

FSC SMALLHOLDER UPDATE

Q4 2013

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



Dear Readers,

The last quarter of 2013 brought some interesting aspects of projects and activities on FSC engagement related to Smallholders and Communities. The outlook to 2014 is been shared in the second part.

The ForCES (Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services) project is presented by Alison von Ketteler, Global Project Manager of ForCES and FSC consultant, introducing the project and how smallholders are taking part in the pilot project. – A field test is under progress in several pilot sites and different countries.

The Forest Communities on Haida Gwaii are presented by Bob Brash, the President of Taan Forest; he is talking about their way to FSC certification and how they expect this to benefit the forest communities on Haida Gwaii in the future.

The SHNAG is back. – The FSC Smallholder Network Advisory Group, consisting of FSC representatives from all regions and FSC International, will continue its work also in 2014, translating the global strategy into a more operational and practical planning on national level for implementation in the coming years.

The FSC Train the Trainers Program continues in Asia and expands to Latin America. – Experiences shared, results analyzed and the transportation of the program to new countries and regions promoted, these are the relevant steps to improve the approach to build capacities by trainers and smallholders and to disseminate knowledge that leads to FSC certification and enhances the business case.

The Smallholder Fund has identified the rewarded projects. Contracts are now being signed and the disbursement of the fund is ready to start.

Looking into 2014, there will be some smaller and some bigger changes. – First I am happy to announce, that the Smallholder Support team at FSC International will increase by one new colleague, Annah Agasha from Uganda. – She will mainly work with the marketing side of the support, bringing smallholders nearer to the markets and to support them to place their products better and with more benefits.

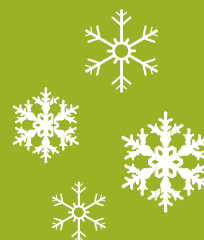
The Train the Trainers program will start the delivery of trainings in Latin America. The Smallholder Fund will continue its work and disbursing grants to selected projects. We also are looking forward to increase our engagement especially in Africa, where the regional FSC team has recently been strengthened through the employment of one new regional director and two sub regional directors. – The FSC network will give us the chance to work in a more strategic and also tangible and efficient way to support smallholders and communities directly.

Last not least the development of supply chains will continue and shall make the step from pilot stage to up scaling level. The Small and Community Label Option will go life and offer new possibilities of placing products on the market and to connect producers and retailers until the end consumer.

Our presence in international events and conferences will continue, raising the flag of the Smallholder and Community Mission, tackling concerns and issues from the certification perspective and using the vehicle of FSC responsible forest management and chain of custody for the better way and the benefit of it all, the people who live in and from forests and the worlds forest.

Warmest regards,

Joachim Meier-Dörnberg
Smallholder Support Manager



The ForCES project

By Alison von Ketteler,
Global Project Manager of ForCES and FSC consultant

Smallholders as a part of the ForCES project

Since the end of 2011 and until 2015, FSC is leading the ForCES project (Forest Certification for Ecosystem Services) which aims at examining the changes needed to the FSC system if FSC is to become a global leader in the certification of ecosystem services (ES).

FSC and partner organizations such as ANSAB, WWF Indonesia, FSC Chile, SNV and CIFOR, research, analyze, and field-test innovative ways of evaluating and rewarding the provision of critical ecosystem services, such as biodiversity conservation, watershed protection, and carbon storage and sequestration. Field test is under progress in 10 pilot sites in 4 countries (Chile, Indonesia, Nepal and Vietnam). Project partners are working with smallholders, in 5 of the 10 pilot sites, on their perception, valuation and management of ecosystem services.

Project process

To date, the ForCES team and their partners completed the stakeholder assessment and ecosystem services mapping of all pilot sites. Project members and communities have been trained to design and select compliance and impact indicators



In Lombok Island, water became so stable and abundant that a hydro-power plant provides electricity to hundreds of households.

for responsible ecosystem services management. Next step is to develop management plans which incorporate best practices of responsible ecosystem services management as well as test a particular benefit model in order to reward responsible ES management.

Through this project, FSC is testing innovative approaches in order to identify, support and promote innovative sources of revenues from responsible forest management.

