

Advice to WWF UK Forest and Trade Network (FTN) members regarding recent logging by Metsähallitus in Finnish Central Lapland.

14 February 2007

This advice supplements the position statement issued by WWF Finland 7 February 2007:

http://www.wwf.fi/wwf/www/uploads/pdf/forestlapland_wwffinposition_feb2007.pdf

Please refer to that statement as well as to the advice below:

- There are areas of unprotected High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) in Central Lapland; Metsähallitus has recently started to log some of these areas (as highlighted by Greenpeace, over 77 Finnish forest researchers and others).
- This means that there is a risk that WWF UK FTN members - that buy from suppliers who in turn are supplied wood from Metsähallitus logging in these areas – are receiving uncertified HCVF wood. This would fall into the WWF GFTN Category 1; an ‘unwanted source.’
- Members are advised to ask their suppliers to ensure that this source is kept out of their supply chain.
- Members’ suppliers in turn should be encouraged to ask Metsähallitus to cease logging in these HCVF areas and to seek FSC controlled wood certification¹ or full FSC certification. This is urgently needed in these Central Lapland HCVF areas and indeed any other areas where there is concern and protest from any stakeholders such as tourism operators, reindeer herders, indigenous Sami People, forest researchers and environmental NGOs.
- In lieu of Metsähallitus gaining FSC controlled wood certification, FTN members’ suppliers themselves should seek FSC Controlled Wood certification² to ensure that there is an adequate third-party-verified system in place to ensure unwanted and controversial sources of wood are kept out of the supply chain.
- With regard to controlled wood certification within Finland, the FSC Finland Board meeting of today (14.2.07) came to the decision that all of Finland is to be considered to be of ‘unspecified risk’. This means that no area of Finland that is not already either FSC certified or FSC controlled wood certified³ can automatically be considered to be ‘low risk’ within the FSC controlled wood process. In order to be considered as FSC controlled wood therefore, all harvesting areas will have to be assessed according to Annex 3 of the FSC Controlled Wood standard.⁴ The audit process required to meet that standard has to include consultation with relevant stakeholders, staff interview and field visits to harvesting sites.
- For more information on the FSC Controlled Wood system contact Richard Robertson at FSC UK richard@fsc-uk.org

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¹ To FSC standard: FSC-STD-30-010 (Version 1-0) EN (FSC Standard For Forest Management Enterprises Supplying Non FSC Certified Controlled Wood)

² To FSC standard: FSC-STD-40-005 (Version 2-0) EN (Standard For Company Evaluation Of FSC Controlled Wood)

³ FSC-STD-30-010 (Version 1-0) EN (FSC Standard For Forest Management Enterprises Supplying Non FSC Certified Controlled Wood)

⁴ FSC-STD-40-005 (Version 2-0) EN (Standard For Company Evaluation Of FSC Controlled Wood)