



FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL

People Building Bridges toward Responsible Forestry

Since 1993, FSC has given people the choice to support responsible forest management. FSC promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial, and economically viable management of the world's forests.

This means forests are managed in a way that protects the water, soil and wildlife. It means communities, Indigenous Peoples, forest workers, industry, forest owners – anyone who is affected by what happens to forests – decide how to

manage the forest. And it means people can continue to work, live and earn an income from the forest.

From a simple idea, FSC has grown to become a global success. Over 39 million hectares of forest are now FSC-certified and this area is increasing. FSC is active in 66 countries on five continents. Our success comes from a not-so-secret recipe: help people come together to define and support responsible forest management in their country.

Why is FSC different from other forest product labels?

Credible: FSC is the world's first and most rigorous forest product labeling scheme. It is the only forest label supported by the World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, and by major forest product retailers such as Home Depot, B&Q and IKEA.

Inclusive: FSC believes that respect for the views and needs of others is essential. Through open, multi-stakeholder processes, FSC has helped give access, voice and vote to people from every stratum of life.

Democratic: FSC is governed by its members, who meet every three years to vote on the direction of FSC. Equal voting weight is given to social, environmental and economic chambers and North and South (developed and developing) countries.

Global: FSC can be found in 66 countries all over the world. With headquarters in Bonn, Germany, four Regional Offices and 31 National Initiatives, FSC truly is a global network.

Local: The strength of FSC is at the local level. Through our standards development processes, people define and agree what responsible forestry means in their forests. The result is forest stewardship standards that are balanced, local and lasting.



How does it work?

FSC has developed ten rules, or principles, that define good forest management. These principles are global – they can apply to any forest anywhere in world.

National groups use these ten principles to develop FSC national standards to define responsible forest management in their country. These standards are used to evaluate forests in that country. Forests that meet the requirements of the national standard can become FSC certified. This important step is done by FSC-accredited certification bodies.

FSC does not certify forest operations itself. FSC approves, or accredits, certification bodies to certify forests and forest product manufacturers. This maintains the independence of FSC national standards and requirements, from operations seeking certification. FSC has strict procedures to ensure certification bodies provide independent, competent forest certification services.

Products that come from FSC certified forests and are covered by a chain of custody certificate may be labeled with the trademark FSC logo. The logo identifies to consumers that the product comes from a well-managed forest and gives them the choice to support responsible forest management.



Participation: Giving people access, voice and vote

Get involved in FSC activities Contact your National Initiative to become involved with the national standards process. If there is no National Initiative in your country, contact FSC International to find out how you can promote FSC in your area. FSC National Initiative contact details are available on FSC's website <http://www.fscoax.org>

All FSC policies and accreditation decisions are developed with the input of stakeholders and interested groups and individuals. For more information, visit our website at <http://www.fscoax.org>

Become an FSC member Show your commitment to responsible forest management! Members set the vision of FSC, and have a voice in the direction FSC takes. For more information, contact member@fscoax.org, or register on our website.



Buy FSC certified products: By buying FSC certified products you are supporting responsible forest management around the world. Look for the FSC logo whenever you buy forest products.

Principles for Forest Stewardship

1. **Compliance with laws and FSC principles**
2. **Tenure and use rights and responsibilities**
3. **Indigenous peoples' rights**
4. **Community relations and worker's rights**
5. **Benefits from the forest**
6. **Environmental impact**
7. **Management plan**
8. **Monitoring and assessment**
9. **Maintenance of high conservation value forests**
10. **Plantations**