Smallholders in Lombok

For example in Lombok, the hydropower plant and water distribution companies compensate the smallholders for their reforestation and avoided deforestation activities around the watershed. The smallholders and the companies are now exploring how FSC certification can further strengthen their benefit sharing model by adding another layer of third party verification and hence enhanced guarantees for the buyers of forest ES.

Benefit models need to be further explored

Please note that the project is, at the moment, exploring benefit models and that it will probably take another two years before we have more visibility on their feasibility and assessment of real benefits to forest people. FSC will keep you informed of the project achievement. You can also stay informed about the project progress on the dedicated website: forces.fsc.org or contact Alison von Ketteler, a.ketteler@fsc.org



In Lombok Island, smallholders are planting fruit trees in the buffer zones around the river.

Forest Communities on Haida Gwaii

By Bob Brash, President Taan Forest

The Haida Nation, whose traditional territory is the archipelago of Haida Gwaii on Canada's pacific coast, owns Taan Forest. After a struggle for recognition of their indigenous rights and subsequent purchase of a large provincial timber licence, the Haida community is committed to managing their forests in a way that reflects their world-view that; people are one with the land.

Taan Forest now manages 270,000 acres of ancient Haida Gwaii rainforest that the Haida people have inhabited for more than 12,000 years. Sustainable timber harvesting and production and trade of specialty wood products are firmly entrenched in the Haida culture.

In November 2011, Taan Forest obtained FSC certification for all of their timber holdings and can now supply valuable FSC certified timber for a wide range of building products and specialty finished product applications. Whether its tonewood for musical instruments, masts for sailboats or interior finish building material, dealers and end-users place high importance on a secure and consistent supply of sustainably harvested quality timber.

The forests of Haida Gwaii provide Taan Forest with exclusive access to some of the world's finest timber. Taan Forest and the Haida people carefully harvest available Western Red Cedar, Yellow Cedar, Sitka Spruce and Western Hemlock and currently produce 10 million board feet annually of rough sawn custom cut lumber. Products are sold through distributors to markets



around the world including, the USA, Europe and Asia. Future initiatives include manufacturing of select finished products and direct business servicing builders and end users that specify FSC certified wood products.

FSC is a positive influence

Through FSC certification, Taan Forest practices sound and sustainable forest management that reflect the values of the Haida Nation, helping to improve employment opportunities and maintain the ancient traditions and way of life on Haida Gwaii.

Taan Forest chose FSC certification as they consider it to be the gold standard worldwide that will bring great benefits in the future in terms of improved conditions and opportunities for the Haida Gwaii communities. Achieving FSC certification demanded hard work and investments but it was important for Taan Forest to implement responsible forest practices that could influence their brand in a positive manner.

The future brings great benefits

Taan Forest has only been certified for two years but expects benefits in the near future. They are refining their business models and believe that FSC certification is going to create the foundation for a competitive advantage in the marketplace and as a result create more job opportunities, which will improve the economy of Haida Gwaii.

Improved forest practices and reduced annual allowable harvest levels have already been achieved. Visitors and residents of Haida Gwaii are quite impressed with the transformation from a few short years ago. Taan Forest is continually improving, but the protection of high value resources and cultural values has been vastly improved from what it was previously.



Smallholder Fund now starts disbursing grants

By By Joachim Meier-Dörnberg, Smallholder Support Manager

On November 15th 2013 the final decision on successful projects to be rewarded by the Smallholder Fund was taken. 30 projects from six regions (see table below) were selected, showing the most promising project ideas in the most favorable environment, to either getting FSC certified or maintaining FSC certification and strengthening their business case. The results are reflecting a combination of quality of the projects and the regional priorities by the FSC administration through network partners.

Project ideas went from acquisition of safety equipment to fulfill certification's health and safety requirements, over High Conservation Value procedure development and monitoring schemes, to investment in equipment and trainings followed by marketing activities to enhance the value chain.

Capacity development on all organizational levels to ensure long term business success was a key issue in the positively assessed proposals. Applications, which found support by the FSC network or local service providers, strengthened the proposals' value towards feasibility through partnerships.

Project partners have been contacted and contracts for mutual assignment were sent out. The disbursement of the fund will be realized from December 2013 until the end of January 2014 in full amount.



The successful projects can be found in English and Spanish on the FSC International website <https://ic.fsc.org/smallholder-fund-pre-selection-results.688.htm>.

