



Gewaltfreie Aktionsgemeinschaft für Natur und Umwelt e.V.

www.robinwood.de

Nernstweg 32-34

D-22765 Hamburg

Tel.: 040.380 892.0

Fax: 040.380 892.14

Declaration

on the withdrawal of ROBIN WOOD e.V.
from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC-International)

After more than 12 years of active and vital co-operation, ROBIN WOOD has terminated its membership of FSC International and will concentrate in future on its partnership with and membership of the German FSC's workgroup.

The reasons for this decision included FSC's policy of certifying large-scale plantations. Numerous industrial monocultures in the countries of the global south - e.g. Brazil, Uruguay, and South Africa – have earned the FSC seal, although – in the view of ROBIN WOOD – these can-not be managed in ways that are either ecologically compatible or socially just.

Given the size and growing global importance of FSC, discussions and decision-making processes on critical issues – e.g. plantation policy – are becoming increasingly complex and difficult to coordinate. For ROBIN WOOD the workload involved in supporting and influencing developments and decision-making processes can no longer be managed satisfactorily, responsibly and credibly.

Nevertheless, the positive influence of FSC on the area of forest management can be documented with many examples. Despite all the justified criticism, FSC is the most credible certification system on the market. With its ecological and social minimum standards, FSC is clearly ahead of the certification systems (e.g. the PEFC), that unilaterally serve the interests of the timber industry.

ROBIN WOOD will continue to assist and support the evolution of FSC International – in cooperation with NGOs inside and outside of FSC.

This decision was taken at a joint meeting of ROBIN WOOD's working groups on tropical forests and forests. The meeting was held at the castle Burg Ludwigstein/Witzenhausen on 24 January 2009.

On behalf of the ROBIN WOOD working groups

Peter Gerhardt
responsible for tropical forests

Rudolf Fenner
responsible for forests