

FSC[®] NEWS

General Assembly 2017

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Welcome

Dear FSC General Assembly attendees,

On behalf of the FSC Board of Directors, it is my privilege to welcome you to the 8th general assembly in Vancouver, Canada. We hope that your travels have been pleasant, and we appreciate the effort that many of you have made to be here today.

If this is your first general assembly, we hope that you will gain a new perspective from this event and that you will find it rewarding and informative. If you are a veteran participant, welcome back, and may the event meet your expectations.

The general assembly plays an important role within FSC as the primary platform for membership decision-making. When FSC first established its democratic governance system, it paved the way for the inclusive participation necessary to set the bar as the gold standard for forest certification. Throughout the course of the week, there will be a variety of opportunities to meet other members and discuss the most topical issues in forest management and certification. We encourage you to make the most of these opportunities, including participating in side events and contacting other members via the mobile app.

We eagerly anticipate a week of fruitful discussions, albeit around some difficult topics, and taking your decisions forward in the coming years. It is your continued engagement around comprehensive resolutions that will take forest certification into the 21st century.

Yours faithfully,

Rulita Wijayaningdyah, FSC chairperson

FAQs

Q: *Where are the side events taking place?*

A: Check the printed programme for venue details. Keep checking the notice boards for any venue changes.

Q: *May I attend the chamber meetings?*

A: Only members of that chamber may attend a particular chamber meeting, and members from another chamber may attend by invitation only.

Q: *May I attend a cross-chamber meeting?*

A: Only designated members may attend cross-chamber meetings.

Today's highlights

08:00-09:30 Chamber meetings

14:30-16:00 The True Value of Forests

18:00-18:45 Welcome Cocktail



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Revealing the True Value of Forests at Our High-Level Forum

This high-level forum will shine a light on the often unspecified benefits of forests, especially for individuals and communities living and working in forests, and explore how FSC can help societies highlight these benefits in order to retain them.

It may seem obvious that the value of forests goes far beyond forest-based products. For example, forests also have an environmental value (as habitat for plants and animals, or an important part of the water cycle, for instance), social value (many people live in or obtain resources from forests), cultural value, and spiritual value (forests are worshipped in many religions and cultures, such as Hinduism and First Nations' spirituality).

Yet it appears that in many instances the benefits derived from responsible management of forests are less valued than the short-term gains from their destruction. It is increasingly important to discuss and showcase the comprehensive range of benefits.

Responsible forest management means more than a sustainable supply of forest products. For many, it is a lifeline and a way to preserve their culture, community and quality of life. The high-level forum will explore the important role FSC plays in facilitating discussions around this and ensuring that these important stories are told.

The speakers

Sadanandan Nambiar was Chief Research Scientist and Science Director of the former CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) Forestry and Forest Products. He is now a Honorary Fellow in the Forest Ecosystem Science Group, Canberra.

He is also currently a Director of the Board of APFNet (Beijing). And he is engaged in linking forestry for rural development and poverty alleviation in South-East Asia.

Peter Lantin is President of the Haida Nation. The Council of the Haida Nation is the political body of the Haida Nation. As the primary spokesperson of the Haida Nation, he is responsible for fulfilling the Council of the Haida Nation's mandate, which is to "strive for full independence, sovereignty and self-sufficiency of the Haida Nation".

Per-Olof Sjöo is the President of the Global Union Federation, Building and Wood Workers' International (BWI), and is also the President of the Swedish Union of Forestry, Wood and Graphical Workers (GS-Facket). Per-Olof has extensive knowledge of the wood and forestry sectors, and has worked on workers' rights, sustainability, climate change, and labour standards.

How to attend the high-level forum

Anyone can join the high-level forum on Monday, 9 October from 2:30 to 4 p.m. – within the limits of available seating.

To read more articles go to ga2017.fsc.org/

"FSC is a great success story for SIG and our customers"

SIG, one of the world's leading solution providers for the food and beverage industry within the field of carton packs and filling technology, is now the FSC general assembly's exclusive 'green' sponsor – the top category of sponsorship for the FSC General Assembly 2017. We have interviewed Rolf Stangl, Chief Executive Officer of SIG, to better understand what FSC means to his company.

What does the FSC general assembly mean to you?

