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Świebodzin, 2014, December 3rd.

Naturalists Club Poland statement on FSC forest certification, and on membership in the Union of Associations FSC Poland

Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forest certification scheme significantly contributed to the improvement of forest management in Poland. Among others, this system contributed to implementation much more care for protected species, to reduce the use of chemicals in forestry, to implement important measures as leaving retention tree groups in each felling system, to designation and leaving undisturbed so called reference forests.

Naturalists Club Poland (Klub Przyrodników), appreciating the positive effects of FSC certification, was involved in promoting this certification system and in work for better certification, also as a member of the Union of Associations for Responsible Forestry (FSC Poland). We value gained experience on this path, and thank you all, with whom we had the opportunity to collaborate.

Today, however, these possibilities are exhausted. Present changes in the FSC standards applied in Poland, as well as present activities of FSC Poland, leads to the important softening of the requirements of the FSC certificate. The softening of the certificate rules is followed even by retraction of some proecological measures implemented earlier to the forest management, which we recorded in some certified Regional State Forest directorates. These changes are under the full acceptance of FSC Poland and without reaction of international Forest Stewardship Council, despite letters of notice send to the FSC International by the Polish conservationist NGOs

Such operation of the FSC is no longer compatible with our objectives.

As a result, on 3 December 2014, Naturalists Club Poland cease membership in the Union of Associations for Responsible Forestry (FSC Poland). In our opinion, FSC label will not longer guarantee the responsible forest management.

Naturalists Club was, is, and will be involved in the integrating of nature conservation with forestry and in supporting forest managers responsibility for the environment and forest ecosystems.