For further information, please contact your Regional Office or write to Joachim Meier-Dörnberg, Smallholder Support Manager, at j.meier-doernberg@fsc.org.

Workshops on FSC Train the Trainers in Bangkok and Lima

In November and December 2013, two workshops under the FSC Train the Trainers Program were realized in two different regions of the world, Asia & Pacific and Latin America, the two actual regions in the scope of the program.

The first event took place in Bangkok at the FSC regional partner's training center at RECOFTC - the Center for People and Forests. This workshop had as main purpose to wrap up the pilot phase and to gather information on delivered trainings as well as to reflect on the concept of the Train the Trainers Program in the region. Further was reflected on the possibility to continue the program and to reach out to new countries.

Trainings were delivered on national and local level over the last 18 months after the regional training workshop for trainers had been carried out in February 2012. The evaluation piece of the Train the Trainers concept was executed and a variety of monitoring tools, developed by RECOFTC, showed the results on the training materials, as well as the used methodologies and the assessed feedback by the trained target group was revealed. Trainers shared their experience from the trainings on the ground and the lessons learnt were discovered and brought

Region	Number of granted projects per region
Africa	4
Asia & Pacific	4
Europe	10
Latin America	4
North America	7
Russia & CIS	1
Total	30

together. Strengths and weaknesses were pointed out, challenges identified and the efficacy and the relevance in the region appraised. A SWOT analysis showed the demands and possibilities of the organizational structure of the program in the region. Conclusions were drawn, points for improvements discussed in a participatory approach and collected in a recommendation for the projects' pilot phase final report.

The second workshop was set in Lima, where the FSC Regional Office Latin America and FSC Peru organized and hosted the event, with the financial support by TAA, The Amazon Alternative, partner of FSC in the region. Regional and national/local level organizations from South and Central America were invited to participate in the construction of the concept of the FSC Train the Trainers program in Latin America.

After the concept idea was explained to the group, the organizational and institutional structure was drawn, training materials got presented and an overall strategy was developed. An operational plan was drafted and action points put in a timeline. Roles and responsibilities were discussed and next steps agreed. In 2014 a regional level workshop as a Train the Trainers capacitation shall mark the starting point of a series of trainings in two sub regions, beginning in the Amazon and Central America.

For further information, please contact Joachim Meier-Dörnberg, Smallholder Support Manager, at j.meier-doernberg@fsc.org.

New FSC Smallholder Network Advisory Group consolidated

On December 13th 2013 the new FSC Smallholder Network Advisory Group (SHNAG) has been consolidated, as a formalized institution, consisting of FSC representatives from the six

regions, as well as three participants from FSC International. The group, which has started its work in early 2013, with the establishment of an overall strategy and a global plan of action, endorses the continuous work on uptake and support of Smallholders into the FSC system.

It is now in charge of creating the way to translate the global strategy into an operational plan, which will comprise concepts and actions on national level driven by demands, to prosecute the objective to increase supply and value of FSC certification to smallholders.

We want to thank those members, who have been part of the group in 2013 and which will no longer be able to participate. Also we want to welcome those, who are new to the group and of course to remember the participants who will continue their successful work in the SHNAG in 2014.

For further information, please contact Joachim Meier-Dörnberg, Smallholder Support Manager at FSC International, j.meier-doernberg@fsc.org.

Members 2014	Organization
Alba Solis	FSC Peru (for Latin America)
Vera Santos	FSC Portugal (for Europe)
Shizuka Yasui	Network liaison officer at APRO
Orrin Quinn	FSC Canada (for North America)
Mikhail Karpachevskiy	Transparent World, FSC Consultant (for Russia and CIS)
Paul Opanga	Sub-regional Director for East Africa (for Africa)
Joachim Meier-Dörnberg	FSC GD, Smallholder Support Manager
Annah Agasha	FSC GD, Smallholder Support Manager
Vanessa Linforth	FSC IC, Social Policy Manager

MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the projects, check out the Smallholders Portal on www.fsc.org/smallholders.

And stay tuned for more updates. The next issue will be published in April 2014.

CONTACT

If you have any comments and/or feedback on the Smallholder Update, please contact:

Joachim Meier-Dörnberg at j.meier-doernberg@fsc.org