FSC Advice Note

Title  
FSC-ADV-30-901 Interpretation of Criterion 9-2

Date  
28 April 2003

Status  
Approved by Head of PSU

Advice sought on  
What consultation requirements does FSC Criterion 9-2 imply for forest managers and certification bodies?

FSC Advice
1. FSC Criterion 9-2 requires that the forest manager should consult with stakeholders on the identification of the High Conservation Values, and the management options thereof. During evaluation for certification the certification body should consult to confirm whether the manager’s consultation was adequate.

Basis for advice
1. FSC Criterion 9.2 states: "The consultative portion of the certification process must place emphasis on the identified conservation attributes, and options for the maintenance thereof".

2. Different FSC members currently interpret this criterion in two rather different ways, relating to their understanding of the expression ‘certification process’ – either that it puts the obligation on the certification body to carry out consultation, or that it puts the obligation on the forest manager to carry out consultation.

3. At the request of the FSC Board the Policy and Standards Unit sought the advice of the members of the original Principle 9 working group in order to confirm the intention of the Criterion. The consultation clarified that the intention of the Principle 9 working group was i) that the forest manager should consult with stakeholders on the identification of the HCVs, and the management options thereof, and ii) the cb should subsequently evaluate whether the consultation was adequate.

4. The FSC Board has agreed that henceforth this shall be considered the correct interpretation of this FSC Criterion.

5. Further background information regarding the consultation is contained in the board paper BM28-17 FSC Criterion 9-2.

References
FSC-STD-01-001 FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship
Board paper BM28-17 FSC Criterion 9-2