SIG supports FSC certification because of its stakeholder-driven and democratically governed structure. This ensures broad and equitable stakeholder involvement and support in defining responsible forest management. The general assembly is the core decision-making platform shaping the future of FSC.

What is your history with FSC as a certificate holder and member?

The carton manufacturers broadly, through their voluntary commitment in 2007, and SIG in particular pioneered certification in the industry, which was achieved globally in 2016. This is a commitment to 100 per cent chain of custody (CoC) certification and full traceability, so that only legal and acceptable wood fibres are used.

Of course, the support of board suppliers such as StoraEnso and BillerudKorsnäs was key to kicking off and fulfilling the commitment, and is essential for SIG's goal of 100% FSC certified liquid packaging-board procurement until 2020.

In 2009, we were the first in the sector to have all our global liquid packing-board supply, all carton-converting sites, and all sales units FSC CoC certified. We made a clear decision to choose FSC exclusively, as we believe that the democratic chamber system with equal voting power provides the highest level of acceptance through all stakeholder groups. As such a system depends on active membership, it was logical for us to join FSC International as members to connect with the stakeholder groups and provide our beverage carton packaging industry expertise to further improve the FSC system.

What role do you see SIG playing in the future of FSC certification?

SIG (as one of the world's leading solution providers for the food and beverage industry within the field of carton packs and filling technology) depends on a sustainable wood supply, as paper board makes up to 82 per cent of our packaging.

We launched our Way Beyond Good initiative this year aiming to become net positive by contributing more to society and the environment than we take out. FSC is of course a key lever in our net-positive journey and we will continue our active membership to support the system's growth, and to make it more robust and easier to use.

How successful has your 'FSC story' been? How has certification improved your business journey?

FSC is a great success story for SIG and our customers. With the FSC label on the packaging, we and our customers can demonstrate that we care about responsible sourcing of raw materials. Renewable wood fibre is what distinguishes beverage cartons from all other fossil fuel-based packaging substrates such as glass, metal, and plastic. This is why beverage cartons have a 'best in class' environmental footprint. With FSC-certified fibre, we are able to bolster this even further, making it more attractive for our customers to use SIG cartons instead of packaging solutions composed of fossil fuel materials.

It is great to see that we have reached a 82 per cent share of FSC-labelled packs in the market and that we are close to reaching our 2020 target to have 100 per cent of our cartons in the market carrying the FSC label.

You are almost approaching your goal to reach 100 per cent FSC-labelled packs. Do you already have a next goal in mind?

Of course. In our Way Beyond Good initiative ambition to become net positive we have defined various goals. For 2030, we aim to source all raw materials from certified suppliers and a 50 per cent procurement spend on net-positive suppliers.



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This of course is a call to our paper board suppliers to join us in our endeavour to be net positive, which in turn will have a direct link to an increase in support for the FSC system.

If you could make three wishes for the future of FSC, what would they be?

Improve applicability for the small and low-intensity managed forests (SLIMFs) and strive to continuously increase FSC-certified wood volumes. Make FSC easier to use (especially label use) and less costly, by reducing unnecessary bureaucratic burdens. Ensure robust and sustainable local FSC systems by following a risk-based approach.

Why did you choose to sponsor the general assembly and how do you feel about the fact that your sponsorship will enable the attendance of members who could not otherwise attend?

The general assembly is an important occasion as it is the core platform in the FSC organization. The motions set the course for the system for the coming years. Attendance by members from all chambers is important for the system, to reach quorum, but even more to be part of the motion discussions and to be heard and recognized in the discussions and motion formulation. We understand that especially social chamber members in some circumstances have difficulties carrying the costs to come to Canada.

It perfectly fits in our Way Beyond Good thinking that we sponsor FSC in this important event and that the sponsor money is used to help people from the social chamber to come to Vancouver.

What will be the key themes on which you hope to focus at the general assembly?

Leading up to the event, Kim Carstensen did a fantastic job in addressing the right points in the global strategy and the related implementation plan. A key theme for us is the future Controlled Wood Strategy and its impact on supply chains. As you know, we and the paper industry need the controlled wood supply and credit system in our value chains. Another key topic is the future approach for smallholder certification. At present, our supply chain is facing a big issue in terms of smallholder forest certification, which is limiting the expansion of FSC forest certification and wood supply.

