

# A TIMELINE OF EVENTS RELATED TO THE MCT/MASHCO PIRO CASE



This timeline provides a comprehensive overview of the Maderera Canales Tahuamanu issue involving the Mashco Piro, outlining both the background and the sequence of actions taken by FSC. By presenting these events in chronological order, we aim to ensure transparency and enhance understanding of the steps taken throughout this sensitive matter.

## 2011: Maderera Canales Tahuamanu (MCT) obtains FSC certification.

Maderera Canales Tahuamanu obtained its FSC forest management and chain of custody certification (NC-FM/COC-005485) in 2011. It is subject to annual audits by an independent certification body to ensure their continued compliance with the FSC standards and certification requirements. The annual audits are shared publicly on [www.fsc.org](http://www.fsc.org). To understand how the FSC system works, and the different actors involved in assurance and auditing, [visit this page](#).

**Important to note:** In 2016, the Peruvian Ministry of Culture proposed reclassifying part of the territories bordering the eastern side of the current Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve, which was established in 2002 to protect the Mashco Piro. The goal of this proposal is to extend the reserve and provide further protection for the Indigenous Peoples. No final decision has been made regarding this plan.

## 2020: MCT's certification is renewed.

FSC certificates issued are for a 5-year period. An initial audit (main evaluation) is conducted as a basis for certification, and subsequent annual assessments (surveillance evaluation) are required to ensure continued conformance with requirements.

If a certificate holder wishes to renew their certification, the process is similar to the initial certification and involves an evaluation of conformity of all applicable FSC normative requirements by the certification body (CB). During any evaluation, the CB completes an explicit analysis of the critical aspects of management control required to ensure that the applicable FSC normative requirements are implemented over:

- the full geographical area in the scope of certification.
- the full range of management activities.

## 2022: Tragic encounter with the Mashco Piro.

### AUGUST

An incident occurred in the MCT logging concession when MCT workers encountered members of the Mashco Piro, an Indigenous tribe living in voluntary isolation in the remote Madre de Dios region. One logger was killed, and another one was wounded.

### OCTOBER

Assurance Services International (ASI) assessed the CB's evaluation (Preferred by Nature) of MCT after this tragic incident. ASI investigated how the CB assessed MCT's compliance with the FSC Principles regarding Indigenous Peoples' rights. They found an ongoing land dispute between MCT and FENAMAD (The Native Federation of the Madre De Dios River and Tributaries) over part of the forest area. ASI concluded that MCT legally owned the concessions distributed by the state.

The assessment revealed that MCT acknowledges the risks of contact between its workers and isolated Indigenous communities. The company implemented measures like buffer zones, worker training, and suspended forestry activities. They collaborated with Peru's Ministry of Culture to minimize interactions. The assessment did not find evidence of Indigenous claims overlapping with MCT's concessions.

The assessment ASI carried out included an analysis of the recertification process conducted by the CB (confirming all the steps that were taken by the CB). In addition to these actions, the assessment confirmed that the CB was aware of legal proceedings between MCT and FENAMAD regarding part of the forest management area belonging to MCT which were ongoing at the time.

When FSC or ASI receives an allegation regarding a certificate holder, as is the case here, there are several courses of action that can take place, including but not limited to additional investigations, assessments and evidence gathering. **These steps must be taken prior to any decision regarding the maintenance or suspension of the certificate holder.** More information is available on this page <https://fsc.org/en/system-integrity>.

In accordance with FSC's certification programme, the certificate is managed by the CB which is the only entity that can suspend or withdraw the certificates. If ASI identifies evidence of wrongdoings of MCT that were not already addressed through certification processes, ASI can request a suspension and apply sanctions to the CB if this request is not being fulfilled. Sanctions may include suspension of parts or full CB activities.

## 2023: Continued assessment by ASI and the CB.

The 2023 assessments confirmed the validity of MCT's logging concession, granted by the government authorities, that is adjacent to the Madre de Dios Territorial Reserve. The protocols to avoid encounters with the Mashco Piro, which were created in coordination with Peru's Ministry of Culture, were verified.

In 2023, FSC received a letter from the United Nations Human Rights Special Rapporteur (UNHRSR) regarding allegations against the certificate holder Maderera Canales Tahuamanu (MCT).

The allegations concern information received by the UNHRSR about court orders against The Native Federation of the River Madre de Dios and Tributaries (FENAMAD) and its president, the environmental rights defender Julio Ricardo Cusurichi. These court orders followed a statement issued by FENAMAD denouncing deforestation in the territory of the Mashco Piro, who live in voluntary isolation in the Peruvian Amazon region of Madre de Dios.

The response to the letter was prepared by FSC's System Integrity Unit, based on findings from assessments conducted by ASI and the CB.

To date, there has been no feedback from the UNHRSR.

## 2024: Calls for stronger protection of the Mashco Piro.

### JUNE

- **June:** Media reports surfaced following calls from Survival International, an NGO advocating for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, urging FSC to reassess MCT's certification. **These reports highlighted ongoing threats to the Mashco Piro and their territory.**
- **June - August:** The FSC engaged in extensive discussions with international and Peruvian partners and stakeholders to better understand the situation and ensure a fair and accurate response. Given the complexity of the case and the numerous stakeholders involved, this required a meticulous and deliberate approach.
- FSC will now conduct a comprehensive review of MCT's compliance with its duties to respect and protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples living in self-isolation in the proposed Indigenous territory in Madre de Dios. The findings of this review will inform FSC's stance regarding this important topic and guide other aspects of our work. Additionally, the investigation will support the implementation of FSC's Principle 3 by evaluating how FSC can best contribute to the respect and protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples living in self-isolation. The assessment will not only apply in Peru but also across Latin America and globally.

### FSC suspends MCT's certificate provisionally

#### AUGUST

FSC provisionally suspends MCT's certification for eight months, effective from September 11, 2024. In the coming months, the FSC plans to implement concrete actions to address this issue, deepen its understanding of the complexities involved, and ensure that its standards remain inclusive and protective of all communities.