



CPET Reference Board Meeting Summary points 3rd October 2007

Attendees:

Jenny McInnes, Defra
Claire Treliving, Defra
Marigold Norman, Defra
Neil Judd, ProForest (CPET)
Rachel Butler, ProForest (CPET)
Sofie Tind Nielsen, ProForest (CPET)
Saskia Ozinga, FERN (left at 15.00 pm)
Andy Roby, TTF
Beatrix Richards, WWF UK

Apologies:

Martin Gale, Independent Consultant

Agenda items

The following agenda items were agreed upon for the meeting

- 1) New personnel
 - 2) New policy consultation process
 - 3) Social issues
 - 4) Category A
 - 5) Category B
 - 6) Construction sector pilot study
 - 7) Other CPET activities
 - 8) Any other business
 - 9) Next meeting
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1) New personnel

Jenny McInnes who has the lead for illegal logging within Defra has added CPET as part of her responsibility. Marigold Norman who has worked within the NHS prior to this post started on 1st October. Marigold's full time role will be to work on Timber procurement. Rachel Butler has taken over from Kate Bottriell who chose to move onto other activities within ProForest. It was felt that implementation was a key issue to be addressed and Rachel's trade and local authority experience would support that objective.

2) New Policy Consultation Process

The consultation process has now ended. The minutes of the three meetings held were circulated; consultation launch, trade and NGO. Andy Roby talked through the main trade issues whilst Beatrix discussed the NGO comments. All documents are available on the CPET website. Saskia raised a point of clarification in view of whether the policy is mandatory. The previous policy was deemed to have a loop hole that only mandated the government buyers to actively seek. The policy now reads;

From 1 April 2009 only timber and timber products originating either from independently verified legal and sustainable sources or from a licensed Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) partner will be demanded for use on the Government estate - appropriate documentation will be required to prove it.

From 1 April 2015, only legal and sustainable timber would be demanded.

It was acknowledged by both NGOs and trade that FLEGT licensed timber will not be widely available by 2009.

It was agreed that the summary document of comments and proposed recommendations on interpretation of the policy, would be discussed by the reference board initially. Following this meeting it may be deemed that some more informal consultations may be necessary however, Defra hope to make the final decision on recommendations before the end of 2007. CPET will develop the guidance ready for publication in January 2008.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Collate & circulate comments & draft recommendations</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Nov</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Clarify to what degree the new policy is mandatory</i>	<i>Defra</i>	<i>End Nov</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Arrange Ref. Board meeting to discuss findings (Nov)</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Oct</i>

3) Social Issues

The Reference Board were updated on the recent meeting held between representatives from Defra, CPET and the OGC with EU DG Internal Markets. The UK presented a paper and is seeking the Commissions view on whether social issues can be included to the sustainability criteria. No decision was made and the EU as a consequence of this meeting will contact other member states who are including social criteria and conduct research.

The meeting discussed how seemingly the UK government operates under different interpretations of sustainability in other areas; e.g. social issues are included in the biofuels standards, the UK has recently ratified the UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights. Defra were asked to clarify the current process as already queries and issues are starting to be raised.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Defra to consider social issues position statement</i>	<i>Defra</i>	<i>Nov</i>

4) Category A

A proposal for implementing a Peer Review Panel in 2008 to conduct the Category A assessments was outlined. The reasons for proposing this would be to bring an independent element to the process along with an international perspective as it is recognised that the policy has world-wide impacts. The current thinking is that CPET would chair the panel and it would consist of 3-5 experts. In principle all the Reference Board agreed that the idea was a good one; but there may be issues in implementation for example, is it possible for any one person to be truly independent and whether the cost could be too high. However it was agreed to explore the idea in more detail at the November meeting.

A further point raised the issue that as the process of review starts in May; to ensure transparency all certification schemes should be written to outlining the methodology, the process and timetable.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Draft budget, person specification and new methodology for assessing Category A using a Peer Review Board</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Nov 07</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>CPET write to all certification schemes to outline methodology, process and timeline</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Jan 08</i>

5) Category B

A note on the verified legal and the step-wise programme was circulated giving a brief update on where the assessment of each had reached. With more enquiries in the last few months on the suitability of these schemes to meet Category B; a position status on each is required. As a number of the schemes had been assessed but had outstanding queries; it was agreed that CPET would formally write with a deadline of Dec 2007 and advise that the results of the assessments would be published in January 2008.

A concern was raised that these systems should not undermine FLEGT processes and should support them rather than work against. Caveats on the results would be added for each scheme to outline additional information that maybe required and that if FLEGT came on line for a particular country then this would supersede any other legality process.

The issue of other evidence for Category B other than the schemes was discussed. TTF are currently compiling information on country risk and what evidence is available. GFTN have similar initiatives; it was agreed that a joint approach with all stakeholders was needed and that a meeting was being organised by TTF to start this process.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Write to schemes, conduct assessments & publish results</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Jan 08</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>TTF meeting on November to discuss evidence for legality and sustainability at country level</i>	<i>TTF</i>	<i>Nov 07</i>

6) Construction Sector Pilot Study

An overview of the project was given along with an outline of some key findings. Over 10 construction sites have been visited; coupled with meetings with government departments and the construction companies themselves. The Technical Review Group consisting of the construction companies and other key stakeholders such as BM TRADA, BRE along with government representation from Defra were presented with key findings and some possible solutions in September.

The next steps are to consult with the TRG, Defra and NGOs on possible site monitoring tools which will follow up to the reporting tool. The draft findings and recommendations will be presented to Defra by the end of October. Concern was raised that the Olympics were heading in the same direction with implementation; without monitoring and checking the policy on using sustainable timber is likely to fail.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Construction pilot study report to be forwarded to the ODA.</i>	<i>Defra</i>	<i>Nov 07</i>

7) Other CPET activities update

An overview of CPET activities, workshops over the last six months was outlined. It was agreed that having a report on the broad enquiries would be a useful agenda item going forward. Board members were also asked on further ideas for the CPET Newsletter to widen readership and news items that are important to the CPET process e.g. FLEGT. Suggestions included; FAQ's, case studies, procurement or country news. Additionally members of the board put forward suggestions for locations of regional workshops; Government Offices, TTF meetings etc. It was also suggested to approach the Housing Associations, following the lead developed by Jade Saunders.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Set dates and develop invitation/information sheet on CPET regional workshops</i>	<i>CPET</i>	<i>Oct 07</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Circulate invitation/Information sheet on CPET regional workshops</i>	<i>TTF/ Defra</i>	<i>Nov 07</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Send Trade Area meeting dates to CPET</i>	<i>TTF</i>	<i>Nov 07</i>

8) Any other business

Bernard de Galembert of CEPI has written and asked if he could represent the paper industry on the CPET Reference Board. All agreed that the Reference Board was at the moment the right size and constitution, in any case Martin Gale has paper industry expertise.

Jenny suggested that Dfid representation on the Reference Board would be an ideal addition. Given the wider issues of FLEGT; this was welcomed and a unanimous agreement was reached.

<i>Actions</i>	<i>Who</i>	<i>Date</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Letter to CEPI to be drafted by CPET and sent by Defra</i>	<i>CPET/Defra</i>	<i>Oct 07</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Dfid to be formally invited onto the Reference Board</i>	<i>Defra</i>	<i>Oct 07</i>

9) **Next meeting**

Scheduled for 28th November 2007 in London.