Accreditation Services International GmbH

RSPO Phase-2 Pilot Project

Assessment & training of Auditors/Certification Bodies

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• A short history of nearly everything …..
• Not overloading
• Not missing something important out
• Not too complex
Content

• Background to the Phase-2 project

• Findings

• Identified target areas going forward
  – Clarity of requirements
  – Structures and processes
  – Stakeholders
What is not covered

- Findings from audits remain confidential

- Will not be covering individual audits
Some terms

- Certificate Holder (or applicant)
- Certification Body (issues certificate)
- Stakeholder

*An individual or group with a legitimate and/or demonstrable interest in, or who is directly affected by, the activities of an organisation and the consequences of those activities.*
Background
Background to Phase-2

• ASI (Accreditation Services International GmbH)
• Based in Germany
• Originated from the FSC (Forest Stewardship Council). Now a separate company
• Accreditation for
  – Forest, Marine, Aquaculture SC’s
  – Developing other programmes, inc. coffee
Accreditation

- Assessing organizations that provide certification against recognized standards.
- It demonstrates the organization’s competence, impartiality and performance capability and is the key to reducing risk and ensuring that consumers, suppliers and purchasers can have confidence in the services provided.
• The global association for social and environmental standards

• Peer review of members
Background to Phase-2

- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
  - Established in 1993
  - Now approximately 20,000 certificates.
  - Global coverage
  - 28 Certification Bodies
  - 2 (main) types of certificate
    - Production base FM, (P&C)
    - Supply chain CoC, (SCCS)
Background to Phase-2

- FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)
  - Intense scrutiny from NGOs
  - Needed to develop definitions of complex concepts (what is ‘responsible forestry?’) – HCV
  - Adapting international standards to incorporate regional variation
  - Active and ongoing input from diverse range of stakeholders
Phases -1, 2, 3

• May 2010. RSPO-ASI service agreement between RSPO and ASI for implementation of independent accreditation services
• 2010. (Phase-1). 2 office and 1 P&C witness audits
• 2011 (Phase-2)
• All remaining CB office audits
• 3 P&C witness assessments (Malaysia, Indonesia, PNG). - No SCCS witness audits
• New CBs and extension of scope (SCCS)
• 2012. Phase 3: implementation of full ASI accreditation scheme
Outcomes

• Greater credibility through external evaluation of performance

• Greater consistency between performance of Certification Bodies and hence Certificate Holders

• A level playing field
Findings

• The requirements can be complex to implement …
• and to audit
• Social issues are probably the most complex area
• Doing it well probably requires specialists
• Differing interpretation of requirements and roles
Findings

Based on

- Direct comments received
- Observations
Findings

Relating to

• Certificate Holders
• Certification Bodies
Differing interpretations
A common understanding
A common understanding

All requirements are known to all

• Easy to find
• Complete
• Disseminated
A common understanding

2 big topics

- Partial certification
- Legality of land use
Partial certification

What are the requirements on CBs to determine compliance of organisations effectively outside the scope of the audit?
Legality of land use

What are the minimum requirements to be able to demonstrate legality of land use?
Other apparently minor but significant issues, for example

Lead auditor requirements “at least five years professional experience in an area of work relevant to the audit”
For Certificate Holders

Do companies have to demonstrate full compliance with all requirements before being certified?
For Certificate Holders

Is progress towards compliance adequate?
Example

During an audit it is found that the company has applied for the legally required operating permits from the Government 2 years ago but still has not received a formal reply.
Mechanism

- A common understanding is different from agreeing what the requirements should be
- Probably requires a significant technical input
- Based on feedback from practitioners
Mechanism

- The development and interpretation of requirements will be ongoing
- Open dissemination of changes and any interim interpretations
Areas to investigate

• Gaps in requirements (where the standards are silent)
• Requirements that would benefit from re-writing
• Requirements needing explanation
Structures

3 main players;
• RSPO
• Certification Bodies
• Certificate Holders
Clear roles relating to

• Standards development
• Interpretation of requirements
• Advice to applicants
• Certification decision making
• Stakeholder engagement
Additional players;

• ASI
• Stakeholders
• Awareness of ASI’s role going forward

• Moving from RSPO approval to ASI accreditation
What role do stakeholders have in certification?

How proactive and responsive should Certificate Holders and Certification Bodies be?
Stakeholders

Ensuring stakeholders are informed

Effective engagement and response
Processes

Process and procedures behind these structures
Looking forward
Looking forward

A shared understanding of

• Requirements
• Roles
Looking forward
Accreditation Services International GmbH

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THANK YOU
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