11th FSC National Standards Development Group Meeting

Date : 30 October – 1 November 2017  
Venue : FSC Malaysia office, Petaling Jaya

Present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization/Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Anthony SEBASTIAN (AS)</td>
<td>aonyx Consultancy (Chair, SDG)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr. Yee Tan CHANG (YT)</td>
<td>Independent Expert (Environment Chamber, SDG)</td>
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<td>Ms. Kanitha KRISHNASAMY (KK)</td>
<td>TRAFFIC Southeast Asia (Environment Chamber, SDG)</td>
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<td>Mr. Si Siew LIM (SS)</td>
<td>Grassroots Consulting (Social Chamber, SDG)</td>
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<td>Mr. Thomas JALONG (TJ)</td>
<td>Jaringan Orang Asal SeMalaysia (Social Chamber, SDG)</td>
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<td>Mr. Chin Tong TAN (CT)</td>
<td>Independent Expert (Economic Chamber, SDG)</td>
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<td>Mr. Edmund GAN (EG)</td>
<td>Sabah Forest Industries Sdn Bhd (Economic Chamber, SDG)</td>
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<td>Mr. Leslie JONG (LJ)</td>
<td>FSC Malaysia</td>
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1.0 Call to Order

The 11th meeting of the FSC National Standards Development Group (SDG) commenced on Monday, 30 October 2017 at 9:15 am and was called to order by the Chair.

2.0 Welcome Remarks and Agenda

The Chair welcomed all SDG members including FSC Malaysia Country Manager, Leslie Jong. The group agreed on the agenda for the 3-day meeting:

Day 1
- Approve minutes of the 10th SDG meeting
- Brief SDG members on recent FSC General Assembly in Vancouver, Canada
- Discuss next steps in Malaysia for Motion 7 (previously Motion 12) on conversion
- Discuss draft final forest test report and revise draft NFSS for National Consultation

Day 2
- Discuss draft final forest test report and revise draft NFSS for National Consultation (continuation)

Day 3
- Plan for National Consultation on Draft 2 NFSS
  - Engage copy/edit consultant
  - Engage SDG Technical Panel
- Harmonize SDG and FSC Malaysia Workplan
- Discuss FSC Malaysia Communications on SDG work including organizing interviews with the press (providing individual chamber perspectives)
- Discuss submission of final NFSS to FSC International and corresponding SDG timeline
- AOB

3.0 Approval of minutes of the 10th SDG meeting

The SDG discussed the previous meeting minutes and corresponding action points. The SDG decided to edit item 3.0 in the minutes for clarity.

SS provided a recap and summary of SDG actions on forest testing covering decisions made over email. Rainforest Alliance was initially approached to be the auditor for forest testing of the Malaysian standards but declined due to prior work commitments and not being able to meet the
SDG’s timeline. Other accredited Certification Bodies (CBs) with a presence in Malaysia were then approached and requested to submit proposals for the work. Through voting and consensus over email, the SDG decided to appoint Soil Association to forest test the draft national standards. A Terms of Reference and contract was agreed and signed between FSC Malaysia and Soil Association. Forest testing was carried out in September and October 2017 at Acacia Forest Industries (AFI) in Sabah (FSC-certified plantation) and Asrama Raya in Terengganu (non FSC-certified natural forest) respectively.

Following discussions on the minutes, the SDG then approved the minutes of the 10th SDG meeting.

**ACTION: SS to make the necessary edits to the minutes and LJ to follow up on the action.**

4.0 **Briefing on FSC General Assembly (GA) in Vancouver, Canada, and discussion on Motion 7**

SS provided the SDG with a summary of the recently concluded FSC GA. The SDG proceeded to discuss issues like the FSC Pesticide Policy’s implications on Malaysia, International Generic Indicators (IGIs) for International Labor Organization (ILO)-related criteria, the social chamber perspective on the GA and actions for Malaysia in support of the recently approved Motion 7 (certification of forests converted since 1994).

