

Allegations against Global Woods' Kikonda Project

GENEVA, Switzerland (25 November 2015) – Gold Standard has been made aware of the serious allegations around land use rights in an FSC-certified concession (SGS-FM/COC-009362) in the Kikonda Forest Reserve, managed by Global Woods, in Uganda, Gold Standard project GS2990.

In this project, Gold Standard recognizes FSC certification as fulfilling the social safeguards and requirements. FSC certification requires mandatory local stakeholder consultations, and insists on a grievance mechanism being in place to ensure local stakeholders can report issues that affect them. Additionally, the Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC strictly forbids any organization associated with us to be involved in unacceptable activities, including the violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations. Evaluating adherence to this policy is a key concern of FSC.

Gold Standard is partnering with FSC in a thorough investigation of the allegations, and we encourage any party with knowledge of these activities to share it with us.

For any further questions, please contact Sarah Leugers, Director of Marketing and Communications, at sarah.leugers@goldstandard.org or at +41 79 896 9652.