GREENPEACE COMPLAINT AGAINST SIFORCO IN THE DRC CLOSED AND RE-ASSOCIATION OF THE DANZER GROUP

In November 2011, Greenpeace International filed a complaint against FSC's association with Siforco and its parent company The Danzer Group. Effective 21 May 2013, the FSC Board of Directors decided to disassociate from the Danzer Group. On 14 August 2014, FSC announced the lifting of the disassociation.

FSC disassociated from Danzer and set a number of conditions that Danzer had to fulfil before re-applying for certification. In January and February 2014 the Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) conducted field missions to verify Danzer's and Siforco's fulfillment of these conditions. Subsequently, the FSC Board of Directors (BoD) decided that it did not have enough evidence to be confident that the conditions had been completely fulfilled and asked FSC to negotiate a roadmap for re-association with Danzer.

In 2014 FPP conducted desk audits and a field visit to Bumba to verify the fulfillment of the roadmap. Based on the findings of the FPP report and an assessment by the FSC Quality Assurance Unit, FSC decided to lift the disassociation from the Danzer Group.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION...

Read the FSC Danzer Re-association Statement in English and French

Read the FSC Quality Assurance Unit's Assessment of the Fulfilment of the Roadmap for Re-association by Danzer

Download the Forest Peoples Programme's Report on the fulfilment of the conditions for the re-associaton of Danzer

RE-ASSOCIATION PROCESS OF DANZER

- **21 May 2013:** FSC announces disassociation from the Danzer Group.
- **June 2013:** MoU finalized with Danzer detailing the conditions for re-association.
- **December 2013:** FSC commissioned Forest Peoples Programme to verify the implementation of the conditions. (Download the ToR of FPP)
- **January 2014:** Publication of the swisspeace Final Report, the Danzer Progress Report and the swisspeace Conflict Sensitivity Due Diligence Manual.
- **January / February 2014:** Field missions by FPP to Siforco / Bumba region (DRC) and IFO (Republic of Congo).
- **By 20 February 2014:** Receipt of FPP verification report. The FPP report will be shared with parties to the PfA complaint (complainant, defendant) who can comment on the report and the FSC Board Complaint Resolution Committee.
- **By 5 March 2014:** The FSC Quality Assurance Unit will have done a plausibility / comprehensiveness check of FPP report, evaluated the comments by the parties and based on this drafted a Decision document including options and recommendations for the FSC Board of Directors for a re-association process.
- **By 17 – 21 March 2014:** Board decision on re-association including any relevant specifications.
- **3 April 2014:** Updated FAQ – Decision to disassociate from Danzer
- **8 July 2014:** Roadmap for Re-Association with Danzer Group Established
- **14 August 2014:** FSC announcement of the Re-association with the Danzer Group.
- **18 November 2014:** Updated Action Plan for the Implementation of Conflict Sensitivity Due Diligence Manual by Danzer.

ARCHIVE OF DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE COMPLAINT

- **November 7, 2011:** Greenpeace's Report: Stolen Future
- **November 9, 2011:** FSC Statement: Receipt of Greenpeace complaint
- **November 18, 2011:** FSC Statement regarding Greenpeace complaint
- **May 21, 2013:** MoU between FSC Global Development GmbH and Danzer AG.
- **July 31, 2013:** Danzer's progress update
- **April 2, 2014:** FPP Verification Report
- **April 2, 2014:** Questions & Answers about the disassociation
- **January 07, 2014:** Swiss Reports & Key Agreements
- **January 21, 2013:** Public Summary of the Complaints Panel report
- **January 23, 2014:** Conflict sensitivity due diligence manual

