertise in issues related to communities and Indigenous Peoples' rights would be particularly sought for, and board members would distribute the application in their networks in order to attract good candidates.

## **SLIMF Standard (FSC-STD-01-003): review report**

### **Decision:**

The board agreed to follow the PSC recommendation to:

- 1) Approve the initiation of a revision of the SLIMF Eligibility Criteria (FSC-STD-01-003);
- 2) Approve the establishment of a Technical Working Group for this revision process;
- 3) Request that the Terms of Reference for the Technical Working Group will specify that:
  - All aspects of the application of the SLIMF concept shall be reviewed;
  - The specific needs of very small holders, with forest lands of up to 20 hectares, shall be considered.

## **Asia-Pacific Regional Forest Stewardship Standard for Smallholders – Pilot Roll-out**

### **Decision:**

In line with the recommendations from the PSU and the PSC, the board approves the pilot test to roll out the Asia-Pacific smallholder standard as follows:

1. Launch of national pilot tests for the AP RFSS for smallholders in the selected countries once relevant PSC conditions are closed and only where or once an approved NFSS is in place.
2. Use the following evaluation criteria as a basis for determining the success of the pilot:
  - a) Delivery on fundamental elements of the FSC Principles and Criteria, taking into consideration risk of forest management in very small forest holdings.
  - b) Support of the uptake of very small forest holdings by reducing the complexity of FSC requirements and audit costs.
  - c) Transferability to other countries within the region and beyond.

The evaluation criteria will be further detailed in the Standard Operating Procedure to include also other potential risks created by the significant easing for eligible standard users based on concepts such as “awareness” and reducing the requirements for expert and stakeholder involvement.



3. Set the timeline for the pilot test to five years and evaluate the pilot after three years based on the success criteria above to leave time for standard users to adopt other solutions in case the pilot would not meet the objectives and the standard would not be upheld.
4. Determine after three years whether FSC should commence work on developing normative procedures for similar stand-alone smallholder standards and the harmonization of these standards with the current normative framework.

## Activity Compensation Fee: Model 2022-2024

### **Decision:**

Based on the review of the current model undertaken by a group of staff from the FSC International secretariat and Network Partners, together with the recommendations that culminated from various input processes, the Board approved the updated model for the Activity Compensation Fee (ACF) 2022 – 2024 as proposed.

The board appreciated the quality and thoughtfulness of the ACF proposal, but also supported the initiative from the secretariat to conduct a study of how the ACF model could be further optimized to create even better opportunities for Network Partners to achieve better results, including by delivering on the needs of certificate holders in their countries and by creating results together with FSC members and stakeholders. The ToR for this study will be shared with the board for feedback in November 2021.

The secretariat also confirmed that the results of the study could lead to changes to the distributed ACF already in 2023, and that the amounts set aside for strategic investments under Tier 3 of the model could be increased from year to year, based on positive financial results of FSC International and the availability of good projects to support.

The board decision was made with 11 votes in favour and 1 against.

## Motion 34 and Focus Forests: Establishment of a Focus Forests Advisory Group

### **Decision:**

The board approved the establishment of the Focus Forests Advisory Group consisting of members who have proposed motions related to Intact Forest Landscapes complemented by other members to ensure chamber-balance and a good regional split. One board member did not agree with the composition of the group but chose not to break consensus.

The composition of the Advisory Group will be as follows:

- Caroline Duhesme (Economic North, Europe)
- Konstantin Agapov (Economic South, CIS)
- Grant Rosoman (Environmental North, Asia Pacific)
- Luciana Papp (Environmental South, Latin America)
- Hermine Tuekam Kouam (Social South, Africa)
- David Flood (Social North, North America)

The board also approved the ToR of the Focus Forests Advisory Group



## Roles and responsibilities of the Board at the General Assembly

### **Decision:**

The board set up a small internal group of board members to agree some small amendments to the draft document describing its roles and responsibilities related to the virtual General Assembly (GA) 2021. Based on input from this group, the board will finalize the text so that it can be shared with the FSC membership in July.

## Rules of Procedure at the GA

### **Decision:**

The board confirmed that all statutory motions proposed by board members for the 2021/2022 GA will be put up for a vote at the physical GA in 2022 only.

With some minor amendments, the board approved the draft Rules of Procedure for the virtual General Assembly 2021 to be proposed by the board to the FSC membership for their approval before the Assembly starts. The draft Rules of Procedure will be shared with the membership before it is put up for an electronic ballot starting on August 25<sup>th</sup>.

## GA preparations, discussion of motions and key topics: Approval of Revised Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Motions Committee

### **Decision:**

The board appreciated the initiative to clarify the task and mandate of the Motions Committee to engage with motion proposers and others in processes to improve or merge motions. With this purpose in mind, the board approved the revised ToR of the Motions Committee as proposed.



## Annex 1: List of abbreviations used in this document

AAF	Annual Accreditation Fee
ACF	Activity Compensation Fee
BCRC	Board Complaints Resolution Committee
BM	Board Meeting
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
Col	Conflict of Interest
FSC-POL	FSC Policy
FSC-PRO	FSC Procedure
FSC-STD	FSC Standard
GA	General Assembly
IGI	International Generic Indicator
PfA	Policy for Association
PSC	Policy and Standards Committee
PSU	Performance and Standards Unit
SLIMF	Small and Low Intensity Managed Forests
ToR	Terms of Reference