

Press Release

DANZER regains Membership to FSC

Baar (Switzerland), 14.08.2014 - The approach adopted by DANZER with the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for regaining FSC membership has been successfully completed. Due to the collaborative process of re-association, DANZER maintains a revised and proven sustainability and conflict management system, which underlines the leading position of DANZER in the industry. DANZER can again offer its customers the usual broad range of FSC-certified products.

After fulfilling the joint roadmap, FSC decided that DANZER meets all the conditions to resume FSC membership. DANZER can immediately resume providing products from Europe, North America and Africa with Chain of Custody certification, and thus offer FSC certified or Controlled Wood products. For IFO (Republic of Congo), a new audit will be done in due course, in order to provide again FSC 100% certified wood from Africa.

The decision of FSC was preceded by a process that was jointly decided in May 2013 by DANZER and FSC and clarified the conditions for regaining membership. Together with the renowned Peace Research Institute swisspeace, the existing DANZER mechanisms of conflict resolution were reviewed, and in a report in late October 2013 recommendations for action were submitted. These were implemented by DANZER straightaway. The results are published in the document "Manual Conflict Sensitivity Due Diligence for Timber Companies in the Congo Basin". "We have improved our internal procedures and have been able to set new benchmarks for the timber industry in the Congo basin", says Ulrich Grauert, Chief Operating Officer for the African activities of DANZER.

In addition, an audit was carried out to verify the implementation by the independent non-governmental organization Forest Peoples Programme (FPP). DANZER has at its disposal a management system for conflict resolution, which sets new standards in the industry: "On a common path with FSC, we were able to further develop our management processes significantly," said Hans-Joachim Danzer, CEO of DANZER. "The cooperation with FSC and all other partners has also enriched our business culture on a permanent basis. We want to use these impulses to expand and intensify the dialogue with our stakeholders. "

Clear commitment to corporate responsibility

With the now completed process of regaining FSC membership, DANZER continues its consistent and ongoing policy of sustainability and social responsibility. In the Code of Conduct and the Responsible Procurement Policy for wood procurement, the company principles for responsible business are prescribed. These were also further developed as part of the joint process with FSC. For over a decade DANZER complies with the ISO 14001 standard at all production sites worldwide. "With our comprehensive commitment to corporate responsibility we have a unique profile in the industry," said Hans-Joachim DANZER. "Our customers will not only benefit in the future from the FSC label, but also from an unprecedented reliability at all levels of DANZER."

Background to the process agreed with FSC

FSC had decided on May 21, 2013, to suspend the certification of DANZER and its subsidiaries. The decision was preceded by a complaint procedure of FSC against DANZER. This was based on the events in Yalisika in the Democratic Republic of Congo on May 01/02, 2011. The former subsidiary SIFORCO (Société Industrielle et Forestière du Congo) was accused of sharing responsibility for the use of violence by police and militia against the residents of Yalisika. Despite rectification by DANZER, the allegations could not be solved conclusively in public. To avoid a reputational risk, FSC disassociated from DANZER but subsequently agreed with DANZER on a re-association process that is now successfully completed.

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For more information: <https://ic.fsc.org/fsc-press-release.638.htm>