



CPET Reference Board Meeting 9 December 2009
Summary points

Attendees:

- Greg Moffat (GM), Defra**
- Neil Judd (NJ), ProForest CPET**
- Sofie Tind Nielsen (STN), ProForest CPET**
- Stuart Goodall (SG), Confor**
- Hugh Speechly (HS), Dfid**
- Saskia Ozinga (SO), FERN**
- Rachel Butler (RB), TTF**
- Beatrix Richards (BR), WWF UK**

Agenda items

The following agenda items were discussed:

1) Matters arising from 1 Sept minutes

At the last CPET Reference Board meeting (1 Sept) BR raised the issue that the EU ‘Due diligence’ proposal might end up requiring due diligence through the supply chain and require that the public sector have a monitoring system in place. CPET confirmed that the ‘Due diligence’ discussions are being followed and that once the final documents and requirements are available, CPET will ensure that requirements and guidance are made available.

CPET complaints procedures will be circulated for the board to review and comment.

Upon request from SO, STN gave an update on the clarifications and recommendations CPET provided to the UK representative at the EU Ecolabel negotiations.

Defra was asked by the board if the UK also had received a letter from a major producer country or the Commission, as other EU member states with timber procurement policies did. GM confirmed that no letters had to his knowledge been received.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Review and comment on draft Complaints procedure document</i> 	<i>All</i>	<i>End Jan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Continue to follow ‘Due diligence’ process.</i> 	<i>CPET</i>	

2) Definition of legal and sustainable/inclusion of social criteria

GM updated on the public consultation on social criteria which started 29 July and closed on the 21 October and reported that Defra had received comments from 22 different stakeholders.

Following the consultation period, CPET drafted revisions to the criteria based on the comments received. The reviewed criteria were then further reviewed by the CPET Technical Panel (TP) who convened in Oxford for a 2-day workshop (19-20 Nov). The TP also, based on the reviewed criteria, developed guidance for assessing certification schemes/Category A evidence. Reviewed documents and recommendations from the Technical Panel were presented to Defra and the CPET reference board prior to the meeting.

The board welcomed the inclusion of social criteria and SO acknowledged it as a ‘massive progress’ of the timber procurement policy.

The board led by SO had the following comments to the text:

- The use of the word ‘interests’ in the proposed introduction to the criteria was questioned as being too weak, but after some discussion it was agreed that the bullets following the introduction text clarified the text where the word ‘rights’ was used.
- The Board questioned why the wording in the guidance (criteria 1.2.w) was not consistent with the wording in the proposed criteria. In the proposed criteria the word ‘recognition’ was used whereas in the guidance ‘documented’ was used.

If the last issue could be clarified the board confirmed that they were happy for Defra to proceed and include the criteria.

The next step is to send the amended criteria to the minister and it is expected the criteria will be included early in the New Year.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
• <i>Request that the TP clarify the difference in words used</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Dec</i>
• <i>Inclusion of social criteria in application of policy.</i>	<i>Defra</i>	<i>End Jan</i>

3) Category A evidence issues

BR and SO raised concerns about the implementation of the certification schemes ‘on the ground’. It was agreed that the apparent lack of control that certification bodies had in ensuring compliance with the standards is a major problem. The lack of spot check/unannounced visits, though possible, are rarely applied by the certification bodies. Fraud in the supply chain was also raised as a problem.

It was agreed to postpone the discussion on ‘lack of implementation on the ground’ and add it as a point of discussion in the agenda for the next reference board meeting.

Inclusion of ‘governance’ and ‘conversion’ criteria has been discussed at previous board meetings and also in an attempt to align with Danish and Dutch timber procurement criteria CPET had asked the TP to develop some draft text. The RB had been provided with this draft text prior to their meeting.

CPET proposed a consultation on the draft criteria and the board agreed not to discuss them further until after a consultation.

Timeline for the next Cat A assessment:

<i>Action</i>	<i>Date</i>
Initiate consultation on proposed ‘conversion’ and ‘governance’ category A criteria. Invite comments via the CPET website.	January

Publish inclusion of social criteria on CPET website	January
Amend category B guidance to include social criteria	January
Review category A criteria based on comments	March
Reviewed category A criteria to be presented to the Reference Board	Prior 22 March
Finalise revised category A criteria and guidance	End March
CPET to initiate Cat A assessment of FSC and PEFC	End March
Drafts to be passed to FSC and PEFC for comments by early May	Early April
TP to convene to finalise review and provide scoring	13-14 May
Results of assessment to be published on the CPET website	End May

Actions	Who	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Announce timeline for the category A assessment to FSC and PEFC 	CPET	End Jan
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include agenda point to discuss 'implementation on the ground at next board meeting' 	GM	Prior 22 March
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include random and non-random selection of national schemes for the next category A review 	CPET	End March

4) Category B evidence issues

A concern raised by RB that inclusion of social criteria would make it more difficult to prove compliance via category B.

NJ reminded the board that category B cases are assessed on a case by case basis and that the robustness of the evidence required reflects the risk involved. CPET's Technical Panel can potentially support the assessments.

RB proposed that more 'practical ways' of assessing category B evidence is explored.

NJ provided an update on the protocol on how to provide category B evidence of sustainability for smaller (<100ha) non-certified UK forests. Guidance is being developed by the Forestry Commission and CPET has a meeting with FC on 6th January to finalise and will hopefully publish a link to the protocol and guidance shortly thereafter.

Actions	Who	Date
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposal on how practically to assesses Cat B evidence 	RB	Prior to 22 March

5) Awareness raising Campaign

Included in next agenda point.

6) Update on other CPET activities

STN gave an update on recent CPET activities. She introduced Nick Moss who joined the team in September. He replaced Solene Le Doze as full time CPET awareness coordinator. Rhiannon Murgatroyd also joined the team part time in July as the CPET administrator.

Since September CPET has run about 12 training workshops across the country and in Wales. The awareness campaign is ongoing; in cooperation with WWF UK and TTF 375 councils in England and Wales were emailed directly with a letter to council leaders and with follow up emails to policy leads. Nearly 2700 emails/letters were sent. A response was received from 12.5%. 3.75% have so far attended training workshops and several workshops are planned for the New Year.

CPET's cooperation with the government's Central Point of Sustainable Procurement (CESP) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) is ongoing and CPET is feeding into several events to raise awareness of the policy.

CPET continue to liaise with and support other EU member states in developing timber procurement policies. CPET has also contributed to the EU Eco-label criteria discussions over the past months.

1) Any other business

It was agreed to have the next CPET Reference Board meeting on:

22 March from 11am- 3pm

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Confirm availability to attend next RB meeting to GM</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>8 Jan</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Send out agenda and documents for discussion</i>	<i>Defra</i>	<i>By 15 March</i>