



## **Comment on withdrawal from Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) by companies associated with APRIL**

**24 June 2013**

We note a statement posted on FSC websites on 22 June 2013, referencing withdrawal from FSC by companies associated with APRIL, stating “*no reason for the withdrawal was offered*”.

The decision by APRIL and companies associated with APRIL not to hold or seek FSC CoC/CW certification for the foreseeable future is based on concerns about the FSC’s Policy for Association. This renders ineligible for FSC certification companies which are part of a group that has converted more than 10,000 hectares within the past five years.

APRIL and many other companies in Indonesia are working towards developing a renewable and sustainable plantation fibre supply to meet the fibre needs of the future, which is what was done by companies in developed countries in the past.

APRIL’s view is that the current Policy for Association criteria act as a disincentive for companies in developing countries to engage with the FSC system.

The withdrawal from FSC by companies associated with APRIL is linked to our viewpoint that current FSC policies are not supporting development and have the effect of inhibiting developing countries from making sustainable use of their land. This is a particular concern for industrial plantation companies operating in Asia.

We ask FSC to consider these points. APRIL remains open to constructive dialogue with FSC.

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