



GLOBAL WITNESS COMPLAINT AGAINST THE VIETNAM RUBBER GROUP (VRG)

October 7, 2014

Global Witness lodged a Policy for Association complaint against the Vietnam Rubber Group (VRG). FSC accepted the complaint on the 24th of September 2014.

The complaint alleges that VRG's rubber plantations have significant negative impacts on the environment and the livelihood of local communities in Laos and Cambodia. The complaint states that local villages affected by VRG's rubber concessions lost vast tracts of land and forest and that the company is clearing forests with high conservation values. Allegations of illegal logging, timber laundering, non-compliance with national laws and child labour on the plantations are also made.

The activities described in the complaint have not directly taken place on FSC certified forest concessions, but illegal logging, the violation of traditional and human rights in forestry operations, the destruction of high conservation values in forestry operations, significant conversion of forests to plantations or non-forest use and the violation of the core ILO conventions constitute a breach of the Policy for the Association of Organizations with FSC ([FSC-POL-01-004](#)).

FSC is evaluating this complaint based on the procedure for Processing Policy for Association Complaints in the FSC Certification Scheme ([FSC-PRO-01-009](#)).

A Complaints Panel shall be established within 30 days of the acceptance of the complaint. Once the Complaints Panel is established, they will start an independent investigation of the complaint and submit a recommendation to the FSC Board of Directors.

FSC Global Development GmbH · ic.fsc.org · FSC® F000100
Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany
T +49 (0) 228 367 66 0 · **F** +49 (0) 228 367 66 65
Geschäftsführer | Director: Kim Bering Becker Carstensen
Handelsregister | Commercial Register: Bonn HRB15990

FSC International Center gGmbH · ic.fsc.org · FSC® F000100
Adenauerallee 134 · 53113 Bonn · Germany
T +49 (0) 228 367 66 0 · **F** +49 (0) 228 367 66 30
Geschäftsführer | Director: Dr. Hans-Joachim Droste und/and Stefan Salvador
Handelsregister | Commercial Register: Bonn HRB12589