What outcome(s) do you expect from the FSC General Assembly 2017?

FSC is at an important transformational stage. We consider the key factors for its future growth to be robustness, ease of use at reduced costs, and structured open processes. I trust that members participating at the general assembly will take this into consideration in their discussions and drafting of motions. To foster responsible forest management around the globe via FSC certification, clear commitment and action by big multinational companies, brands, and retailers is important. It would be great to see more companies joining the FSC system and sending a clear signal that forest certification is important.

To read more articles go to ga2017.fsc.org/

Towards an FSC landscape in Indonesia: The Borneo Initiative

Wim Ellenbroek

Programme Director at the Borneo Initiative

FSC was created in 1993 as a response to concerns about deforestation in the tropical regions. However, to this day deforestation continues almost unabated and FSC has still to achieve mainstream status in tropical producer countries. FSC has to strike the balance between a concern over intact forest landscapes, and a growth target of 20% market share by the year 2020. To meet both objectives, FSC will need the support from partner organisations. For instance, The Borneo Initiative, an independent initiative for large-scale FSC promotion in Indonesia.

Mainstreaming FSC

The island of Borneo, shared by Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei, is one of the last remaining intact forest blocks with its 35 million ha of tropical rain forest. This area is considered critical to conservationists, a fact recognised by WWF, who conducted a campaign for a green Heart of Borneo in 2005. The Borneo Initiative, registered as a non-profit foundation in 2008, is a response to this Heart of Borneo campaign. Its mission is to halt the process of forest degradation and deforestation via the promotion of sustainable forest management in and around the Heart of Borneo, coupled with the promotion of international trade of FSC-certified wood products. The Indonesian Association for Forest Concessionaires (APHI) is the formal counterpart.

Before The Borneo Initiative became operational, the FSC-certified forest area in Indonesia amounted to 0.9 million ha. To date, The Borneo Initiative has facilitated 24 new FSC certificates and 5 controlled wood certificates, together encompassing an area of 2.7 million ha. Another 8 forest concessions are still in the process of obtaining FSC certification, resulting in a total program coverage of 3.5 million ha. Given a forest area of about 14 million ha that is still under active logging in Indonesia, it follows that The Borneo Initiative is supporting about one-quarter of all active logging concessions, and that FSC is becoming mainstream in Indonesian forest management.

The Borneo Initiative is basically a grant scheme, offering forest concessions a subsidy of 2-3 USD/ha. Large-scale

coverage could only be achieved via cooperation with a platform of other sustainable forest management initiatives especially those operated by TFF, TNC, WWF/GFTN, APCS and Wana Aksara Institute. Together, these organisations have demonstrated that large-scale, fast-track FSC certification is feasible and within reach of any forest company with the right motivation, including those in the tropics.

Other milestone achievements by The Borneo Initiative:

- Facilitation of the first ever FSC certificates for mangrove forests globally
- Facilitation of the first FSC certification in Papua
- Facilitation of the first FSC audits ever for Merbau concessions in Papua
- Facilitation of the first FSC corporate group certification scheme in Indonesia
- Facilitation of the first FSC certification of private (non-state) forest plantations in Indonesia on degraded lands (75,000 ha)

Vision

Looking beyond the current group of participants, The Borneo Initiative sees a sustained interest in its support program. There is already a waiting list of 11 companies from Kalimantan representing a total of 1.3 million ha. The Borneo initiative sees scope to expand the current certification program from 3.5 to 6 million ha. Thus, a so-called 'green belt' can be formed around the core Heart of Borneo. Resulting in a connected string of FSC-certified forest management units, which safeguard an intact forest landscape. Ultimately, by 2020, the Heart of Borneo core area and the sustainably managed boundary areas must connect via eco-linkages to other protected areas or sustainably managed forest areas on Borneo, forming a future eco-network.

Working together, we can put FSC into the mainstream in Indonesia and so doing, achieve a landscape impact. Your support is most welcome: Buy FSC certified wood products. Support The Borneo Initiative.

Visit <https://theborneoinitiative.org/> for more information.

