

THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (www.fsc.org)



What is the FSC?

FSC is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established to promote the responsible management of the world's forests.

Established in 1993 as a response to concerns over global deforestation, FSC is widely regarded as one of the most important initiatives of the last decade to promote responsible forest management worldwide.

FSC is a **certification system** that provides internationally recognized standard-setting, trademark assurance and accreditation services to companies, organizations, and communities interested in responsible forestry.

The FSC label provides a credible link between responsible production and consumption of forest products, enabling consumers and businesses to make purchasing decisions that benefit people and the environment as well as providing ongoing business value.

FSC Principles and Criteria

The FSC Principles and Criteria describe how forests have to be managed to meet the **social, economic, ecological, cultural** and **spiritual** needs of present and future generations. They include managerial aspects as well as environmental and social requirements. In fact, FSC rules are the most rigorous of any forest certification system and FSC's social and environmental requirements entail the highest level of compliance.

These 10 principles and 56 *criteria* form the **basis for all FSC forest management standards**. Based on these 10 principles, the FSC has developed further rules (called policies or standards) that further define and explain certain requirements stipulated in the 10 principles.

Here is a summary of some of the points the FSC Principles and Criteria require. Many of the points listed below will appear almost basic – but in many places even these basic requirements are not fulfilled. This is where FSC can have the biggest positive impact.

Overview of the FSC Principles and Criteria (www.fsc.org/pc.html)

- *Principle 1*: Compliance with all applicable laws and international treaties
- *Principle 2*: Demonstrated and uncontested, clearly defined, long-term land tenure and use rights
- *Principle 3*: Recognition and respect of indigenous peoples' rights
- *Principle 4*: Maintenance or enhancement of long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities and respect of worker's rights in compliance with International Labour Organisation (ILO) conventions
- *Principle 5*: Equitable use and sharing of benefits derived from the forest
- *Principle 6*: Reduction of environmental impact of logging activities and maintenance of the ecological functions and integrity of the forest
- *Principle 7*: Appropriate and continuously updated management plan
- *Principle 8*: Appropriate monitoring and assessment activities to assess the condition of the forest, management activities and their social and environmental impacts
- *Principle 9*: Maintenance of High Conservation Value Forests (HCVFs) defined as environmental and social values that are considered to be of outstanding significance or critical importance
- *Principle 10*: In addition to compliance with all of the above, plantations must contribute to reduce the pressures on and promote the restoration and conservation of natural forests.

What is TFT's relationship with the FSC?

The FSC has developed a widely respected set of forest management standards. It accredits auditors like the Soil Association, SGS, SCS and SmartWood to assess forests and certify those that have achieved FSC standards.

TFT's role is to give expert assistance to forest managers to help them to achieve FSC's standards, and to go beyond the requirements of certification.

Our teams of qualified foresters are currently working in partnership with local forest managers to bring over 4 million hectares of threatened forest under sustainable management as demonstrated by the FSC system for the long-term benefit of people and wildlife.

The key objectives of all our projects are to protect and enhance environmental values, provide benefits for indigenous and other local communities, and ensure economical viability so that the environmental and social values have a secure future.

TFT projects include the first to achieve FSC certification anywhere in the Republic of Congo, Indochina and mainland Malaysia, and a TFT supported community forest is currently the only FSC certified source of teak in Indonesia.

We are a member of FSC International and offer them strategic support.

Sustainable Forest Management

TFT helps specific forests become independently certified as well-managed under the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) scheme.

TFT carries out **Second Party Verification** of the standards of forest management practiced at our forest projects, and ensures the integrity of Wood Control Systems that verify whether the wood in our Members' products can be traced back to those forest projects.

When a project is considered ready to seek FSC certification it will be subject to FSC's processes of Third Party Independent Verification through assessment by an FSC accredited auditor.

TFT **Wood Control Systems** (WCS) provide comprehensive information about the origin of all of our members' wood products. We believe these systems - which track wood from the felling operation from the forest, to the factory and through every key stage of manufacture - are the most credible currently available. Members can make their WCS reports available to third parties at their discretion.

Businesses that trade FSC certified products must operate FSC certified Chain of Custody systems. However, some TFT Members choose also to operate TFT Wood Control Systems for additional security.

TFT Forest Projects typically go through six stages:

1. Assess the forest for its potential to become sustainably managed and to supply TFT members with timber.
2. Carry out a Gap Assessment to determine which actions are needed to achieve sustainability and FSC certification.
3. Sign a cooperation agreement with the forest owners.
4. Develop of a Certification Action Plan (CAP) with the forest managers, based on the Gap Assessment findings, and addressing all environmental, social and economic aspects of forest management identified in the FSC's standards.
5. Help the forest managers implement the Certification Action Plan and link the forest products to TFT Member businesses.
6. Continue to monitor and support the forest after certification to raise standards further and address any new problems.