



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

International Board

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3rd August 2007

Re: Your letter on Veracel's Certification by SGS

Dear Ricardo, Jutta et al

Thank you for your letter regarding the certification process of Veracel's plantations in Bahia, Brazil. We welcome input regarding any certifications whether applicants or certificate holders, as input from key stakeholders is an important part of the certification process. Thank you also for the suggestion to attend the SH meeting at the end of July. Furthermore, we support your concerns that given the Plantation Review process is still ongoing and that a previous Aracruz FSC certificate was recently withdrawn, considerable caution should be taken with this evaluation and any large-scale or 'controversial' plantation certification evaluations.

Over the last year the FSC has worked hard to strengthen its certification procedures, monitoring and overall performance and considerable progress has been made. We have the trust and confidence in the system to deliver a quality process and result. We have passed this letter and your concerns on to the ASI whose role is to accredit, monitor and audit the FSC accredited certification bodies. We note your particular concerns regarding the stakeholder consultation process. ASI will contact and appropriately work with with SGS to ensure FSC's procedures, standards and policies are upheld. We do not think that it is appropriate or the role of the board to intervene in a public consultation process nor directly in a certification evaluation.

Please continue to pass information and concerns that you deem to be relevant on the Veracel certification evaluation to ASI and FSC.

Sincerely

Grant Rosoman, Chair
on behalf of FSC International Board
