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Swedwood Karelia suspended for FSC Forest Management Certification

On 31 January 2014, FSC-accredited certification body, Rainforest Alliance, published the 2013 Annual Audit Report for Swedwood Karelia LLC, which included six Major Corrective Action Requests (CARs) (of which one was closed before the report was published) and 11 Minor CARs. Because five Major CARs were still open, the Audit Report led to the immediate suspension of Swedwood Karelia's Forest Management certification (RA-FM/COC-002041). This suspension affects 295,348 hectares in the Russian Karelia region. The company's Chain-of-Custody certification (RA-COC-003005) is not affected.

Swedwood Karelia is a subsidiary of IKEA, the worldwide home furnishing company.

FSC welcomes the fact that both Swedwood and IKEA have committed to taking immediate action to correct the CARs. In a statement, Swedwood confirmed its commitment: "We take our responsibility for the forests and the people who work there very seriously and we appreciate that correcting the deviations will improve the way we manage the forest in Karelia. IKEA is committed to responsible forest management and to the principles of the FSC. Our lease in Karelia has been FSC certified since 2006 and we believe that a reinstated FSC certificate will continue to be the best protection for natural values in the logging areas."

The full Swedwood statement may be accessed here:

<http://www.swedwood.com/sustainability/forest/comment-on-suspension-of-fsc-certificate/>

The Rainforest Alliance report may be accessed here:

<http://fsc.force.com/servlet/servlet.FileDownload?file=00P4000000J5yhtEAB>