



Dr. Ralph Ridder
Director General
Association Technique Internationale des Bois Tropicaux (ATIBT)
6 Avenue de St Mandé
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17 February 2012

Feedback to ATIBT about the participation of the forestry industry to the process of the development of the regional standard for Congo Basin.

Dear Ralph,

Thank you for bringing these issues to our attention and my apologies for the delay in our answer. We appreciate that you have taken the time to communicate clearly and directly to us. Maintaining an open channel of communication from both sides is crucial to working together.

The tropical timber industry and your members are an extremely important part of FSC and we all need to work very hard and in a collaborative manner to ensure that this part of FSC grows, also on the market side.

We acknowledge the input from your members and would like to take the time to provide some feedback on some specific items raised by your members.

Based on the reports we received from our Regional Office in Africa, we believe that that the Economic Chamber was well represented by members of IFIA/ATIBT in the workshops that were held to discuss the development of the FSC standard for the Congo Basin. In addition to the participation of representatives of forestry companies in the Congo Basin Regional Standard Development Group, the third draft was also widely circulated for stakeholder consultation.

Additional input to the standard was integrated during the 4th and the 5th workshops, in which IFIA and some representatives of logging companies and Certification Bodies actively participated. There was also a representative from the forest companies and CIFOR on the Conciliation Committee that was established by the Regional Standard Development Group to consolidate the feedback from stakeholders, including the forestry industry.

We believe that IFIA, representatives of the logging companies as well as representatives of the CBs actively participated in the development process of this standard and contributed their expertise and experience to come-up to a realistic standard.



I understand that you have received the reports of all the workshops of the Congo Basin Regional Standard Development Group. If not, please let us know and we will ensure that you receive them immediately. We have also produced a set of FAQ regarding the other specific issues you have raised, which is being sent as an annex to this letter. Please feel free to distribute it as appropriate.

We have been working to put mechanisms in place to ensure better communication from FSC on an international and regional level. Building the FSC Africa regional office is a direct response to this and we would greatly appreciate if you or your members have any suggestions on what more we can do to improve this.

We welcome your feedback at any time and the opportunity for a meeting on the possibility to establish a strategy for joint communication by our Organisations on the progress and challenges of FSC certification in Africa.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andre de Freitas', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Andre de Freitas
Executive Director