Social sustainability and land rights in the FSC: Experience and potential lessons

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Global FSC certified forest area: by region

**North America**
- 37.62% of total certified areas
- (53,037,013 ha)
- 197 certificates

**South America & Caribbean**
- 9.12% of total certified areas
- (12,850,513 ha)
- 221 certificates

**Europe**
- 44.26% of total certified areas
- (62,398,856 ha)
- 427 certificates

**Africa**
- 5.20% of total certified areas
- (7,327,411 ha)
- 46 certificates

**Asia**
- 2.52% of total certified areas
- (3,550,194 ha)
- 106 certificates

**Oceania**
- 1.29% of total certified areas
- (1,815,371 ha)
- 29 certificates

**Total certified area:** 140,979,357 ha
**No. countries:** 81
**Total no. certificates:** 1026

Source: Map FSC Denmark 10/01/10
Regional values FSC International 03/15/11
FSC certified forest area growth
FSC certificates by forest type: global certified area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Type</th>
<th>Forest area (million ha)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Natural</td>
<td>89.38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantation</td>
<td>13.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Natural and Mixed Plantation &amp; Natural Forest</td>
<td>39.91</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>142.59</strong></td>
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Development of CoC Certificates over time

No. CoC certificates

COC over time

5,000 US and Canadian companies alone committed to FSC certification; many more employing the symbol to demonstrate responsible sourcing.
Why have we been so successful?

1. The “radically democratic and transparent structure” of the FSC guarantees equal voice and voting power to economic, environmental, and social chambers (North & South).

2. We have powerful commercial partners who demand FSC wood and paper products as indicators of the most sustainable practices.

3. We are supported by the world’s best known and most powerful environmental organizations.

4. To date, we are the ONLY forest certification system with strong social standards, providing protections for indigenous peoples and local communities and for workers.
Important social standards in our P&C

Principle 2: Tenure and Use Rights and Responsibilities

“Long-term tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined, documented and legally established”

2.1 Clear evidence of long-term forest use rights
2.2 Local communities with legal or customary rights shall maintain control to protect rights or resources, unless delegated with “free and informed consent”
2.3 Mechanisms for dispute resolution and evaluation of standing disputes
Important social standards in our P&C

Principle 3: Indigenous Peoples’ Rights
“The legal and customary rights of indigenous peoples to own, use and manage their lands, territories, and resources shall be recognized and respected.”

3.1 Control unless delegated with “free and informed consent”
3.2 Management shall not threaten or diminish resources or tenure rights
3.3 Recognition and protection of special sites
3.4 Compensation for traditional knowledge
Important social standards in our P&C

Principle 4: Community Relations and Worker’s Rights

“Forest management operations shall maintain or enhance the long-term social and economic well-being of forest workers and local communities.”

4.1 Opportunities for employment, training, services
4.2 Meet or exceed all laws regarding health and safety
4.3 Rights of workers to organize (ILO 87 and 98)
4.4 Social Impact evaluations and consultations
4.5 Mechanisms for resolving grievances and fair compensation for loss or damage
Important social standards in our P&C

Criteria 5.6: Sustainable harvest

Principle 6: Environmental Impact

“Forest management shall conserve biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, and unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes, and, by so doing, maintain the ecological functions and the integrity of the forest.”

Criterion 7.2: Improve management plan to respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances

Principle 9: Maintenance of HCV Forests

“Management activities in high conservation value forests shall maintain or enhance the attributes which define such forests. Decisions regarding high conservation value forests shall always be considered in the context of a precautionary approach.”
Actions in support of social processes

- Revision to FSC Principles & Criteria
  - Clarification and strengthening of Principles 2-4
  - Other social dimensions

- Plantations and communities
  - Increasing relativist approach (FM responsibilities increase with scale, intensity and level of risk)
  - Consultations in priority regions (e.g. Brazil)
Actions in support of social processes

• Small producers
  • SLIMF and Family Forest standards
  • Group chain of custody
  • Pilot alliance with FairTrade

• Expand and strengthen our Social Chamber
  • Outreach to key organizations
  • Seek balance of North and South interests
Thank You!

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