Abbreviations

APHI	Asosiasi Pengusaha Hutan Indonesia (Indonesian Forest Concession Holders Association)
APCS	Asia Pacific Certification Solutions
CW	Controlled Wood
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature
GFTN	Global Forest & Trade Network
TFF	Tropical Forest Foundation
TNC	The Nature Conservancy

To read more articles go to ga2017.fsc.org/

Community certification in the FSC system

An op-ed by Nepcon

Another area that deserves special focus from FSC is community certification. When communities have legal ownership over their lands, deforestation is lower, and biodiversity protection and carbon storage are higher. However, in only 10% of cases are community land rights formally recognised. While in this area FSC could be a powerful force, it has not been successful enough and can do more.

Forests of the World and NEPCon have joined forces with others including RA and Imaflora to support FSC's thinking 'outside the box' and capitalising on under-valued or under-utilised initiatives. In addition to the work to produce a new community standard (M83), the proposal provides a new look into a step-wise approach that would, amongst other things:

- utilise a Participatory Guarantee System that would acknowledge social diversity, while helping to further empower the community
- lead to greater recognition of business and marketing programs such as made with heart and strengthen initiatives (e.g. SCLO) by creating a Community Forestry Operations markets coalition
- connect legal compliance and existing national legality schemes



- utilise NEPCon's Sourcing Hub; and
- review bottlenecks in FSC standards.

Two industry and community representatives communicated their strong support for these initiatives.

If you would like to be part of this discussion, please join Monday morning's session on motion 83 and progress on community certification.

Full references can be found on the online version of this article on the FSC GA website.

Footnote reference material can be found on NEPCon's website: <http://www.nepcon.org/>

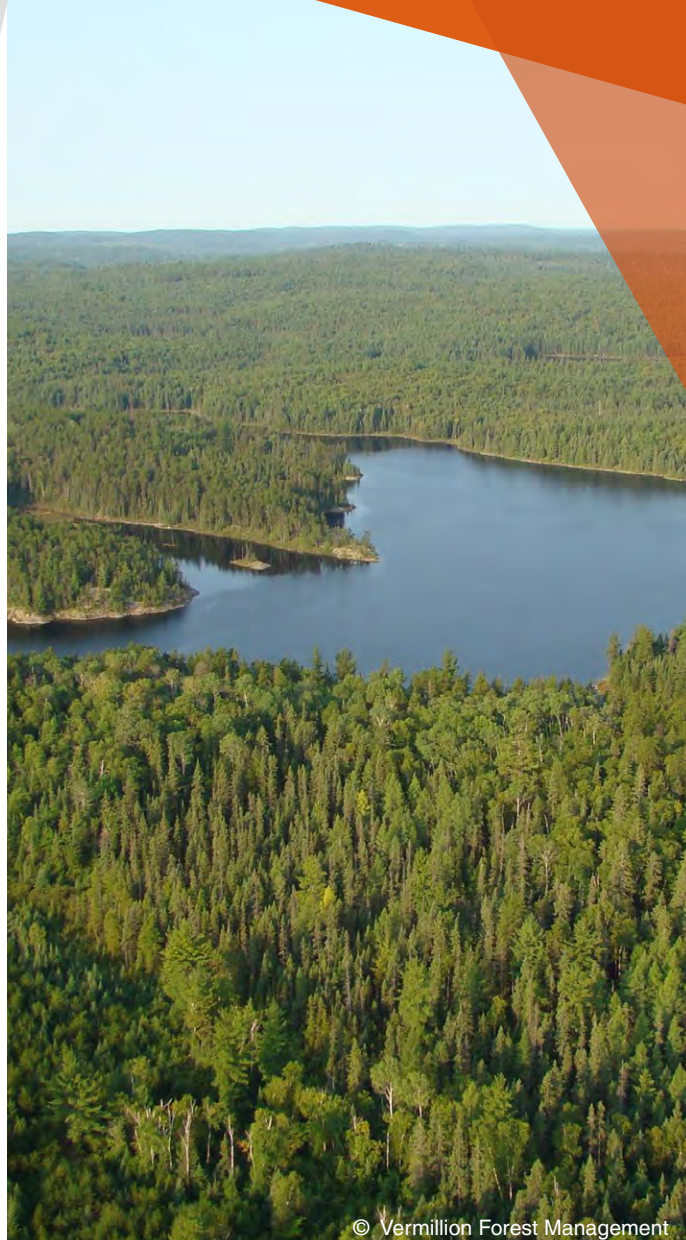
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Research provides new insight on global consumer sustainability trends

With almost 200 million hectares of FSC-certified forest worldwide and an array of global brands using FSC-certified materials in more than 100 markets, FSC plays a vital role in global efforts to ensure that forests are managed responsibly. Yet the continued destruction of forests around the world for wood, paper and other consumer products makes it clear that FSC needs to increase its effectiveness, expand its reach, and provide greater incentives for responsible forest management.

