Public Briefing Paper for
Forest Management Certification Pre-assessment of
Norske Skog in Tasmania, Australia
June 1, 2010

Introduction - The SmartWood Program of the Rainforest Alliance is conducting forest management certification pre-assessment of Norske Skog located in Tasmania, Australia. The pre-assessment will be implemented from 5-7 July, 2010.

Scope of the Certification Pre-assessment – The forest management certification pre-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the forest plantations managed by Norske Skog, using the SmartWood Interim Standards for Australia version June 2008. The area under the scope of this pre-assessment are Plantations located in Tasmania with the total area of 18,150 hectares. The vast majority of the forest management area managed by Norske Skog is Pinus radiata plantation. There is also a small area of eucalypt plantation as well as small area of informal native forest reserve.

To obtain a copy of the applicable guidelines or to make comments about these standards, please contact SmartWood by telephone, FAX, email or website listed below. SmartWood is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) and this pre-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

Preassessment Team Composition – The pre-assessment team will be led by Graham Lea (Smartwood Lead Auditor). The team members will be: Irwan Gunawan (Forestry Services Manager, Rainforest Alliance)

Pre-assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

♦ Pre-assessment organization – The SmartWood team will assemble in Hobart on July 4, 2010.
♦ Field pre-assessments – The team will visit sites managed by Norske Skog from July 5-7, 2010.
♦ Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding forest management in local communities surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
♦ Final pre-assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with Norske Skog’s managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
♦ **Draft report production** – The pre-assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to Norske Skog. This should occur 30 days after completion of the pre-assessment.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification pre-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Norske Skog forest management in relation to the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the pre-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the pre-assessment, during the pre-assessment, or prior to July 15, 2010 so that we can take them into consideration. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a SmartWood pre-assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Irwan Gunawan, the SmartWood staff person responsible for coordinating this certification pre-assessment from Asia Pacific Regional Office. If Irwan Gunawan is not in the office, please give your comments to Indu Sapkota.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Indu Sapkota. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of assessing Norske Skog.

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential available to only the FSC and SmartWood staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access SmartWood's dispute resolution procedures at www.smartwood.org.

**Contacting SmartWood**

**SmartWood Asia Pacific Regional Office**

Attn: Irwan Gunawan and Indu Bikal Sapkota

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