

CPET Reference Board Meeting – summary points 17th Nov 2008

Attendees

David Rabey (Defra)
Greg Moffat (Defra)
Sofie Tind Nielsen, ProForest (CPET)
Ruth Nussbaum, ProForest (CPET)
Moray McLeish ProForest (CPET)
Andreas Knoell ProForest (CPET)
John White (Timber Trade federation)
Julia Young (WWF)
Saskia Ozinga (FERN)

Apologies

Hugh Speechly (Dfid)
Stuart Goodall (Confor)

Agenda items

The following agenda items were discussed:

1. Introduction

A tour de table introducing and welcoming 3 new members to the board, Greg Moffat Defra, Andreas Knoell - ProForest (CPET) and Morey McLeish - ProForest (CPET).

2. Category A assessment

- Findings

It was agreed that there needs to be a requirement in the criteria about governance and showing implementation in practice under the PFC?

We need to be more explicit about what the government wants.

Clarification on the interpretation of the panel (SFI?) what criteria were being used to score marks against.

It was agreed that once the MTCC have fully implemented the criteria they're proposing to adhere to, then we would be in a position to agree to their standards. It was also agreed that a deadline of April 2009 be set for MTCC to show that what they have on paper is being reflected by news on the ground.

Proposed amendments to the category report (evaluation criteria) need to be made to appendix 1C and 3.4.2? and to go to ministers

PFC reporting needs to be made available to the public

A press release needs to be drafted, highlighting MTCC transition and requirements for social criteria.

Need to define legality, under the EU requirements for equivalence for FLEGT

- Paper on the ground implementation criteria

Concerns were raised about the fact that the only method of 'on the ground implementation monitoring' was to rely on others reporting back to us.

That out of the 2 options presented the 1st would be the most difficult to proceed with and might present the UK government as the arbitrator.

The second option, presented problems of needing someone on the ground to check, possibly a global coalition (with a broad range of participants) - which in turn has cost implications.

The view that other schemes, FSC and PEFC should contribute to these associated costs showed that this would not be a viable option. A fundraising option was also mentioned but this would take considerable time to raise the necessary funds or possibly look to the EU.

However, it was agreed that we wanted to go further than just the verifying criteria on paper. This might present a way forward for other certification schemes and also showed Defra's due diligence.

3. Update on CPET Activities

- Defra Pilot study
Project brief has been agreed and finalised. Letters to Heads of procurement from Natural England, Kew Gardens, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission requesting their cooperation with the project and reporting data will be sent out.
- Other activities
CPET workshops on-going and raising awareness is making good and steady progress. Need to use GO to disseminate info and gain more awareness in LA's.

4. AOB

- Social criteria may be an issue to be raised at the EAC as part of the enquiry into timber procurement on the 10th February 2009.