

Canadian Environmental Network CONSULTATION REPORT

*(Consultation Delegates – please note – this report will be made publicly available on the CEN website.
Please provide additional comments/concerns to the National Caucus Coordinator for distribution to Caucus.)*

Title of Consultation: FSC Canada Second National Boreal Discussion Forum

Date(s) held: December 3-7, 2003.

Location: Winnipeg, Manitoba

Author(s)

Chris Henschel, Director Forests Program, CPAWS-Wildlands League (then). Now: Manager of Forest Certification and Policy for CPAWS National; Manager of Forest Certification for CPAWS -Wildlands League

Number of ENGO Delegates at Consultation: 1

What was the purpose of the consultation?

The purpose was to bring together representatives from each chamber and region of FSC Canada to negotiate a final National Boreal Standard for FSC.

What were the outcomes of the consultation?

The key outcome was a unanimous recommendation by participants to approve the standard with a small list of final changes. FSC Canada accepted this recommendation and has passed the standard on to FSC International for final approval.

What are the implications of the outcomes of the consultation?

The implications are significant: The final standard is a strong expression of a vision of improved boreal forest management and conservation. We have an FSC standard that has lived up to ENGO expectations and which can now be fully integrated into our conservation work and markets campaigns.

What action, in your opinion, should be taken by the ENGO community in the aftermath of this consultation?

The ENGO community must now focus on the implementation of the standard. Auditors and companies have most of the power during the certification process. We need to engage in certifications and use the appeals process when required to ensure that the standard is properly applied. There are a number of requirements for the applicant (company) to consult directly with and get the approval of interested parties (ENGOS; Aboriginal People) for decisions including for example the completion of the protected areas network.

Wildlands League is currently working on developing guidance materials for auditors/companies/ENGOS that will support rigorous application of key parts of the standard and answer several outstanding technical questions regarding the maintenance of old growth forests, intact core habitat and tree retention in cuts.