



09 December 2011

**FSC Statement – Oxfam report *The New Forests Company and its Uganda plantation***

FSC is engaging the services of Accreditation Services International (ASI), the accreditation body for FSC, to investigate a dispute between stakeholders involving FSC certified plantations in Uganda. The dispute relates to a September 2011 report by Oxfam, which alleges that violations of land ownership and land use rights took place in The New Forests Company's FSC certified plantations in Uganda. The claims relate to plantations which were certified by accredited certification body SGS in March 2009.

The Oxfam report contained a number of serious allegations that FSC's Principles & Criteria were violated and as a result FSC initially sought to investigate the matter further by filing a complaint with SGS Qualifor.

SGS responded to the complaint by undertaking its own investigation, and has produced a set of findings that raise new questions about the case. FSC is engaging ASI to perform a thorough, independent investigation which will evaluate both parties' evidence against first-hand interviews and research.

Relevant background documents can be found at [http://www.fsc.org/sept\\_2011\\_oxfamreport.html](http://www.fsc.org/sept_2011_oxfamreport.html).

**For further information, please contact:**

Sasha Ramirez-Hughes, FSC Marketing & Communications Manager, [s.hughes@fsc.org](mailto:s.hughes@fsc.org) or +49 228 367 6658