The SDG discussed the ongoing initiative to form a Malaysian working group to support Motion 7. LJ informed the SDG that Proforest and Sabah Forest Department have indicated interest in participating in the Malaysian working group. In terms of the potential composition of the working group, the SDG discussed invitations and suitable stakeholders in Malaysia.

The SDG also discussed how the Malaysian working group should be governed. The SDG suggested that AS and/or Andrew Ng (currently engaged by FSC Malaysia to represent Malaysian stakeholders at the FSC GA) should coordinate/facilitate this group. It was also envisioned that the desired outcomes of the efforts of the group should lead to 1) improvement of forestry practices in Malaysia, 2) increase in FSC certification in Malaysia and 3) provision of opportunities and alternative options for innovative forestry in the country. The SDG also decided that the name for the group is a priority, and that the first working group meeting be held in conjunction with the upcoming National Consultation on the Draft 2 NFSS followed by a press event.

**ACTION: SS to contact Andrew Ng to follow up on his current FSC Malaysia job scope and consider playing an additional role to coordinate the Malaysian working group.**

**ACTION: LJ to draft invitation letters to potential Malaysian working group members and once approved, distribute letters.**

5.0 **Consideration of the forest test report and revision of the draft NFSS**

Over the course of 2 days, the SDG discussed the findings and recommendations from the draft final forest test report provided by Soil Association. Corresponding revisions to the draft NFSS were then made by the SDG based on consensus and on the basis of individual findings and recommendations by Soil Association on each indicator and/or verifier including supporting standards text and annexes.

**ACTION: SS to finalize Draft 2 NFSS for SDG approval based on decisions made during this meeting.**

**ACTION: SS to seek clarification from the FSC Policy and Standards Unit (PSU) on matters identified by the SDG during this meeting.**

**ACTION: SS to provide SDG feedback to Soil Association and request for the forest test report to be finalized.**
6.0 National Consultation on Draft 2 NFSS

AS stressed to the SDG that the upcoming national consultation session is an important event and opportunity for FSC Malaysia. The theme of the full-day consultation should revolve around implications of FSC standards for Malaysia and discussions should be issue-based instead of at the technical level, which was done during previous engagement sessions. Stakeholders will still be able to provide detailed technical input on the draft NFSS through online submissions during the 60-day public consultation period. The SDG decided to target 80 participants for national consultation and for either PJ Hilton or Sheraton PJ to host the event scheduled for 1-2 days during 22-26 January 2018.

The SDG also suggested that a media/press event should follow the consultation session. SS will organize the national consultation while LJ will organize the supporting media event or forum on behalf of FSC Malaysia.

As discussed previously, a copy/edit consultant needs to be engaged to provide an overall language check on the Draft 2 NFSS prior to national public consultation. CT and YT suggested several names of individual consultants who have some forestry experience and are proficient in the English language.

In terms of a timeline around national consultation, the SDG agreed to the following:

- Finalize the Draft 2 NFSS by end of November 2017
- Review of Draft 2 NFSS by the Technical Panel and copy/edit consultant by end of December 2017
- Submit Draft 2 NFSS to PSU by end of December 2017
- Develop key issues paper for Draft 2 NFSS by end of December 2017
- Announce public consultation and invite stakeholders to national consultation by end of December 2017
- Commence 60-day public consultation on Draft 2 NFSS during January to March 2018
- Hold national consultation and side events during 22-26 January 2018
- Compile formal comments received by middle of March 2018
- Hold 12th SDG meeting to consider formal comments and finalize NFSS by end of March 2018

ACTION: SS to engage copy/edit consultant to provide an overall language check on the Draft 2 NFSS.

ACTION: SS to coordinate the necessary next steps leading towards National Consultation on Draft 2 NFSS in January 2018.

7.0 Adjournment

The Chair thanked the group for their active participation and adjourned the 11th SDG meeting on Wednesday, 1 November 2017, at 4.00pm.