

## Timber certificates assessed

**The Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) has started its work with the assessment of four timber certification systems for sustainable forest management. Three systems – FSC, PEFC-Germany, and FFCS (PEFC-Finland) – meet the Dutch procurement criteria for timber. Timber certified by these systems corresponds with approximately 30% of the total volume of timber imported into the Netherlands. The decision on the conformity of FSC implies that all national FSC standards are conforming to the Dutch criteria.**

**These are the first findings of TPAC. This committee is assigned by the Dutch Ministry of Environment (VROM) to assess timber certification systems. The outcome of these and future assessments provide clear guidance for purchasers to procure sustainable timber.**

TPAC has also made a start with the assessment of PEFC-International. This assessment will be finalised after the current revision process of PEFC-International is completed in November 2009.

Timber certification systems can apply for assessment on a voluntary basis. The Ministry of Environment can also request TPAC to assess selected certification systems. In 2010 all necessary assessments are expected to have taken place. The Minister of Environment has informed the parliament about the first assessment results of TPAC.

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