To accomplish this, FSC must better understand global consumer trends and behaviour regarding sustainability, and use that insight to influence positive change in markets for forest products. To this end, FSC International contracted the research consultancy GlobeScan to conduct consumer research in 13 markets: USA, Germany, UK, Italy, Brazil, China, South Africa, Japan, Australia, Russia, India, Indonesia and Canada. Among other things, this research shows that consumers clearly value responsible forestry that doesn't contribute to deforestation, their expectations are high, and many see FSC as a way to take action on normally frustrating issues such as air quality and climate change.



Highlights from the consumer research results will be made public on Wednesday, October 11, by GlobeScan Director Eric Whan at a side event of the FSC General Assembly 2017 entitled 'FSC: Delivering Value from Forest to Consumer', organized by FSC International and part of the 'In Good Company with FSC' series of events. FSC aims to use the varied insights gained from this research to help its partners better tell their sustainability stories and help businesses that have adopted sustainable sourcing to create value for their brand. The better we understand global consumer needs and desires, the better FSC can leverage demand to facilitate the expansion of forest area under responsible management.

Learn about the results of this research at the side event FSC: Delivering Value from Forest to Consumer on Wednesday, October 11th, 9:30 – 11:00, FSC General Assembly 2017, Cypress Room, Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, Canada.



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Making FSC Certification “Work” For Smallholder Forests

Andrew Goldberg

Appalachian Woodlands Alliance Project Manager,
Rainforest Alliance

Smallholder forest owners continue to struggle in accessing the benefits of Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification of their forests. Over the last two decades, organizations and procurement officers for forest products companies committed to responsible forestry practices and sourcing have invested heavily in efforts to bring “family forests” into the FSC program, mainly through group certification. Despite persistent efforts, this exceptionally important group of stewards remains overwhelmingly excluded from the FSC system.

Through different processes including initiatives being discussed here at the General Assembly, our community is revisiting how certification of smallholders could become more accessible. One such example is the Appalachian Woodlands Alliance (AWA), a collaboration between the Rainforest Alliance, Avery Dennison, Columbia Forest Products, Domtar, Evergreen Packaging, Kimberly-Clark,



Staples, and the U.S. Forest Service, which proposes a novel approach to certification of woodlots less than 100 hectares in the southern and central Appalachians of the United States. The AWA initiative combines a point-of-harvest verification of site-level indicators, combined with a regional assessment of other pertinent FSC principles and criteria to establish conditions where a confident claim of responsible forest management can be made.

As in many critical forest regions globally, small landowners contribute tremendously to the forest products industry. Recent data indicates that between 50% and 90% of wood supply for major forest products companies in the Appalachian region comes from forest parcels under 100 hectares. Group FSC certificates work well for some landowners (those with larger holdings or with more intensive management), but new tools and methods are critical to bringing the benefits of FSC to smallholders.

The model presented by the Appalachian Woodlands Alliance demonstrates it is possible to find solutions that include these “family forest” smallholders while holding the line for integrity of the certification and maintaining important conservation values.

To learn more about the AWA, please join Andrew Goldberg at the Local Learnings, Global Transformations session on Monday morning from 9:30 – 11 am in room SPB 2.





History of a Motion: Intact Forest Landscapes (IFLs)

FSC forest management standards include several requirements for the protection and management of ecological and/or socially critically important forest areas, known as high conservation value (HCV) forests. One of these HCVs is intact forest landscapes (IFLs).

An IFL is defined by FSC in the international generic indicators as “a territory within today’s global extent of forest cover which contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity, with an area of at least 500 km² (50,000 ha) and a minimal width of 10 km”.

