



PEFC - Promoting Sustainable Forest Management

PEFC Council

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Mr David Cassells &
Mr Bruce Carbarle
Co-chairs
World Bank / WWF Alliance
The World Bank
1818 H Street, N.W
Washington, DC 20433
U.S.A

10th August 2004

Development of a Questionnaire for Assessing the Comprehensiveness of Certification Schemes/Systems (QACC)

Dear Messrs Cassells and Carbarle

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd August 2004. Referring to your request in your letter dated 13th July 2004 we sent a list of more than 60 areas of concern on the QACC at the beginning of August. We are therefore extremely surprised to receive a new version of the QACC now, before our comments have been considered. We note with disappointment that the new questionnaire has again been developed without any direct stakeholder consultation and participation. As you are aware, this is one of the central points of critique concerning this process, and we are disappointed that this has still not been addressed.

Furthermore it has come to our understanding that another revised version of the QACC has been announced to the members of the review panel to be distributed this week - presumably increasing the number of circulating QACC versions? This method of working is rather confusing and we would kindly ask you to clarify the situation.

As pointed out in the letter from my chairman to you of 3rd August, the high profile reputation held by the World Bank and WWF will result in the QACC definitely being noticed and referred to by many other stakeholders and institutions worldwide. The QACC and the exercise around it cannot therefore be regarded as only an "internal management tool". In this context we would be interested to know what multistakeholder input you have sought and had from trade unions, industry representatives and forest owners amongst other stakeholders in the revision of the QACC?

Concerning the revised version of the QACC you sent us recently, we see no possibility to comply with the extremely short deadline of August 16th due to holidays and existing work commitments. In particular the above-mentioned uncertainty needs clarification first. The PEFC Council has still not been adequately informed or consulted about this process. I'm sure you'll understand that we want to present our Board members with accurate and up-to-date information in September so that the PEFC Council can decide whether or not to participate in the process.

In light of the time pressures outlined in your letter of 13th July, we again invite you to take up the Executive Committee's offer expressed in our letters of 5th July and 3rd August to meet face to face with you both to resolve the identified issues.

Yours sincerely

Ben Gunneberg
PEFC Council Secretary on behalf of the PEFC Council Executive