

PEFC Council

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Minutes

Present:

- Peter Latham (Chair)
- David Ford (1st Vice Chair)
- Riikka Joukio (2nd Vice Chair)
- Brian Kernohan
- Eduardo Rojas y Briales
- Kurt Ramskogler
- Nurudeen Iddrisu
- Lena Ek
- Josien Tokoe
- Dradjad Wibowo
- Gerald Pfiffinger
- Fatimah Mohammad
- Sara Khatib
- Suzette Weeding

Apologies:

- Peter Crook

In attendance:

- Ben Gunneberg (Secretary General)
- Michael Berger (Deputy General Secretary)
- Froniga Grieg – Social Inclusion Consultant to PEFC for Item 4.1
- Maja Drča – PEFC EU Affairs Representative for Item 4.2

1. AGENDA

1.1 Declarations of potential conflicts of interest with agenda

- There were none.

BOD/19/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the Agenda.

1.2 Affiliations update

BOD/20/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- Noted.

2. MINUTES

BOD/21/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the minutes of the last PEFC Board conference call held Monday 3, Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 May 2021.

3. MATTERS ARISING

3.1 ISM membership resignation – CNVP

- The Board noted the resignation letter from CNVP and that this will also be noted at the General Assembly in November.

4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

4.1 Update on Social charter developments

- Froniga Grieg, PEFC's consultant on (GESI) Gender and Social Inclusion charter development presented the work to date. It was noted that the Board's Social Inclusion Task Force had met, and reviewed progress and its recommendations had been incorporated into the presentation and background

document provided. The purpose of the charter is "To strengthen PEFCs (secretariat and members) commitment towards promoting equality and inclusion in forestry by catalysing and influencing positive changes in a wide range of public and private institutions representative organisations and members that promote sustainable development for smallholders, communities and workers." This was supported by a set of guiding principles; 3 sections on processes & strategies, themselves supported by 14 action points. Board members welcomed the approach and provided their input and suggestions. It was noted that this addresses the sustainable development goals and that it contributes towards stakeholders, included governments and international institutions, work towards determining legality and other pathways to address climate change challenges.

BOD/22/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To note the work done to date on the GESI charter and to approve the next steps proposed (including consultation with members in September, incorporation of feedback and revised draft for Board to consider later in the year followed by any fine tuning and endorsement).

4.2 Update on EU Forestry strategy / EU Taxonomy / RED II application

Maja Drça, PEFC's EU Affairs representative referred members to the background papers and provided an update on developments with the EU Forest Strategy, the EU Study on forest certification; the PEFC application of RED II endorsement; and some elements for the work plan for 2022. Finally, it was

noted that as of August, the PEFC EU representation would move into an office in the Forestry House in Brussels next to the EU parliament.

5. OPERATIONAL ITEMS

5.1 Work Plan Item for Budget surplus 2020/21

BOD/23/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- It was noted that the Board had already approved the appointment of a consultant to report on the development of an integrity programme. A more detailed work proposal and budget using the 2020/21 surplus would be considered at the October Board meeting.

5.2 Reserves investment proposal by MAC

- In the absence of Peter Crook, the Chair of the MAC, David Ford presented the proposal for the investment of the reserves considered by the Management Accounts Committee (MAC) by the portfolio advisers of PEFC. By broadening the diversity of the investments as proposed scope, the risks would be reduced further.

BOD/24/2021 Unanimously agreed:

- To approve the investment of an additional 500,000 CHF, together with an adjustment of the current portfolio, as proposed by UBS advisors and recommended by the Management Accounts Committee.

5.3 Austrian Accreditation challenges – (Verbal by Kurt Ramskogler and Michael Berger)

- Kurt Ramskogler and Michael Berger reported that the issue had mainly resolved itself for the next few years but that follow-up actions would need to be considered to ensure the ongoing smooth operation of national forest certification systems due to the attitude of an accreditation body.

5.4 Training Concept Proposal

- Michael Berger presented the rationale for the training concept proposal to harmonize a training programme for chain of custody auditors as a basis for a successful worldwide implementation of the PEFC standard which would further strengthen the confidence for reliability and the credibility of the PEFC Chain of Custody standard.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Fatimah Mohammad asked concerning the progress of the social guidance requirements for the chain of custody standard and it was noted that this would be revisited by the Chain of Custody working group following the completion of the development of the chain of custody guidance currently in progress.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- **October - Thu 7 - Fri 8**
With respect to the COVID situation in each country, the chairman asked members to report on the likelihood of them being able to meet in person in Geneva for two full days and possibly one-half day more to consider in

person the next stages of the 2023 – 2027 strategy as well as the usual board agenda. It was noted that several members would not be able to travel and so the chairman confirmed that would keep the matter under review over the next few months for a later decision.

Signed:

Peter Latham, Chairman

Ben Gunneberg, Secretary General