IFLs are the world’s last remaining large, un-fragmented forest areas undisturbed by roads or other significant human infrastructure. Many IFLs count among the world’s richest environments for biodiversity; they are an essential source of carbon storage; and are home to millions of animal species, as well as forest-dependent communities. While IFLs occur in 60 countries, 65 per cent are found in Canada, Brazil, and Russia.

FSC and HCVs

The protection of HCV forests is included under principle 9 of the FSC Principles and Criteria (P&C): “the Organization shall maintain and/or enhance the HCVs in the forest management unit (FMU) through applying the precautionary approach”. As IFLs are a type of HCV, FSC already had some provisions for responsible forest management on these lands.

However, in 2013 Greenpeace and other members of the FSC environmental chamber pointed out that the world

had lost or degraded 8 per cent of IFLs since 2000, and believed that IFLs needed certain protections above and beyond those already in place for HCVs.

FSC General Assembly 2014 – Motion 65

In 2014 environmental members successfully campaigned for FSC members to pass motion 65. The motion called for standard development groups and certification bodies (CBs) to develop, modify, or strengthen indicators within national standards and CB standards to protect the vast majority of IFLs.

Motion 2014/65 had nine key criteria that the development of IFL indicators had to adhere to, and, significantly, a ‘default clause’:

If, by the end of 2016, a relevant standard has not been implemented, a default indicator will apply that mandates the full protection of a core area of each IFL within the FMU. For this purpose, the core area of the IFL will be defined as an area of forest comprising at least 80 per cent of the IFL falling within the FMU.

At the same general assembly in 2014, motion 07 was also passed. Motion 2014/07 requested changes to the P&C, specifically the inclusion of IFLs, referred to as HCV2, to principle 9. The passing of both motions showed clear support from the FSC membership that IFLs needed to be treated separately, but in parallel, with protections for HCVs.

IFL Solutions Forum

In response to motions 2014/07 and 2014/65, FSC established an advisory group, the IFL Solutions Forum, consisting of network partners, staff, and stakeholders from key IFL areas (Canada, Russia, Amazon, Congo Basin, Indonesia) to determine how to implement the requirements of the motion. The forum has met three times to date to discuss possible IFL solutions.

Initially, the advisory group proposed that the development of IFL indicators work in parallel with the development of national standards. However, the national standard development process was more complex and lengthy than originally envisioned, and the deadline prescribed in the 'default clause' of motion 2017/65 was fast approaching.

Due to the potential for significant undesired side effects in IFL countries, the FSC international Board of Directors decided to revise the 'default clause' and provided guidance on its interpretation in the form of an advice note published on 30 December 2016.

The advice note stated that forest management operations within IFLs, including harvesting and road building, could proceed as long as they did not impact more than 20 per cent of IFLs within the FMU and did not reduce any IFLs below the 50,000 ha threshold in the landscape. This advice note ensured that 80 per cent of IFL core areas within FSC-certified forests have been placed under temporary protection as of 1 January 2017, until new national standards are in force. Meanwhile, work on national standards in IFL countries is ongoing.

Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (ICLs)

The advice note also included the introduction of a concept from the Permanent Indigenous Peoples Committee (PIPC) and the Aboriginal chamber of FSC Canada, Indigenous Cultural Landscapes (ICLs). Indigenous Peoples

are present in 54 of the 60 IFL countries. FSC Canada proposes the below definition of ICLs:

ICLs are living landscapes to which Indigenous Peoples attribute social, cultural and economic value because of their enduring relationship with the land, water, fauna, flora and spirits, and their present and future importance to their cultural identity. An ICL is characterized by features that have been maintained through long-term interactions with the landscape based on land-care knowledge, and adaptive livelihood practices. They are landscapes over which Indigenous Peoples exercise responsibility for stewardship.

FSC IFL indicators will be developed to suit the differing conditions in IFL countries around the world, and the integration of ICLs are now a core consideration in those development discussions.

FSC General Assembly 2017

With the implementation of motion 2014/65 still ongoing, IFLs will play a large part at this year's general assembly. A closed meeting of the IFL Solutions Forum will be held in Vancouver, Canada just before the general assembly, and six motions have been submitted in relation to IFLs and ICLs to date (20 September 2017).

Protecting the world's IFLs requires a multi-stakeholder and multidimensional approach that will be in full force at the 8th FSC General Assembly 2017.



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