

## **News release 28 September 2012**

### **Board of Appeal rules on PEFC International**

**The SMK Board of Appeal dismisses the appeal that was filed against TPAC's positive judgement on PEFC International. The appeal was filed by WWF Netherlands and four other Dutch NGO's.**

With this decision the Board confirms TPAC's judgement on PEFC International: "PEFC International – excluding MTCS – conforms to the Dutch Procurement Criteria for the Dutch market".

The main argument of the WWF appeal reads: the umbrella-system of PEFC International does not provide sufficient guarantee that all underlying national PEFC systems conform to the Dutch Procurement Criteria.

The Board dismisses this argument and states that TPAC's practice and procedures offer "sufficient safeguards and guarantees" for the Dutch market that national PEFC systems conform to the Dutch Procurement criteria. The Board also considers the system adopted by TPAC "... to be an understandable and justifiable way of dealing with the complexities of an umbrella system and the rejection of a national system".

SMK Director Regien van der Sijp: "Of course I am happy with the Board's unambiguous support for TPAC's judgement. But most of all this appeal procedure is an additional guarantee for our quality."

The decision of the Board is binding for all parties.

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*The Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) is commissioned by the Ministry of Environment to assess timber certification systems on behalf of the Dutch Green Public Procurement Policy.*

*The Board's decision can be found on [www.tpac.smk.nl](http://www.tpac.smk.nl). For information contact ms. Myrthe Haase, telephone +31 (0)70 3586300, E-mail [mhaase@smk.nl](mailto:mhaase@smk.nl).*