



Certificate of Achievement

FSC is proud and honored to recognize the outstanding commitment, achievement and leadership of Mr. Hans Stout in contributing to the success of the FSC worldwide through his work at A. van den Berg and the Precious Woods Group. Playing a critical role in the successful FSC certification of the first tropical natural forest, Hans Stout set a leading example for environmentally responsible, socially beneficial and economically viable forest management not only in the Global South, but worldwide. In spite of seemingly insurmountable obstacles, he and his team were instrumental in integrating the preservation of the unique ecological characteristics of tropical natural forests as well as the social and economic needs of local people into a viable business model, which developed into one of the leading learning examples of responsible forest management in the tropics.

Moreover, at a time when most forest products were traded indiscriminately, Hans Stout, Arie van den Berg and their team built market differentiation in the Netherlands, Europe and beyond for tropical wood and wood products from responsibly managed, FSC certified forests. They not only successfully positioned the products from Precious Woods' tropical forests in European markets, but introduced a new way of doing business to the industry at large. Over the past years, his extraordinary efforts have been in the forefront of industry leadership in the tropical timber trade.

Hans Stout played a critical role in developing FSC Netherlands into one of the leading FSC National Initiatives. With his vision and leadership FSC Netherlands has become a leading role model throughout the FSC Global Network for promoting recognition for FSC certified forest products throughout a wide range of sectors while ensuring equitable stakeholder engagement.

Personally, and on behalf of the FSC Global Network, I would like to express our sincerest respects for your vision, leadership and achievement and our deepest gratitude for your unique contribution to the success of FSC.

Heiko Liedeker
Executive Director

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