



Forest Peoples Programme

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18th December 2012

Dear Aida,

Thank you very much for your letter of 8th November 2012, commenting on the EEPN letter to investors, which the Forest Peoples Programme co-signed. Our letter expressed our shared view that the problems caused by APP's legacy need to be addressed first before any further such developments are undertaken. We appreciate the sentiments expressed in your reply and the restatement of APP's commitment to reform its approach, but as you say this is going to be challenging and much has yet to be done on the ground to resolve the problems caused by past clearance of HCVs and denial of communities' rights to their lands and to FPIC. The restitution of lands taken without consent and / or the negotiation with impacted communities of compensation for damages to lost HCVs, notably HCV 4, 5 and 6, is a now a pressing matter.

You ask whether FPP can agree that APP has committed to the highest sustainability standards possible. APP's commitments concerning its own operations are indeed important, and once and if implemented will bring the company to a high standard of sustainability in relation to protecting high conservation values and respecting community rights. FPP is concerned, however, that APP's commitments does not extend to all its fibre sources. It is encouraging to learn from your letter that engaging with all your independent suppliers, especially those still converting natural forests, is your current priority.

I understand that two or three of your suppliers are already applying a moratorium on further forest clearance and plantation development until the rights of affected communities to their lands and to give or withhold their free, prior and informed consent is respected, and until HCV assessments are conducted and identified HCVs are managed and maintained. I further understand, however, that APP continues to purchase wood from about 50 other suppliers that have not yet made any such commitment. Recent reports published by Greenomics and Greenpeace have identified some 200,000 hectares of forests within the concessions of APP's suppliers that are currently planned for clearance before agreements with impacted communities are reached or HCV assessments can take place.

As a purchaser of fibre from those companies, APP will be party to the human rights abuses that result from the destruction of community forests and livelihoods and the takeover of community lands without the communities giving their Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

To hold to the highest standards concerning HCVs and respect for FPIC, APP needs to immediately end its purchases from suppliers who don't implement the same commitments that APP itself has made: a moratorium on further forest clearance and plantation development until the right of affected communities to give or withhold their free, prior and informed consent is respected, and until conservation value assessments are conducted and identified HCVs are protected.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcus Colchester". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcus Colchester
Director