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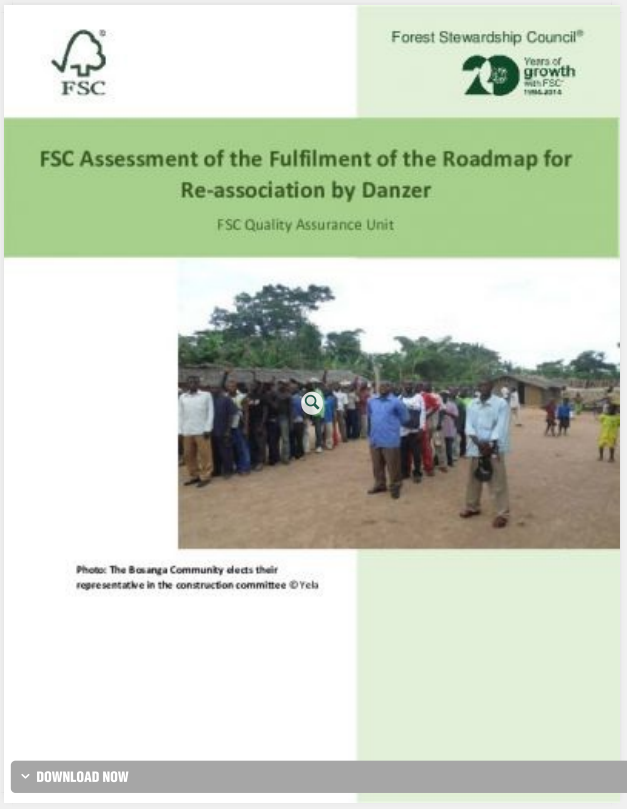
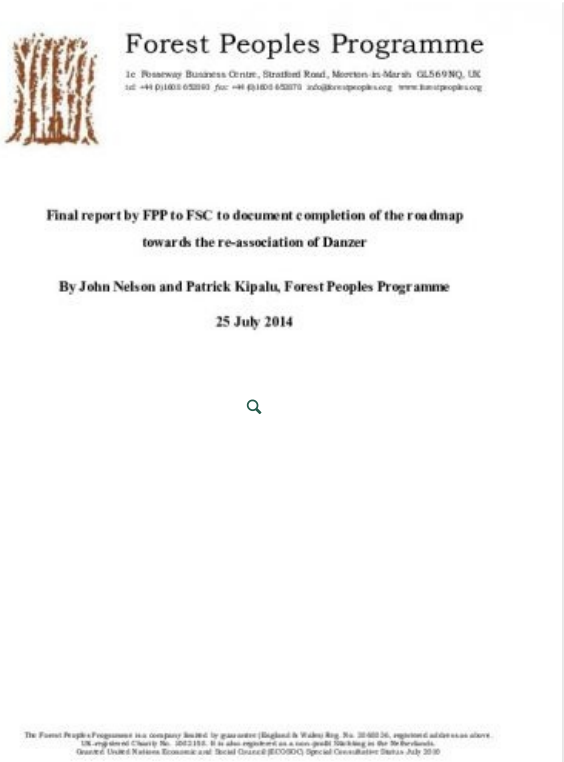


FSC Assessment of the Fulfilment of the Roadmap for Re-association by Danzer

Final report by FPP to FSC to document completion of the roadmap towards the re-association of Danzer



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Final report by FPP to FSC to document completion of the roadmap towards the re-association of Danzer

By John Nelson and Patrick Kipalu, Forest Peoples Programme

25 July 2014

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Granted United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Special Consultative Status July 2010

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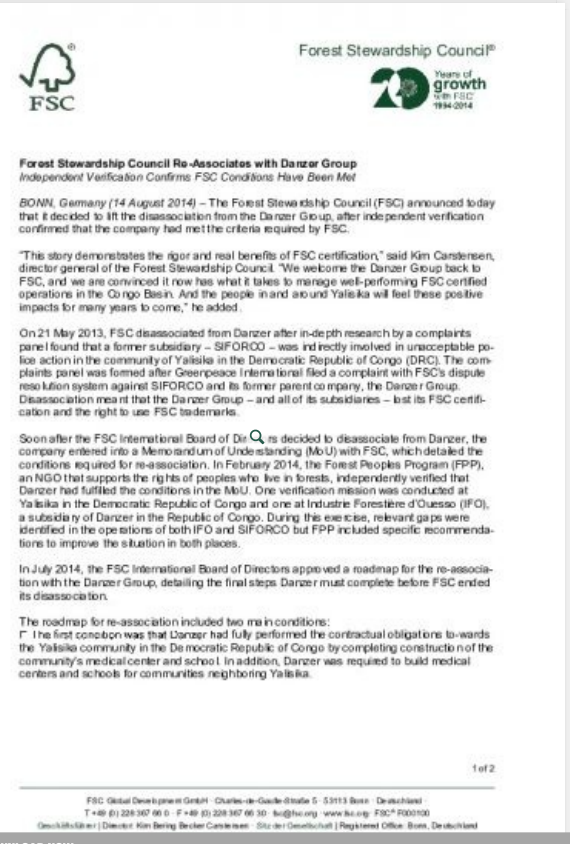
FSC Danzer Re-association Statement



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Forest Stewardship Council Re-Associates with Danzer Group
Independent Verification Confirms FSC Conditions Have Been Met

BONN, Germany (14 August 2014) – The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) announced today that it decided to lift the disassociation from the Danzer Group, after independent verification confirmed that the company had met the criteria required by FSC.

"This story demonstrates the rigor and real benefits of FSC certification," said Kim Carstensen, director general of the Forest Stewardship Council. "We welcome the Danzer Group back to FSC, and we are convinced it now has what it takes to manage well-performing FSC certified operations in the Congo Basin. And the people in and around Yalisika will feel these positive impacts for many years to come," he added.

On 21 May 2013, FSC disassociated from Danzer after in-depth research by a complaints panel found that a former subsidiary – SIFORCO – was indirectly involved in unacceptable police action in the community of Yalisika in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The complaints panel was formed after Greenpeace International filed a complaint with FSC's dispute resolution system against SIFORCO and its former parent company, the Danzer Group. Disassociation meant that the Danzer Group – and all of its subsidiaries – lost its FSC certification and the right to use FSC trademarks.

