Statement regarding comments received.

In consideration of the comments received by stakeholders, including the need for a practical and implementable set of tools to support implementation of Annex 3 of FSC-STD-40-005 (Version 2-1)), the Board of Directors of FSC Australia has decided to add elements to the framework in order to achieve the expected results.

The main elements that are going to be incorporated to the HCV Framework are:

1. Focus the approach of the framework on the implementation of Annex 3 of the Controlled Wood standard. Considering that currently there is an overall review of the FSC Principles and Criteria, elements regarding implementation of Principle 9 should be developed in the context of a FSC Australian national standard and in consideration of interrelations to other Principles and Criteria.

2. Provide a data directory for each bioregion containing main resources for identification of HCVs, identification of management prescriptions and tools for stakeholder consultation.

3. Align the HCV classes to the FSC International definition (Six HCV classes). The deviation from the international classes has been identified as difficult for implementation and evaluation purposes.

4. Provide interpretations and scope of the six HCV classes including a list of the values contained in each class.

In this way, the Board of FSC Australia expects that a second version of the framework will be published as a final draft for consideration of stakeholders in early 2011.

A final draft for consideration of stakeholders is a document that should only be changed in the case of 'substantial' comments against the approach of this framework.