

International Council of Forest and Papers Associations

Steering Group Meeting

23/24 January 2019, Cape Town

Sustainable Wood for Sustainable World

South Africa will be leading an initiative mid-2019 in East Africa.

Roundtable discussion on the Declaration on Forests. Also, on Harvested Wood Products.

South Africa is also anticipating introducing legislation to recognise carbon in wood products. Their carbon legislation developed thus far has been heavily influenced by what New Zealand has put in place albeit modified.

CEPI have commissioned work to look at the life cycle analysis model used internationally and particularly in Europe. What is being used is that which is currently based on land use based on farming. Want something more applicable to forestry. The current model, for example, attributes all forestry to pulp and paper. The issue for New Zealand and the US and some others is that LCA is fraught with challengeable interpretations and for us there is no mandated approach. Still a useful initiative but carbon policy is likely to be a more influential development.

Financials

ICFPA operating on a low-budget with the focus on a limited number of key opportunities to profile the global industry. Operating on an annual budget of about \$100,000 US. A key area of expenditure in 2019 will be updating the Global Sustainability Report supporting the international CEOs Roundtable and the Wood Rise Conference in Canada later in the year (30 September).

Sponsorship

An opportunity was identified 29 September – 5 October, for ICFPA to provide some sponsorship in return for profiling the Blue Skies award.

Social message strategy

- The challenge of utilising social media remains. The possibility of utilising one or more of the common platforms needs further consideration. Agreed that a video-conference with the respective heads of communication is warranted. Linking in with the FAO who are very active in this space would be an obviously entry point too
- Agreement also that the website needs revamping and simplifying

Co-Operative action with health and safety alerts

There is an interest in sharing information on health and safety – namely safety alerts. The US is interested but only if others are also doing the same. Agreed that information should be deposited within a members' only section of the website. The potential of creating an international award for health and safety to sit alongside the research award will be given some more consideration. Any information will probably need to be categorised e.g. forestry, pulp and paper, transport etc.

The first step agreed is to investigate modification to the website and develop a draft template.

Climate Change / carbon goals

The role/position of ICFPA is:

setting out a climate policy position and possibly goal. While all representatives from industry are involved with domestic climate change strategies and goals, often there are government goals.

The sensitivities along the forest value chain, particularly in Europe, quickly become evident but it is also evident that governments are moving towards forest sequestration goals.

Agreed that there was merit in exploring what a high-level position might look like.

ISO Standard 287

There are three working groups focussed on Chain of Custody, Timber Tracking and Measurement and Sustainability aspects. The latter group, in particular, is of real concern. It includes consideration of Agenda 2030 goals and their applicability for the forest industry, renewability, carbon footprint, LCA related topics.

There is a risk of an undesirable, significant impact on the industry when we already have 50 appropriate certification systems. Agreed that ICFPA will make contact with FSC and PEFC to determine their position. Ultimately there may need to be a co-ordinated effort with our respective national standard bodies.

FSC

Agreed to continue sharing views on potential candidates for FSC Economic Chamber elections. No identified names, however.

Canada expressing considerable frustration with FSC which has a single-species standard for moose which is likely to have significant management ramifications for forest management in Canada.

I spoke in defence of FSC's democratic process which recognises regional variation, but the point was made that the standard accepted for some countries by FSC where ENGOs are

domestically very weak was much lower. I also noted that NZ had moved from being solely FSC to also having PEFC.

The Forest Dialogue (TFD)

TFD have invited ICFPA to propose any suggestions for international dialogue. Agreed that ICFPA can indicate what are its priority issues but concerns were raised about the lack of forest industry representation in TFD.

Given other priorities in a compact agenda it was agreed not to invite a presentation from TFD. All members have ongoing stakeholder dialogue on key issues. TFD is a more regional/global focus not dissimilar to the UNFF process.

CEO's Roundtable

May 5 – 9	International Pulp week
Sunday 5	ICFPA evening session
6	ICFPA meeting
6 or 7	ACSFI meeting
7	CEO'S Roundtable

CEO's Roundtable agenda

Strong interest in having an agenda for the meeting focussed on tomorrow's workforce/needs. This includes the obvious labour/skills needs but also worker diversity, cultural awareness etc. Addressing the corporate/social responsibility aspects as well.

Sustainability Report

Expand from 12 to 16 pages. Greater emphasis to be placed on member case studies. Inclusion of Blue Sky Innovation award. Six countries, including New Zealand, have already supplied data against the KPIs. Report to be presented at the May meeting. Hard copies to be produced for distribution at international fora.

David Rhodes
28 January 2019