

# Summary points of CPET Reference Board Meeting 2/03/2007

## Attendees:

Bob Andrew, Defra  
Claire Treliving, Defra  
Ruth Nussbaum, ProForest (CPET)  
Kate Bottriell, ProForest (CPET)  
Sofie Tind Nielsen, ProForest (CPET)  
Saskia Ozinga, FERN  
Andy Roby, TTF  
Beatrix Richards, WWF UK

## Apologies:

Martin Gale, Confor

## Agenda items

The following agenda items were agreed upon for the meeting

- 1) Category A - FERN/WWF legal challenge
- 2) Category B developments
- 3) Country-specific guidance on buying timber
- 4) Monitoring
- 5) Other CPET activities update
- 6) Members' declarations
- 7) Any other business

### Category A - FERN/WWF legal challenge

Concern among UK and other environmental NGOs with the Government's acceptance of schemes which they did not consider gave credible assurance of 'sustainable' or 'legal' timber, FERN and WWF were considering whether to challenge the legality of the UK Government's definition of sustainable timber, and subsequent interpretation with respect to the Category A assessments. FERN and WWF have decided not to pursue this route further for the time being.

Defra and the Office of Government Commerce had sent a note to the European Commission seeking an opinion on whether criteria for securing the well being of forest dependent people could be included in the Government's contract requirements for sustainably produced timber. Defra indicated that the government was keen to adopt a position on social criteria that was similar to other European Governments with policies in place provided it fitted with the policy and legal framework for public procurement.

It was suggested that 'sustainable' timber was an inappropriate description of what is being demanded because the term is not consistent with internationally agreed

definitions. It was suggested that 'responsibly produced' timber would be more appropriate. Some Reference Board members thought that industry would not be happy with changing 'sustainable' to 'responsible' as it would exacerbate any existing confusion surrounding the policy.

#### Category B developments

The Reference Board were updated on the pilot study that CPET had undertaken in conjunction with the TTF, on the use of new Category B guidance. Feedback was generally positive and the guidance would be further developed based on the outputs.

The guidance supporting the use of Category B evidence includes the *Framework for evaluating Category B evidence*, *Practical Guides: Forest source information* and *Practical Guides: Supply chain information*. These are based on suppliers to Government using three Checklists to show how they meet the requirements.

#### Country-specific guidance on buying timber

A proposal for guidance on legality specific to each producing country was discussed. It was agreed that CPET could recommend that organizations undertake risk assessments based on publicly available information but that it would not be appropriate for CPET to produce or publish country specific guidance itself.

At this point it was noted that there would be a policy announcement the following week which would commit the UK Government to sourcing only sustainably sourced timber or FLEGT licensed timber from April 2009. As of April 2015, using sustainable timber will be a mandatory requirement. Further discussion was required to determine how these policy changes will be implemented.

The Reference Board members noted that there had been a lack of consultation by Government on the development of the policy changes, and they felt that in particular, the CPET Reference Board should have been consulted, given their advisory role.

#### Monitoring

The Reference Board was updated on the monitoring programme. Departments and public bodies were being mapped and contacts updated. The programme would commence with Defra. Visits had been arranged with the central Procurement Division, the Estates Division and Natural England.

#### Other CPET activities update

CPET workshops had been held in Cardiff, Manchester, London, Oxford and Edinburgh as part of the Regional programme. Ad-hoc workshops were planned for Ecovert FM and Debut Southwest Ltd, both Government facilities management service providers. Workshops in Oxford were continuing to be run on a monthly basis.

A meeting had been held with Land Securities Trillium, Department of Works and Pensions' facilities manager, to discuss implementation of the timber procurement policy. CPET gave a presentation on legality verification at Chatham House.

### Members' declarations

Ruth Nussbaum announced that her brother, David Nussbaum, has been appointed as the next director of WWF UK. It was not envisaged that it would have any impact on the CPET work. Saskia Ozinga had also prepared a declaration.

### Any other business

It was decided that guidance specifically targeting companies providing facilities management and other outsourced services would be developed by CPET.

Bob Andrew announced that he would be retiring at the end of August 2007. The Reference Board members agreed to write a letter to Defra expressing their concern over the vacancy of the post, and requesting that the post not be left empty for any period of time, as it played a critical role in the implementation of the timber procurement policy.

Saskia Ozinga noted she would be on sabbatical for the next four months.

### Next meeting

A meeting would be held sometime in September 2007 – date to be confirmed