Stakeholder Consultation

Before visiting forest sites, we contact a range of individuals and organisations that may wish to comment on a forest manager’s activities.

Our consultation with you should not replace any communication which normally take place between yourself and the forest manager – you should raise your concerns with the forest manager first, as issues can often be resolved if forest managers are aware of them. If you are unable to do this please let us know your rationale. Positive feedback from stakeholders is always welcome.

A summary of issues raised and how they have been addressed will be included in our audit report (all reference to specific consultees will be excluded from the report, and comments may be in confidence if so specified).

Who We Are

Soil Association Certification Ltd is accredited by FSC® to assess forest managers using FSC standards; and by UKAS to assess against PEFC standards in certain countries.

The Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC) is an international, independent, not-for-profit organisation that has developed international Standards for forest management.

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC™) is an international non-profit, non-governmental organisation dedicated to promoting Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) through independent third-party certification.

What we are interested in

Individuals and organisations

Are you aware of any of the following?

- Problems with existing permissive or traditional forest uses
- Unreasonable refusal of access
- Problems regarding hunting
- Outstanding disputes over the conversion of forest land
- Evidence that legal or customary tenure, or use rights of local communities, are not sustained
- Lack of reasonable effort to employ and train workers from local communities
- Cases when employees have been deterred from joining unions or negotiating collectively
- Indigenous or traditional peoples living in or near the forest area
- Local communities who rely on the forest for subsistence needs

Statutory bodies

Are you aware of any of the following?

- Outstanding claims of legal non-compliance, or evidence that the relevant codes of practice, guidelines and agreements are not being followed
- Problems with consultation on revisions to management plans
- Inadequate consultation regarding sites and features of special cultural significance
- Significant negative environmental impact resulting from forest management
We always try to operate in an open and effective way and will do our best to address any concerns as quickly as possible. However, if you wish to make use of our complaints and dispute resolution system please follow our guidance policy, Dispute Resolution Procedures (IP-GEN-004) which can be found on our website.

**Contact Details**

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