



**INDONESIAN FORESTRY CERTIFICATION COOPERATION**  
**KERJASAMA SERTIFIKASI KEHUTANAN INDONESIA**

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Bogor, 14 September 2015

No. : 014/KSK/SK-DE/IX/2015  
Regarding : **Open Response to WWF Open Letter dated 17 August 2015**

Attn.

**Mr. Rod Taylor**  
Director, Forest,  
WWF International

Dear Mr. Taylor,

Many thanks for your Open Letter from 17 August 2015. We appreciate that WWF takes an interest in the work of IFCC, and we welcome WWF's recognition that the IFCC standard has several important safeguards related to land clearing and acquisition as well as to local community and indigenous peoples' rights. These are part of comprehensive safeguards in IFCC Standard related to employees' rights, occupational health and safety, management of ecosystem and hydrological functions, biodiversity management, and forest protection. We welcome your request for further information concerning the conformity assessment process.

We are however surprised by the statement that the IFCC response "*will help WWF to inform international markets on the degree to which IFCC certification can be relied upon as verification that certified companies are implementing responsible practices*". We note previous statements by WWF that "[f]ull ISEAL membership is one of WWF's key requirements for credible certification schemes". Given that WWF is fully aware that IFCC has no intention of joining ISEAL as it is aligned with the globally recognized conformity assessment framework provided by the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF), does WWF's inquiry indicate that WWF now equally recognizes the ISO/IAF conformity assessment framework? After all, if this was not the case, we would like to ensure that WWF would be in position to positively inform international markets about IFCC. If WWF's position has in fact changed, then we look forward to seeing this change reflected in WWF documentation, including the WWF Certification Assessment Tool.

We would like to advise WWF that IFCC, different from other forest certification systems operating in Indonesia, strictly separates between standard setting, certification and accreditation. This separation safeguards the independence of the three processes and is considered fundamental to ensuring impartiality and avoidance of conflicts of interests in the conformity assessment process.

As your questions concern the assessment of conformity of company practices with IFCC requirements during the certification audit, we would like to kindly ask you to contact those involved in the conformity assessment process especially the certification body.

As a first step, you may want to consult the public summary report of the audit available from the certification body. For their information we are copying this response to the companies covered by your request as well as the certification body, with a request to respond to the certification audit specific questions you have raised.

Once again we thank you for WWF appreciation on the strict rules of IFCC standard. We hope that WWF will continue to provide valuable input for the improvement of our standard to promote the sustainable forest management in Indonesia.

Best Regards,

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Zulfandi Lubis'. To the right of the signature is the IFCC logo, which consists of a stylized tree with green foliage and a brown trunk, with the letters 'IFCC' in green below it.

**Zulfandi Lubis, SH.**  
**Executive Director**