

Launch international stakeholder forum for the Malaysian certification system MTCS

From April 29 until May 28, the TPAC stakeholder forum (www.tpac.smk.nl) is open for a discussion on the Malaysian certification system MTCS. The Dutch Timber Procurement Assessment Committee (TPAC) invites NGOs, timber companies and other stakeholders of sustainable forestry to share their opinion on MTCS. MTCS, also known as MTCC, applied for the TPAC assessment last month.

The forum is an initiative of TPAC, which assesses timber certification systems for the Dutch Timber Procurement Policy. The TPAC assessments – that are based on the Dutch procurement criteria for timber – enable the Dutch government to identify and procure timber that is produced sustainably. From 2010 onwards, the Dutch government is committed to sustainable procurement.

The objective of the forum is to collect experiences and opinions on the functioning of certification systems. By sharing their knowledge on certification systems, stakeholders give TPAC the opportunity to assess certification systems more thoroughly.

The system manager of MTCS is also invited to participate in the forum discussion. Furthermore, after wrap-up of the forum, he will be given the opportunity to comment on the forum reactions and provide additional information where necessary. After the assessment procedure of MTCS has been finalised, TPAC will report back on how all comments have been taken into account in the final judgement of MTCS. This forum report will most probably be available on the TPAC website (www.tpac.smk.nl) in September 2009.

On the TPAC website you can also find the forum reports and final judgement reports of the other certification systems that have been assessed by TPAC: FSC International, PEFC Finland (FFCS) and PEFC Germany. At April 7th, the forum on PEFC Belgium and PEFC Sweden was wrapped up; these forum reports are likely to become available before summer this year.

The discussion on the stakeholder forum will be moderated by SMK, an independent Dutch foundation that also acts as the TPAC secretariat.