Soon after the FSC International Board of Directors decided to disassociate from Danzer, the company entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with FSC, which detailed the conditions required for re-association. In February 2014, the Forest Peoples Program (FPP), an NGO that supports the rights of peoples who live in forests, independently verified that Danzer had fulfilled the conditions in the MoU. One verification mission was conducted at Yalisika in the Democratic Republic of Congo and one at Industrie Forestière d'Ouesso (IFO), a subsidiary of Danzer in the Republic of Congo. During this exercise, relevant gaps were identified in the operations of both IFO and SIFORCO but FPP included specific recommendations to improve the situation in both places.

In July 2014, the FSC International Board of Directors approved a roadmap for the re-association with the Danzer Group, detailing the final steps Danzer must complete before FSC ended its disassociation.

The roadmap for re-association included two main conditions:
- The first condition was that Danzer had fully performed the contractual obligations to-wards the Yalisika community in the Democratic Republic of Congo by completing construction of the community's medical center and school. In addition, Danzer was required to build medical centers and schools for communities neighboring Yalisika.

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FSC Statement Danzer Re-association FR

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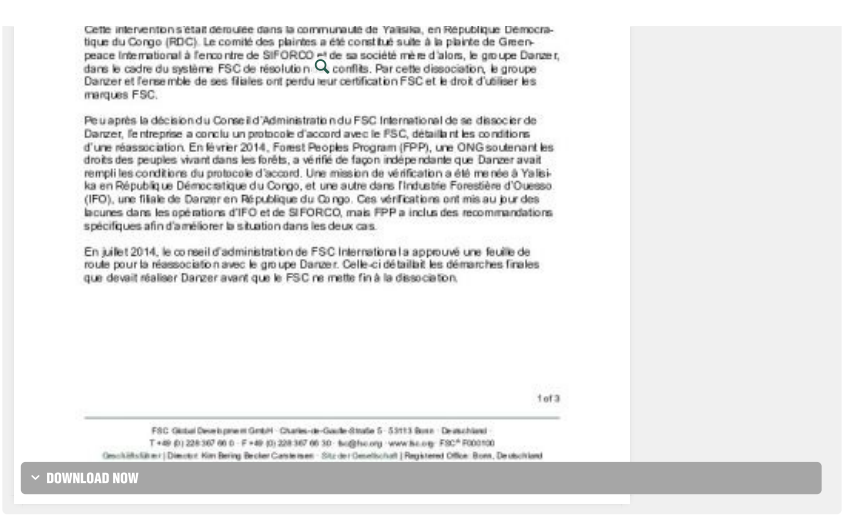
Le Forest Stewardship Council se réassocie avec le groupe Danzer
Une vérification indépendante confirme que les conditions FSC ont été remplies

BONN, Allemagne (14 août 2014) – Le Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) a annoncé aujourd'hui qu'il avait décidé de mettre fin à la dissociation avec le Groupe Danzer, après qu'une vérification indépendante a confirmé que l'entreprise s'était conformée aux critères fixés par le FSC.

« Cet épisode démontre la rigueur et les véritables bénéfices de la certification FSC », a déclaré Kim Carstensen, directeur général du Forest Stewardship Council. « Nous accueillons de nouveau le groupe Danzer au sein du FSC. Nous sommes convaincus qu'il présente désormais toutes les qualités requises pour gérer des opérations certifiées FSC performantes dans le bassin du Congo. Les populations de Yalisika et des environs ressentiront ces impacts positifs pendant de nombreuses années », a-t-il ajouté.

Le 21 mai 2013, le FSC s'est dissocié de Danzer après qu'une étude approfondie, réalisée par un comité des plaintes, a montré que l'entreprise SIFORCO (alors qu'elle était encore une filiale de Danzer) a été impliquée indirectement dans une intervention de police inacceptable.



Cette intervention s'était déroulée dans la communauté de Yalisika, en République Démocratique du Congo (RDC). Le comité des plaintes a été constitué suite à la plainte de Greenpeace International à l'encontre de SIFORCO et de sa société mère d'alors, le groupe Danzer, dans le cadre du système FSC de résolution des conflits. Par cette dissociation, le groupe Danzer et l'ensemble de ses filiales ont perdu leur certification FSC et le droit d'utiliser les marques FSC.

Peu après la décision du Conseil d'Administration du FSC International de se dissocier de Danzer, l'entreprise a conclu un protocole d'accord avec le FSC, détaillant les conditions d'une réassociation. En février 2014, Forest Peoples Program (FPP), une ONG soutenant les droits des peuples vivant dans les forêts, a vérifié de façon indépendante que Danzer avait rempli les conditions du protocole d'accord. Une mission de vérification a été menée à Yalisika en République Démocratique du Congo, et une autre dans l'Industrie Forestière d'Ouesso (IFO), une filiale de Danzer en République du Congo. Ces vérifications ont mis au jour des lacunes dans les opérations d'IFO et de SIFORCO, mais FPP a inclus des recommandations spécifiques afin d'améliorer la situation dans les deux cas.

En juillet 2014, le conseil d'administration de FSC International a approuvé une feuille de route pour la réassociation avec le groupe Danzer. Celle-ci détaillait les démarches finales que devait réaliser Danzer avant que le FSC ne mette fin à la dissociation.

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