



FSC General Assembly – Side Meeting on Tropical Forests

Monday 9 October, 16.30 - 18.00

Tropical forests are one of the most diverse ecosystems on earth, and 44% of the global forest coverage can be found in tropical countries (FAO 2015), a total of roughly 17,000 million hectares. Tropical rainforests are the home of 50 million indigenous peoples (Rainforest Foundation) and ICRAF calculated that tropical forests are the basis of the livelihoods of some 800 million forest-dependent people. Tropical forests are also extremely important for biodiversity: about 50% of all terrestrial species live in tropical forests (VIA 2017).

With the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement, tropical forests have gained interest for their role in climate change mitigation. 15 of the 25 hotspots at global scale are tropical forests.

Roughly 18 million hectares of tropical and subtropical forest are currently FSC certified, representing 13 % of the total global area certified to the FSC Principles and Criteria. Of this total, 7% is situated in tropical natural forest and 6% in planted forest in tropical countries. However, the number of certificates paints a different picture: one in four certificates lies in the tropics. The top three countries with the highest total area are Brazil, Bolivia and the Republic of Congo.

See: <https://ga2017.fsc.org/timetable/event/tropical-forest/>

AGENDA

16.30 Opening facilitator (Antonio Bernales)

16.40 **Social, environmental and economic impact of a FSC certified tropical forest: the case of Precious Woods in Brazil and Gabon**

Introduction by Markus Brüttsch, Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer of Precious Woods

17.00 **SPOTT online transparency tool for investors for commodity producers on timber, pulp and paper**

An overview of SPOTT Timber, Pulp and Paper and its objectives – with a focus on transparency in commodity production of timber, pulp, and paper production in the tropics, and the benefits that can follow from increased transparency.

Introduction by Chris Eves, Forestry Officer Zoological Society of London

17.15 **Market access for tropical forests smallholders: the case of Mexico**

Introduction by Luis Alfonso Arguelles, FSC Mexico

Active engagement of FSC Mexico in finding markets for tropical timber of certified smallholders has led to encouraging successes. Alfonso Arguelles will present tropical timber successes in Mexico.

17.30 **Moderated forum discussion**

17.55 summary of findings

18.00 closure